

# canadian university press

# NEWS

## GAY RIGHTS: SANTA CLAUS GETS OK FROM QUEBEC TO BE GAY

TORONTO (ZNS) -- Santa Claus, always merry, can now be gay too in Quebec.

The gay magazine Body Politic reports that the Association of Santa Clauses in Quebec has officially reversed its policy of banning gays from the job of being Kris Kringle in local department stores during the Christmas season.

The policy change came after last year's anti-gay bias triggered a discrimination complaint to Quebec's human rights commission. Now Santa Claus Association president Henri Paquet is whistling a different tune.

Paquet admitted that such a ban "contributes to the myth that homosexuals are child molesters."

"During the next holiday," says Paquet, "any person of good morals, notwithstanding their sexual orientation, can be considered to be a Santa Claus."

## DISCO SUCKS: AUSTRIAN MAN GUNS DOWN DISCO-DRONING JUKE BOX

VIENNA (ZNS) -- A Viennese bartender escalated the international fight against disco when he pumped a jukebox full of lead in the disco he works in.

Leopold Hofner just couldn't take it after an unidentified customer played Donna Summer's hit "I Feel Love" 20

consecutive times so he grabbed a gun kept under the counter for protection against hold-ups and shot the juke box until it stopped playing.

But romance, not disco hatred, was Hofner's prime motive in the slaying. "That record was the one my girlfriend and I always danced to," he told police. "Right before that man kept playing it, she phoned me to say she didn't want to see me again,"

Meanwhile, in other disco news, Steve Dahl, the Chicago disc jockey who organized an anti-disco night that saw about 70,000 disco haters destroy tons of seamless mix vinyl in a near-riot, has cut his own record.

Titled "Do Ya Think I'm Disco?", Dahl describes the song as a not-so-reverent parody of the Rod Stewart hit "Do Ya Think I'm Sexy?". Backing Dahl up on the record are the group Teenage Radiation.

## STUDENT AID: MANITOBA UNDERGRADS MAY BE ALLOWED TO COLLECT WELFARE

WINNIPEG (CUP) -- As Manitoba students face rising prices, astronomical rents and climbing tuition fees, refuge may soon be found at the welfare office.

Manitoba undergraduates are allowed to receive social assistance under provincial regulations. However student aid regulations stipulate that students can only apply for welfare after they have borrowed the maximum amount available from student loans and still find the amount insufficient.

Now the University of Manitoba Students Union (UMSU) has gone to court to try to change the situation, arguing that the act and regulations are contradictory.

UMSU president Debra Slade says students, unlike any other eligible group, are in effect forced to

go into debt before they can get financial aid through welfare.

Slade said low income students are particularly hard hit because they do not want to go heavily into debt but are willing to accept welfare in order to continue their studies.

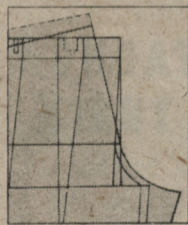
Currently all students are required to apply for student aid and either be rejected or borrow the maximum allowable amount before they are considered for social assistance.

Slade said if UMSU's legal challenge succeeds the government would probably appeal the decision. She said UMSU realizes the Manitoba Act could be changed by the government to exclude undergraduate

eligibility for social assistance but feels the case is worth pursuing.



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