

Questions on

Student Activism and the "New Left"

By VINCE HUBLEY

Throughout the last decade a new cultural political movement has spread itself across the world, catching the eye of many student minority groups. The media has from time to time referred to these movements as leftist, radical, activist, communist, Socialist, anti-society and rash of other names. I would like to know just what motivates these students, and why they think that a university should be a platform for political agitation leading to the overthrow of all ordered change in society. What does the "New Left" want?

My immediate impressions of this new movement is that they adhere to one doctrine - "Revolution for the Hell of it." If this indeed is their game, I have my suspicions as to whether or not these students are really in a position to demand, through whatever action they deem necessary, their solutions to problems which have faced society for centuries. War, Racism, Poverty, lack of respect for individuality and multitude of other social ills cannot be solved in one generation. The "New Left," in my estimation falls to see man as he really is, an animal with instincts which have not fundamentally changed since he was put on the earth. Man is, and always will be, aggressive, acquisitive and competitive and no movement, not even the "New Left" will ever change the forces that guide human endeavors. We will always have War, Racism, and Poverty because of the mere fact that man is a communal being. History is on the side of those who realize that we do not and never will live in an idealistic utopia in which man is all of a sudden left without some of his aggressive instincts. Man is more complex than those of the "New Left" make him out to be.

Is the "New Left" so embedded in academic tradition that it cannot see the woods for the trees? We live in a real world which requires solutions to real problems. The idealistic and theoretical solutions the "New Left" often puts forth to solve world problems are almost always going to fail because they are dealing with human problems, not rudimentary mathematical solutions to textbook problems. Idealism has a place in changing an established order but the "New Left" has gone overboard, and is about to drown in its idealism. A Just, Equal and Free society has not, does not and will not exist. Neither democratic capitalism nor totalitarian communism as political and economic systems can claim the title of being the pure and ultimate social system. If there are genuine idealists mixed up in this activism there appears to be others who seem to have no other motives than children throwing tantrums simply to gain attention from the public. Aren't these fake radicals trying to anger and annoy society instead of governing it in the way they say they would like to?

Does the "New Left" want to build counterinstitutions in the world for the mythical international

proletariat they claim to be in sympathy with? Does the "New Left" advocate the United Nations be run by student power ambassadors elected by every student council of every university in the world? If they unity of our student council is any indication of the unity of student councils across Canada, I would hate to speculate as to the effectiveness of a United Nations run by students. The building of counter-institutions by the "New Left is fine, but won't these institutions suffer from the same problems as the ones they hope to replace? I much prefer the slower and safer way of reason to the "action and to hell with the consequences" philosophy of the leftist radicals. Whatever happened to the cool reasonableness of the liberal radical? Have they all been drawn up into the political-cultural hysteria of the "New Left"?

Although I believe in some radical actions, I remain in sympathy with liberal values. Reason, Democracy, Tolerance, Truth. I find them far superior to distortion, violence (especially in the name of peace) chaos and mindless actions. This is not a revolutionary period. To act as though it is, and ignore the consequences is dangerous. The victims of their actions (violent and mindless) will be all of society (student body in our case) and these victims will create the backlash. This backlash will lead ultimately to a distrust of progressive, change orientated action and thus against those activists who so desperately want changes in the system.

The thinking of the "New Left" in most universities is going far beyond ideology. The leftists are badly confusing cultural with political values and philosophies. Some negro leaders in their pressure for equality often mix up political ideology with cultural matters in the arguments they put forth. While I am in sympathy with their position I believe the confusion of cultural with political matters seriously weakens their arguments. By the same token when left-wing activists bring cultural issues into essentially political and economic arguments their propositions appear more as a theatrical performance and I do not regard them as particularly useful guides to the new politics (whatever that means). Politics is more than a theatre, more than poetry or painting. Government institutions are more than a prop on a stage, it is not always action, but it is ordered debate based on compromise.

Why do followers of the "New Left" see the United States as the villain of world politics? Almost every day there is some protest against some action of the United States government or its citizens. We are constantly bombarded in the media with stories of anti-american protests, with the protesters yelling for an end to corporate villary, the military-industrial-labor complex, American imperialistic aggression,, capitalistic exploitation and many other things they see as forces fighting against the establishment of their utopian dream of peace, unity, and

love. Their catch phrases like "imperialistic aggressor", "racist pigs", "capitalist exploiters" quotes from Lenin, Marx and Mao run from their mouths in meaningless monotonous of endless drivel. Who are they trying to impress and why? What do they mean by all this name-calling?

Why does the Santa Claus doctrine of government expenditures appeal to the "New Left?" Socialist parties in many western democracies are finally realizing that Santa Claus does not exist and can no longer promise something for nothing. Perhaps those of the "New Left" should begin to realize (like the British people are today) that socialism has its serious faults. No ideological system is perfect. This attitude that some leftists take that the government owes me a university education, a summer job, etc., is beyond my understanding. Primary and secondary educations are rights in most Canadian communities, but a university education is a privilege. Does the "New Left" propose that the government pay us a wage to go to university? The discontent of the Canadian taxpayers, who are carrying the burden of post secondary education is growing. Students, of course, pay a portion of the cost of their education, but the taxpayer is really the one who is paying through the nose, don't we owe him just a little consideration when we as students demand this and that. The appalling feature of the disturbances, caused by the leftists and activists, is that certain reforms which are admittedly overdue in implementation and still have a long way to go cannot be rationally appraised or even discussed in such confusion. It may be naive of me to assume that the confusion is chiefly the work of instigators from the United States and abroad, but it is far from naive to ask why they are at the head of some of the worst excesses. Why should the taxpayer support these foreign instigators of university unrest in Canada?

What percentage of students does the "New Left" represent in Canadian universities? I think the leaders of the activist groups can claim the support of no more than 10 to 12 percent of the students. True, the communications media have to accept part of the blame for the fact that this minority gets 95 percent of the publicity; yet in the end it is the vast majority of students who are neither irresponsible, contemptuous of elementary law, nor at war with the Canadian taxpayer that have to justify themselves to the public that they are no part of this radical often extreme group of activists.

Perhaps I am wrong on this but I cannot understand why the "New Left" somehow feels that God has given them the divine right and inspiration to pass judgement on the actions of the society. Until the leftists present some concrete practical proposals based on concrete facts (not vague passionate value judgements) many of their arguments will continue to remain hopelessly devoid of meaning.

200 McGill Students break up Board Meeting

MONTREAL (CUP) — The McGill University board of governors held its first - and probably last - open meeting Monday (Jan. 27), only to adjourn after 10 minutes of confrontation with 200 chanting, jeering students.

The students crowded into the meeting room in defiance of a limited ticket ruling that would have allowed only 34 spectators.

They brushed past security measures set up in the administration building and swarmed into the meeting chanting "Pouvoir ouvrier (worker power)" and "Ban the board."

At one point, they bowled over three security guards blocking their way and shouted that all students should be able to attend meetings of the board.

The administration, fearing a repetition of Friday's incident when 35 students jammed a closed meeting of a key personnel committee and succeeded in opening it, issued passes to the board session. The passes were checked three times while all elevators were shut down and the staircases blocked to anyone without a pass.

The governors, stunned by the action, glanced about nervously and muttered to themselves, but could not bring themselves to speak to the students.

The students demanded at the outset that the board discuss a controversial decision to build a faculty of management rather than finance a student co-operative housing venture.

Students said the governors had ruled out the co-op because it was "a bad investment." They asked that the item be placed at the head of the agenda, amid angry choruses of "We control the university," "Who are the governors anyway?" "Why are students bad risks?"

The meeting never got as far as discussing an agenda.

The chairman, chancellor Howard I. Ross, refused to acknowledge the student right to speak or present motions. He was backed by board members.

The board then decided to continue, barring interruption by spectators, but five minutes later moved that the room be cleared.

The students refused to leave despite a threat of disciplinary action from principal H. Rocke Robertson, and the board promptly adjourned.

All the while, Robertson and vice-principal Michael Oliver were busily taking down the names of

students they recognized. Oliver said they collected about 15 names.

He also said the administration is considering disciplinary action and would make its decision by Tuesday morning.

The exchanges were bitter throughout.

Administrators and students jostled each other and maintained no polite pretenses. At one point, Maxwell Cohen, dean of law, pointed to Stan Grey, a po-

litical science lecturer and one of the insurgents, and called him "a malodorous guru of the nose-picking set."

As the governors finally filed out between two lines of jeering students, several demonstrators sang "Goodnight Ladies" to which one governor replied: "Damned nonsense."

The McGill session was the first open meeting of a university board of governors in Canadian history.

Blood Drive Feb. 11th & 12th

By JANET MADSEN

The Dalhousie University Blood Donor Clinic will be held in the McInnes Room of the SUB on Tuesday February 11th and Wednesday February 12th.

This follows a very successful clinic in October, where 350 pints were needed to meet the quota, and, in spite of fairly poor conditions (cramped quarters, shortage of Red Cross staff, and an unreasonably long wait in line) 421 pints were bled.

The clinic will run for two days. The absolute minimum is 700 pints, but of course we would like to do much better. The facilities have been improved - a modern, spacious McInnes Room, more beds and staff, chairs for those in line, lounge chairs for those having refreshments and even music, to eliminate the inconveniences suffered in October.

Dal participates as well in the Atlantic University Blood Donor competition. Each participating university must hold two Blood Donor Clinics during the Academic year. The winner is determined by averaging the two clinics. Here at Dal., three trophies are awarded on the average of our two clinics.

Here is the breakdown of the October results: DAL. & KING'S ENROLLMENT 4571 NO. OF DONORS 421 PERCENTAGE TURNOUT 9.1%

FACULTY RATINGS			
FACULTY	TOTAL	DONORS	%
PHYSIOTHERAPY	33	20	60.6%
SCIENCE	690	116	16.8%
COMMERCE	216	34	15.7%
ARTS	986	140	14.2%

PHARMACY	113	16	14.2%
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	91	11	12.1%
NURSING	225	23	10.2%
ENGINEERING	190	19	10.0%
GRADUATE STUDIES	742	26	3.5%
MEDICINE	463	11	2.4%
LAW	288	7	2.4%
DENTISTRY	95	2	2.1%
EDUCATION	208	0	0.0%
DENTAL HYGIENE	24	0	0.0%
MUSIC	13	0	0.0%

RESIDENCE RATINGS

RESIDENCE	Total	Donors	%
Eddy House (Shirreff Hall)	215	64	29.8%
Henderson House (Howe Hall)	131	34	26.0%
King's Men's	112	26	23.2%
Cameron House (Howe Hall)	133	30	22.6%
Smith House (Howe Hall)	72	14	19.2%
Newcombe House (Shirreff Hall)	186	35	18.8%
Bronson House (Howe Hall)	82	11	13.4%
Alexandra Hall (King's)	99	8	8.1%
Pine Hill	69	5	7.2%

Undergraduate Physics Seminar

Title: Is Time Mysterious?
 Speaker: John Page
 Tuesday, February 11, 11:30 A.M.
 Rm. 135, Sir James Dunn Bldg.
 ALL ARE WELCOME