

Laval faculty strike ends

by Alayhe McGregor

QUEBEC (CUP)-The professors' strike at Laval University, which had cancelled classes for 25,000 students for the last four months, is finally over.

After nearly 1½ years of bargaining and sixteen weeks of strike, the faculty union approved a university contract offer December 23 by 85%.

The university, which had been closed during the strike, reopened this week. Students were back for registration Monday and started classes Tuesday.

Instead of the normal spring term ending in mid-April, they will be attending two thirteen-week terms, ending in early July, to make up for the time lost from the strike.

The strike was one of the longest and bitterest at any Canadian university. The union charged the Laval administration with wishing to remove academic freedom and faculty involvement in university decision-making while the administration charged the union with illegal picketing and strong-arm tactics.

According to union president Joel de la Noue, the union gained a grievance procedure, job security, a sabbatical leave system, a salary structure, and a greater input into decisions of departmental assemblies.

Under the contract, grievances over matters such as tenure, promotions or non-renewal of contracts will now be adjudicated by an internal committee, chosen from nominees from the union and the university. The union had complained that the previous committee, chaired by the university vice-rector, had not fairly considered a grievance from several professors whose contracts were not renewed.

According to de la Noue, the contract also provides for full job security, so that a tenured professor cannot be fired under any circumstances and must agree to even a change in job description.

As well, it ensures that a position cannot be removed unless the entire department approves, he said.

For non-permanent jobs, he said, a job security committee has been established which will try to find



other jobs for staff when their contract expires.

The union had previously com-

plained that Laval had no salary structure - that there were no minimum or maximum salaries for

any rank, and no rules governing salaries. This, it said, had led to wide variations in salaries between those of equal rank and experience.

Under the contract, de la Noue said, a salary structure has been established, into which each professor will be integrated according to rank and experience.

As well, a salary increase of about 34% was negotiated, he said.

In response to professors' complaints of not enough input into university decisions, the contract also establishes departmental committees responsible for discussing working conditions, hiring, and assigning of departmental tasks.

But, while the professors gained extra provisions in their contract, they also obtained an \$800,000 debt for strike pay during the four months.

Some of this will be paid off by donations from faculty associations at other Canadian universities, to whom de la Noue appealed for aid last November. Many donations aren't in yet, but he estimated that fifteen associations would contribute a total of \$70,000.

The rest, however, will have to be paid by the union. This will be done by increasing dues 2.5% for the next 18 months, de la Noue said, meaning each professor would have to pay an average of \$600 extra.

According to Laval Rector Larkin Kerwin, the university has also lost by the strike. Research suffered a great deal he said, with many projects especially in agriculture and forestry having to be cancelled and redone after the strike finished.

As well, he said, the university will probably have a deficit of several per cent this year, instead of breaking even. The reasons, he said include extra expenses during the strike, such as having to pay support staff full wages while the university was closed, and paying professors extra money for teaching extra classes to make up the school year.

According to Kerwin, a study done for the university says that at least 90% of Laval students will return for the next two terms, with another five percent returning in the fall.

Editors chosen

by Nigel Allen and Donna Treen

The Dalhousie Gazette elected two new editors Monday night. Harvey MacKinnon and Valerie Mansour will hold office until the end of April. Former editor Allan Zdunich submitted his resignation to staff over a month ago, but then agreed to edit the first issue in January.

The new editors pledged themselves to expanded news coverage, both on and off campus. "Our campus news has been relatively weak this year," MacKinnon commented.

Stressing the need to improve community coverage, MacKinnon declared that students, cannot remain isolated from the outside

community. Most of us will become part of that community within three years. "We feel it our duty to help them become aware of the important issues that face them," he concluded.

Mansour was equally enthusiastic about a "better" paper. "My only reservation," she confessed, "is that to do all these great things, we'll need new people, particularly first-year students".

"I think it's extraordinary interesting to work on the Gazette," Mansour enthused. "There's a great need for new people, especially those who haven't worked on newspapers before", MacKinnon said.

Dal supports AFS/FEA

Dalhousie Student Union voted Sunday to give Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS-FEA) \$800 in emergency funding.

At a council meeting Dec. 5, \$2000 was requested as Dalhousie's "fair share" of the expanded FEA-AFS budget, since Dalhousie has 25 percent of Atlantic students.

Council rejected the \$1000 loan/\$1000 grant package because a budget was not presented. AFS-FEA secretary Don Soucy, stressing the psychological effect of the Atlantic's largest university "not supporting students", presented a "vague but adequate" budget this Sunday.

Live in the Grawood



Dal Photo / Grandy

In an effort to improve Grawood business, Bill Stevenson has been hired for afternoon entertainment.

The Grawood, despite frequent queues, is behind in revenue for fiscal 1977. This is not because of a lack of night-time customers. Rather, people are going to class instead of drinking in the daytime. The Student Union depends on Grawood revenue to support student activities and the receipts this year are down 10 to 15 percent.

This week pianist Bill Stevenson has been hired by Grawood manager Murdock Ryan in hopes of increasing afternoon attendance and consumption.

A native of Ottawa who has spent the past two and a half years in Nova Scotia, Stevenson has been hired for two weeks. Ryan, however, expects to pick up his option for at least another week or two.

Performance times are 12:30 to 2:30 and 4:00 to 6:00.

