

news from CUASA

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EDITOR: JON ALEXANDER

July 1982

PAT FINN SLIPS AWAY FOR THE SUMMER. . .

Pat Finn will be on leave until September 13th, 1982. Brenda Irvin will be in the office to assist members and may be reached at 6387.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

UNTIL AUGUST 31ST, 1982 THE CUASA OFFICE WILL BE OPEN
FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M. ON TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND
THURSDAYS ONLY. THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAYS
AND FRIDAYS.

OFFICERS TO CALL FOR ASSISTANCE:

Alistair Tilson, President	CUASA - 6387
	English Dept - 7530
	home - 232-7592
J. George Neuspiel, President-Elect	Law Dept - 7540
	home - 225-3707
Gene Swimmer, Grievances	Public Admin - 6360
	home - 235-2978

STEERING COMMITTEE 1982-83

Alistair Tilson, President	6387	Jon Alexander, Information Officer	3749
J. George Neuspiel, President-Elect	7540	Gene Swimmer, Grievance Chair	6360
David Bennett, Past-President	5622	John Callahan, Benefits Chair	4373
Nils Jensen, Secretary	7540	Bill Jones, Salary Chair	7153
Susan Jackson, Treasurer	2763	Khayyam Paltiel, Council Representative	4433
Muni Frumhartz, OCUFA Director	6672		

DENTAL CARE & LTDI

Increasing the benefits paid under our dental care and LTDI plans is currently being studied. Remember, however, that increased coverage requires higher premiums. Opinions are welcome.

- phone John Callahan at 4373

NEW COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT INK DRYING

The Editorial Committee has almost completed the rewriting of the collective agreement. The editorial changes will be put on the word processor and then printed. We hope that the agreement will be out to members soon.

J. George Neuspiel

AUTO-HOUSE INSURANCE

BOB JONES OF WESTRATE MARTUS IS ON CAMPUS TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M. AND HE CAN BE REACHED AT 4319 DURING THOSE HOURS ONLY. AT OTHER TIMES, CALL TOLL FREE: 1-800-267-7996.

OHIP PREMIUMS

It is time to apologize for article 40.3(a) of the Collective Agreement again. Under this article changes in OHIP premiums are picked up by us, not the employer. The table below shows the monthly premium changes which became effective July 1st as a result of the recent provincial budget.

	AT PRESENT		EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1982	
	EMPLOYEE	EMPLOYER	EMPLOYEE	EMPLOYER
SINGLE	\$13.98	\$ 9.02	\$17.98	\$ 9.02
FAMILY	27.96	18.04	35.96	18.04
	(60.80%)	(39.20%)	(66.59%)	(33.41%)

These changes will be reflected on your cheques at the end of July.

Remember that the bargaining committee in the last round of negotiations intentionally restricted negotiations to money in order to get a quick and attractive settlement. In retrospect, this decision was wise. However, the currency of this argument for leaving 40.3(a) untouched will probably decrease over the three years of our agreement as we see further changes in OHIP/QHIP cost sharing.

UNDERFUNDING AND CONTROL OF SOCIAL RESEARCH

There are two trends, it is now evident, in federal governmental behavior with respect to research funding for the social sciences and humanities that are threatening the basic integrity of scholarship in Canada today. The first is underfunding due to the fiscal crisis of the state and the recent public mood of hostility toward learning; the second is a heavy-handed initiative to subject research to bureaucratic political control on the basis of short-term current federal interests.

Since the fall of 1980, research financing has been put by federal action, inaction, threat and insinuation into a state of high crisis, an alternation of budgetary restraint and planned structural movement that is the classic early indicator of developing government intent to subject social science research to a still-higher level of political control beyond that which already exists. The crisis-syndrome whipsaw of federal threat and intervention has very nearly destroyed the necessary climate of trust and security in which humanistic research can thrive and in which the world-class on-going scholarship attained at great cost in Canada over this past quarter century can be maintained.

This gathering cloud of threat to the work of the social science community has been most clearly manifested in the shell-game federalism that passes for responsible government concerning the Established Programmes Financing Act of 1977, and in the continuing erosion of peer evaluation norms in the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. The threat is also manifest in the federal government's "Dodge Report" published last July on "Labor Market Development in the 1980's", and in the "Allmand Report" of last October called "Work for Tomorrow: Employment Opportunities for the '80s". Both studies presuppose universities to be essentially training institutions that should come to be strictly designed and operated to meet government-forecasted manpower requirements. Each report, then, constitutes a direct attack on the liberal arts and the humanities. Together they comprise an effort, part of a larger whole, to force all institutions of higher learning to train students in specific skills at the expense of the general education they will need to cope with a future environment in which they will be expected over a working lifetime to adapt to a variety of occupations. On the basis of such short-sighted studies shakily forecasting manpower needs through use of underdeveloped methodologies, the government is successfully subjecting itself to the temptation to meddle in academic programs by way of fiscal decisions.

As the relative support for the social sciences declines and as the pace of technologically driven social change quickens—word processing technology, for example, is diffusing throughout the society at a rate of some seven times that of any other technology in mankind's history—we may quite reasonably expect that this society will increasingly lose what intellectual grip it now has over what our ancestors might have called our destiny. As the dead hand of bureaucratic regulation grasps for the leverage with which to force the long-term individual researcher into increasingly large "strategic" or state-harnessed group research projects, the threat to that idiosyncratic, lonely scholarship upon which the civilization of the dialogue ultimately depends becomes increasingly real, immediate, impactful, and devastating.

We expect to maintain in these pages a watching brief over such developments; the time to bite the piper's hand may yet come.

EAST EUROPEAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGES TO BE RESUMED SAYS CAUT

At its meeting in June the Canadian Association of University Teachers passed a new resolution concerning academic exchanges that reads as follows: "BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of CAUT, while deploring all violations of academic freedom and human rights, endorses the principle of the resumption of national exchanges with the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe; and instructs the President of CAUT to communicate this sentiment to the Prime Minister, the Minister of External Affairs, the SSHRCC, NSERC, MRC and other granting agencies and the faculty associations comprising the CAUT." This was done at the initiative of the Canadian Association of Slavists and, in the view of CAUT, the new position accords with the spirit of the Helsinki accords on the free exchange of scientists and scholars.