

## CEGEPS Strike in Quebec

Since November 21, the students of twenty-one Quebec CEGEPS have been on strike. This movement started November 8 when the students of College de Rimouski decided to strike until the Minister of Education, Jacques-Yvan Morin, assents to their demands. They want the abolition of a minimal contribution by students towards their own loans even if they do not work during the summer, as well as the abolition of the parental contribution. They also ask that loans be replaced by bursaries, that government take into account inflation and students' real needs in the calculation of their bursaries, that students be recognized as independent when they leave home. They demand that students who take courses during the summer get additional aid, that the cost of study materials be abolished, and that CEGEP students get the same allocation for maintenance as university students.

The student strike follows a

succession of dissatisfactions. In the 1960's, the government of Quebec undertook a large academic reform which embraced five goals: demarcation of teaching, polyvalency, continuing education, school ideology centered on the student, and a contribution towards Quebec's economic development.

After a study of the academic system, student leaders were not satisfied with the progress made. Education still remains a privilege but not a real right. As the academic level gets higher, students from the masses become

proportionally under-represented. The administrative structures have not given real power to parents, students, or professors, who are

under-represented at decision levels. Contrary to the goal of polyvalency, the education system institutes a too early specialization by students and, thus, they do not get an adequate general formation. In such a framework,

continuing education plays a complementary part, serving to make up for failures in general formation instead of contributing to the enrichment of the person; it responds, instead, to the technical needs of business. The economic development of Quebec boils down to unemployed graduates. Budgetary restrictions of the Department of Education have caused a deterioration of the academic system in all respects.

The struggle of Quebec students is getting the support of other Canadian students. Last Tuesday, the F.E.U.M. (Universite de Moncton Students Federation) decided to issue a press release to support the striking Quebec students. It is possible that this strike may become extensive: last summer the national Students Union stated the possibility of a mobilization by Fall 78 for the students of Ontario and Newfoundland universities concerning their loans and bursaries and increasing unemployment for students.

## Organized Labor Main Topic

Paul LePage, President of the New Brunswick Federation of Labor, was a guest speaker at a recently held UNB-NDP meeting. He gave an informative outline on the "important role of organized labor in New Brunswick", its relationship to the NDP, the government and unorganized labor.

LePage emphasized the necessity of organized labor being a politically involved group willing to support a party which would legislate resolutions passed at labor conventions. Such resolutions advocating no-fault car insurance, a stop on educational cutbacks and a government-financed medicare system were passed in concern for the province as a whole and have all become part of the NDP platform. He admitted that the NDP would not supply all the needs of organized labor, but he did believe that the NDP is much more sympathetic to their cause than the traditional, old-line parties.

In elaborating on the need for no-fault car insurance, LePage said young drivers are automatically assumed guilty when they are forced to pay exorbitant insurance rates. Insurance companies are able to take 15 per cent retention costs as pure profit. And in the educational field, increased teacher-pupil ratios and the unwillingness of school boards to hire well-qualified but necessarily higher-paid teachers because of government educational cutbacks was said to be seriously down-grading the school system.

There was mention of the \$4 billion deficit in federal transfer payments to the Maritimes. As a result of this, LePage said foreign investors and companies wanting to establish in Canada, should assume greater responsibility in advancing the underdeveloped parts of the country. The Maritimes can provide the necessary accommodations and proper care and planning would ensure our clean environment

which, much to our benefit, is in now way comparable to the state of Lake Erie, for example.

When questioned about student unemployment and summer student jobs, LePage was quick to criticize the SRC for protesting the proposed higher minimum wage legislation on the theory that students would not be hired. He said this was beyond his comprehension, "money and wages should be put on the

particular service or job being done, not on the type of

employees," whether they be students, women etc. Organized labor demands the protection and decent wage for all workers in society.

There was also discussion of the public meeting to be held Monday December 4th, 7 - 9 p.m., at the Monsignor Boyd Centre, Regent St.

## Want a date ???

By LINDA HALSEY

Fredericton's new dating service has begun its first week of operation and according to organizer and manager Margaret Ann, "the operation has had 83 phone calls and is looking forward to a big success."

The MLF Dating Service was initiated by Ann and two other women for the purpose of helping people meet and go out together. The manager said she does not expect any marriages to result from the organization, "just people having a good time."

A written questionnaire is compulsory for all applicants, and Ann stressed the importance of honesty for successful dates. "We have to get truthful answers from the questions, because our dates are paired from the results." Questions asked concern hobbies, interests and music preference among others. In addition, each applicant is personally interviewed to assure the manager of sincere interest. "We're not interested in getting any weirdos."

The service offers three programs with varying price ranges. The first plan involves five guaranteed dates, (not necessarily with the same person) within a

six month program. Plan two also provides the applicant with five dates, but two additional cocktail or coffee parties are included in the deal. These parties provide an opportunity for the participant to meet a larger number of people from varying age groups in congenial surroundings. The final and most involved plan guarantees twelve dates and the same amount of coffee or cocktail parties over a period of one year.

"We've received calls from persons aged 18 to 73", said Ann who added that most of the younger callers were mainly curious, while the middle aged or older callers were more serious. She said there are "a lot of older people in Fredericton who would love to have more friends and companionship."

So far, three dates have been arranged by the MLF dating service. The feedback from these has been relatively good, however the manager pointed out that one date did not go well due to "opposite personalities".

Any further information on the service may be obtained from Margaret Ann by calling 455-2380. She said the MLF Dating Service is "something Fredericton has needed for a long time."

## Peace

Wishing one and all a season of hope and faith and brother love. Happiness to our dear friends and neighbors.



### THE PROBLEM WITH JESUS

Mary Lou McGibbon Campus Ministry 454-7992

If there's one thing that bugs non-Christians about Christianity, it's the rigidity of the Christian view that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the light. Does it really matter whether people follow Mohammed or Jesus, or Zoroaster or Buddha etc.? Well, the Christian tradition is decidedly rigid on that point. Yes, it makes a great deal of difference. To the Christian, all rivers do not lead to the sea. In the first place, there are radical differences in the world religions. Moslems for example don't consider women fit for paradise; followers of the eastern religion expect to go through

many reincarnations; Nazism and Marxism are both religions; and so on. So it isn't enough to believe in God. The question is in which God do you believe? A wise man once said, "When a man stops believing in the one true God, he then begins to believe in a number of gods." We have only to contemplate the extent of the worship of material things, particular life styles, "nature" and the like to realize that, in the absence of dedication to the one God, there will be almost as many gods as there are people!

In other words your god is whatever you consider important. Jesus told us how we would know whether or not we believed in the true God. "He who believes in the father believes in the One whom he has sent."

Now it naturally stretches the credulity of any thinking person to believe that Jesus Christ was God in the flesh. He himself realized this and said that He would prove He was who He said He was by coming back from the dead. And he did what no other religious leader has ever been able to do — He literally came back from the dead. Now here is where we have to take a leap of faith, because if we believe that Jesus was just a great moral teacher then there is no point in being a Christian. As Paul said, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins."

There have been a number of theories which have attempted unsuccessfully to explain away the resurrection. The two most widely circulated ones are the stolen body theory and the swoon theory.

The stolen body theory is effectively contradicted by the following:

- (1) Terrified followers who were shocked and bitterly disappointed by Jesus' death were unlikely to pull off a stolen body stunt and then spend years enduring prison, whipping, torture for what they knew to be a lie.
- (2) the fact that this theory was even started is evidence of the resurrection. They couldn't find the body!

The swoon theory - was discounted by David Strauss, who although he did not believe in the resurrection, said that the idea of Jesus merely swooning on the cross and being revived later was ridiculous. Jesus had undergone a severe beating, the Roman scourging which literally removed most of the victim's skin, the hours on the cross and the spear thrust into his side. Remember too that the body was wrapped in yards of linen and 100 pounds of a sticky spice ointment. Can we really imagine him able on the third day to convince his disciples that he had conquered death and that they should be willing to risk death and torture to proclaim Him as the risen Lord?

The real evidence for the resurrection lies in the tremendous, dramatic change in the disciples. What could have switched these men who ran like cowards from the Garden of Gethsemane into men who stood boldly in the public places proclaiming that Jesus had risen? Nothing but the absolute knowledge that this was the truth could have enabled these men to endure every kind of hardship and punishment. Only one of the disciples died a natural death. Six died on the cross — one of the cruelest methods of death ever devised; others died by stoning; the sword or by arrows. Look at Paul. Five times he received 39 lashes, once he was stoned, three times he was beaten with rods, three times he was shipwrecked and so on and so on. Yet Paul counted it all nothing in comparison to the joy that would come.

Dr. Simon Green, a Harvard law professor who has spent years teaching the techniques of breaking down witnesses had this to say about the testimony of the disciples. "The annals of military warfare afford scarcely an example of the like heroic constancy, patience and unflinching courage."

So if we believe them we have forgiveness for our sins and eternal life in heaven.