

THE GATEWAY

Member of the Canadian University Press

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Boycott And Beyond

Students at the University of Montreal are learning how to use a valuable weapon in fighting for student rights. The weapon is boycott.

Hundreds of students at U of M have been boycotting two cafeterias despite orders to the contrary by the university's rector. The students are protesting against the administration's failure to consult the students before increasing meal prices by ten cents, as well as protesting against the increase itself.

But why is boycott effective as a weapon? The reasons are three: first, boycott is a non-violent form of protest; second, the press is eager to publicize such action, and third, it has material effects on the boycotted group—specifically on its treasury—with the result that the action will not be ignored. Indeed, a lesson might be learned from the Montreal example.

The boycott is instructive in another area—that of student solidarity. When the university rector declared that the students' union executive would be expelled should the belligerent student attitude continue, the union president replied that the

whole student body would go on strike if there were any expulsions. If press reports are correct, no one has been expelled to date.

Boycott need not be confined to cafeterias. *Hypothetically*, let us say that there was an *unheralded* seven dollar hike in residence fees at the University of Alberta. Students could show their disfavor with the administration's action by boycotting not only the cafeterias, but the residences as well. Possible effects can be imagined.

To go a step further, the form of student protests need not be limited to boycott. Pickets may carry placards, for example, and there are other possibilities on which we shall not elaborate.

The example above is only imaginary, but serves to illustrate the point.

There are two governing factors in the matter of student protests. In the first place, students must have a genuine grievance—at the University of Alberta such a complaint is rare. Secondly, student protesting—in the form of boycott and beyond—must be done in a responsible manner.

The Price Of Textbooks

Textbooks will continue to be a problem for a long time, it seems. The bookstore used to be a problem, but the administration's efforts to improve the cramped situation by the use of the Armed Forces Building produced excellent results and deserve commendation.

A legitimate complaint can be directed, however, against the high cost of textbooks. It is ridiculous to assume that a high-priced, hard-cover textbook is required in the major number of courses.

The proclivity of professors to change textbooks every year is too well entrenched for change in that regard to be easily effected. But books could be made sturdy enough to last one session at a much cheaper cost.

A text is a highly specialized type of book in most areas of university education. And some books certainly should be bound well enough to last for more than the brief duration of a course. Some are too bulky to be satisfactorily bound in soft covers. A Gray's Anatomy, for example, is essentially a hard cover book for

both of the above reasons.

The high cost of education is not being alleviated by rising tuition fees, higher cost of living, and the increase in price of single issues of Time, Mad and Playboy magazines.

The English and History departments have already switched the major emphasis of their texts to paperback editions where feasible, and it is an idea which could be exploited successfully by a number of other departments.

Text manufacturers are taking advantage of students who must buy the text in the edition the course demands. If the cost of any single text could be lowered by two to three dollars just by binding the book in paper rather than the hard covers presently employed, the student could save from twenty to thirty dollars a session.

It is difficult to suggest a way of combatting this problem. Students must have texts. But a nation-wide complaint from the National Federation of Canadian University Students could set the wheels rolling in the right direction.



SALTER



What the hell

by Jon Whyte

Quel enfer

"I don't know why these people can't have a little respect for the fact that not all of us understand their language."

There. That's a bigoted statement, I said to myself, as I stood around listening to comments being made at the NFCUS-FNEUC Congress.

So I spun around to see who made the statement. No, it wasn't a delegate from Quebec. The person who made the statement came from right here. This campus.

Can there be little wonder why there is such a bicultural problem in Canada? It can be nice to sit back in complacency and think that it's only the Easterners making the squabble, but the attitude is a little too well entrenched even here for the solution to be anything but difficult.

It is a pity that both groups can't do a little more bending. One doesn't find member countries of the United Nations leaving because the sessions are not carried on in Banfagastaniiki.

On the same grounds I can see little reason for the French-Canadians' desire to separate themselves from an organization which is devoted to at least some intellectual

activities, and some preservation of the idea of a world intellectual community rather than a nationalist intelligentsia.

It is a pity that the conference could not have been held later in the winter. The amount of hot air being expended is surely enough to keep even the Tower of Babel warm.

One of the tragedies of the conference which I oversaw was a fellow from one of the maritime provinces trying to get into a conversation with a girl from Quebec. He didn't know enough French to make himself understood to her, and I couldn't tell whether or not she had enough English to let him know she either didn't know English, but she wasn't going to let on. There goes a fellow who is probably kicking himself for not spending more time and attention in his French classes. Ah! Biculturalism!

I have at least one concrete proposal for the next conference. All delegates will learn to speak *Interlingua* and all discussions will be carried on in that most flexible of international languages. If we both have to bear a monkey on our collective linguistic backs the situation might draw a bit of the similarities rather than the differences.

A Bit Of Humor

If Phil's
Chevy hits
you,

From Last
Year's Ubsysey
(Student Newspaper
at University of B.C.)

you need
a Fiat
to sue