

# 171 women arrested in test of Montreal's anti-march law

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MONTREAL—One hundred and seventy one women—workers and students—of the Front Commun des Quebecoises were arrested last Friday night in Montreal in the first application of that city's anti-demonstration bylaw.

The Montreal bylaw adopted Nov. 12 gives the city administration the power to declare illegal any demonstrations or marches which it considers may become violent before they have begun.

Approximately 200 women, ranging in age from 16 to over 50 associated with either French or English women's liberation groups in the city, rallied inside the National Theatre School building on St. Lawrence Boulevard at Dorchester, an area characterized by rundown taverns and pool halls. The building was almost blocked from view by the patrons of the now empty pool halls and taverns and by scores of photographers and press men.

The women, most wearing red headbands carrying the initials of the Front de Liberation des

Femmes entered the street running and assembled inside the U-shaped formation of their marshalls. Then, encircled by the marshalls, who were chained together for solidarity and protection, moved quickly down the boulevard—for 100 yards.

Hundreds of policemen—the riot squad complete with helmets and three-foot sticks and badges conspicuously absent, roaring motorcycles, paddy wagons with doors flying wide open, and dozens of female police to deal with a potentially "delicate" situation—blocked the road and surrounded the demonstrators on all sides.

The police officer who approached the group asking to speak to the leaders, was firmly told "Nous n'avons pas de directeurs!" The anti-demonstration bylaw, against which the protest was organized, was then read and the women ordered to disperse.

Chanting "On veut passer, on veut passer" and then "Liberte, the Front de Liberation des

liberte and "Vive la greve (strike) illegale des policiers", the women sat down in the street.

The arrests began in a matter of minutes but the women continued their singing and also staged a mock Miss Grey Cup beauty contest to illustrate one of the ways in which women are dehumanized and treated as objects in the society.

(Most Montreal papers carried front page stories and photos of the demonstration, 'ironically' juxtaposed with larger photos and stories of the Grey Cup beauty contest).

Of the 200 members of the Front Commun des Quebecoises present 171 were arrested over the next 45 minutes in groups of five and 10. The arrests were made very difficult by the quarter-inch-thick chains and padlocks binding many of the women together.

The Montreal Fire Department had to be called to saw the chains apart before the women could be loaded into the paddy wagons and carted away.

When it became obvious that all who stayed would be arrested, some of the women tried to make their way through the surrounding policemen three rows deep. Of those who tried to leave, only a few English speaking were successful. Most were pushed back into the seated group by the patronizing cops who urged the "girlies" to continue playing their games.

The women of the Front Commun des Quebecoises, the first to protest Montreal's anti-demonstration bylaw, were held on \$25 bond and released at 5:30 the next morning. All but 37 were charged with violating that bylaw which carries a penalty of 60 days in jail or \$100 or both.

On Saturday morning at 10 o'clock they appeared in court and refused to plead either guilty or not guilty of violating a bylaw which they considered to be illegal for its denial of rights assured in the Canadian Bill of Rights.

A motion before the court placed by the women's lawyers charges that the bylaw is invalid because it violates the section of the Bill of Rights guaranteeing freedom of speech and freedom of expression.

The judge entered pleas of not guilty for all the women. They were remanded until December 18.

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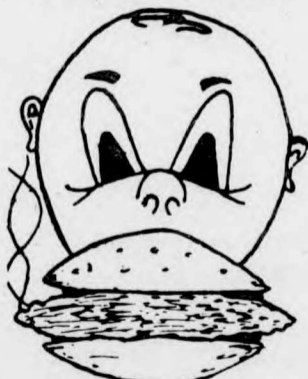
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## Canada Briefs

### 12 TAs fired at SFU

BURNABY — Twelve Simon Fraser University teaching assistants — all heavily involved in the recent strike — were dismissed from the political science, sociology and anthropology department last Thursday. The rationale for the decision came in a PSA announcement Nov. 24, which said enrolment would be cut by two-thirds in lower-level PSA courses next semester, leaving no courses for the dismissed TA's to teach. The cuts were made without consulting PSA students. "The reasons are obviously political, but it will be hard to prove," said David Adair, one of the dismissed TA's. The political implications of the action become even more obvious in view of the fact that all TA's who "scabbed" during the 41-day strike by over 700 PSA students and faculty, were rehired, Adair said. Meanwhile, two of the striking PSA profs, Kathleen Aberle and Saghir Ahmad, have been definitely suspended, their appeals rejected by a five-man board of governors tribunal.

### Elections declared invalid

Arts faculty elections for senate-faculty vacancies were declared invalid by the Loyola College senate last Thursday, following a boycott of the elections by over half the faculty. The boycotting faculty were protesting disenfranchisement of lecturers, although lecturers were allowed to vote by a last-minute ruling, and the senate's handling of the disputed Santhanam case. S. A. Santhanam, a physics professor, was not rehired by the administration earlier this year. Senate at first supported the professor, then earlier this fall upheld the administration's stance. The arts faculty vacancies were created when seven faculty members resigned at the Oct. 7 meeting in which senate backed the administration over Santhanam. Five of the seven ran again Wednesday, but lost to more conservative candidates, apparently because of the boycott. The Canadian Association of University Teachers investigation into the Santhanam case was also temporarily suspended Thursday at the request of the Montreal police department. Police feared that demonstrations might develop over the investigation which they would be unable to handle because of the demands of the Grey Cup parade.

### McGill senate keeps veto

MONTREAL — The McGill senate dealt a stunning blow to the autonomy of the campus student council Nov. 26, refusing to ratify the students' new constitution which was overwhelmingly adopted in a student referendum last March. If the senate had approved the constitutional amendments it would have been the last time the university's highest academic body would be called on to examine the document which governs student affairs — and therein lies the problem. The new constitution would delete the clause requiring amendments to be ratified by the senate; yesterday the senators insisted that their veto power had to stay, and showed why by using it. If the senate were to ratify the document, said vice-principal Stanley Frost, "the students' society would then become a completely autonomous body."

### 2 profs convicted, suspended

Brian Humphries, an English lecturer, was suspended without pay last week by Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, following his conviction in Kingston for the possession and cultivation of marijuana. Two petitions are currently being circulated on the campus seeking for his reinstatement. The students' petition claims that the administration is unduly persecuting Humphries. The second, sponsored by other faculty in the English department, say they do not wish to conduct those classes normally taught by the suspended teacher. At the University of Saskatchewan the administration refused to rehire teaching assistant Jeff Goodman last week, because he had been convicted last summer for theft of a 39-cent can opener. Students on the Regina campus are also circulating a petition requesting Goodman's rehiring.

### Teach-in attacks imperialism

EDMONTON — Canada should nationalize U.S. industry in Canada, pull out of NATO and NORAD, and stop chemical-biological warfare research, participants at a University of Alberta teach-in decided last week. Two thousand students voted last Monday to condemn Canadian participation in U.S. war research projects. The vote ended a foreign policy panel discussion in which former minister of external affairs Paul Martin claimed that Canada's foreign policy was completely separate from that of the U.S. He claimed the closeness of Canadian and U.S. foreign policy is due mostly to a "concurrence of interests." University of Toronto professor Kenneth McNaught called for nationalization of U.S. businesses in Canada to counter rapidly-growing U.S. influence. "We walk in kind of a psychological terror of the U.S.," McNaught said. Other panelists included Lewis Hertzman, chairman of York's history department and Pauline Jewett, director of Canadian studies at Carleton University. Hertzman joined McNaught in calling for action on the national question.

### Manitoba board meetings open

WINNIPEG — The board of governors of the University of Manitoba has opened its doors to the general public, passing a motion by student governor Ken Brown 11-4. Members of the university and newsmen may now attend regular board meetings, but visitors will not be allowed to participate in discussion unless asked. The motion was opposed by administration president Hugh Sanderson and university chancellor Peter Curry, who contended the board was like the federal cabinet. Since cabinet meetings are closed, the board meetings should be too, they said. The University of British Columbia governors rejected open board meetings Nov. 4.