

# Are students losing their rights

Many student leaders across Canada believe that administrations are encroaching more and more upon students' rights. Here is one view, re-printed from the September, 1973 issue of the Young Socialist newspaper.

by Mark Priegert

Over the last two years there has been a lot of speculation that the student movement of the 1960's is dead. Last Fall major articles in the bourgeois press went so far as to talk of a return to the quiet campuses and school spirit of the 1950's.

But this spring the *Toronto Star* changed its tune. In a lengthy article on May 12, Hartley Stewart developed the theme that Canadian campuses are quiet just on the surface. In conclusion he quoted Don McCulloch, director of the U of T student advisory bureau, who said "If the right issue came along, it could all happen again. Students are really no more satisfied than they were in 1968."

No wonder. Fees are up. Student grants and loans are harder to get. Inflation strikes hardest at those least able to afford it. And right across the country governments are planning more education cutbacks. Fearing the growth of a massive and active opposition to these attacks, some administrations are now trying to clamp down on student activism. Obviously, some administrators like McCulloch fear that cutbacks are the "right issue" to mobilize students once more.

At the University of Alberta, the General Faculty Council adopted a totally restrictive "Report on Law and Order" this spring. In June, the Governing Council of the University of Toronto approved

a new "Code of Behaviour." These two disciplinary codes are remarkably similar. Both set up a system of double jeopardy for students. That is, students can be tried twice - once by the university and again by the courts - for the same "crime". Both codes focus in on what the administrations consider to be "disruptive" or "unauthorized" activities and set up kangaroo court procedures and stiff penalties to enforce the administration's law and order. At the U of A for example, the report lists offences like "indignity to others" and "serious indisipline" that are never defined and the administration controls the selection of the discipline committee and the appeals committee. The U of T Code of Behavior follows suit with crimes like "to defame any person" or "to disrupt intentionally, disturb or obstruct unduly any authorized activity". Both codes seriously limit such basic freedoms as freedom of speech and assembly. And finally, both are based on the traditional *in loco parentis* view of the university that students have rejected.

These two codes and any others that administrations may try to foist on us must be completely rejected. We must be prepared to organize against them right from the start so that they can never be used to crush our rights. Student councils, instead of relying on lawyers or the good graces of "liberal" administrators, should take the lead in organizing students against the codes. It is dangerous for anyone to take the position of Bob Anderson, president of the U of T student council, who claims in the 1973 U of T student handbook that some aspects of the Code of Behaviour are significant gains for students.

First of all, the administration has no right to

impose anything on students. The administration is a tiny minority ruling the university against the real interests and wishes of the overwhelming majority - the students, faculty and staff. Second, this tiny minority which runs the university in the interests of the corporations has nothing in common with the majority. Their basic interests clash. The administration wants to strengthen the big business university, while the students, faculty and staff generally seek to change it. As long as this basic contradiction exists, there can be no commonly agreed upon disciplinary code, since every time the majority seeks to change something, the minority finds its actions disruptive and, of course, "unauthorized." Lastly, students cannot trust any administrator. In the wake of a massive student action around new discipline proposals in the fall of 1969, Claude Bissell, then U of T president, promised never to bring cops on campus without the approval of the student council. This pledge was broken during the U of T library struggle in the spring of 1972.

If the administration was really concerned about disruptive protests at U of T it would remove the causes of the problems, instead of writing a new penal code to repress students. If the administration had never tried to close the stacks of the Robarts library and had never fired any profs, there would have been no library occupation and no mass occupation. But the administration can't do that because it does not and cannot run the university in our interests.

What we need is not some liberal preamble to a new criminal code which supposedly guarantees our rights. We need a university under student, faculty and staff control - run by the

majority in the interests of the majority. We need a university that will be an organizing center for social change - the kind of change that is the only guarantee in the long run of our rights.

## Beatle craze still strong

(EN) - Maybe we're getting older than we think. That notion comes with news that an antique shop in New York City is now specializing in Beatle memorabilia.

The Speakeasy Antique Shop - run by Rita Brand - is doing a booming business in the sales of such things as Beatle buttons, Beatle sneakers, Beatle movie posters, sweatshirts, pens, pads of notepaper, school notebooks - and all the other junk that accompanied the Beatlemania of the 1960's.

Brand told *Earth News* that she also has a few rather rare items, such as some hard-to-find records, and original drawings from the movie "Yellow Submarine." She also has an award that was presented to the Beatles when they did a benefit for handicapped children at the Paramount in New York. But that's not for sale, she says.

At least one customer, said Brand, has already spent over \$1,000 on the Beatle items, and is continuing to come in several times a week to pick up new things.

### We goofed:

Pictures of Harry Gunning which appeared on page 4 of the Sept. 13 edition should have been credited to *The Journal*

## WOMENS' COURSE OFFERED

A six-week course women in Canadian history being offered this fall by Department of Extension.

Beginning Oct. 23, the course is an answer to those who say that the role of women in history has been ignored.

Topics to be discussed include women in New France, the opening of the West, the Canadian suffrage movement and Canadian women in the world wars.

Lydia Semotul administrative assistant department of extension, will teach the course, which will cost \$20, including books and materials.

Registration may be sent to the department, 82nd Avenue and 112th Street.

Further information available during the day by calling 432-5067 or 432-5068 and evenings at 432-3116.

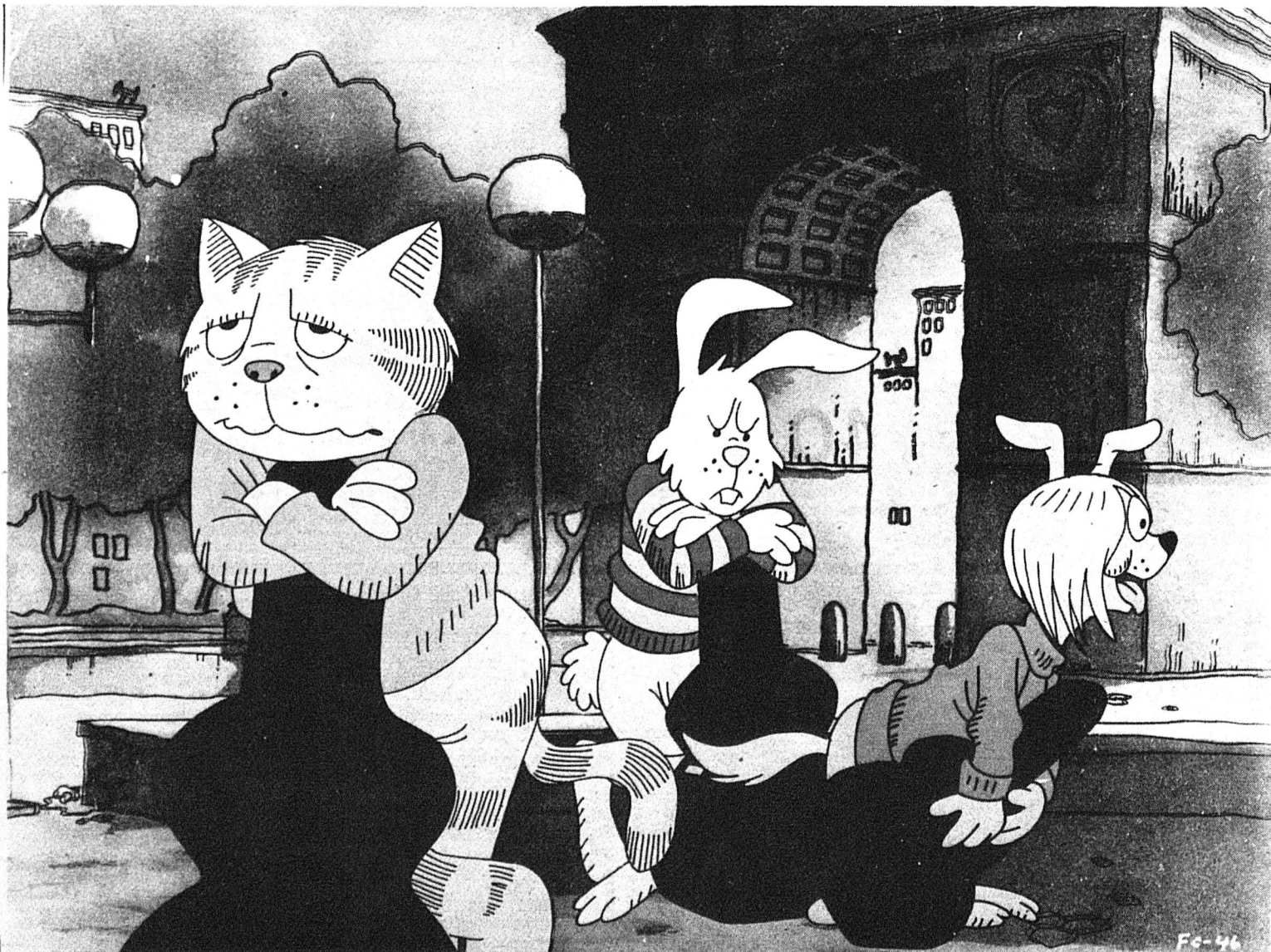
## CUSO rep here today

An educational recruitment officer for the Canadian University Students Overseas program will be at the U of A on Thursday and Friday.

Margaret Paterson from Ottawa will speak to those interested in teaching jobs in developing countries throughout the world. These jobs will be available in January, March and next summer.

Students can arrange interviews by contacting Carole Burkard at the CUSO office in Room 2-5, University Hall.

## CAPTION CONTEST



Write a caption for *Fritz the Cat*. Best six captions win double passes to see *Fritz* at the Plaza Cinema. Submit entries to room 282 SUB. Contest ends at noon Wednesday, September 26.

## Prof back on his feet

A University of Missouri professor, fired in 1970 after lying in the path of the U of M marching band, is financially back on his feet again.

The circuit court of appeals in St. Louis has ordered back pay for Patrick Dougherty, a political science professor, and clearance of his record. He protested university participation in a St. Louis parade sponsored by the Veiled Prophet, a racially-segregated group of about 1,000 whites.

Dougherty, who lived in St. Louis before moving recently to Columbia, Mo., had been studying the group and its effects upon the blacks since 1966.

The circuit court reversed a district court decision.



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