

Meanwhile, in Soc House

Students get parity

by Glenn Wanamaker

The Sociology department has gone democratic. Parity between students and faculty has been achieved at all levels of the department.

The move, reached through "negotiations and compromise", provides for ten students and ten faculty in the department itself, plus an equal number of each on all of its committees.

All proposals are voted upon by both students and faculty, except the question of hiring and firing professors. The faculty representatives are selected by the faculty, and the students by the Sociology Student Union.

The chairman of the department, Professor Don Clairmont, is "optimistic," that parity will help in the "de-bureaucratization" of department policies. Some changes that he hopes to see include the replacement of standard

sociology classes with more imaginative ones. He also hopes that there will be a reassessment of evaluation procedures.

Soc. students seem generally pleased with parity but Clairmont is already looking into the future. His plan calls for participation on committees on the basis of intellectual interests. Thus, students concerned more with the budget for example, would serve on the Budget Committee.

Within the last month, a Peoples' Research Centre has been set up, "to do our share in the community". Though just barely off the ground, plans call for the Centre to act as a useful community service, as does Legal Aid. Clairmont said that the Centre would mobilize projects and do research within the social sphere of the community.

In GM strike:

Workers need English

by Lorne Abramson,
with aid of Susan Purcell,
Montreal Star

Whether Camil Plante speaks to his foreman in French or in the tortured English, he has at his command, doesn't really matter to him. What does matter to Plante, who works in the body department at General Motors in Ste. Therese, Quebec, is that without English, he may never go beyond the job he's held for the past five years.

For over 2 months, Plante and some 2400 fellow workers at the factory have been on strike. Negotiations have lagged due to quarrels over the place of French in contract talks and on the job.

The Ste. Therese local of the United Auto Workers has charged that GM is not respecting a promise it made to Quebec premier Robert Bourassa to recognize French as the working language of the plants. (95% of the workers are French speaking).

General Motors claims it has been faithful to all its promises, even to the extent of providing simultaneous translation during bargaining sessions.

Also outstanding are the questions of whether French should be the working language

of the plant and whether all supervisory personnel should be bilingual.

"Sure, bilingual workers are the best off," said Plante. "I know, I've asked every year since the plant opened in 1965 to be moved to a different department but they won't let me."

"If I spoke English better, it would be easier. Lots of better jobs include inspection, and for that you need English," he said. Another worker added, "English? It sure does help. I know guys who came here four, five months after I did and now they're assistant foremen."

Far from resenting the demand for English, the strikers were quick to recognize its importance. "With two languages, you can do whatever you want. After all, this is an American company."

The dissatisfaction enters for some at what appears to be preferential promotions, and at an apparent lack of interest on the company's part in helping the workers advance by learning English. The company offers free French courses to foremen — but there are still departments where the foremen hardly speak French at all.

GM's problem, from the

workers point of view, is that English-speaking personnel are getting top jobs and only then being encouraged to learn the local language.

Meanwhile, the French-speaking workers are staying where they are, unless they know English. They are offered no company deals on English courses.

"I'd sure take English," said Real Courcelles, "if they offered it. If you only speak French and the foreman only speaks English, you're nowhere. You need an interpreter."

Drug seminars start next week

A week-long series of seminars on drug use and abuse will give students a chance to examine the medical truths and consequences of drug use. The course will start Monday, November 30.

Led by Dr. Wilkie Kushner, the seminars will give facts without moralizing. They'll deal with amphetamines, (especially methadone and speed), tobacco and alcohol. The series won't deal with treatment. Students attending the course will be able to question and discuss all information which doctors have available.

The series will take the form of four two-hour sessions. The first hour will be in lecture form, the second will involve the students in a more active role. The core of material discussed will be drawn from research done by Kushner for a book he is currently writing.

The seminars will run from November 30 to December 3, from 4-6 p.m. Enrollment is

limited to 50 students, although after Christmas if there is sufficient demand. Interested

students should register with Student Counselling on the 4th floor of the SUB, or phone 424-2081.

And from the inside:

Soc students form union

by Arch Kaiser

Arch Kaiser is a member of the Sociology Students Union, and undergraduate advisor for the department.

Dalhousie Sociology students have formed a Sociology Students' Union. Organized early in October, it is the result of students meeting to consider the possibility and problems of forming a union.

After preliminary discussions, they decided all students who take a course or courses in sociology should have the right to be members of the new association. Only major, honours, qualifying-year and graduate students could be representatives on department governing bodies.

Subsequent negotiations with the faculty produced a scheme whereby students would have equal representation on all faculty committees and equal voting power on all issues, except hiring and firing of faculty members and evaluation of students.

November 5, representatives of the Union were elected by students attending the election meeting. The representatives were assigned to the various committees which run the Department of Sociology.

The Sociology Students' Union is at the fledgling stage in its organizational maturation. Currently efforts are being made to expand the Union's base and to make students aware of the potential which the association has. It is felt by the students involved that the Union is a positive and progressive step towards having some control over their own education. This is needed in a society where it is easy to observe that the vital events of one's life are beyond one's own sphere of influence.

To this point in time, participation in the Union has been confined to a group of thirty to fifty people. Increased interest and participation in the Union is both desirable and necessary for sociology students and for the health of the organization.

Meetings will be held bi-weekly. Notices will be posted in the Sociology House at 1244 LeMarchant St., and at other places around the campus.

Any of the following representatives would be pleased to give you more information about the Union and its relevance to you. Any problems or ideas which you have concerning the Sociology Department may be directed toward these people: Sharon Clark, Libby Coles, Carmen Comeau, Ian Johnston, Arch Kaiser, Doug Kane, Bill Leslie, Alan Story, Stephen Stroppe, Peter Taylor, Danny Varverikos, Jacques DeVerteuil, Barry De Ville, and Janet Webster.

We'd like to see you at our next meeting.

O'Hara fund set up

A scholarship fund has been set up in memory of Margie Ann O'Hara, a third-year student at Dalhousie, who was killed in a car accident October 31, with fellow student Anne Refuse.

The fund has been set up and will be administered by the O'Hara family. So far, the only qualifications which have been set out is that the recipient be a woman of high academic standing and from a large family. Donations to the fund may be made to the Holy Family Parish, 11 Cavendish Road, Moncton, N. B., or to the O'Hara Family, 117 Dickson Blvd., Moncton.



photo by Steve Archibald

Help! Help!

The Gazette needs help. To produce a paper relevant to the campus, and the community, we need more people to write stories and/ or inform us about campus or community events. All the help we can get would be appreciated.

We cannot tell people about what's going on on campus unless we have more information. Come in and see us on the third floor of the SUB. If no one's in, leave a message on the door, or at the SUB Enquiry desk.