

the gateway

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MUN students protest

Special to the Gateway

by Rod Wachsmuth
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"All changed changed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born."

In September of 1916, William Butler Yeats composed these lines in his immortal poem "Easter, 1916", inspired by the Irish revolutionary resistance to Ireland's English overlords. Now, in November of 1972, these lines haunt the minds here in St. John's where students of the Memorial University of Newfoundland are struggling for their rights and self-determination against their president English Lord Taylor of Harlow. The humourless irony of this confrontation, pointed out in Memorial lecturer Michael Cook's play, "Colour the Flesh the Colour of Dust", played before uneasy St. John's audiences about two weeks ago, is that the Newfoundlanders, many of Irish heritage, have consistently faced repression by English governments for most of four centuries.

Irony piles on irony. The day Cook's play opened November 9th, the University Board of Regents announced as its policy Taylor's determination that the administration should no longer collect compulsory eight dollar per semester students' union charge with tuition fees because of the current council of the students unions' (CSU) generally acknowledged inept handling of

its finances. The announcement coincided with the beginning of a five day study break but CSU and a group of concerned students met and decided to oppose Taylor on the grounds that his unilateral action, unauthorized by students, would effectively destroy their union.

With the return to classes on November 14, a general meeting attended by an estimated 40 Memorial students accepted a proposal to occupy the Arts and Administration building.

Shortly thereafter approximately 1500 students gathered in the building's lobby and a negotiating committee armed with specific demands for negotiation attempted to see Taylor who refused to talk with the committee then and has reputedly refused to do so since. Asking office workers to leave with only their personal belongings, students then occupied the building. Classes in the building continued for the day and resumed two days later.

In the interim students had negotiated with the Dean of Students Dr. Eaton and director of physical services, Mr. Ardy. On November 15th the second day of the occupation these negotiators and the student committee reached an accord by which the moribund Student Affairs Committee, languishing because of CSU's refusal to nominate the committee's student member in protest

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photo by B. Bloom

revitalized Senate studies Worth

Committees to investigate student financing and academic planning were approved Friday by a University of Alberta Senate: self-consciously on its way back from the doldrums.

The senate, at its annual fall gathering, also approved a budget expanded to \$25,000 from last year's \$5,000, added a fourth meeting to its yearly schedule, and elected three new members to the executive committee which conducts senate business between meetings.

The two task forces were established after a morning of public submissions and a vote which deferred senate investigation of the university's physical planning and media use on campus.

Students' Union executive vice president Rob Spragins recommended a task force into student financing in light of the Worth Commission suggestion that university fees be increased by 20 per cent.

"Student fees are now at the breaking point," Spragins said.

He called for more government help with loans and grants, or elimination of tuition fees altogether, since discrimination against lower income people is inherent in any loan program.

Briefs lobbying for an academic planning task force emphasized the importance of a university's involvement in the community, and vice versa. They requested public representation in course development and on faculty councils, professor and student involvement in the outside world, and greater public access to university resources.

Core task force members—who need not be senators—will be appointed shortly at an executive committee meeting.

The new system—under which issue-oriented task forces try to

generate public response to the university, and then communicate that response back to the university via the Senate—is the main thrust of a Senate plan to re-vitalize itself.

The blueprint of this plan is the Tuttle report, a document which appeared in early 1972 and which pre-dated by several months the Worth Commission recommendation to disband the body. (Former senate member Reverend G.M. Tuttle advocated a strong senate independent of the university. He chaired the committee which produced the report.) In the cause of self-preservation, a copy of the Tuttle paper will be sent to the provincial cabinet committee studying the Worth report.

Eligible to attend the meeting were four new senators, including former provincial NDP president Neil Reimer, Journal columnist June Sheppard, and author and STOP director Mary Van Stolk.

According to executive officer Bill Thorsell, himself a part of the new wave, the appointment of such "activists" is typical of the senate's re-direction.

Senate membership "has to be more than a nominal, prestigious thing. We need to be able to relate to the community," he says.

Videotapes of each of the Senate's Friday sessions—including a panel discussion of the Worth report—will be televised twice on MEETA (Channel 11) in the next month.

The presentations of public submissions will be aired Thursday, November 30th at 8:30 p.m. and Friday, December 1 at 12:30 p.m. (noon). The Worth report discussion will be shown twice on Thursday, December 7th, at 12:30 p.m. (noon) and 8:30 p.m.

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conference ponders arts



— writers workshop including Calgary playwright Bonnie LeMay—

Conferences are usually co-ordinated on an idealistic level; the organizers have an over-zealous belief in their cause, and the concept of immediate change becomes a feasible one.

Unfortunately, after the initial glow, the balloon bursts. It becomes evident that all the educated, prolific conference go-ers and their relevant speeches will not revolutionize the system.

CANADA WEST, held at the Calgary University last weekend, certainly felt the familiar strain on conference bureaucracy. Sponsored by the Canadian Conference of the Arts, CANADA WEST was one of four regional conferences held across the country in order to obtain views and recommendations concerning the funding of the arts in Canada. Well, there were countless views and recommendations, but the limited time allotted to each session hampered the quality and the quantity of presentations.

The first session, "People and the Arts Democratization" unearthed comments that were continually repeated throughout the remainder of CANADA WEST.

It was felt, in general, that the media should be the major source of information about the arts, as well as a means of getting the arts "to the people" so to speak. At the present time, art is controlled by commercial

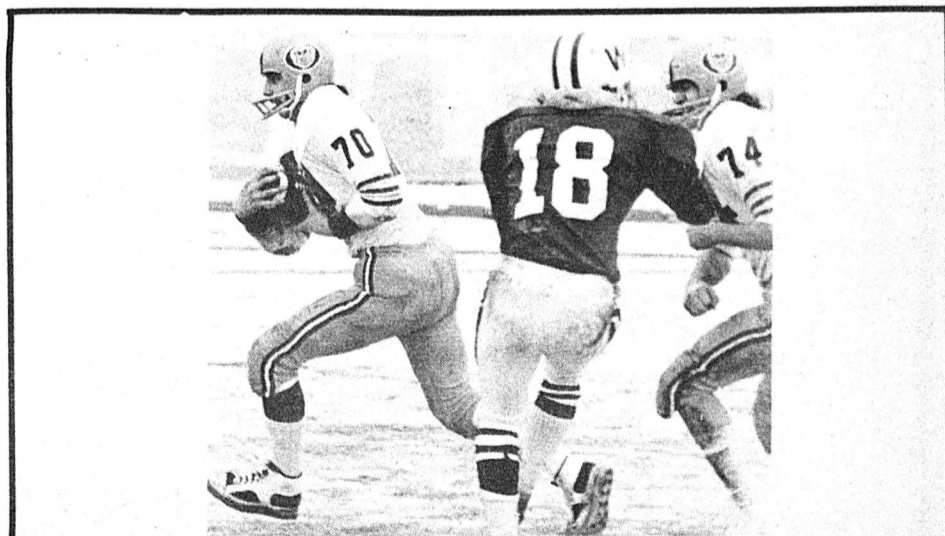
interests and is treated on a "business level".

There was also controversy over viewing artists as members of an elitist group. Admittedly, an artist is a unique being, but several artists while appreciating their own status felt that more people should have ready access to information about the arts. One solution could be the development of "animation centres" on community, municipal, provincial and federal levels. These would, in fact, be "storefront cultural centres" geared toward dispersing information about the arts and the artists themselves. Another suggestion was the regular publication of a national arts magazine.

A major bone of contention was the existence of arts "boards", consisting of members appointed mainly on the basis of financial status. Delegates felt that a valid alternative would be having representatives elected from within the body of working artists in any field. This representative would be elected temporarily, the emphasis being on "project oriented" boards rather than long term, static ones. To emphasize this point, delegates also felt that funds should be withheld from boards not comprised of "working artists".

It was generally agreed that in order to have a more enriched, artistic society, children have to be exposed at an early age to the arts. One delegate

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Henry Schubach streaks for paydirt in Western College Bowl win.
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photo by Chuck Lyall