

## Columbia to drop charges

NEW YORK (CUPI) — Columbia University will ask the courts to drop charges against the 400 students arrested last Spring after police cleaned out campus buildings occupied by protesters.

However, the request affects only those charged with criminal trespass. The 154 students arrested on charges more serious than trespass such as resisting arrest, assault and inciting to riot were specifically excluded from the plea.

The announcement brought

prompt declaration from leaders of last year's revolt that the "struggle against Columbia" would continue.

Tomec Smith, president of student council, described the move as a "Machiavellian manoeuvre" that attempts to "split" moderates from radicals. Student and faculty leaders were incensed at the allegedly blatant political move by the administration—designed, they say, to pacify rather than clear the air for dialogue and change.

The decision to drop the

charges, however, is entirely within the hands of the courts.

"The trustees are hopeful," said William E. Peterson, chairman of the board, "the step now being announced will help to alleviate university tensions arising out of the arrests and charges and pave the way for effective action by the acting president and other administrations as well as by faculty and students to set the university again on course toward its goal of teaching, learning and serving the community."

## WUSC liquidates Treasure Van

EDMONTON (CUP) — University Service in Canada has chopped away Share Week and Treasure Van — or at least promised to do away with them — in the name of the Revolution.

Delegates to the WUSC national assembly, held this year at the University of Alberta, voted 32 to 28 Thursday (Sept. 5) to remove the national charity programs from future WUSC plans.

"This is going to mean that in the next couple of years the national secretariat will get smaller," said WUSC general secretary David Hoey.

The process will take some time, as \$200,000 worth of Treasure Van inventory is still on the WUSC books.

Abolition of the programs

was only one of the points contained in a resolution sponsored by the universities of Montreal, Toronto, Western Ontario and York, which created an uproar in the assembly and dragged initial plenaries four hours overtime.

The resolution also calls on WUSC to take "public stands on matters of domestic and international political importance," and resolves that WUSC "act as a pressure group on the government and the community" to raise public concern over problems of domestic and international development.

First priority for WUSC, the motion said, should be development of an "international political consciousness in the university community."

## More students to be drafted

More than half the men to be drafted into the U.S. armed forces in the coming year will be college graduates, the Defense Department, estimates. These estimates assume that the great majority of the more than 225,000 potential grad-

uate students recently made ineligible for further draft deferments will prefer induction to enlistment. This could bring the number of college graduates drafted to as many as 150,000. (International Herald Tribune, Paris).

## Mexico students threaten to disrupt Olympic games

MEXICO CITY (CUPI)—Mexico City College students have threatened to disrupt next month's Olympic Games unless they win concessions from the Mexican government in their two month old strike at the University of Mexico.

"We are not about to back down in our fight for democratic liberties now that we have in our favor the fact that each day is closer to the arrival of the contingents which will participate in the Olympics," leaders of the 88,000 students told a press conference Wednesday (Sept. 10).

Thirty-seven Catholic priests issued a document calling for educational reform and agreeing with "the awakening of youth."

The students have not made public their disruption tactics,

but rumors of everything from silent protest to violence fly around the capital city.

The students are demanding liberation of political prisoners, dismissal of three Mexico City police chiefs, disbandment of the riot police, payments of indemnity to those injured in earlier demonstrations and protection of university autonomy.

Although Javier Barrios Sierra, rector of the University of Mexico, has called on the students to return, leaders feel the strike must continue despite expressed sympathy with Barrios Sierra.

"If we do not take advantage of this Olympic period to settle our disputes we can expect a return of repression after the games are over," they said.

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