

Students run riot

by Eleanor Brown

MONTREAL (CUP) — University students were arrested by the busload at the Montreal Stock Exchange March 20 amid allegations that brokers attacked them, started fistfights and broke a chair over one student's head.

Two students were taken to hospital, bleeding from the nose and ears.

Montreal constable Jacques Patenaude said last night 178 had been charged with trespassing with intent to cause mischief, failing to co-operate with police, "and possibly one or two with assault." Patenaude said more students will be charged.

The students' lawyer says 280 were hauled in. No brokers were arrested.

"Traders pushed the students back. They were incredibly violent — I didn't see it, but someone told me one guy attacked with a chair. Everybody was eating knuckle sandwiches," said Montreal radio journalist Philippe Marquis, who joined the protest and was arrested.

A group of 350, mostly Université de Montreal students, went to the exchange to ask business to pay a one per cent tax on earnings to go toward university education. The action was in response to Quebec's recent doubling of tuition fees.

Marquis says the students climbed up to the fourth floor stock exchange offices on Rene Levesque Blvd. just before the 4:30 closing time yesterday.

Fifty students actually made it onto the trading floor. "It provoked the rage of the traders," Marquis says.

The students were pushed back, joining their colleagues' sit-in in the lobby. Marquis says police in full riot gear arrived within 10 minutes of the violence. A few escaped down emergency exits; the rest were arrested.

The students filled paddy wagons and two city transit buses. It took an hour to unload them at the central police station in Old Montreal.

Marquis says he expects a municipal court summons in four months. By 9:30 last night,

58 students had been processed and released, according to the students' lawyer.

"It's fascist," said a shaken Andre Gagnon, president of the UQAM arts and literature students association. "It's the first time in the Quebec student movement that massive arrests were made.

"The actions are really disturbing the patronat (business leaders). It's very significant," said Gagnon. "It doesn't bother them when people quit university but when we put our feet in their temples, they get mad. For them, education of the people is not important, money is everything."

About 1000 students marched in Montreal March 18th to protest Quebec education minister Claude Ryan's plan to raise university tuition fees 130 per cent over the next two years.

College and university student associations representing about 90,000 students are on strike this week to protest the planned hikes which would take effect in September.



photo: Ian Mardon

CKDU raises \$42,173

CKDU station manager Paul Shields

by Sandy Mackay

CKDU raised \$42,173 in their recent funding drive, exceeding their goal by more than \$2,000. Last year, the goal of the drive was only \$35,000, but they raised \$40,051.

According to CKDU station manager Paul Shields, the \$40,000 goal was reached at about 5 pm on March 18 on Natasha Sodhi's "Mystic Music of the East" show.

Some exciting stats:

Most money raised in one hour — The Evening Affair (and The Word Is Out) with Dan Hart and Brenda Barnes — \$975.

Most money raised in one show — Finland and Beyond with Mark MacLeod — \$1509 in three hours.

Notable Achievements — Toast and Jam with Lisa Monk

and Annette Wright — \$1235 in three hours.

Best Day — Saturday, March 17 — \$6300.

"The results of the drive show that we have developed a core audience that is willing to support us financially. Without that, we wouldn't be able to operate," said Shields. "Our multicultural programs are also very important — they are the only ones of their kind in the Atlantic."

Shields went on to list the staff and volunteers he wished to have noted, but the list is too long to include here. He also thanked the audience, for without their support, as Shields implied, CKDU simply could not function.

So, watch the mail for your pledge packages, and mail your dollars and cents back soon to CKDU, the only thing left on the dial.

Wildly official Gazette elections

by Alistair 'Legs' Croll

The Gazette held its elections last week for the position of editor. Contending for the job were Stuart Flinn and the team of Allison Johnston and Alex Burton.

Burton and Johnston won the elections, and assume the role of co-editors of Dalhousie's student newspaper this issue, taking over from former editor Sandy MacKay. MacKay begins his new job as a dad in July.

Other executive positions at the Gazette, including news, arts, sports and graphics editors, will be elected early next fall.



Newly elected DSU president, Ralph Cochrane, and VP Patti Dow

Cochrane and Dow victorious

by Sandy MacKay and Alistair Croll

The results are in! Ralph Cochrane and Patti Dow won the DSU election for president and vice-president, by a slim margin of 64 votes out of 2,500 cast.

Lara Morris and Beth Beattie won 11 out of 14 polling stations, but Howe Hall placed more than 300 votes in Cochrane and Dow's favour, and Sheriff Hall cast over 200 votes for them. Cochrane and Dow also carried the Dalplex.

"Tuition may go up, we may have a strike, but we'll have a hell of a lot of school spirit, for whatever that's worth," said one council member about the election results.

Student participation in the election was unusually high — nearly 30 per cent. DSU representatives attributed the turnout to the controversial referendum on abortion and good placement of polling stations.

The 2,500 students who placed their votes during the three day election voted yes to funding a South African student to attend Dal and yes to establishing a Public Interest Research Group. But nearly 76 per cent of voters were opposed to the DSU taking a stand on abortion.

The abortion plebiscite results were not released, but DSU insiders say 54 per cent of students stated they supported a woman's right to a legal abortion, while 17 per cent said they did not.

A total of 2,485 students voted in the plebiscite, 1342 voted yes, 423 voted no, 489 were undecided. 231 ballots were spoiled.

Charles Aldrich and Don Manson won spots on the Board of Governors, and Kevin Surette, Paul Hodgson, Ian Giles, Rock Coulombe and Alan McLeod were elected to the Senate.

Cochrane and Dow will take office in May.

Photo: Rochelle Owen