



Thatcher takes over

Students ally with profs to fight gov't action

As Ross Thatcher makes his final stride towards internal fiscal control at the University of Saskatchewan the faculty, students and members of the Employees' Union prepare for the last stages of resistance. The atmosphere at the university is one of increasing frustration, discouragement and despair. The apparent conclusion to the struggle, which began in mid-October, will be an overwhelming influence by government over all the operations, policy and planning of the university. Shattered are the traditional concepts of university autonomy, academic freedom, and relations between the university and government.

The developments in Saskatchewan are important for other provinces and other universities in that the unprecedented action taken here is in response to the same combination of pressures felt everywhere by governments. The politics of the issue provides an important lesson and a challenge for students and faculty elsewhere.

On October 18, without any advance warning and within a week of his re-election, Thatcher told a Potashville convention, "...we intend at our next session, to reform our university act in a major way. In essence, the university will be obliged to make its financial request to the legislature in the same manner as any other spending department." To exemplify his intentions he further stated, "They will have to request so much for salaries, so much for travelling, so much for new buildings, etc."

A strong and vocal response from the university led to a meeting on October 27 between members of the Board of Governors and Education Minister McIsaac to discuss the meaning of the Premier's original statement. A joint release coming from that meeting stated that "...it was mutually agreed that there should be developed an even better and more continuous system of consultation and reporting. Both government and university representatives agreed that this can be done without in any way affecting the independence of the university, which has been its outstanding characteristic since its foundation."

On Wednesday, November 8, the president met with the students and faculty to explain the position of the Board whereby they would remain silent in order to permit the Premier to modify his previous statements and to change his course. The Board made it clear, however, that the policy of sub-votes in the legislature would not be acceptable.

Finally, on Friday, November 24th the Premier made clear that his intentions remained constant by indicating once more that the university will be treated in virtually the same manner as any other government department. He said: "We simply want some firm control over expenditures and the best way is by carefully scrutinizing them". As an example he said that one of the sub-votes will refer to salaries and will include a figure on the number of employees. "We'll tell them how many employees they may have but it's up to them to determine who they hire." A second sub-vote will refer to furniture and fixtures and will be further broken down to include the new equipment for new

buildings and for existing ones. "These are the sort of items we are referring to," the Premier said.

In response to this the president of the faculty association in Saskatoon stated: "This procedure undermines the university's power to set its own priorities, and in practice, allows the government to force the development of the university in directions dictated by its own political purposes."

The stated reasons for the change in policy and the real motives behind the change, (as concluded by this writer and others) make an interesting contrast. The public statements of the Premier claim that the government is having to write a blank cheque in response to ever-increasing financial demands from the university. He sees the control of the budget under sub-headings as the application of discretion by government and claims that they "have no intention of interfering in the internal operations of the university."

CONTROL OVER POLICY

The real motives contrast greatly. One of these is control over academic policy. The Premier or members of his cabinet have, over the past few weeks, made a number of references to academic policy. Thatcher states the student-faculty ratio (18-1) is too low and he would like to see that raised. (It is not coincidental that one of the proposed sub-headings is salaries and that Thatcher says "we'll tell them how many employees they may have..."). The other sub-votes will similarly enable the government to exercise its version of correct academic policy in the university.

Secondly, a two-fold political motive is involved. On the one hand the Premier is concerned about possible tax increase through an increased demand for spending on education. He feels it to be politically stronger to slash spending through whatever means required than to meet the spending requirements of the university. Since there will not be another election for four years it is likely that the critical response of the university will be forgotten by the electorate while a constant tax level will be a proud demonstration of good government.

AN ACADEMIC LEFT WING

The other level of politics has to do with the existence of an academic left wing in a province with a strong right wing government. It now may be possible for the cabinet to get at these people directly. Over this issue both Thatcher and his deputy minister have attacked members of the university faculty in Regina and Saskatoon for "playing politics". In both cases they were responding to high-ranking faculty officials who were serving as spokesmen for policy arrived at in open sessions of their faculty associations.

The management-efficiency motive remains strong and obvious. By control through sub-votes the government can arbitrate without negotiations on union contracts and the salaries of faculty. They can control the student-faculty ratio and thereby the size of the classes

and the quality of education offered. They can determine the size and type of buildings and the furniture they will contain, thus eliminating wasteful emphasis on "aesthetics". Capital construction for the university is being placed under the Public Works Department.

TUITION ON THE RISE

When one considers that the demands of the students are destined (1) to place a greatly enlarged portion of public funds on education, (2) reform university governing structures to introduce the power of student and faculty, and (3) redefine both the theory and practice of education along lines which are totally alien to the current system, it is disconcerting to confront the Saskatchewan scene. Here is a government which has consistently underspent in relation to the needs and plans in the province's education. It is about to force the second tuition fee increase in three years. It has removed the priority control on university finances from a Board of Governors (which contains five government appointees and two deputy ministers.) It was re-elected to office and stands in good political stead on the current issue because of an overwhelming anti-intellectual bias and suspicion.

FIGHTING LIKE HELL

The students and faculty in Saskatchewan are fighting like hell to maintain the status quo, and are losing. They are fighting to retain the ultimate control in the hands of fat businessmen on the Board (those Corporation sell-outs) whom they must now point to as safeguards of the public interest! One becomes concerned about where that leaves the Canadian Union of Students in relation to current public thinking.

The attitude of the average citizen in Saskatchewan is that without question the government has a right and obligation to establish whatever spending controls on the university are deemed necessary so that it can do the most with the least money. Why are faculty making all the noise? "Well, to begin with it's none of their business how the government spends our money and secondly they're only speaking out because someone is at last taking a closer look at what's happening at the university and a lot of lazy faculty on high salaries feel a threat to their jobs."

DANGER FOR OTHER UNIVERSITIES

It should be recognized that Thatcher's policy with regard to university financing could be implemented anywhere in Canada without a broadly based public outcry. He has ensured a politically solid position by the way he has presented the policy and the side of the university has yet to be heard or understood. The implications of this policy and its predictable consequences should be relayed to a wider public through the communications media. Unless the growing importance of education and the need for increased support through tax revenue can be accepted and appreciated in the public mind, governments, out of frustration, will lean towards Thatcherism and society will suffer the consequences.



Here's what's Inside



The Windsmen performed at S.E.D. last week as part of the two day educational program. For more, see pg. 3.



Last weekend, with back-to-back victories over Mt. A. and Acadia, The Dal Tigers took over first place in the M.I.B.C. For the stories on these games, see pg. 5.

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THE LEFT BANKE

New Group for Carnival

"Our first major problem finally arrived and we came out of it all right", said Winter Carnival Chairman Steve MacDonald. "As a matter of fact, I think we have a better deal than before." He was referring to the Ugly Duckling's cancellation of their contract because of sickness. A substitute was quickly found: the well-known Montreal group, Trevor Payne and The Soul Brothers.

This group has appeared at several Universities in the Maritimes and also in Halifax in the Fall. At each appearance they played to enthusiastic audiences. A local waltz band will also play at the Ball for the benefit of those who can't take the pace. The theme is "Roaring 20's", and the dress is formal. Tickets for Carnival events are going fast, so those interested in attending anything are urged to pick theirs up right away.

The rest of the events are proceeding as had been planned. On February 2, a trip to Mt. Martock is scheduled, with skating, band, coffee, and donuts provided for those who cannot ski.

That evening, The Blues Magoos and the Left Banke will perform in the Queen Elizabeth Auditorium. Chairman MacDonald told the Gazette that ticket sales were far ahead of schedule, and that there was absolutely no question that these concerts would be completely successful.

As has occurred in previous years, a snow carnival will be held, with the judging of the snow sculptures being done Saturday morning. This is to be followed by what has proved to be one of the most enjoyable of the events over the past years: the Snow Frolie on the football field. A newly formed Halifax Snowmobile So-

cety will be providing from twenty to thirty fantastic supercharged Snowmobiles to add to the excitement of the event.

The Arts Society will be hosting a mammoth skating party later in the afternoon. The surprise events, sure to delight even the most cynical carnival goer, will quickly carry the eager attendee into raptures of delight, just an adequate beginning for the entertainment and amusement (the latter always superb) of the Black and Gold review, held in the Dalhousie gymnasium at 8:00, at a cost of only \$1 per person.

On Sunday, February 4, Tommy James and the Shondells will appear in concert with the Five Sounds in the Dalhousie Gym, at both an evening and matinee performance.

Ticket information and further details are available at the Dalhousie box office.

Notices

Anyone wanting to nominate a graduating student for Dalhousie Honor Awards (Gold or Silver D's) are requested to pick up a form at the Student's Council Office or from your Council Representative or from your society president. Deadline for return of forms is Feb. 9 at 5:00 p.m.

STUDENT DIRECTORY CORRECTION

BALASUBRAMANIAM, Kandavanam, Mani Villa, Chunnakam, Ceylon. Box 381, Bronson House, Howe Hall, 423-9773

It's Coming...

Friday 26 January:

- Geology seminar; Room 304, Dunn Building; 5:00 pm. Dr. C.G.I. Friedlaender, head of Dal's Geology Department, will speak on Mexico's volcanoes and landscapes.
- International Soiree; Jubilee Boat Club; 9:00 pm. Presented by the International Students Association. Dress is semi-formal. Tickets (\$1.75 for students) are available from the Students' Council office or from Society representatives.

Monday 29 January:

- Meteorology lecture; Room 304; Dunn Building, 5:00 pm. A lecture on the upper atmosphere and meteorology will be delivered by Dr. Alistair D. Christie of the meteorology branch of the Department of Transport.

Tuesday 30 January:

- Hootenanny; Shirreff Hall; 9:30 pm. Sponsored by the Dal Christian Fellowship. Dave Ward will speak on 'Sex, Booze and Christianity'.

Wednesday 31 January:

- Dal Christian Fellowship; Room 21, A & A, 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. Rev. D. John Scott, Rector of All Souls, Langham Place and Chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen will speak on 'The Deity of Christ.'

Thursday 1 February:

- Dal Christian Fellowship; Room 21, A & A, 12:30-1:00 p.m. Rev. D. John Scott (see Wed.) will speak on 'Christ -- Challenge for Today'.
- Encounter; Room 115, Weldon Law Building, 8:30 pm. Rev. David MacDonald, MP for Prince, P.E.I., will speak on 'Realities of Political Power.'
- WINTER CARNIVAL; Roaring 20's Ball; Hotel Nova Scotian; 9:00 pm - 1:00 am. Two ballrooms -- rock and waltz. \$5.00 per couple.

Friday 2 February:

- WINTER CARNIVAL; Mt. Martock Outing. Buses leave Dal from 9:00 am to 7:30 pm. \$3.00 per couple.
- WINTER CARNIVAL; The Blue Magoos and the Left Banke; QEH Auditorium; 7:30 pm. \$2.50 per couple.

Saturday 3 February:

- WINTER CARNIVAL:
 - 1) judging of snow sculptures;
 - 2) Snow Frolie on the football field;
 - 3) Arts Society skating party;
 - 4) other surprise events; and
 - 5) the Black and Gold Review at Dal Gym, 8:00 pm, \$1.00 per person.

Sunday 4 February:

- WINTER CARNIVAL; Tommy James and the Shondells in concert with the Five Sounds; Dal Gym; 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm. \$1.50 per person.

Thursday 8 February:

- Encounter; Room 115, Weldon Law Building, 8:30 pm. Rene Levesque, MLA for Laurier, P.Q., will speak on 'Moral Responsibility of a Minority.'

Thursday 15 February:

- Encounter; Room 115, Weldon Law Building, 8:30 pm. Robert Bollini, history professor at SMU will discuss the various aspects of a successful revolution.

Thursday 22 February:

- Encounter; Room 115, Weldon Law Building, 8:30 pm. Father Fernand Arsenault of the Universite de Moncton will speak on 'The Church and Rapid Social Change'.

Thursday 29 February:

- Encounter; Room 115, Weldon Law Building; 8:30 pm. Rev. Ronald Reeve of King's will speak on 'What is Man?'. This is the last of the Encounter series.

Thursday 14 March:

- Nursing Institute; Anglican Diocesan Centre; Miss Maude Dolphin, RN, Assistant Professor with the School of Nursing at U of T, and formerly of the WHO will speak.

Friday 15 March:

- Nursing Institute; Anglican Diocesan Centre.

COME TO THE FORUM
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