

The grass-roots stimulus to the Sir George sit-in and sleep-in which preceded the one-day strike came from the Committee for a Free University (COMFRU), which agitated for student power. COMFRU's educative function went a long way in showing students they have a right to participate in decisions which affect them.

These decisions, made before by the administration and/or faculty, should not be made without including the point of view of the student, the group said.

Their first target was the bookstore, for which they scheduled a sit-in co-ordination with the Bookstore Investigation Committee.

Without the student support mobilized by COMFRU the bookstore controversy might well have been buried in a committee.

COMFRU, known on other campuses as Students for a Democratic University or some

That strike at Sir George —what made it tick

by D. John Lynn,
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such other name, is usually composed of a small group of students, and sometimes professors, committed to basic reform of the university. They invariably operate separate from student council, in some cases in opposition to it.

But herein lies their effectiveness. They claim no bureaucracy, no dogma, and provide an excellent forum for far-ranging discussion of essential principles of what the university should be, unimpeded by politics,

program, concerns, and other student government responsibilities. It works with the students and as such has power student government can never hope to claim.

A RADICAL FACULTY

Also significant in the Sir George strike was the participation of the faculty. When it became apparent there would be a demonstration in the Bookstore faculty echoed the concerns shown by students.

André Gunder Frank, a visit-

ing economic historian, wrote a long letter to the campus editor condemning the bookstore for inserting Time-Life subscription cards in text books. Professor Henry Beisel of the English Department had a similar letter in the same issue.

When student government called for a strike, student president Jeff Chipman and other members of the executive were in close consultation with professors all through the night. Professor Frank Chalk, president of the local Association of University Teachers called a Thursday morning meeting attended by about 60 faculty, which passed resolutions in support of the striking students.

Hubert Fuindon, chairman of the sociology department, regularly devotes one lecture each year to university reform. He outlines what is wrong with the university, and suggests students fall behind their student government to do something about it. His anti-administration lecture was particularly poignant this year.

Part of the reason for faculty support of students at Sir George is that, as one of the many young, fast-growing Canadian universities, Sir George Williams has managed to attract a faculty which can reasonably be described as radical and innovative.

In a university where academic initiative originates at the department level, professors are accorded a good deal of academic freedom.

UCEQ AND SYNDICALISM

Union Générale des Etudiants du Québec has certainly affected the thinking of students toward the university governing structures. The union's syndicalist philosophy has encouraged several student strikes in the Montreal area, notably at the University of Montreal last year and among the students of applied arts the year before. Expressions of support for the strike came from McGill, Loyola, Sherbrooke and other Quebec student groups, and U of M's Jean Dore was joyously on hand to watch the syndicalist action most of Thursday afternoon.

UGEQ contributed \$100 to a strike fund, and offered, as vice-president Victor Rabinovitch put it, "technical support", mainly in the form of advice of crowd control, logistics, and tips on how to deal with the administration.

QUEBEC'S STRIKE SYNDROME

One of the most important stimuli leading students to strike is the strike syndrome in Quebec. The bus strike finished just days before the Sir George strike began; radiologists in Quebec are still striking; and at any given time there are at least two or three major strikes going on in the province.

Many of these strikes affect students directly, and they suffer the consequences of syndicalist action. This no doubt makes it easier to apply the same kind of discomfort to others, in this case to the administration.

In Quebec strikes have legitimized themselves as a means of forcing attention onto grievances. For an essentially middle class student this legitimization of strike action removes the stigma of the striker who harms society by refusing to work.

AND THE FUTURE—WHAT?

The strike was generally successful in its aims—to provoke a hard look at the governing structures of the university and the student role in them. But the successful nature of the strike also contained a warning. Students have now seen that they do indeed have power, and they may want to use it again. And again.

Said a leader of COMFRU as he left the platform in the crowded university lobby when the strike was declared finished:

"This is not the last strike. This is just the first."

In Living Gray

1. Last week in psych. I attempted to weigh what was left of my rat after it had been on a rigid deprivation schedule - as I put my hand into the cage, he bit off three of my fingers and wolfed two of them down before I managed to club the brute to death with a Versafood sandwich I happened to have with me.



2. Even after the Prof. bawled me out for feeding the animal against instructions, my enthusiasm wavered not however, because I was still proud to be part of a team of idealists - a bunch of people who believe that some utopian dreams can be made to work - a last bastion where the romantic can exercise his creative imagination and at the same time have the full backing of the scientific tradition behind him in helping to make this world a better place to live in



3. For instance, you may recall how everyone laughed when we were refused financial assistance for our first scheme - that was the one where we were working on the roof of Vanier residence, training hamsters to attack low-flying aircraft. However, from that attempt came the idea for our latest project "Conditioned Cannibalism in Musca Domestica".



This involved training a special batch of flies to attack, kill, and eat other flies. Whilst under training they were kept in separate reinforced cages under maximum security. Once they had internalized the Miller instinct, the idea was to turn them loose on the resident flies of Vanier dining hall 'trained killers Vs the winged piranha'.



In the tradition of our discipline, the experiment was a disaster of sorts. Once trained, we gave the monsters no food for three days then carried 5,000 of them in their little cages over to the dining hall where they were released simultaneously. At that precise moment, a girl happened to walk in wearing a white dress with small black polka dots . . . - only thing left of her was a gold filling and a ravaged clipboard. At minimal cost to the tax-payer, we thus collected valuable empirical evidence of the incredible stupidity of the common fly.



to the older generation

you have told me that i am too young to know my own mind; you have told me that i am too immature to have a meaningful relationship with a man. you are shocked by my belief in the merits of premarital sex and my participation in it. i feel that i owe you an explanation and, although you may find it a bit idealistic, please remember that anything is better than Victorian hypocrisy.

i am a young woman and i am in love, i know i am in love because i have never before felt such an overwhelming concern for a man, nor such an overpowering desire to step outside my mind and to give my whole self to the success of this relationship. perhaps you have been in love and know what love is. perhaps you have felt as i do now. if you have, then you will know that this intellectual love is love unfulfilled. it is a frustrated love. if i love a man with all my heart and with all my mind, then i feel that it is only natural that i also love him with my body. this is not recreational sex, but a meaningful expression of deep emotion.

under present circumstances, such action can be highly dangerous. because i am not married and because i am young, i have no access to birth control. at this point in my life i do not want to take on the responsibility of caring for a child. premarital pregnancy is undesirable to me and to our society. as this is the case, i believe that you should recognize my situation and make the pill readily accessible to me and to others in my position. it is not lust that i feel, it is not license that i want. i am asking you to give me your understanding and your help. my love is pure and true; let it be spontaneous and free.

Name withheld.