

# the gateway

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## Prof calls for CAUT tenure probe



Anthony Vanek and Regna Darnell answer questions about Vanek's prolonged tenure dispute with the university and the department of Slavic languages in a recent interview at their home. photo by Chuck Lyall

Denied tenure last year, a professor in the Department of Slavic languages has appealed to the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) for a review of his case.

Having exhausted all university channels, Anthony Vanek, an associate professor in Slavic languages, has asked the national body to look into the tenure procedures used in his case.

He has also initiated a court case asking that the university tenure appeals committee decision to uphold his denial of tenure be set aside. Monday he was in the process of withdrawing the action

from the courts pending the CAUT investigation.

CAUT's response to Vanek's request will be known January 26. If it finds that proper procedures were violated, it can ask the university to reconsider the case, and failing that, can blacklist the university, as was done in a number of Simon Fraser University tenure cases several years ago. Academics are discouraged from accepting jobs at blacklisted universities.

Vanek said in a recent interview that he was "screwed for not screaming bloody murder from the top of the

highest building" during the dispute which began shortly after he took up his post in 1970.

Difficulties with the chairman of his department, Gunter Schaarschmidt, developed shortly after Vanek had posted a memorandum, for the consideration of members of the department, on ways of making the department "more human," Vanek said. His stands in departmental meetings may also have antagonized the department chairman, he said.

Greatly simplified, the chronology of the case is this:

- Fall, 1970—Vanek begins teaching Slavic linguistics, the position for which he was hired in early 1969.

- End of first term—Vanek is removed from teaching in two of the three courses he had been assigned by Schaarschmidt.

- Second term, 1971—Vanek denied normal salary increment.

- Fall, 1971—No courses assigned to Vanek in the department of Slavic languages. Vanek volunteers for and teaches classes in the department of extension and in the department of anthropology teaching Cree.

- Spring, 1972—Vanek appeals second decision in as many years not to grant normal salary increment; is denied tenure by faculty of arts tenure committee.

- Fall, 1973—Vanek wins appeal in salary increment case; appeals tenure dispute to the university tenure appeals committee. The university committee refuses to receive information on the substance of the case, as Vanek had made his appeal on procedural grounds. Appeal is denied.

In the period between Vanek's appointment and his removal from classes, the Slavic languages department received approval to begin a PhD programme

Support from the department of linguistics for this programme was

conditional on formal assurance that "the Slavic department will not incorporate teaching and research of a purely linguistic nature," according to a memorandum to GFC from the chairman of linguistics, C.I.J.M. Stuart.

Vanek speculates that this restriction may have caused the Slavic department to reconsider their decision to hire him, as his major area of research is Slavic linguistic.

The specific issue on which Vanek has based his appeals, first to the university committee and now to the CAUT, is the nature of the evidence brought against him. He maintains that a letter from Schaarschmidt to the faculty of arts tenure committee: alleging unsatisfactory academic and teaching performance, the basis of the committees' decision, constitutes "argument" and not "evidence" for tenure proceedings.

The distinction is important: Vanek believes, because the faculty handbook (the basis of faculty contracts with the university) requires that staff members be presented with the evidence against them in any tenure proceeding.

On the advice of his solicitor, Vanek refused to take part in the original faculty of arts tenure hearing, because the only evidence presented was the letter from Schaarschmidt. In order to constitute "evidence," Vanek argues, Schaarschmidt's charges would have to be corroborated by outside testimony.

### DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES

GENERAL OFFICE	713
G SCHAARSCHMIDT CHAIRMAN	713 B
R L BUSCH	717 C
T R CARLTON	775
A DURRANI	705
K T HOLDEN	717 D
B MEDWIDSKY	771
E MOZEJKO	773
O PAWLIW	703
TMS PRIESTLY	709
B SHARRATT	779
A L VANEK	C.T. 248
D ZUJEWSKYJ	777

In addition to being removed from teaching, Vanek's office was moved from 7th floor General Services to "exile" in Campus Towers.

Commenting on the power given to departmental chairmen under this interpretation of evidence, Regna Darnell, assistant professor of anthropology and Vanek's wife, said that "the right to exist (of the academic staff) depends on the goodwill of administrators. The department chairman may become judge and jury."

"We say to ourselves 'it can't happen here'," Darnell said of Vanek's case, "but it has."

Asked on Friday for his view of the case, Schaarschmidt declined to comment because the case is before the courts.

He referred the Gateway to a recent faculty of arts report on the state of the department of Slavic languages.

Although the report is still in draft stages, R. G. Baldwin, dean of arts, said that it was his tentative finding that "The department's long period of problems was drawing to an end, and that past problems were largely attributable to particular individuals rather than to departmental administration or to issues affecting the department generally."

Baldwin said that there was some feeling that there had been "a degree of overadministration" in the department in the past, but that the consensus of opinion of students and staff in the department was that the department was "in good health."

In his bid for a CAUT investigation, Vanek has been advised and encouraged by a committee of concerned professors from the faculty of arts. He has received support and testimony to the quality of his research from a number of prominent scholars in the field of Slavic linguistics.

He founded and edits the international journal *Papers in Linguistics*.

## U boycotts kraft

### - a bit

An appeal from the Edmonton Kraft Boycott Committee has not convinced the University to pay more to avoid buying Kraft products. But the University will to "give preference to other brands which are comparable in quality and price," L. C. Leitch, university vice-president (finance and administration) affirmed yesterday.

He said that since the food services run on a break even basis, any price increase would have to be passed on to the consumer. "We're not prepared to do that," Leitch said.

According to the director of purchasing, R. A. Bennett, the new policy has not been in force long enough for its effect to be determined. He estimated that his department had had the new instructions for two weeks.

Leitch said that the policy change followed two representations to his office, an earlier one from an individual, and the more recent one from the Committee. A reply to the Committee's request is being prepared.

In a four page letter dated December 7, the Committee asked that the University to, as a "minimum commitment" to the boycott, "purchase an absolute minimum

of Kraft products" and, where substitutes are available, to buy them provided that the price would not be more than five per cent greater than that of the Kraft product.

The body of the letter detailed the background of the boycott: the migration of farmers from the land "due in large part to the cost/price squeeze whereby

large agri-business-secondary industry relating to farming... confronts the farmer in monopoly/oligopoly form at both the input and output ends of his operation"; the decrease in farm income and the increase growth of Kraft's profits; and Kraftco's refusal to enter into collective bargaining with Ontario dairy farmers.

## Student Health appeal denied

The Department of Advanced Education has denied a *Gateway* request to have the Student Health budgetary cuts reviewed.

The appeal was made on the grounds that the budget decision was made before it had been discovered that G.S.A. had not been legally incorporated—when, in fact, their vote was "illegal".

In a letter from Peter M. Jenner, executive assistant to James Foster, Minister of Advanced education, the *Gateway* was informed that the

University solicitors now believe that "because all parties were of the opinion that the representative of the Graduate Students' Association was entitled to representation on the Board of Governors, all decisions in which he contributed are valid and may not be attacked successfully."

When the decision to temporarily revoke the G.S.A.'s voting powers was made, the university solicitors warned the Board that decisions made when the G.S.A. had an "illegal" vote might be successfully challenged.