

COLLEGE ST. JEAN?



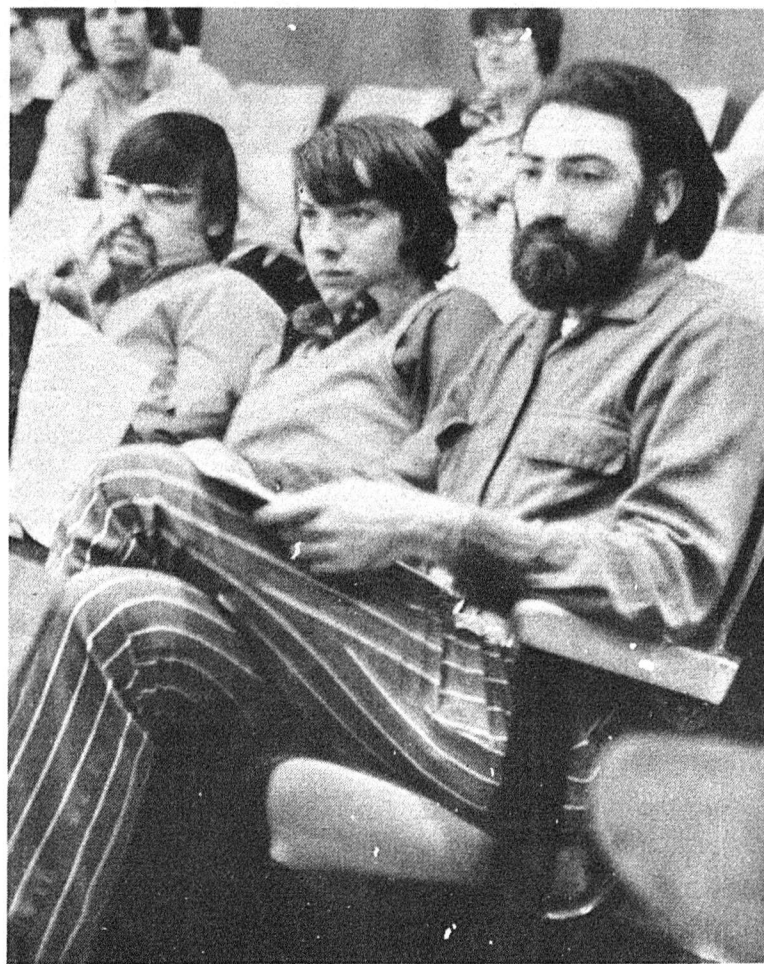
Julien Forcier, Professor of Drama

At the beginning of the year, there was a meeting where people started to say, "There is something wrong at College." So we said, "Let's put on paper what's wrong." We wrote what was wrong. Later we said, "Now, we'll find solutions." We had other general meetings. At the general meetings, we added problems to those that already existed, but we didn't find any solutions.

So the big decision was taken after Christmas: "We'll have another general meeting, and there we'll settle the problems." That general meeting was held last Wednesday. We came with two nice pages, full of problems, which we had to settle. All the problems were exposed, and then we added some others. And then there were workshops, and everybody worked in the workshops. And we said the problems are this and this and this.

At the Wednesday meeting, it was decided that next week there would be another general meeting (besides, general meetings never settle anything). The general meeting in question, we just had it. We again exposed the professors' point of view... no, we didn't even do that. We exposed the students' views, and, in part, the administration's view. We heard that the professors were going to have another general meeting, because there was nothing settled, and finally, there is still nothing settled.

This means that they will call still another general meeting next time, and there will still be nothing settled. And it will keep on like that till April. So when someone asks us to comment, we can only do a bit of history. But we can't give any comment. There is no one taking decisions.



Laurent Godbout, Professor of Philosophy

This meeting was supposed to distribute the tasks that were proposed at last Wednesday's meeting. Instead they hand us some papers with all the motions that we passed last Wednesday. We were supposed to distribute the work. So let's do that. Has the work been split up? No.

After the Wednesday meeting that was so extraordinary, where we were going to change the whole College, what do we do now? Are we doing something? The students are organizing themselves? Is it they who will realize the things that we proposed last Wednesday? The professors are organizing; is it they who will do it? Who knows?

It is the same old routine. Who will do it? Who will change the atmosphere at College?...

Instead of developing the problems, if we tried to settle them, that would be a lot better. The students have done something; the teachers have done something; today was the time to put it all together. Nothing was done.

Instead of this afternoon's meeting, the students could have passed us a sheet of paper on which all their propositions were written. We could have read it and still have all the information that we got at this afternoon's meeting. I'm not ready to come and spend two hours in a meeting to be read a paper that I could have read in 10 minutes and about which I could think.

If the purpose of the meeting is to distribute the work that has to be done, well then, do it! Don't give us a whole bunch of information that for the moment is irrelevant!

...But Still Teaching Classes

it has not imposed any of this extra work or restrictions on McGaffey, but that he has been left fairly free to teach his courses in his own way.

McGaffey feels that it has taken too long for action to be taken on his request. Last October he made a presentation to the Academic Council for the teachers to have a direct say in the direction the College is taking. The effect of his resolution was to have it put into committee. He says that the committee only surfaced last Wednesday. "It was three months of very frustrated waiting for me!"

He says this lack of

direction is transmitted to the students. "Their energy gets frustrated and drained off.... Their actions say that they are tired of being in a depressing environment and they are coming to class and sleeping it off."

McGaffey wants decisions immediately that involve the students and teachers in determining a policy for the College. "This policy, we lack right now. Everything is aimless. The classes are very depressed." The administration, on the other hand, does not think that students and faculty have sufficient information at the moment on which to base these decisions.

Student reaction to McGaffey's boycott was fairly divided. Some had no feeling or no comment about the situation. Others were quite upset. One student felt that it was "regrettable that a member of an academic community that says it is democratic to resort to leaving the place in order to get his demands either heard or met."

"It is the first time that someone has used the word boycott. It is the first public manifestation of someone's displeasure with the administration," said another College student.

Most academic staff feel that his action is ill timed and

that he should have waited until the committee had had a chance to report. Howard Olson, professor of English, said, "His action is understandable, but it's also a premature action." He felt that presently there is no structural organization, so he couldn't speak of structural reorganization. "There is a complete lack of communication between faculty members. A structure would eliminate this." He cited the instance where he only met a professor for the first time a few weeks ago. He felt that this was unnatural in such a small institution. College Saint Jean has approximately 180 students at the university level.

The Rector, Paul Poirier, who represents the administration on the Academic Council does not understand why McGaffey did not also boycott the Wednesday meeting where this process of change was discussed. He sees McGaffey's action as a bit premature.

The Dean is not contemplating taking any legal action against Paul McGaffey since he has yet to receive any complaints from the students and since McGaffey is still teaching his courses, and thus fulfilling the terms of his contract.