

# Feudal Loyola meets modern police state

by brian johnson  
the varsity

"Academic freedom has gotten out of hand on this campus."

That's Jack O'Brien, the Academic Vice-President at Loyola College.

Coming from a member of an administration that has committed one of the most blatant violations of academic freedom at a university in recent memory, his statement is ironic, to say the least.

In a somewhat tactless political purge, the Loyola administration announced just before Christmas it would not renew the contracts of 27 of their teaching staff.

The faux pas of most of those faculty was to question the unexplained firing of Physics Professor S.A. Santhanam. Seventeen of them had signed a petition calling for CAUT arbitration.

Last week a sit-in in front of the president's office won the sympathy of nearly all the students and the majority of the faculty, and the active support of up to 500 members of the 4,200-member community at Loyola.

Leaving the political paralysis of the U of T - the internal confusion of the left and the static confusion of committees - my arrival at Loyola College Monday was like stepping into another century.

Loyola College has weathered eight sit-ins over the issue of non-renewal of 100 of Montreal's hard-core riot cops.

But there isn't a left-wing student movement at Loyola. Just an academic community fighting for some vestige of academic freedom. Their's is not a radical issue. Essentially the demonstrators were trying to preserve the status quo that

existed at Loyola before the firings. They are trying to protect the jobs of faculty members.

But in doing that, by sitting in a building for six days, and by meeting nothing but uncompromising feudalism from the Jesuit administration, a process has occurred.

Young, upper-middle class, Catholic kids (many only 16 and 17 years old) have become confused about their understanding of obedience that the traditional parental image of the administration demands.

They took authority for granted, until they were faced with the physical reality of 100 tough cops ready to bust them at the word of an acting president A.J. Graham, S.J.

"Those cops were your mothers," English professor Sean Kelly told a mass meeting of students the day after the sit-in ended. Kelly is one of the fired faculty. And he's one of the only people in the university who could be considered a leftist.

Currently an issue internal to Loyola, the question of academic freedom has much greater importance.

As Kelly put it, "something is happening to these kids. You can't be a little bit smart, and you can't be a little bit pregnant, and you can't be just a little bit free. Those students are wanting more freedom."

"They knew in their guts why they were there when they saw the cops. Soon they will start figuring it out in their heads."

Students are united with faculty in an attempt to achieve "respectable" academic standards.

"Now there's an unholy alliance with the faculty," said Kelly, "and that won't last forever, because the professors

are the enemy too."

Kelly is laughed off by most of the university, but he understands the situation in his own hippie-anarchist way.

"The whole of the west end of Montreal is like Ontario - unreal," Kelly said. "You've never seen such a bunch of kids. Before they could flex their cream of wheat muscles, the cops came in. They realized that Nazis were not just something that happens in a book."

"We're fighting the French Revolution - this is not 1970 - we're fighting to make a university that wouldn't have been laughed out of the 19th century."

Students are reacting more and more to the paternal authority of this medieval university. When Acting President A.J. Graham told them to leave, he also said it was for their own good.

The administration's tactics were rough - no co-operation here. Four stages:

\*firing 27 professors because they contradicted an administrative decision and tested freedom of speech;

\*shifting the responsibility to the Quebec government when the situation got too tense;

\*closing the university for a week to isolate the militants and legally transform them into trespassers;

\*prophesying "trouble" after five days of non-violence, then bringing in the police to create it.

The Loyola administration had created the crisis. The academic community has just responded to it. But now the students and faculty are beginning to take an active part in questioning the entire authority of the administration.

The college is run by the

Board of Trustees, a body that contains no students, faculty, or lay representation - just Jesuits.

But the public pays 50 per cent of the college's operating costs; the students pay 45 per cent, and private donations account for 5 per cent.

The administration represents no one but the Society of Jesus, and it has been wielding ultimate authority.

The whole issue is an embarrassment to the Quebec government, who are currently pretending not to be too

concerned about English universities anyway. Most of the Montreal press is on the side of the militants.

Loyola is an anachronism in Quebec. But paradoxically its upper-middle class students have received the same police-state treatment as the Quebecois.

That treatment is forcing Loyola students to realize that the liberal issue they've been fighting has something to do with the politics of the province beyond Loyola's walls.



## VIEWPOINT

by tom wallace  
brunswickan staff

### the answer to the winter carnival question is 7 . what is the question ?



dave hunter  
arts I

"How many people are going to attend winter carnival?"



bob burt  
law I

"How many dollars am I going to spend on it?"



doug macafee  
arts IV

"How many times is carnie coming?"



debbie lachambre  
tc I

"How many times am I going to do my thing?"



george duguay  
civ. eng. II

How many cases of beer am I going to drink?"

papita ferrari  
arts I

"How many times will I see the sun?"



julie burnes  
arts I

"Seven come eleven."



john patterson  
arts I

"How many narcs will be on campus at any given time?"

