

Carleton council refuses to dissolve

OTTAWA (CUP) — The remnants of Carleton University's student council decided to remain in business Wednesday (January 21), despite a student mandate to dissolve itself.

During a two-day referendum January 19 and 20, students voted 744 to 457 to abolish the council and replace it with two new bodies; one controlling services, and one taking charge of "political" functions of student government.

But the referendum turn-out only amounted to 19 per cent of the full-time student population of Carleton — less than the one-third of Carleton's 6,200 students necessary to make the decision binding.

The proposal to split the duties of the council — consigning service functions to a five-man board of directors, and political functions to a "grand council" composed of student representatives to the university's decision-making bodies — was originally forwarded by members of the student council executive January 6.

At the same time they made the proposal, seven members of the eight-man executive resigned.

Wednesday, the remains of the council rejected a proposal by former student council president Lorenz Schmidt asking that the council dissolve itself anyway, even though members were not bound by the referendum results.

"A valid political comment to draw out of the referendum is that a majority of the people who bothered to vote think changes are necessary," Schmidt said. "I think this council should recognize that fact — and act accordingly."

The councillors voted 7-1 to defeat the motion.

"You want us to dissolve ourselves so your dream child will come through," arts representative Dave Egan told Schmidt. "But right now we don't have enough participation. Let's wait until we get people at Carleton who will make this sort of change possible."

The council appointed Brian Hamilton, former finance commissioner, as interim president of the group; five other executive positions left vacant by the January 6 resignations will not be filled until new council elections take place February 16.

Panther killings "justified"

CHICAGO (CUPI) — A special coroner's jury here ruled Wednesday (January 21) that the murder of two Black Panthers by Chicago policemen December 4, 1969, was "justifiable homicide."

The six-man jury — three whites and three blacks — hedged their ruling in the death of 21-year-old Illinois Black Panther chairman Fred Hampton, shot to death in his bed, saying their ruling was "based solely and exclusively on the evidence presented to this inquisition." The only witnesses in the 12-day hearing were Chicago policemen and state experts.

Jury foreman James Hicks

said jurors could not take into consideration charges made by the seven Panthers who survived the pre-dawn raid by fourteen policemen armed with pistols, rifles and submachine guns.

The Panthers — who refused to testify because they face criminal charges of attempted murder and aggravated assault in connection with the raid — charged police entered Hampton's apartment shooting, and murdered Hampton and Clark.

The policemen, all assigned to the state attorney's office, claimed occupants of the apartment fired first.

Hicks said the question of who fired the first shot was unimportant in reaching the unanimous conclusion.

However, Tuesday (January 20) jurors heard evidence which indicated Panthers in the apartment fired no shots at all during the raid authorized by a warrant to search for illegal weapons.

Police investigators have found no slugs or pellets fired from any of the 17 weapons police say they seized in the raid. The slugs recovered from the walls of the apartment and the bodies of the murdered Panthers only match police weapons used in the raid.

John Sadunas, a police department firearms examiner, testified Tuesday (January 20) that police found no slugs or pellets fired from any of the 17 weapons police said they seized in the raid.

The only evidence supporting police claims — that a 10-minute gun "battle" was touched off by a shotgun blast fired from inside the apartment, and that "it was a miracle" no police were injured — was blood matching Clark's found on one shotgun.

Sadunas testified that an empty shell casing found in the apartment matched test firings of that gun, and that two other casings matched another seized shotgun. But investigators found no evidence that either shotgun was fired during the raid.

Sadunas testified he is just beginning comparisons of police fire-arms used in the raid and the more than 100 slugs and expended cartridges recovered from the apartment.

Clark and Hampton are only two of more than 30 Black Panthers murdered in police and FBI raids against their headquarters and homes in the last two years. More than a dozen others, including the top leadership of the party, await trials throughout the U.S., on bail of up to \$50,000 each.

Law students win folk festival

"18 years ago I fell down an open man-hole in New Brunswick and I've been singing ever since," says Jesse McNeil, a second year Law student, who teamed with Bruce Holton, won top prize and \$100 at the Maritime Intercollegiate Folk Festival held January 16 at Acadia University.

Miss McNeil's talent fortunately has a more credible background. She has taken voice lessons for sixteen years and received a B.A. with a major in music from the University of Montreal.

The other half of the group, Bruce Holton, also in Law in Dal has been

playing the guitar for seven years and is an accomplished accompanist. He and Jesse have sung on CBC's Roundabout and have given one performance at both the Law House and Phi Delta Theta Fraternity.

Jesse and Bruce defeated seven other university groups to capture the top prize and have tentatively been invited back to sing at the Mount A. coffee house at the beginning of Mount A's winter carnival.

The duo hope to continue playing together and can be seen performing at Dalhousie's annual Black and Gold Revue.

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GERM spreading

GERM, the Group for Educational Reform Methods, has set up office in Room 216 of the SUB.

The group, who started as a result of a conference on learning methods held at McGill in November, hope to interest professors and students in setting up classes using new methods.

Future plans call for meetings with students and professors to let them know about the group, a possible conference to be held at Dalhousie next year, and perhaps a learning centre similar to the one at McGill.

There the professors interested in new teaching methods can find out what methods can be used and how to apply them in their classroom.

The group has prepared a folder for those interested. As soon as finances can be arranged they hope to expand library facilities. The office is open from 11:30 to 2:30, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday every week.