

U. of Ottawa Students Boycott Classes., Hold Study Sessions Instead

OTTAWA (CUP) -- Over 450 social science students at the University of Ottawa walked out of classes Thursday (Oct 17) to hold study sessions in protest of what they feel is an inadequate educational system.

The students left classes after a referendum Wednesday supported student demands for change in university government structures.

They list six demands:

- * A more comprehensive library and documentation centre.
- * Student representation at all levels of university decision making.
- * Subject promotion instead of the current year-by-year promotion.
- * Student participation in teaching with an eye to discussion technique.
- * Bilingualism in classes. Classes are now offered in either French or English but not in both. The University of Ottawa is officially a bilingual school with 6,000 students. Approximately half

are French.

* A definition of the role of the student and the university in society framed as a basis for instruction and decision-making.

The students held workshops late Wednesday and a mass assembly to frame resolutions arising out of the workshops on Thursday. The meeting hall was jammed and raucous. A brief scuffle erupted when some commerce students tried to get into a classroom and were stopped by the rebels. The commerce students left soon after a couple of punches were thrown.

The faculty association of the social science faculty is supporting students demands. The teachers cancelled all classes for the study sessions until such time as the students vote to return.

The structure of the workshops roughly follows the six demands. Students broke into six groups to define specific proposals in each of the areas.

There has been no administration reaction thus far.

The student proposals will go to the faculty for study and discussion, then the two groups will present the final proposals to the administration.

The social science faculty is mostly French but some English students are participating. On the whole, most English students in other faculties are cool to the action.

However, there is one active group. The Nursing Science students will strike Friday (Oct 18) to protest crowded classes and dismal working conditions. They say their equipment is out-dated and threadbare and classrooms (in the basement of an Ottawa church) filthy and rodent infested.

Panel on Black Power

Why do Haligonians express little concern over the possibility of violence such as is known in the United States, insisting that "It could never happen here?" Is Black Power a reality in Halifax? Are Black Revolutionaries in Halifax seeking to turn the existing dissent into the avenue of violence as the means whereby their wrongs may be righted?

This matter of racial violence and the social injustice which is its true parent is so important and so immediate to the Halifax community that a panel of prominent black and white citizens - with intimate knowledge of this problem - has been organized at the St. Andrew's United Church's Forum for Today, to discuss this topic, state their expectations for the city's future. The panel will include; Rocky Jones, considered to be leader of the black revolutionary faction in the area; Buddy Daye, of the Neighborhood Centre; Brian MacInulty, of the community Y.M.C.A.; Dr. Ian Maxwell, of Dalhousie University; Moses Nwackuku, and others. This topic of discussion is open to all interested people 18 and over. All are welcome. Dress casual. Time: 8:15 p.m. Sunday, October 27.

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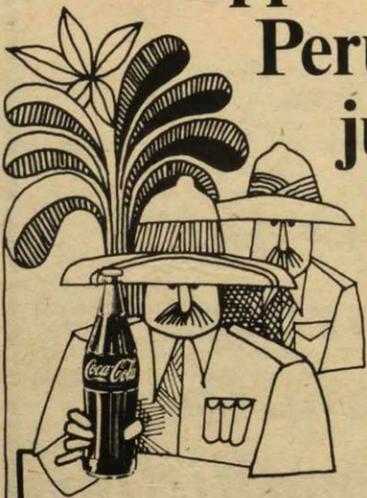
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