

Freedom of press at Halifax

Students fight police

HALIFAX (the Journal) — Club wielding police clothed in white helmets and gas masks September 21 ended a three day confrontation over freedom of the press at Saint Mary's University.

Over 700 students September 20 occupied the office of interim university president Edmund Morris when he banned a left-wing group from distributing their newspaper on campus.

The confrontation began when the administration summoned police to throw members of the Dalhousie Student Movement off campus for distributing People's Canada Daily News.

Claiming they had a democratic right to "disseminate progressive ideas" the DSM returned to the campus two days later.

About 150 students gathered to listen to the DSM in the lobby of the Student Centre, a five-storey building in the centre of the campus. Their reaction to the five DSM members was originally negative, but support for the five protestors soared when administrators again sent in the police.

Shouting "Down with fascism" and "Smash imperialism" the five DSM members were dragged off by city police and charged with obstruction, charges that were mysteriously dropped the next day.

Confrontation flared next day when Morris announced that no students would be permitted to sell the paper on campus.

Students objected, saying that freedom of the press was at issue. They noted that the anti-labour Halifax Chronicle-Herald was sold on campus.

That was the last straw for students already angered at the police presence on campus. At 4.30 a.m. Sunday, 75 students occupied Morris' office in the university's administration building.

They were joined by nearly 700 students, mostly from the university's residence complex.

Daycare centre holds toy demo

The York Daycare Centre is sponsoring a toy demonstration on Tuesday October 6 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. in front of the post office in the Central Square.

The centre needs money in order to purchase these toys, Sandra Stewart, a full time worker at the Centre has said.

"Since no day care centre is given government subsidy for initial equipment, we must seek out from the York community means by which we can provide durable and creative playthings for our forty-five children."

The creators and producers of these toys namely, certain members of the Everdale Place located in Hillsburgh, Ontario, wish to "meet a need frequently expressed by parents and educators for high quality, durable, creative yet reasonably-priced playthings for children."

They feel that the industry "will provide the learning experience of originating and operating a business which requires accuracy of workmanship and creativity of mind."

Because all the proceeds go to the Everdale Place it will also provide a more solid financial basis for that free-school.

In the future the industry will branch out into other lines of creative playthings, classroom furniture and teaching aids for handicapped children.

The toy demonstration will allow any groups on campus to actively support the York centre by purchasing some of these toys for it.

The Everdale toys range in price from \$18.00 to \$24.00 each.

Any other contributions for the "initial equipment" fund can be sent to the treasurer Prof. Clarry Lay, Rm. 280, Behavioral Sciences Bldg.

Morris gave the students ten minutes to withdraw from his office, when he arrived on Monday morning.

They replied that they would withdraw when "political freedoms are guaranteed on this campus."

Morris, who talked to the students from the hall outside his office, replied that "All political freedoms are guaranteed on this campus, but we will not tolerate agitators who come in from outside to subvert and destroy."

Five minutes later, Halifax City Police made their third invasion of the campus. The battle was joined when a milling crowd of about 100 students refused to let police into the administration building.

The police moved in with billy-clubs and tear gas, but were thrown back by barricades just inside the buildings main lobby. The students moved quickly to consolidate their control of the building.

They threw up barricades on each of the entrances to the building and conducted classes on how to deal with tear gas attacks.

After the occupation was forcibly brought to an end, President Morris issued a discipline code designed to prevent future demonstrations. Its main provisions were aimed at preventing students from organizing.

But the campus is not entirely quiet yet. A short-haired Commerce student is likely to hiss "pigs" as he passes one of the 50 policemen still stationed on the campus and the smell of tear gas is sickeningly strong inside the classrooms in the administration building.

On the surface, all is calm. But beneath the surface is a bitter resentment of an administration which called police on campus rather than discuss a freedom of the press which is guaranteed by the Canadian Bill of Rights.

Glendon retains gen. ed French

The Faculty Council of Glendon College last Thursday refused to accept a report by an ad hoc committee on bilingualism at the college which had recommended the abolition of compulsory French in first and second years.

The committee, headed by Glendon Principal Albert Tucker, had also recommended that the college suspend a prerequisite of Grade 12 French for admission to the college, but recommended that the college's bilingual aims be reinstated.

After a two-hour discussion in committee of the whole, the report was voted down 24-22 with 10 abstentions. The council is composed of over 100 students and faculty members.

Harold Robertson, a long time supporter of 'non-compulsory French', and chairman of the French department led his department in either voting against or abstaining in the motion.

A severe cut in enrolment for French courses would precipitate a situation where large numbers of faculty would be without students to teach.

The pro-report faction stated

that Glendon's policy of two year's compulsory French was a major factor for the 10 per cent yearly drop in freshman students since 1967.

When anti-report council members asked for statistical evidence of the claim, no proof could be furnished, except impressions when attempting to recruit students.

Tucker cited instances in recruiting when the moment compulsory French was stated as a required course, "suddenly we were talking to a much smaller group."

Walter Beringer, the only dissenting member of the committee, submitted an amendment to the report which stated that "the language requirements of Glendon College be upheld."

He defended his counter proposal on the grounds that the committee based its recommendations on three false assumptions: that enrolment problems have a relation to compulsory French; that compulsory French leads to poor academic standards; and that there is much student opposition to the status of French at Glendon.

Nationalism discussed

By BARRY LERNER

A group of York students Tuesday demonstrated very little excitement over Canadian nationalism. On that day Sociology 364.3 yawned through a broadcast of Countdown Canada and barely tolerated a panel discussion by Professors Jack Granatstein and Tony Turrittin and CYSF President Paul Axelrod and EX-CALIBUR editor Bob Roth. In difference was the hallmark of the discussion of Canadian nationalism.

The students sat through the broadcast and quietly listened as the panel agreed that the U.S. has everything it wants from Canada without the problems of actual control.

The only debate came when

Professor Granatstein held out little hope for the future and said there is "no apparent nationalism demonstrated by the great mass of students I see."

Paul Axelrod disagreed and cited some examples of growing nationalism. One or two students volunteered opinions while the rest sat waiting. When the clock finally moved, they left for the next lecture.

These actions may have various interpretations. Has Canadian nationalism become an academic issue to be half-heartedly taught, placed on an exam and forgotten about until next year's class? Do York students really care about an independent Canada? Or will we ignore this event and continue to do nothing?

News briefs

Board won't respond to students

Members of York's board of governors have refused to answer a questionnaire on governing bodies at York sent to them last spring by the Council of the York Student Federation.

The purpose of the questionnaire was to probe the opinions of the members on the role of the board and students in decision making at York. The information received was to be used in a special CYSF study on the Laskin report on discipline.

When none of the 27 board members responded, CYSF followed up with a letter to each member urging him to contribute to the study. Of the 27 questionnaires sent only 3 have been returned.

CYSF president Paul Axelrod sees this lack of response and co-operation as "indicative of the fact that board members do not want to get involved; they want to remain apart and distant from the students."

Guelph student union dissolves

Guelph (The Chevron and CUP) — The student union at Guelph has gone bankrupt and declared itself non-existent. The student association had been having financial difficulties throughout last year since implementing a voluntary membership fee last fall.

Guelph was the first university to have a full time president and fees mushroomed to \$62 per student before a referendum finally put an end to dues.

The referendum had been called to deal with a number of issues, including a demand to impeach the editor of the school newspaper, the Ontario.

The student government's financial problems have been acute since January when student pledges to join the by-then voluntary union by paying membership fees of \$15.50 per term dropped from 76 to an estimated 20 percent of the student body.

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