

riot gear - Cont'd.

Eventually, all but two of the expelled students appealed their case before the U de M Superior Committee of Admissions. Steve Alexander, who had been appointed CFS spokesperson for the Moncton situation over the summer, criticized the committee's composition as lop-sidedly favouring the administration's point of view. "We know the students have the right of one representative," he wrote in a Press statement dated July 19, "(but) the administration has the right of four representatives, a professor, and a dean of faculty."

According to Brenda Coté, the Admissions Committee wasn't as interested in their own by-laws as it was in punishing students involved in the occupation. "The proof wasn't based on the breaking of by-laws but rather proving a position of leadership. They had police pictures, affidavits, everything you could think of," she said.

Coté also claimed that several of the administration's affidavits were false.

"The Director of Security gave an affidavit that one of the expelled students had attacked a security guard," she

said. "The student went out with his lawyer for a consultation and came back in the room with the security guard in question. The guard said it (the Director's story) was a lie."

- Eventually, the commission decided that:
- Seven students would be denied re-admission outright
 - Four would be offered re-admittance if they agreed to never hold a position on any campus organization and also never attend student meetings or other activities
 - Two would be offered re-admittance if they agreed to "respect university rules and not participate in any legal or illegal demonstrations"
 - Two students would be admitted with no conditions.

"We don't regret fighting for our cause."

Of the six students who were offered re-admittance with conditions attached, only three accepted the university's terms.

The students charged with obstruction have begun being sentenced as well. In New Brunswick law, a 'guilty' verdict would mean a \$50 fine or several days in jail, but more importantly, a criminal record which would last for two years.

So far, three students have been found guilty, and others have had the charges against them dropped. The University seems bound to go ahead with the majority of the cases, though, just as the student federation still insists all charges be dismissed.

And of the students - what has happened to them?

For Rachel Roy, the occupation meant an expulsion two years into her Nursing degree, and unemployment in Halifax. It is difficult for most students to understand what it is like to watch a career painstakingly planned for disappear almost overnight. It's even more difficult to imagine this happening because you attended a march, rally, or some form of civil disobedience. But that is Rachel's story. She is currently trying to find work in Halifax, but still can speak for the other students when she says, "I think people who were expelled are proud they were involved."

"You're fighting for a cause. There's no money in that - it's the cause. I think we wish it hadn't changed our lives that much. But we don't regret fighting for our cause."

"We'll never regret that."



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