

School teacher attacks system

By ELIZABETH O'DONAGHUE

Edmonton high school teacher Leif Stolee mounted an attack on the educational system in Alberta in his lecture to a campus society Thursday.

School boards are his pet bug-bear. They are comprised of "the most prominent local philistines", who don't care about education at all and merely want to educate the children cheaply, he said.

The Faculty of Education is a "great cuckoo land," he said and education courses are "demeaning and degrading".

This was the first of a series of lectures sponsored by the Humanities and Philosophical Society. It was held in the Tory building at 8 p.m.

Mr. Stolee describes himself as "a man who writes his own Bible verses." He suspects he was asked because he talked too much at a party last winter.

According to school board statistics the student-teacher ratio should be favorable to the student, Mr. Stolee said, but the increased number of teachers has been absorbed into administration, and thirty students is still considered a small class.

"If they think you've got thirty," he said, "they'll try to slip in three or four on the side."

Too often a teacher receives a post-graduate qualification, is given an administrative position, and is removed from all contact with the students, he said.

Mr. Stolee advocates "back to the classroom or back to the States."

A teacher learns to teach from being in the classroom he says, and can't be taught technique.

"Come and watch me teach," he said to a member of the audience who asked him how a young teacher could learn to teach.

Referring to the apparent love of team teaching by the Edmonton public school board, Mr. Stolee said, "Surely we have fallen in love with the camel and not with the horse."

"The camel is a horse designed by a committee."

Mr. Stolee does not think the



LEN STOLEE

... the camel is a horse

Alberta Teachers' Association is doing its job properly.

"Collective confusion is not a crime, but it is an expensive necessity," he said.

He attempted to have a critical article published in The A.T.A. Magazine.

The article suggested the salaries of the administrative staff of Barnett House, the headquarters of the A.T.A., be in direct proportion

to the salary increases they negotiate for the teachers.

He congratulated the A.T.A. on selecting Banff for their conference "because it is so centrally located."

The editor rejected his article.

He defended his virulent attack on education, saying, "When you kick a man in the shins, you (might as well) break his leg, because you're not going to get another chance."

A member of the audience described Stolee's talk as "a provocative experience."

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More CUS referendums

OTTAWA (CUP)—Referendum is fast becoming the word most frequently heard in the Ottawa offices of the Canadian Union of Students.

Two more campuses have indicated they will hold referendums on CUS membership in the near future. They are the University of Waterloo and the University of Western Ontario.

The Waterloo vote will be held Jan. 29. This time, though, it has been called by pro-CUS forces.

Student president Brian Iler said, "The students should have the right to decide whether or not they want the council to recommit them to CUS next year or not. CUS membership has become a widely debated issue on campus and I hope the referendum will bring this debate out in the open where it will be more educative."

The referendum will coincide with the presidential elections in order to force candidates to "discuss both CUS membership and CUS policies during their campaigns," he said.

Executives seek radical mandate

KINGSTON (CUP)—Two Queen's University student executives resigned their positions Monday in order to seek a radical mandate from the campus.

Student president Chuck Edwards and his vice-president Jan Lichty are members of Students for a New University, an activist campus group.

Edwards outlined the type of campaign they will wage: "We want a positive campaign of politics against politics, ideas versus ideas, strategies versus strategies."

The move came after a series of intense personality clashes on the council executive. Medical representative Al Maloney said: "I don't agree with the way Chuck is going about things. He sees things as principles that are unsacrificeable. There are some things which you have to sacrifice. Compromises are sometimes necessary to achieve one's aims."

Edwards was elected SNU treasurer a while ago and Lichty recently said SNU was "the only hope for meaningful change in the university."

Committee makes recommendations

BRANDON (CUP)—The student eruption at Brandon in early September was capped and relegated to committee, standard procedure at most Canadian universities. But this committee was apparently not content with being a mere coolant.

Thursday it reported back with a call for 12 student seats on the school's 35-member senate.

It won't be that easy though. One senate member, Professor George F. MacDowell, told the committee, "I don't think you are going to get this motion through the senate."

The committee was composed of four senators, one governor, three faculty members and four students. The report will go to senate Friday.

Brandon was hit with massive student protest last month after the expulsion of a student for "abnormal behaviour" and the cancellation of four student scholarships in retaliation against their activist leanings.

Disruptions at New York university

NEW YORK (CUPI)—"Creative disruptions" are being used by New York University students to complement a week-long strike in protest of dismissal of the university's black student centre director.

The first disruptions occurred Thursday when seven students occupied administration president James Hester's office and the administration building. Hester was not in his office when the students took it, but later spoke with them. The students left after the conversation, labelling it "meaningless and fruitless".

More than 150 other students met in the basement of the student centre and then moved to the administration building. A few hours later they left the building and attended a "strike concert" in the student centre.

The strike was called Monday after John Hatchett, director of the black student centre, was dismissed after labelling U.S. presidential candidates and the president of the United Federation of Teachers "racist bastards". Hester says Hatchett was fired not only for the one statement but for a cumulative series of statements which created "divisiveness" among students.

Students are demanding Hatchett's reinstatement before they return to classes.

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