

cross-canada briefs

Students head back to class as strike ends at Trent

PETERBOROUGH, Ont. (CUP) — Classes resumed Tuesday after a tentative agreement reached Monday brought an end to Trent University's 15-day-long faculty strike.

Student council president Matt Gallinger says he is happy students will be going back to classes, but he is upset students who had left the city were given such short notice before classes began.

Acting dean John Syrett said the quick return to class is essential to make up hours lost during the strike.

Students occupying the office of university president Leonard Conolly's office let out yelps of elation when they heard the strike was finally over. The 40 or so students spent six days occupying the office as an attempt to force the university administration to end the strike. The intent was to pass some of the disruption students were experiencing on to the administration.

Although the details of the tentative settlement cannot be known until after ratification by both parties, students, faculty and administration have all voiced a belief that the disruption caused by the sit-in had the desired effect of expediency.

Corina Crawley wrote: "We were just there, inconveniencing and questioning the administrators. We saw the administration's negotiating team and President Conolly almost hourly most days. We demanded answers from them [and] let them get to know us and our concerns."

Pot club promotes some peaceful toking

BY BRAD HETHERINGTON

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Joints, grams, eighths and quarters are being sold openly and "legally" by a new organization intent on making Vancouver the "Amsterdam of North America".

David Malmo-Levine, founder of the Harm Reduction Club, has been selling pot publicly from his East Vancouver home since Oct. 19, when he officially launched the club at a rally on Commercial Drive.

Malmo-Levine, a long-time hemp and peace activist, says he's confident the police will leave his pot-selling co-op alone.

"They've got better things to do with their time," said Malmo-Levine. "We are all about harm reduction and responsible use and they know that."

Located in the Drive's "green light" district, the club offers membership to anyone who promises to use the herb responsibly. Members must promise not to use heavy machinery if impaired, must be over the age of 13, and must not disturb the club's neighbours.

As a nonprofit organization, the club gives 10 per cent of its earnings in trust to their lawyer. "[This] is intended to cover any legal costs should the club get busted," Malmo-Levine said. "After all, that's what it's all about."

"We've already won just by resisting."

Student representation without student votes

BY SARAH SCHMIDT

TORONTO (CUP) — A recent grassroots attempt by McGill University students to pull out of a national student lobby organization has triggered a debate about how students are consulted on membership issues.

At a campus-wide general assembly meeting held at McGill on Nov. 18, a student who is not involved in the student council put forward a motion to pull out of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, of which Dalhousie is also a member.

"When it became clear that the vast majority there didn't support CASA, a CASA supporter called quorum," said Chris Carter, President of the Student Society of McGill University. "We had 210 — quorum is 200. So the few people, less than 20, who did support CASA left and deliberately broke quorum."

According to the rules of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, a simple student council vote is adequate for membership.

When Dalhousie decided to continue its membership last year, it took the question to referendum. The decision to remain in the organization was carried by a vote of 1240 to 710.

McGill University joined CASA in 1995 after 21 councillors had a chance to vote on CASA membership without the need for a campus-wide referendum.

"The fact is it is the most democratic. Council and executives will be elected on the basis of what association they want. When students vote for executives, they know how they stand," said Irwin Gold, a CASA researcher.

At the University of Calgary, five councillors and five executives voted to join CASA on behalf of the 20,161 members of the student union at a June 1996 council meeting.

Christmas flights are flying high

BY DANIEL CLARK

Nothing short of a snowstorm will interfere with students' Christmas flights this December.

Fear of the possible collapse of Canadian Airlines and a strike at Air Canada have sent waves of fear through the Christmas travel crowd.

"There is really nothing to worry about," said Janet McGovern, a spokesperson for Travel Cuts.

"Everything is running just as it did last Christmas, and the Christmas before that. Until something changes there is really nothing you can do about securing your plans. Canadian Airlines issued a communique to us that any financial problems they have would not be felt during the holiday travel season."

Canadian's future is still not secure, but Christmas travellers need not worry about being stranded.

"As long as they check that their flights are on schedule, at the Canadian Airlines number in the phone book, they will be fine," said a spokesperson for the airline.

Canadian is not the only airline facing problems during its busiest season.

Air Canada has been plagued by a possible strike by its checking agents. An Air Canada spokesperson announced that, "We have just reached a tentative agreement with the Canadian Autoworkers Union [who represent the agents], and the strike has been averted."

In the case that the agreement falls apart before Christmas, Air Canada has made arrangements

to retrain staff and management to fill the possible gaps and prevent any major delays.

Although neither airline is in an ideal situation, it would seem that there is little chance of any interruption occurring during the upcoming month.

McGovern best summed up the situation.

"There may be some slowdowns, and I would encourage students to approach air travel this season as if there were a major snow storm or a fog. Expect some delays, but no cancellations."

If for some reason one of the airlines should cancel its flights, McGovern recommends that students call their travel agents.

"We are fully prepared to make alternative arrangements should the need arise."

Dalhousie™

BY DINA GUIRGUIS

In an effort to inform the Dalhousie community, the office of Trademarks and Licensing has distributed some leaflets concerning its Trademark licensing policy.

"Dalhousie University has registered its mark under section 9 of the Canadian Trademarks Act," said Heather Poole of the Office of the Director of Ancillaries.

The trademarks that are protected under this policy include verbiage such as Dalhousie University, and designs such as the Coat of Arms.

Poole said that the policy has been in effect for three years.

"It is there to protect Dalhousie's name; we're not trying to make a profit."

Although many of Dalhousie's societies may not be well informed with respect to this policy, some have come across it.

Hazem Al-Agez, president of the Dalhousie Arabic Society (DALAS), said that he was not aware of the existence of the policy, or how it would affect some of the society's work. However, a scanner company that the group had asked to make society t-shirts told him that it had to find out whether the word Dalhousie was trademarked or not.

"They haven't got back to us yet," says Al-Agez. "It is important to know: must we as a society pay fees to use the Dal name?"

However, Poole says that the policy does not concern internal uses, such as t-shirts made by Dal societies, or even the Dalhousie Gazette.

"It does not concern internal uses; t-shirts and mugs for non-profit making purposes is fine."

Dalhousie Student Union president Brad MacKay says that the trademark policy does not pose an immediate concern since it does not threaten use within Dalhousie.

"I can understand the need to

keep track of how the Dalhousie name is being used," said MacKay.

Phil O'Hara, Head Deputy of the computer department, has criticized the effectiveness of the policy.

"We should go after people who misuse the Dalhousie name, especially those who have websites such as Dal-lousy where the crest is used."

There are no written policies as to how to tackle use of the Dalhousie name or logo on the

internet. For the time being, if anyone places a complaint about Dal name misuse, the office of Trademarks and Licensing looks into it and deals with it. Poole points out that the office makes the final decision: "It is patented, [so] we have the last word."

As it is hard to keep track of how Dalhousie's name is used, Poole encourages people to contact the Office of Trademarks and Licensing for more information at 494-2574.

Dal/Tuns

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Dalhousie will maintain all benefits, entitlements and seniority in the new university.

Senator Andrews also expressed concern that the proposed legislation will require the new university to report to government, threatening the university's autonomy.

"I am concerned that we are allowing a principle to be breached that may be regretted in the future," said Andrews.

Traves replied that reporting to the government is about accountability and the sharing of information, and will not threaten the university's operations.

Daniel Clark, one of four student representatives to the Senate, questioned President Traves about how degrees and diplomas will be awarded after the amalgamation.

Traves explained that students currently enrolled in TUNS will have the option of receiving a Dalhousie or TUNS degree depending on the number of courses completed at each school. Any students enrolling after April 1, 1997, will be awarded their degree by Dalhousie University.

Continuing his critique on the proposal, Andrews asked, "Has anyone done any analysis of the financial implications on the pension plan?"

According to Dr. Traves, a TUNS employee will have one year to choose between a Dalhousie Pension Plan and the Public Service Superannuation Plan (the plan which TUNS employees currently use).

"In the event that they choose a Dalhousie plan it will be based on their service to Dalhousie," said Traves.

This means that in order to qualify for the plan, an employee's total years of service to the two universities would be totalled and considered. However, they would only receive benefits for the number of years at Dalhousie.

The proposed legislation went to Dalhousie's Board of Governors on November 19, and was passed "in principle". This means that the Board accepts the proposed legislation as long as there are no significant changes made to it while it continues to be revised.

The proposal has yet to be read by Nova Scotia's Legislative Assembly.