

McGill protesters get the boot

by Kenneth King

MONTREAL (CUP) — Riot police threw nine McGill students in jail for overstaying their welcome at a politician's office March 9.

The students, part of McGill's Coalition Against the Privatization of Education (CAPE) occupied Liberal MNA Jacques Chagnon's office in protest of his support for a proposed 130 per cent university tuition fee hike. Riot police removed the students

after almost eight hours of negotiations.

The occupation began as a meeting between Chagnon and over 20 students, including members of CAPE and representatives from Université de Québec a Montreal (UQAM). Protesters presented alternative funding solutions to Chagnon, and asked him to change his stance on the fee hike.

Students demanded Chagnon arrange a meeting between Quebec's education minister

Claude Ryan and student leaders and that Chagnon initiate a parliamentary commission on the underfunding of post-secondary education.

Chagnon spoke to students for about an hour before leaving his offices. The UQAM students left too.

The McGill students stayed to write letters to Chagnon while he was gone.

Chagnon returned in the afternoon to continue the debate.

The discussion between stu-

dents and Chagnon was frequently confrontational. One woman took offense at the tone Chagnon used to address the students, particularly women.

"Maybe you're older than us and male, but you don't have a right to be patronizing and condescending," Paula Gunn said. Chagnon's reply was, "You can leave if you aren't happy."

CAPE member Brian Schnarch said the remark was indicative of the way the government has treated students' concerns, since proposing the fee hike.

"The government has traditionally ignored students' alternative solutions," Schnarch said, "and we'd like you (Chagnon) to start listening to us."

Chagnon said the students' suggested alternative — a special education tax on corporations — was not viable.

"(Corporations) are sufficiently taxed already," he said. "Why shouldn't students in Quebec pay as much as students everywhere else in Canada?"

Chagnon maintained the corporation tax would hurt Quebec businesses. "We have to keep businesses competitive with other provinces," he said.

"So you're saying industry is more important than education?" asked Schnarch.

"You're a genius," was Chagnon's reply.

CAPE members said Chagnon was not representing the 80,000 students he has in his riding. Instead, they said, he was representing the needs of business.

When Chagnon refused most of their demands, the students announced that they would not leave the office.

Police arrived at about 7 pm. The students gave themselves up peacefully to arrest. As police walked them out of the building, a group of about 20 supporters cheered and sang sarcastic songs thanking Chagnon. The protesters were charged with mischief and released about two hours later. They are scheduled to appear in court July 10.



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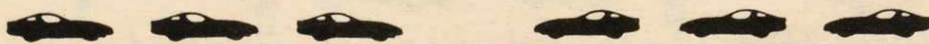
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Campus Update

Biology core

The biology department will be implementing a new second year core program, the first major change to the curriculum since the early seventies. The new program is designed to reduce problems of overcrowding and teacher accessibility. There will be only six core courses, down from 13 this year, making it easier for students to fit their required core into their timetable.

Parker award

Henson College has awarded its Tom Parker awards to Brian Keddy and Mary Upton. The awards of \$500 each go to exceptional students in continuing education. Tom Parker was former president of the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union, and in 1979 received the Order of Canada.

Nurses get visit

Dr. Virginia Henderson, a 92-year-old research associate emeritus of Yale University, will be coming to Dalhousie on Mar. 23, as part of Dal's School of Nursing's 40th anniversary. Henderson, who wrote parts of the *Textbook of the Principles and Practice of Nursing*, received the Sigma Theta Tau International Award for contributions to the nursing profession last year.

Child pain

Two Dalhousie professors have co-authored a book, *Pain in Children and Adolescents*, which deals with the way children perceive pain. The book contains, as well as sections on ethics and child-rearing, pictures by the very young which express how pain is seen.

Oriental MBA's

Dr. Cecil Dipchand and Prof. Patricia McGraw of the School of Business Administration will visit Japan for the convocation of Japan's first class of MBAs. The graduating class of 29 students, which began their studies in 1987, received help from Atlantic universities headed by Dal and CIDA. Dal president Howard Clark and SMU president Ken Ozmon have also been invited.