

Canadian University Press DATELINE

Referendum declared illegal

MONTREAL—McGill students voted Nov. 26 to reject membership in the Union Generale des Etudiants du Quebec.

By Dec. 8, students' council here had reversed its decision to uphold the referendum as some nurses, Divinity students and postgraduate students were prevented from voting.

The students had been denied their right to vote when the Wilson Hall poll ran out of ballots.

Sola Ogunbanwo of grad studies, who brought the matter to council's attention, criticized chief returning officer Ken Roberts for not invalidating the referendum and calling a new one. He said Roberts "had no choice" but to call another referendum.

Roberts said the results of the Wilson Hall poll could not have altered the referendum result significantly, but Ogunbanwo countered his defence, saying the issue was one of democratic rights.

"Council has been passing illegal motions for some time," he said, adding that council must now decide on the legality of the referendum result.

After much discussion between council members, council voted on the motion to declare the referendum invalid and to hold a new one. The motion was passed—seven for and four against.

Printers call short story obscene

LONDON—Printers of Folio, Western's bi-annual literary magazine have refused to allow a short story to appear in the fall edition on the grounds that it is obscene.

The 1,000-word fantasy called "In the Candleflame" tells the story of an idealistic love relationship between a boy and a girl.

Written by a third-year arts student, the fantasy involves a description of the young couple's love making.

Folio editor, Ehor Boyanowsky, said Middlesex Printing Company consulted a lawyer over the article and refused to print it because it was obscene.

The writer says while "In the Candleflame" is "pretty frank its seems to have gotten through Western's censorship".

Editor Boyanowsky likened the description of the couple's intercourse to descriptions found in a D. H. Lawrence novel.

He said the fantasy was "a communion of spirits" of the lovers and "no offensive words were used in it at all". He said he did not contradict the printers' move because "we have a magazine to put out".

"If we took it to court we'd probably win," Boyanowsky said.

Legal abortions? What next?

WINNIPEG—A prominent Montreal physician said abortions should be legalized to halt those pregnancies which endanger the physical health of the mother or those which result from incest or rape.

Speaking on a panel discussion on abortions, Dr. George Strean said psychiatric grounds for abortion were unacceptable unless the mother were a moron or otherwise mentally deficient.

As for unwed mothers who do not fit into these categories, the gynaecologist maintained "girls should pay the price".

"She knew what she was doing . . . Abortion should not be considered free license for sex," he said.

Another panel member, Father Walter Hanna, categorically rejected all forms of abortion as "pre-natal murder". "God did infuse an immortal soul into the unborn child," he said. A foetus is human. Mental reasons for abortion do not exist because "psychiatry is used to justify anything."

Dr. G. E. Haseltine, a psychiatrist argued that certain psychoses can be passed on by the mother. In this case an abortion should be performed, he said.

Asked if he would oppose a law legalizing abortion, Father Hanna said, "If the majority is in favour I would not oppose the law if passed, but I would not like it."

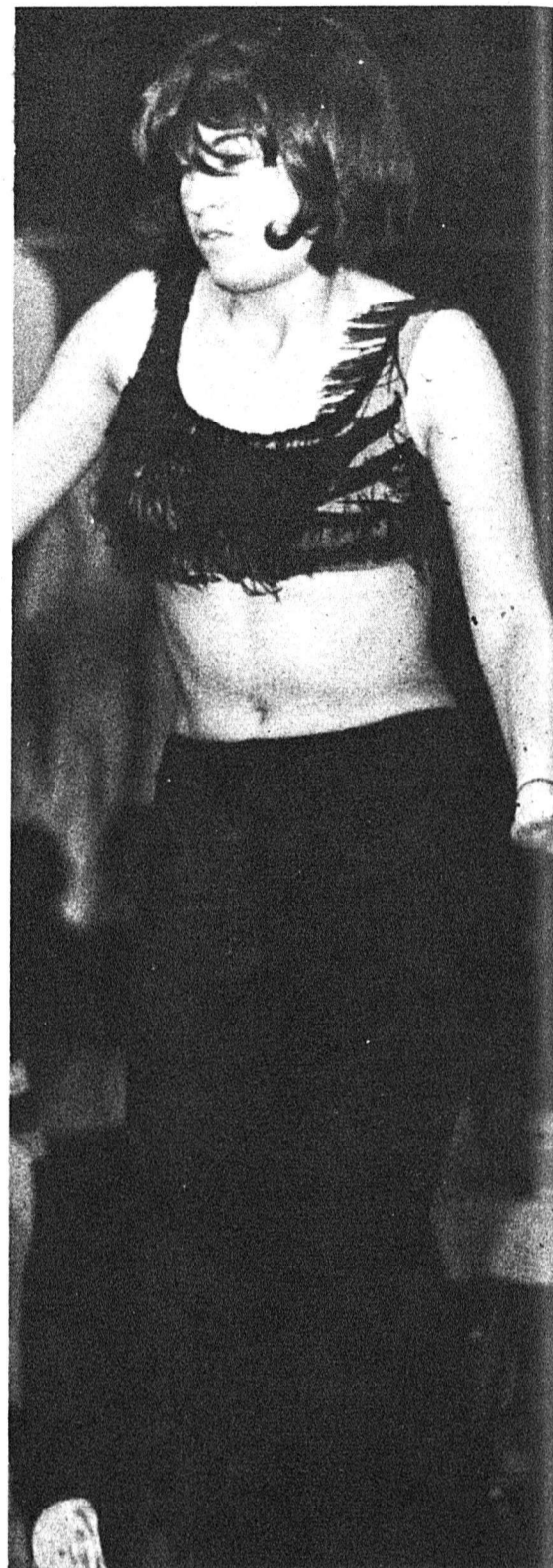
Council bucks parking laws

HAMILTON—Student leaders here urged McMaster drivers to refuse to buy parking stickers and to refuse to pay parking fines.

Student Executive Council branded specific parking regulations issued by the University Traffic Committee as inadequate in a statement Dec. 8.

SEC advised students to break the rules until specific grievances could be ironed out.

The statement deplored the fact that the rules were not published in time for discussion and change, and concluded with the recommendation that "until the regulations are clarified with respect to the above points (three specific grievances) all undergraduates refrain from purchasing a permanent parking permit and refuse to recognize these regulations as binding."



—Curt Enarson, John Westmore photos

'T WAS THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS . . . —As the welcome holidays approached, the campus began to train for the festivities with the usual round of parties. But Dickens was never able to communicate with everyone; so a few souls still hit the books.

Lack of east-west communication claimed hindrance to sociologists

The biggest problem confronting Canadian sociologists is a lack of east-west communication, according to a U of A professor.

This communication is necessary for the effective study of Canadian communities, said David Millett, a lecturer in sociology, who has proposed a federal government bookstore similar to ones in Montreal and Toronto be set up in Edmonton to alleviate the problem.

Mr. Millett would like to see federal publications such as Royal Commission reports available for purchase. "We don't know what exists on Canadian society," he said.

"Blair Fraser can refer to a Royal Commission report on poverty which I have not access to here."

He claims U of A's sociology department is impressed with its own size and fails to take into account the leading role of French-speaking social science departments.

The University of Montreal has been a leader in instituting change in Quebec, said Mr. Millett.

Choosing the course on the family as an example, Mr. Millett said everyone is trying to give a fair comparative view but 90 per cent of the available material is in French.

Referring to another course he said, "No serious sociology text exists on Canadian minorities, comparable to Assimilation in American life," which is used as a standard text for U of A's minorities course.

Mr. Millett speculated that the world view of the American sociologist cannot be fitted to the world view of a freshman coming out of an Alberta high school, so the two cannot understand each other.

"The Canadian student has been brought up on the Commonwealth view about the world and the professor on United States world view."

Mr. Millett does not believe in an all-Canadian Minorities course, but a comparative view of minority problems, he says.

Over-dependence on American concepts is unwise because Can-

ada's problems are primarily religious and regional, not racial as in the United States, he said.

The last two years, he says, have seen the first real shift to a comparative Canadian-American approach in this course.

He would like a minimum of two native Canadians in the department who held opposing views, preferably one French-Canadian.

Now there is one native Canadian in the department—Mr. Millett, and one Canadian citizen, Dr. Lungstrass, an assistant professor.

Professor Millett said the sociology department was established by members from Washington.

Speaking about the Minorities course, Millett said students had problems because they had to write a common final examination though they received instruction from professors who emphasized different facets of the course.

He said the problem could be solved if the Dean were willing to allow separate examinations or distinctive course names.