

McCurdy miffed over macaroni madness

OTTAWA (CUP) — The student who organized the macaroni protest on Parliament Hill Oct. 17 says he stands by his actions.

On National Student Day, about 20 University of Ottawa students pelted Secretary of State Gerry Weiner with macaroni and post-cards when he rose to answer a question about the three per cent federal surcharge on student loans.

The question was asked by NDP post-secondary education critic

Howard McCurdy, who was later accused of knowing about the demonstration beforehand by MPs outraged by the demonstrators. McCurdy denied the allegations.

U of O student council executive Marc Molgat, who organized the protest, has been criticized for the protest, which may have harmed the McCurdy's credibility and the reputation of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

In an angry letter to Molgat,

McCurdy later called the incident "embarrassing and counter-productive."

"I feel personally insulted that you abused my efforts on your behalf to embarrass me...In politics it is not enough to engage in antics whose sole result is ego-stroking media attention," he said in the letter.

"What you have done diminished the credibility and effectiveness of students who have worked hard on post-secondary education issues."

McCurdy also told Molgat that "30 seconds on the CBC National News can and has undermined months of hard work in other quarters."

But Molgat defended the demonstration, saying students had to force politicians to discuss the issue.

"At some point in time, education is going to have to be debated in the House of Commons, which hasn't happened in 10 or 20 years," he said.

"It was clear McCurdy wasn't happy with the incident but he said it would be no problem in the future to ask for favors," Molgat said.

Paul Paquet, a McCurdy aide, said he understands the frustration students are feeling. He said the frustration stems from "a govern-

ment that really doesn't care."

However, he said, the House of Commons was not the place for the demonstration.

"The main accomplishment that came out of (the incident) is the cause is set back. It made Howard look foolish, it made students look foolish."

The debate caused by the incident prevented discussion on the three per cent loan tax and other issues such as the Persian Gulf cri-

sis, he added.

CFS also issued a statement distancing itself from the students' actions.

A letter to MPs from CFS chair Jane Arnold said CFS was not party to the event despite the fact that protestors used CFS postcards.

The incident took media attention away from the federation, which that day had released a report outlining its funding alternatives for post-secondary education.

DFA signs

by Allison Johnston

The Dalhousie Faculty Association has voted to ratify the tentative Collective Agreement which will finally settle the contract dispute between the DFA and the Administration.

The Agreement was ratified by the Board of Governors a couple of weeks ago after the DFA and the Dalhousie Administration bargaining teams came to a tentative agreement with the help of a conciliator.

Included in the agreement is the Cost of Living Allowance clause (C.O.L.A.). C.O.L.A. means that the increases in salaries will be proportional to the increases in the cost of living. This clause has been a point of controversy in the last two contract negotiations.

There was no change on the issue of replacement of staff. That remains the same as in the last contract.

"Seven months of bargaining and the strong support of membership behind the DFA Bargaining Team produced a contract of which they [the membership] could approve" said David Williams President of the Faculty Association.

The ratification was not a big surprise. "We understand the bargaining team of the DFA is recommending ratification...so is the DFA leadership" said Bryan Mason chief negotiator for the Administration in an interview a few weeks ago.

The tentative Agreement was voted on October 25, 26, and 29, 1990. It was passed by a majority vote.

The contract is for three years.



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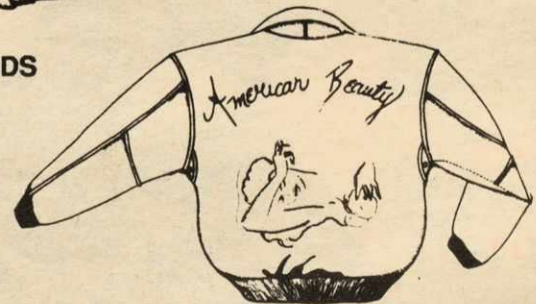
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