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McMaster's French sit-in ends president agrees to call Senate

McMaster students' ended their sit-in at University offices Monday after two weeks of earlier occupation in support of the French student union.

The union had gone on strike to support its demands for parity with faculty on department committees and the re-hiring of three professors dismissed earlier.

The crisis came to a head March 19, with the arrest of seven students for petty trespassing. The students were removed from McMaster administrative president A. N. Bourn's office, which had been occupied since March 11.

Students organized a rally on the day of the arrests. Over one thousand students attended the mid-day rally, and then proceeded to Bourn's office. They found the office locked and guarded by Hamilton police.

The students then occupied the registrar's office. They were joined in the move by two sympathetic members of the French department.

Later that evening, McMaster's administration announced it was dropping the charges against the seven students. A general student meeting was called for March 21 to consider a general strike of the university.

The next day, the French Student Union accepted a proposal for near student parity on departmental committees, but rejected outright the administration's offer to rehire only two of the three dismissed faculty members.

At the general meeting March 21, 3,000 people packed the phys-ed building for the largest-ever meeting of the student union. Students voted to strike unless the administration agreed to hold an open, emergency Senate meeting within one week. The students gave the administrators a 24-hour deadline to respond.

Ted McMeekin, student senator, presented the motion that the McMaster University Senate meet 'to discuss the whole issue of student parity with faculty on Senate and the Board of Governors; further that if the president cannot, or will not, call this meeting within one week, that the four student senators resign and refuse to continue playing the ad-

ministration's game."

The meeting concluded with over 70 per cent of the students voting for a general strike if the president refused to comply. From there, hundreds of students returned to the administration offices and occupied the halls, effectively taking over control of the building.

President Bourn agreed March 22 to call a meeting of the Senate. Students ended the occupation and now await the meeting scheduled for today.

Contacted by telephone, student newspaper editor George Gavrel, said that probably little would result from today's meeting. He explained that it was too late in the year for students to support a general strike or any further occupations.

"You can't expect students to jeopardize a whole year's work right at the end. If they went out now, they'd gain nothing and lose everything," Gavrel said that without any leverage, the meeting would be of little benefit.

News Briefs

Human Rights rejects Gay Alliance

TORONTO (CUP) — The Ontario Human Rights Commission has rejected a request from the Gay Alliance Toward Equality (GATE) to urge the provincial government to include "sexual orientation" in laws prohibiting discrimination.

GATE says acting Commission chairman Walter Currie informed them the Commission would reject the requests but continue an earlier offer to mediate in individual cases of discrimination against homosexuals in jobs and housing.

GATE says Currie's position is "condescending tokenism" which "effectively condones the general hostility and ignorance which dehumanize gay men and women".

GATE now plans to mount "a large lobbying campaign with members of parliament to get sexual orientation included in the Human Rights Code."

Meeting today on "a Red university"

Dale Ritch, a member of the Socialist League will speak on "How students can change society: the struggle for a Red university". The meeting will take place at 1 p.m. Thurs. March 28 in Curtis L.H.D. Some aspects of the discussion include: students as a potential revolutionary force, role of the university in society, student and worker alliance, and recent SDS activity at U of T.

The Pill encourages birth of females

LONDON (CUPI) — The British Medical journal Lancet has quoted a World Health Organization report as saying that women who have taken the Pill have a greater likelihood of having baby girls. The magazine says the report reveals that 75.89 per cent of 500 ex-pill women surveyed had girls as compared to 54 per cent for non-pill mothers.

Spiritual leader talks on meditation

Sri Chinmoy, an Indian spiritual master, will give a lecture on meditation in Curtis Lecture Hall "F" on March 29 at 8:00 p.m. Admission is free.

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