

PSA profs start up community aid centre

By DAVID CHUD

VANCOUVER (Special) — Students and purged faculty members from Simon Fraser University's Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology Department are involved in a unique venture which began operating here last week. Along with various members of the Vancouver community, they are taking part in the Community Education and Research Centre.

According to Mordecai Briemberg, who was elected PSA department head by faculty and students only to be ousted by the SFU administration's purge, "the idea of the centre grows out of the program of the PSA department."

He said PSA had three guiding concepts:

- subject matter should be critical;
- for education to meaningfully take place there must be real equality among students and faculty;
- what happens in the university must be integrated with, and

relevant to people who are exploited.

"We're starting from the premise that education and research facilities, like wealth and power, are unequally distributed. The university is not geared to meet the needs of oppressed people. Class background determines, to a great extent, who gets in."

"Further, most curricula content, and research is done in support of the existing distribution of wealth and power. You learn the value of hierarchy and the concept of 'experts' making decisions for people."

Briemberg said that there are different ways of combatting these things. He described the continuing struggle in Simon Fraser's PSU department for relevant content and democratic structures.

"Another way in addition to that, is to try and bridge the gaps between people who have common interests — who have common oppressions. A few of us have tried to establish in downtown Van-

couver a centre geared to meeting specifically the needs of oppressed groups — ordinary working people, native peoples, women, tenants, young people — all of whom do not now have access to research and educational facilities where they can meet with people, devise solutions to their problems and then act on them."

Briemberg described the centre as a place where people who feel the need to act on their problems can come together to discuss and learn enough so that they are confident of their position. Students and faculty members from the university can help, he said, because they have the time and skills which many others in the community don't have.

"While what we're trying to do is convince people that they, through their experience, have the knowledge to solve their problems, still students have learned specialized skills which can be of value to them. This will not become a paternalistic relationship, because the direction of the centre

will be determined by those who have the problems."

Briemberg urged students to take part in centre projects because, unlike in their university courses, they would be involved with the real and pressing problems of society. As well, a student's work would become cumulative.

"At university, you do something alone for a professor. At the centre, you do something, the results of which are public and on which others will build."

So far, much interest has been shown in the Vancouver area for the Community Education and Research Centre. Union rank and file members see an opportunity to use the facilities of the centre to do

research for presentation to arbitration boards as well as studying labor history and finding ways of fighting British Columbia's oppressive labor legislation.

The Vancouver Women's Caucus plans a workshop to examine ways of organizing the largest group of non-union workers in the province — women.

As well, workshops on youth and its response to bureaucracy and police repression, the causes of inflation, the structure of contemporary industrial society and the use and misuse of science and the role of the scientists are all being organized, all with the aim of helping people who are in exploited groups, to become educated and act to end their oppression.

'Superfluous' to go on

Grad student quits ACSA

Another student has resigned from the Presidential Advisory Committee on Student Affairs.

Graduate student Terry Boyd resigned from the committee — struck last March to discuss problems which might arise in the university pending the release of

the report of the Committee on Rights and Responsibilities of Members of York University — last Tuesday in a letter to York president Murray Ross.

"It has always been my understanding that the advisory committee was only an interim body with no legal status which would dissolve once the Laskin report had been completed," Boyd said in the letter.

"That report is now complete and has been for several weeks."

Winters College representative Edie Rantoul was recalled from the committee by the Winters College Council the week before because, then-Winters council president Marshall Green said: "The committee has no legal status within the university."

Boyd, who represented the graduate students on the committee, said in his letter that any further discussion of the Laskin committee report, "or any other matters, would be superfluous."

At a meeting of the committee in

December, it was hinted that the committee should discuss topics such as the food services and the bookstore in the future.

Green said decision making on matters such as the food services or the bookstore should take place "within the bodies legitimately formed for that purpose" — the food service and bookstore committees. He said he was worried the advisory committee could be used as a "cover for decisions made by Ross."

Green feared the committee would be similar to a former York presidential advisory body called the Advisory Council on Student Affairs, which was set up in September, 1966, and disbanded early in 1967.

Glendon College withdrew from the council because, said former Glendon student and ACSA member Glen Williams: "The meetings were closed and the students on the committee had no real power."

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World Briefs

Activist to get Berkeley job

LOS ANGELES (CUP-CPS) — Harry Edwards, the black activist who attempted to organize a boycott of the 1968 Olympic Games, is about to be hired as an assistant professor of sociology at Berkeley, according to a story leaked at a regents meeting here. According to the report, the appointment has received approval at all levels and is now on chancellor Roger Heyns' desk awaiting approval. Such approval is normally routine. Edwards is now completing his PhD at Cornell. It was while teaching at San Jose State College that he became an advisor to many black athletes at the school, including Tommy Smith and John Carlos. Smith and Carlos became the most controversial Olympic victors in history when they bowed their heads and raised black-gloved fists while the national anthem played during post-event ceremonies.

Newsman says news censored

SAIGON (Guardian) — An accusation by a U.S. army newscaster in Vietnam that the Armed Forces Vietnam Network was censoring news broadcasts has touched off a stir here. Robert Lawrence made the accusation at the conclusion of a radio and television news program broadcast throughout Vietnam Jan. 3. He has since been removed from his broadcast job. "We have been suppressed and I'm probably in trouble for telling you tonight the truth," Lawrence said on the news program. "I hope you'll stop any censorship at the AFVN and any American station under military rule." The sportscaster who followed Lawrence on the army network began his remarks with the statement: "Thank you Bob, in more ways than one."

U.S. is a police state -- Spock

NEW YORK (Special) — Baby doctor Benjamin Spock charges that the United States is a police state, in a book published here last week. Spock, an outspoken opponent of the Vietnam war and a vigorous civil rights advocate, said: "Our country is already a police state. But the only people who realize this as yet are the groups that happen to have had personal experience in being repressed: black militants, anti-war demonstrators, student dissenters. Congress passes laws to make the exercise of their constitutional rights a crime. Congressional inquisitors persecute them for their opinions. The FBI spies on them. The police beat them and jail them. Judges set exorbitant bail for the black militants to keep them incarcerated. Then the victims of police brutality are prosecuted with false accusations of having assaulted the police. I have close friends who have been through all these experiences."

Students protest Hayakawa

BOSTON (CUPI) — Students and police clashed in front of Northeastern University's alumni hall last Thursday in a protest against the appearance of S.I. Hayakawa, president of San Francisco State College and guru of the law and order set on North American campuses. About 200 demonstrators, carrying Viet Cong and anarchist flags, tried to gain admission to Hayakawa's speech at the campus, but were beaten back by police. About 30 persons were arrested on charges of assault and disorderly conduct. Hayakawa, speaking on "Can American Colleges Survive the 20th Century?" advised his audience, many of whom heckled and jeered during the speech, that U.S. youths should be press-ganged into national service in such areas as hospitals, mental institutions or the Peace Corps.

Filipino students, police clash

MANILA (Special) — Students and police clashed here last week in a riot during which Filipino president Ferdinand Marcos and his wife were stoned. Fighting broke out shortly after Marcos delivered a state of the union message to the Philippines congress. As the president and his wife were entering their car, students crying "Marcos puppet" began throwing sticks and bottles at them. Police with crash helmets, shields and clubs charged the demonstrators. The students had gathered outside the congress building to demand that a convention next year to revise the Philippines constitution be kept separate from politics.