

Summers are for administrations to worry

by Kevin Peterson

Canadian University Press

OTTAWA - The summer may have been a holiday for students, but Canadian university administrators used the time to study their own version of the three r's - revolution, reaction and regression.

The Paris student revolt and the occupation of Columbia University in New York set everyone to thoughts of revolution - could everyone to thoughts of revolution - could it happen in Canada?

University of Toronto president Claude Bissell, back from a year's sabbatical at Harvard, led public discussion on how to handle Canadian student activists.

He said Canadian students would not revolt in the same ways as Paris and Columbia, but would turn their attention to sit-ins and marches.

The universities, Bissell said, had about two years to get the jump on student power and outlined plans for increased student involvement in university government as a method of avoiding confrontation. He then proceeded to offer U of T students seats on the president's council and establish a committee to study structures and purposes of the university.

On May 26, the council of the Canadian Association of University Teachers unanimously censured Simon Fraser University for "continual contravention of accepted principles of university governance" - (and administrators sat down to watch a Canadian University in revolution.)

The board of governors at SFU reacted quickly to the censure and by the end of May president Patrick McTaggart-Cowan was put on extended leave of absence. All sectors of the university had demanded his resignation.

Then the SFU student society got into the act. In a referendum June 3, students voted 1361-289 to demand the resigna-

tion of the board of governors. A proposal for a week's moratorium on classes at SFU failed when it fell eight per cent short of the required two-thirds majority.

Students agitated for more power in the selection of SFU's next president. They asked for, and received, veto power over the choice.

Since May, SFU has had three temporary presidents and the board is now defining procedures for selection of a new one.

Action continues on other fronts with committee established in numerous departments to study methods of democratizing all aspects of the university. Reaction to the student revolts took many forms.

In July, Canada's university presidents held a secret meeting in Ottawa where they had discussed plans for their annual conference this fall - but a note found in the meeting room afterwards indicated talks went a little farther.

The note said, "Tactics - - how do we react, as individuals, collectively? How do we act as individuals, collectively?"

And, in a press conference after the meeting, representatives of the presidents discussed the causes of revolt in Canadian universities. They blamed themselves for creating it, saying they had increased demands for power by implementing the recommendations of the Duff-Berdahl report calling for increased student and faculty involvement in university government.

On individual campuses, moves to stave off student revolt gave students seats on committees, senates and boards. In addition to U of T, the University of Alberta Ryerson and colleges controlled by the United Church made provisions to place students on their highest governing body.

Yet, few people believe this will head off trouble. At the Canadian Student Affairs Association conference in Calgary, a meeting of officials involved with student

affairs, talks did take place about what could be done to pacify activist student groups. But the problem which seemed to bother delegates most was the question of whether or not city police should be called in case of trouble at campus.

The summer had its fair share of regression too.

In late spring, the government of Newfoundland announced that students at Memorial University would have to complete a means test before receiving free tuition.

Since October, 1965, Memorial has been the only Canadian university with free tuition - - the student government there claims the means test virtually eliminates the free tuition program.

Several new restrictions were put on the student award program in Ontario. The restrictions featured introduction of a deadline date for students, applications and a new definition of the "independence" clauses for students who want to avoid compulsory parental aid.

Late in the summer, the province announced it would institute spot checks to prevent cheating on the loan forms.

In July, the national defense department announced establishment of military chairs at five Canadian universities. The department will provide up to \$250,000 to support each chair.

The program, shrouded in secrecy, is supposed to "enable study of international and national security in a Canadian context."

Student leaders immediately criticized the plan as a "military invasion of the University" but were stymied in attempts to determine the real design of the program.

community. If creativity and imagination are to flourish, the members of the university community must be allowed to govern themselves. They must be not only responsible to the community, but for the community.

Quebec WUSC members establish own organization

EDMONTON (CUP)-Quebec members of World University Service in Canada will follow the example of UGEQ in setting up their own national students' organization.

At the WUSC national assembly held here Sept. 3-7, delegates voted overwhelmingly to allow local WUSC committees in Quebec to form their own version of the national

organization, which will work to develop an international consciousness in the French-speaking province.

"Let's face it," said Pierre LeFrancois, past president of UGEQ and an observer at the assembly, "we were not asking the assembly to give us permission to leave, we were asking them if they wanted to work with us after we left."

In proposing the formation of EUMQ - Entr'aide Universitaire Mondiale du Quebec - delegates from French-speaking universities fold the assembly that WUS in Quebec would be able to exist only as an autonomous body.

"Neither UGEQ nor the students councils in Quebec would accept it otherwise," LeFrancois said.

With national assembly approval, the Quebec students will form a provisional committee for EUMQ, and invite delegates from all Quebec universities and other interested bodies to attend a congress to discuss the structure of the organization.

"We will form our own secretariat for the organization," LeFrancois said. "We

intend to be completely autonomous."

Toronto delegate Bonnie Campbell said: "We are doing nothing but hold these people to go than to restrict their activities in our organization."

It is expected that EUMQ activities will be far more politically and socially oriented than the action of WUSC.



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