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Students bypass federation to launch protest

OTTAWA (CUP) - Claiming their students' federation had done nothing to challenge a 15.5 percent tuition increase, about 75 students at the University of Ottawa took over the offices of university rector Roger Guindon January 11.

The two-hour sit-in began following an afternoon press conference, held by student groups who had tried to organize a boycott of the added tuition costs at registration.

Guindon was not in his office to meet the group, but soon arrived to insist that they leave. Serge Lafortune, of the Students Action Committee, told Guindon they were demanding that the university accept tuition payments at the previous term's level, with no penalty for late payment.

Saying he could not change regulations to meet the demands, Guindon left for a university senate meeting. Campus security forces arrived, asking the group to leave the office, but were ignored.

Ottawa police soon entered the occupied office, threatening legal action and possible expulsion from the university if the rector decided to lay charges.

The occupation soon ended peacefully.

The students' federation, which had supported tuition increase boycotts in previous years, came out against the withholding of extra fees this term. SFUO president Claude Joncas urged that students work with the administration instead of fighting it.

the Dalhousie Gazette

The Dalhousie Gazette, Canada's oldest college newspaper, is a weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union members and is a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

The views expressed in the Dalhousie Gazette are not necessarily those of the Dalhousie Student Union, the editor, or the collective staff. We reserve the right to edit material for space or legal reasons, or if it is considered offensive to our readers.

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"Boy, what a week," said Charlie P. "Yeah, it was a rough one," agreed Dave Vohra. It had indeed been quite a week. First had come the snowstorm... "Shit, will you look at that snow," observed Dave Matsch, "you going to layout?" "Are you kidding," replied Danny Sampson, "I am staying here in the Grawood where it's nice and warm." Others didn't have this foresight. At 3:35 a.m. Steve Ashcroft stood back from the layout board smiling and noted, "My first page, look's great, eh?" "Terrific!" exclaimed Pat M. "now can you do another?" Finally at 6:30 a.m. this week's masterpiece had been finished and the only Gazetter with a car was dispatched to Kentville, and our printing press. For six hours Chris Hart battled blowing snow, poor visibility, and Gretchen's back seat driving to deliver the flats. Upon his arrival back at the office Maura Green noted "Thank God for Russian technology." The next day we had held our Open House... "Come in, come in," said Nancy Alford to the puzzled looking woman. "Is this the Chaplin's office?" she stammered. "No, no," explained Kevin Little, "first door on the left." "Shit, do you think anyone is going to show up?" asked Kae Fisher. No sooner were the words out of her mouth when a flock of perspective staffers bounced through the door. The over-worked Gazetters pounced on them. Some used complicated journalistic terms to impress and entice. "This is one of our typewriters," explained Michael B. "electric, of course." Others attempted to explain the intricacies of the newspaper business. "You see," said Sara to the young commerce student, "we print the paper in Kentville to save money." "Interesting concept," he noted. Still others used the "soft sell" method. "Can you write?" asked Glenn Walton. "Well, I once..." "Never mind that, can you play volleyball?" demanded Llewellyn. "Once I played in..." "Good, sign here," said Cathy McDonald, "now get over to the Faculty Club and cover the demonstration." Some just tried to be polite. "Do you see anything interesting?" asked Heather Roseveare. "Well, those donuts look pretty good," answered one. "Have you any experience in entertainment?" Gisele-Marie asked one engineer. "I watch a lot of T.V.," he noted. Finally it was over and the "tally" was taken. One for sure, six maybe's, and forty-one "no way's" said Paul W. "A good haul," observed Rusty. "What are we going to do with all the new people?" demanded Dave. ...Finally the Gazette had played their second intermural volleyball game... "Well this one was a little closer," observed Mary Lou Hendry. "Yeah, 0-15, 1-15, and 0-15 is a definite improvement over last week," said Rick B. "Yes the defense has really tightened up," agreed Ken Burke, "now, if we could only learn how to serve..."