

## Students, staff unite in demands

MONTREAL (CUP) — More than 100,000 Quebec College students were without classes Oct. 13 when teachers and support staff staged a two hour walkout to protest the government's position in current contract negotiations.

Teachers, students and support staff held separate and joint study sessions at least 37 of Quebec's 49 CEGEPs (Quebec Junior Colleges) to show their opposition to the government offer.

"The government has presented us with the entire contract fait accompli," said Jim Leeke, director of the John Abbott College faculty association. "There's virtually no major areas (of the old contract) they haven't touched in the contract (proposal)."

According to various faculty unions, the government not only intends to reduce salaries and overtime expenses, but also plans to increase work loads and student-

teacher ratios.

The union is concerned that increased student-teacher ratios could lead to faculty cutbacks. At John Abbott, workloads would be increased by 15 per cent, eliminating 60 positions under the proposed contract.

Rick Berhman, a representative of the Dawson College teacher's union, said that workloads there could increase by 24 to 30 per cent, threatening 131 full-time positions.

Province-wide the workload formula could slash 1,000 jobs, he said.

"Everything we've gained since 1972 is being whittled away," said Berhman.

Paul Jones, anglophone CEGEPs representative on the action strategy committee of the Federation Nationale Des Enseignants/Enseignantes Quebecois (FNEQ), said that "the principle reason for the action is to warn the employer (the provincial government) that we're serious about our demands and that we won't accept the offers that they deposited with us two weeks ago."

CEGEP faculty unions are demanding the rights that existed in their previous collective agreement, including previous student-teacher ratios and current workload levels.

Along with other Quebec public service unions, the CEGEP unions are battling the government's crackdown on public service salaries.

Last summer the government legislated an 18.8 per cent roll back of public sector wages commencing January 1983. The unions are asking for wage increases tied to inflation.

The two-hour work stoppages are the first of what many fear to be the winter of contractual warfare between the public service unions and the provincial government — a government that has repeatedly warned that it must cut the public sector spending.

The unions are considering a 24 hour strike next month if negotiations continue to falter.

## Solidarity lives

by Zane Harker

While there is much argument on campus about the role of the University in foreign conflicts, there is at least one club on campus that is doing something about it.

The Eastern European Solidarity Committee, headed by Peter Matilainen, is made up of activists, students and non-academics who effectively support the recently banned Polish trade union.

The club is currently preparing to set up forums and a film that deal with the plight of the members of Solidarity.

The group also works closely with Polish Community groups in the city and is in contact with the Solidarity office in Toronto which is run by the Canadian Labour Conference.

Through underground means these groups are able to send food, clothing, and sometimes money to aid those hardest hit by the recent clashes.

Of special concern to Matilainen are the approximately 500 workers in Gdansk that were recently jailed and are in special need of relief.

The Eastern European Solidarity Committee is also preparing to approach the Alberta Federation of Labour to get local unions to send telegrams to Poland. While telegrams "don't end up on Jaruzelski's desk", Matilainen says, they do reach Poland.

To find out more about the upcoming activities of this club, keep a lookout for their booth in SUB to be set up soon.

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# CABARETS

## DINWOODIE 2nd Floor SUB.

Tickets are available from the SUB Box-Office (2nd Floor, SUB) and various club members.

Note: These events are open only to U of A students, staff, and guests. Absolutely no minors admitted!

Citizen Advocacy Society & Special Education Students Assoc. present



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