

## Racism at the University of Ottawa?

OTTAWA (CUP) — The executive of the Students' Federation of the University of Ottawa (SFUO) has been accused of trying to suppress the voice of Jewish students on campus.

The five-person executive, the Central Coordinating Committee (CCC), passed a motion in July condemning Israel's invasion of Lebanon. The motion equated Zionism with racism and said that it is the SFUO's duty to oppose groups promoting racism.

"In July, we weren't certain what this would mean to the Jewish Students' Union-Hillel," said Nissen Chackowicz, coordinator of JSU-Hillel.

By September, a U of O political pressure group, the Student Action Committee, began distributing a leaflet, "Oppose all Racist Propaganda on Campus". It called for the SFUO to stop its support for groups promoting Zionist propa-

ganda by denying the JSU a table for publicizing its activities during Welcome Week.

Chackowicz said he was ignored twice when he made written requests to book facilities in the Unicentre to Jim Bardach, social activities commissioner and CCC member.

He said the SFUO is giving the JSU the run-around. "They don't have the guts to come out and tell us what they're trying to do. I think they're playing sleazy politics."

Chackowicz said JSU members are upset, "but we are not crying anti-semitism. This is a human rights issue. They're trying to interfere with our civil liberties...They're trying to control the political environment at the university, allowing certain people to express their opinions and others not to."

All clubs at the U of O must be recertified each year before they are recognized by the SFUO as legiti-

mate. The CCC is split over the issue and is delaying a decision on recertifying the JSU.

Meanwhile, the CCC has come under sharp criticism in editorials in Ottawa's English-language daily, The Citizen, and in the U of O's English-language student paper, the Fulcrum.

Across town at Carleton University, student council passed a motion September 21 expressing concern over allegations that the JSU was being denied use of university facilities.

Jasper Kujavsky, president of the Carleton University Students' Association, said he did not want to interfere in U of O politics.

But he said he phoned SFUO president Chantal Payant and said, "If I can offer you some friendly advice, I think you're getting in way over your head on this one."

## Memorial prof dismissed due to text

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — A math professor who refused to make students buy a \$40 textbook has been dismissed from teaching the course.

A.E. Fekete, who has been with Memorial University's Mathematics and Statistics department for 25 years, was informed of his dismissal half an hour before he was to teach the course.

Fekete refused to force students to buy the textbook, *Group Theory* by C.L. Liu, for his Math 2052 class because he felt it was inadequate. Only 22 pages of the book's 282 pages deal with the group theory mathematics Fekete was to teach. "I am not an agent of the bookstore," he said.

Instead Fekete offered to photocopy and circulate his notes at a much lower cost. Fekete claims department head J. Burry suggested he make students buy the book but not use it in the course.

Fekete said he found this suggestion to be "unconscionable".

Burry said he does not wish to make a public statement because the dismissal is an internal matter.

Fekete said he has circulated a letter among his colleagues stating that he thought Burry had taken "an unprecedented step" in firing him. He also asked his colleagues to give him a chance to explain his actions and principles at the next department meeting.

Four professors have asked Fekete for more information, but no one has voiced support for him. He said he feels that most of the department is intimidated by Burry's actions.

Fekete said he has responded to a letter from Burry which asked him to explain his refusal to teach the math course. In his response, Fekete said he explained why he rejected the textbook. He added

that he had not refused to teach the course, but rather was dismissed for refusing to use a certain textbook.

Fekete also wrote that he considered the issue of academic freedom to be "inseparable from the right of an instructor to be heard when a textbook is selected or rejected".

Over the summer the old textbook went out of print and a new one was chosen, although Fekete was never consulted.

The head of the Academic Freedom Council of the Faculty of Arts Council, M. Graesser, said, "On the face of it there seems to be a serious breach of academic freedom," but he added, "there may be other circumstances that would have to be taken under consideration."

There are no written rules at the university stating who is responsible for choosing course textbooks.

## Windsor prof starts student contract

WINDSOR (CUP) — A University of Windsor professor has discovered an easy way to discipline disruptive students - fail them.

Professor Stephen Bertman, a classics instructor, gave his students a behaviour contract to sign at the start of classes intended to maintain quiet during lectures and slide presentations.

According to the contract, a stu-

dent's mark will be lowered by one whole letter grade if Bertman asks her or him to leave the class. A student who is asked to leave the class twice in a semester will automatically fail, as will all students who refuse to sign the contract.

Bertman said he wants to make students more attentive and the contract was a fair method of ensuring this.

"Last year I had unusually large classes and students in the fringes could be disruptive," he said.

Although no students have complained to Bertman, a couple of his students described the contract as a personal infringement of rights.

According to student legal aid, the contract is not legal and Bertman has acted beyond his authority by unilaterally altering the terms of registration. All students sign an agreement at registration binding them to university regulations contained in the student handbook. There are no legal relations between professors and individual students because professors are employees of the university, said a legal aid official.

Bertman's contract may also conflict with student discipline guidelines, according to Carol Saso, dean of students.

"The dean of students is the only body who can issue failing grades due to disciplinary actions," said Saso.

According to legal aid, the only way to test the contract is to defy it, but in the meantime signing it means nothing because it is illegal.

the second year under its public sector restraint program.

But Donald Laing, faculty association president, said the strike concerned non-monetary issues. Both sides were reported to have made concessions, but no details were revealed.

The administration is currently considering proposals to make up for lost teaching time. One would involve holding classes on Saturdays.

## Windsor strike settled after week's walkout

WINDSOR (CUP) — The first faculty strike in Ontario history was settled after a week on September 26.

The strike by 525 professors forced the cancellation of classes for 7400 University of Windsor students September 20. The faculty association charged the administration with bargaining in bad faith.

A day into the strike, the Ontario government imposed on the faculty pay hike limits of nine per cent the first year and five per cent

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