

Quebec colleges launch independence campaign

by Heidi Modro

Montreal (CUP)-- For the next three weeks, the walls of Quebec colleges will be plastered with posters calling on students to cast their votes in a mini-referendum campaign on independence.

Tired of waiting for politicians to decide what Quebec's status should be within Canada, 25 of the province's 45 colleges have launched their own campaign on the fate of the province.

"We want to send a very loud and clear message to Quebec City, to tell politicians what students want," said Martin Gauthier, a member of la Coalition Etudiante sur l'Avenir du Quebec (student coalition on Quebec's future). "We're fed up with politicians ignoring what we have to say about our future."

The coalition isn't affiliated with any political party.

Before the Nov. 27-29 vote, organizers are planning a one-week information campaign of panel discussions and video presentations.

The referendum ballot—which will be the same for all colleges - will consist of one question that will ask students whether they support Quebec sovereignty.

"We expect more than 70,000 students to vote during the referendum, so we feel that we have to do our utmost to properly inform them about all the implications of Quebec sovereignty," he said.

The Parti Quebecois sees the referendum as an indication that students want Quebec to become independent.

"Students wouldn't go through the tremendous effort

of holding referendums throughout Quebec if they didn't want sovereignty," said Joseph Facal, president of the PQ's youth wing.

The death of Meech Lake and the watering down of Quebec's language law after the enactment of Bill 178 has created a whole new generation of youth who want Quebec to leave Confederation, Facal said.

"Quebec's youth feels rejected by the rest of Canada. They're angry, disappointed and they want out."

He expects results from the province-wide referendum to show overwhelming support for sovereignty.

In a referendum last spring at CEGEP Edouard-Monpetit,

"We want as many people as possible to have their voices heard."

- Gauthier

more than 88 per cent of students voted "Yes" on the question of sovereignty, he said.

Gauthier said once the results are in it will be up to each student association to decide whether it should promote independence or federalism.

Anglophone colleges and universities have also been invited to participate in the referendum, Gauthier said.

"The organizing committee is even thinking of preparing the referendum question in English," Gauthier said. "We want as many people as possible to have their voices heard."

So far only Marianopolis College has accepted the offer.

"It was a close vote but (the

student council) thought it would be in the best interest of Marianopolis students to get involved in a national debate," said Michael Vathilakis, a Marianopolis council executive.

The PQ's Facal said he foresees anglophone colleges being less enthusiastic about voting "Yes" than francophone colleges.

"But you never know, the results may show some startling results in favour of sovereignty," he said. "Attitudes towards Quebec independence have changed among anglophones."

None of the province's universities have yet joined the campaign.

L'Universite du Quebec a Montreal will decide next week whether to join the referendum campaign while the Universite de Montreal has decided to only hold a survey on the question of sovereignty.

The province-wide Federation des Etudiantes et Etudiants du Quebec, which represents some 55,000 university students, will not call on its members to hold referendums, said its president, Nicholas Plourde.

"We've decided not to take a position on the question of sovereignty," Plourde said. "We have a very diverse membership with both francophone and anglophone students and we feel we can't favour one position over another."

But Plourde said the federation will consult members to see whether they favour sovereignty or some form of association with the rest of Canada. The survey will later be presented during a public hearing of the Belanger-Campeau Commission.

News Notes

National day against racism

by Murray Carew

The Canadian Federation of Students has announced that November 21 is National Day against Racism.

At a UNB Student Union council meeting on Wednesday, Mark Lockwood, VP external, informed the council about the day and said that due "to the lateness of correspondence.... our action may be no more than recognizing it (the day)."

Lockwood stated that the letter came two days before the council meeting.

But he argued that even recognizing the day is a step in the right direction.

Chantelle Hanley, chair of CFS-NB, agreed with Lockwood, calling the issue "a motion of principle" and informed the council that posters will be coming for the day which the SU can put up.

Council decided to recognize the day.

Empey to apply for BOG seat

by Murray Carew

Burton Empey, a candidate who was disqualified during the Student Union elections while campaigning for the Board of Governor seat, will now be applying for that seat.

Empey presented an appeal to the Constitution Committee which claimed seventeen bylaws were violated during the by-elections held on October 15.

The appeal was rejected.

The UNB Student Union Selections Committee and the Graduate Student Association will now select and recommend one student for this position.

People who are applying for the position have to fill out an application form and submit the form before 4:30 pm on November 16.

And Empey plans on applying, he says that he hasn't come this far to give up so easily.

More SU resignations

by Murray Carew

Two students involved in many activities sponsored by the UNB Student Union have resigned.

Martha O'Sullivan and Jamie Ryan, who were involved in activities like the UNB movie series, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, and the Red and Black Revue, feel that due to their academic responsibilities they will not be able to work with the SU anymore.

Both students took on SU responsibilities as a favour for past VP activities, Richard Renaud, who resigned at the first of the year.

CFS makes structural changes

Press Release

At the last general meeting held in Ottawa, the Canadian Federation of Students made a number of ground breaking structural changes, in order to keep up with the demands of a growing membership.

The By-laws of the Canadian Federation of Students Services were rendered identical with the By-laws of the Canadian Federation of Students during the meeting. From now on, the Canadian Federation of Students Services is governed by the same rules, regulations and policies, as the Canadian Federation of Students. Further, the National Executive committed itself to reviewing the decision making structure within CFS-S.

"Since any student association that is a member of CFS is at the same time a member of CFS-S, and since we share common plenaries, common general meetings, and a common National Executive, there is no logical reason why the rules governing both organizations shouldn't be the same", stated Christoph Sicking, National Deputy Chairperson.

Also, a decision was made to include a representative of the Fredericton's Aboriginal Student's Constituency Group on the National Executive. "This will ensure that Canada's first people's are represented on the Federation's executive decision making body", says Joe Seymour, current Aboriginal Students Representative on the National Executive.

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

THE AWARD is dedicated to the late Dr. Allan P. Stuart and is to honour persons who are representative of outstanding teaching achievement at the University of New Brunswick.

ELIGIBILITY: A candidate must teach at least one 3 credit-hour undergraduate course during each term of the academic year at the University. It is not expected that the nominees should excel in all criteria listed on the nomination form, but they should be qualified in most categories. Individuals are not eligible if they have been previous recipients of the Award.

NOMINATION: Candidates for the Award are proposed and recommended to the Senate Committee on Quality of Teaching by students and faculty of the University.

The basic information required is contained on the Nomination Forms, which are available from the University Secretary, Fredericton; the Dean of Faculty, Saint John; the Student Council, Saint John or Fredericton; and Faculty offices. No one may nominate or support more than one candidate.

Send nominations to the University Secretary, Room 110, Old Arts Building, UNB Fredericton, or to the Dean of Faculty, UNB Saint John