

Arts Society reformed by Ashworth

Parties with profs? Spanish classes conducted on visiting steamers? Students taking Russian studying in the USSR? These are examples of the recent Arsoc programs projected by students at the recent Arsoc meetings, for implementation next year. Enthusiasm shown and steps being taken lately by a few interested students indicate that these ideas may materialize.

The persons referred to are those active lately in revamping the Arts Society into a useful and interesting organization, moving more towards academic pursuits than purely social functions.

The instigator of this movement is Brian "Pidge" Ashworth, the recently elected President of the society. After consulting with many students and professors, Ashworth was convinced that the largely ineffective society could be mobilized into the most active organization on campus.

With the help of a few volunteers from each faculty, he has devised a framework around which the activities will be structured. The whole society is being broken down into five separate sections: Political Science, Sociology, Psychology, History, and Languages. Representatives from each section have been investigating ways in which they can make their own section more cohesive, and thus develop more communication between students and professors.

"A primary objective is to decrease the distance between the profs and the students, and in the process, improve the communication in lectures, on exams etc. and thus make the courses more meaningful and worthwhile," said Ashworth.

"And, because the Arts Society is so large and varied, each separate faculty will develop easier if the problems and obstacles peculiar to each are worked out by those involved and interested in the different separate sections. Therefore, each section is to organize almost entirely on its own, with just guidance and co-ordination coming from the actual Arts Executive."

The interest so far has in large part been directed towards developing informal tutorial sessions, with the professors and students discussing contemporary problems or actively participating in some aspect of the course; for the Spanish Department, this may involve spending an evening with visiting Spanish ships; for the Sociologists, participating in a project relevant to the Halifax area; for the Political Scientists, sessions with politicians, diplomats, etc. - all in an informal and atmosphere as possible.

The interest sparked already indicated that the anticipated large participation will enable the sections to receive financial support from the university and council to further more adventurous and more frequent projects.

Right now, plans are being made to bring the action into full gear in September, to take advantage of fresh energy and talent frequently by-passed during orientation. Also, professors are being contacted for their co-operation and ideas on arranging the projected functions, and on participating in all the activities in order that the aims of the Arsoc Committees may be achieved.

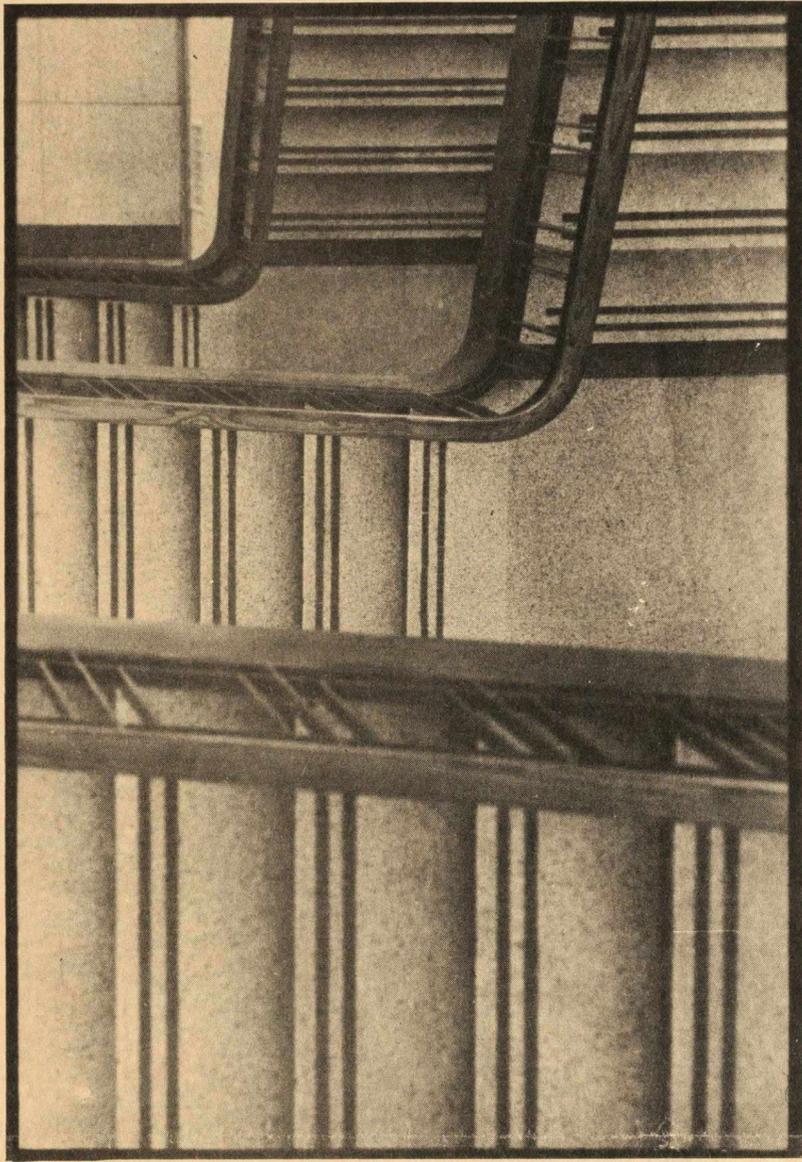


PHOTO BY BOB GRAHAM

January

How Went The War?

By John Kelsey
CUP STAFF WRITER

While college newspapers editors spent January, lancing obscenities through clouds of pot smoke, the war between students and the world escalated quietly. Noisy protests erupted in only five cities, down somewhat from November's anti-Dow protest fever, but legislative battles for student senators were won in five more.

York students were told they would be allowed five seats on the senate, but the 'excitement' of preparing for the long-awaited university-wide government pushed the senate news and the protest fever into the background.

A University of Western Ontario student dramatically ascended to the board of governors, and the University of Alberta rejected a student governor. "We don't believe in student power," said U of A president Al Anderson.

Three University of B.C. student senators asked their constituents if they could quit because they weren't getting anywhere, and the University of Calgary's academic president did quit because he couldn't talk to his board.

The most visible battle fronts last month were in Quebec City and Waterloo. At Waterloo Lutheran, the university fired two professors, George Haggart and Gray Taylor. Both were good teachers, but both were loudly critical of the university and its administration.

Four hundred students retaliated with a class boycott and a day-long teach-in January 17, but the student council backed down and refused to support the action. The Canadian Association of University Teachers is investigating, nobody's been rehired, and the issue is in for several month stall.

QUEBECOSIS STARVE - WE GET MILLIONS
But a week later, 1,000 Quebecois students travelled to Quebec City to demonstrate outside the legislature.

Grievance? Government channels had held 33,000 of 68,000 student loan applications in red tape masses, causing starvation on the campuses. The minister promised to speed it up, but Union Generale des Etudiants de Quebec leaders called it stalemate.

Ontario students rolled in the green stuff as POSAP paid out 14 million dollars in grants and loans. Sixteen hundred starving, suburban and sober York students were in at the kill.

The biggest fight of all is shaping in Saskatchewan, where premier Ross Thatcher has raised tuition fees, removed high school teachers' salary bargaining rights and assumed direct financial control of the university. Students, teachers, professors and staff are mad. As hell, it will remain just a battle of words until February 5, when the legislature reconvenes to enact Thatcher's threats. Student organizers are waiting, and organizing.

The other visible eruptions were relatively minor: engineers at the University of Toronto snowballed anti-Dow protestors, and University of Windsor students rallied for a free student press. There, the 100 who marched through the snow protested the administration-forced resignation of Lance co-editors John Lalor and Marian Johnstone. It took more rallies, a strong student council statement of support and a Canadian University Press investigation, but editor, Johnstone was reinstated and the paper's autonomy guaranteed. Lalor is still out. What started it all? A few shits, and Jerry Farber's The Student as Nigger.

Lalor's not the only editor out for obscenity -- Argosy Weekly editor Allan Rimoin was fired by the

university president January 31 after a hassle caused indirectly by the same article.

SEVENTEEN MORE STUDENT SENATORS
The tempests grow deeper when you read the article itself -- each flurry reinforces its message. The people in universities -- students and teachers -- don't control universities. Negroes in America are second - class citizens, and so are students in universities.

Excalibur printed the article last December before all the fuss in Windsor and a few Yorkites blinked their eyes a little, but there was no great outcry. Glendon college reacted positively by following up the article with a Glendon forum entitled 'Students are Niggers -- Professors are chicken-shits.'

Academocratically, five campuses got a total of 17 senators. Seven are at the University of Manitoba, the largest catch to date, Dalhousie and the University of Victoria got three each, Brock got two and St. Francis Xavier got two. But St. F.X.'s aren't real -- they don't vote. One of them, council president John Gorman, profusely praised the university's liberal administration anyway.

Students also advanced on the senate committee front. Dalhousie, Memorial of Newfoundland and Waterloo all got students onto key planning committees. The total so far is 15 universities with senators or promises of senators and negotiations are now on at the University of Toronto and McGill in Montreal.

The University of B.C. got its four senators last spring. They've been there long enough to conclude the senate will never open its secret chamber, so three went to a student meeting and asked their constituents for permission to quit.

Students said no, planned a mass sit-in at the next senate for openness opened again. The explosion was slated for St. Valentine's day, but the threat has both sides talking again and it's been cancelled. The students so far remain senators. Last year's major battleground, the countrywide CUS front, enjoyed relative peace -- one in (Prince of Wales College) and none out, although York's status in CUS remains undetermined. No fees have been paid (there was no university-wide government), but CUS president Hugh Armstrong said in a telegram to York that he still considers York students in the fold.

STUDENTS: NO RIGHT TO REPRESENTATION
Simon Fraser students overwhelmingly voted solidarity with the National Liberation Front, which, in turn, is currently pounding hell out of America in Vietnam.

And everywhere the pall of pot smoke. The University of Manitoba discovered some profs smoke it. Winnipeg's good burghers blew their collective cool.

Catholic Loyola of Montreal outlawed drugs of all kinds, shortly after police found 100 hippies stoned in a Montreal church. York had one 28-year-old student arrested for possession.

Finally, January bodes ill for the early blooming student activists in Ontario. A committee of university presidents meeting at Waterloo January 20 declared, "There is no such thing as a student right to representation in the university government". Academocracy leads to sham democracy, they said.

They're not the only ones catching on. Toronto Star business columnist Jack MacArthur, who talks directly to those who own Canada, warned January 30, that if student power ever gets out of control and takes over the university, students might use it for their own ends and not the country's ends. State power moves in, crushingly, he said. Believe it.

UGEQ to hold plebiscite on Quebec status

By D. JOHN LYNN
Canadian University Press

MONTREAL (CUP) -- Quebec students gallantly moved to establish a consensus on Quebec's future status last week-end (Feb. 24-25).

The third congress of l'Union Generale des Etudiants du Quebec, held last week at Sir George Williams University, voted in favor of a plebiscite in all its member-schools to determine the feelings of Quebec's students on what the French vaguely term "la question nationale."

The plebiscite will be supervised by an independent committee, which will also oversee the dissemination of information on the topic prior to the vote, and will supervise the balloting at each school on the plebiscite.

A major concession was granted English students when the National Affairs commission approved a suggestion the ballot be translated into English for the English universities. The union's official language is French, and all documents are printed in that language.

Sir George delegation head Jean Scotte, who was acclaimed to the post of vice-president of UGEQ for finances on the Bourbeau slate, pointed out the results of the plebiscite could not be binding policy on all members as this might mean the withdrawal of the 22,000 English members in the 50,000-member union.

Delegates tackled some of the union's long-standing problems, among them re-organization into regional groups, French-English member relations, internal relations, and medicare.

UGEQ lost 1,000 members, students at the province's teachers' colleges when their province-wide student union, la Federation des Etudiants-Maitres de l'Etat du Quebec (FEME), withdrew from the congress Friday.

The regionalization plan, which has allowed in uncertainty for two years now, provides for representation at the Conseil Central National through regional organizations. For this purpose the six universities -- Laval, Montreal, Sherbrooke, Sir George Williams and McGill -- are considered regions in themselves.

Prior to regionalization non-university students were represented by federations -- classical college students, technical school students, teachers' college students -- and thus has direct representation at the CCN.

FEME, which now finds itself with no effective power at the CCN, withdrew and plans to submit its new status to their April congress for a decision.

UGEQ almost lost an additional 3,100 students when they turned down a bid by Loyola College for university status within the union.

The congress last year granted Loyola a special constitutional privilege of representation at the CCN, but this year, when Loyola asked for a judicial review of their academic qualifications as a university, so did two other schools -- College St. Marie and Polytechnique, the engineering school associated with the Universite de Montreal.

Loyola claims it is a university academically, but the Quebec government will not recognize them as such until a second French-language university is built in Montreal. Now, they are treated as a classical college.

The delegation almost withdrew after the congress

voted to await government recognition of Loyola's university status, but it stayed on at the urging of several delegates.

The bilingual University of Ottawa also put in a bid to join the Quebec-based union but were told this would only be possible if the French students -- mostly from the Hull area -- formed a separate association from the English students. U of O is now a member of the Canadian Union of Students.

Traditional English-French problems cropped up repeatedly at the congress, often to the discomfort of many delegates who have been avoiding direct confrontation language issues since the union was formed four years ago.

Scotte surprised most delegates when he proposed UGEQ encourage the teaching of French in all English schools from grade school up, "to allow the English Quebec community to participate more effectively in the development of the Quebec society."

The motion passed unanimously and amid much shouting by the French delegates, after a Laval amendment to change 'participate' to 'integrate' died for lack of support.

Later, McGill delegate Lorne Young tried to have a motion placed on the order paper providing for use of both French and English as working languages. He failed to get the assent of the delegates to have the motion placed on the agenda.

The congress also sent off to a study committee an executive proposal for a compulsory civic service program for all Quebecers between the ages of 18 to 25.

UGEQ renewed its demand that the Company of Young Canadians stay out of Quebec, and that the Quebec government secure equivalent funds from Ottawa to finance a Compagnie des Jeunes Quebecois, a completely Quebec-based group.

For the past three years the Travailleurs Etudiants du Quebec, an offshoot of UGEQ, has been doing CYC-type work in summertime only.

The congress turned down a proposed \$1.50 per capita membership levy, settling instead for \$1.25. The executive came under heavy fire from several delegations for not providing financial statements to show where it needed the extra funds.

The universities last year kicked in an extra 50 cents per capita to wipe out a \$40,000 debt that had accumulated through the previous year. The levy for all pre-university students remained at \$1.00.

The congress also called for an immediate, complete, and universal medicare program for Quebec, to be implemented without stages. The Quebec government recently announced medicare would be implemented by stages, beginning with those most in need.

The union also formally dropped its ties with the International Student Conference (Leiden), citing the Central Intelligence Scandal of a year ago, where an elaborate network of CIA conduits was found to be funding national unions of students and the ISU, as the main reason.

This leaves UGEQ with an associate membership in the International Union of Students, which is based in Prague.

Educational reforms urged include a university of Quebec to co-ordinate all university work, democratization of higher education, open decision-making, and others.

A Nick in time saves Council

By MAUREEN PHINNEY

Nick Pittas, new Student Council Arts rep, and Gazette CUP Editor, hopes to instil a new radical approach to student politics.

"I think my year on the Gazette has given me a fairly accurate perspective as to how things are done on this campus, and an insight into the things council has to tackle this year, such as student representation on faculty committees. Moreover, as a member of both organizations I feel that I will be in a better position than most to communicate council work and wishes to the Gazette and hence hopefully to the student body."

Pittas does not anticipate any problems in working with the rest of the Council. "First I have to see how council will shape up. However on many issues I see no reason why I couldn't work effectively with President Smith. And know several others on Council whose thinking is not far removed from mine."

"I have been called a campus radical. As such, I have a particular role. I think there is an undercurrent of anti-intellectualism on the Dal campus, which is in a sense more real than the pseudo-intellectualism found on many other North American campuses. Dal students are interested in issues such as the role of the university in society. But they are turned off by student leaders who do not convey what I call an earthy approach. I think Wayne Hankey's fate when he ran as Council President is indicative of this student attitudes."

"Dal Students prefer technically capable leaders who are able to subordinate their intellectualism to the accepted standards of behavior. Too many radicals have been, and are still unwilling to realize this fact of life, and as an activist, I feel that I can only be as effectively radical as the temper of the student body. At the moment, anything else would be adventurism."

"Equally important," he continued, "as a radical council member, I shall try to acquaint as many students as possible as to what is happening in other universities throughout North America." Dalhousie and Nova Scotia in general suffer from a suffocating parochialism. We are living in a revolutionary world and we cannot afford to sit back in our bourgeois ivory towers and pretend that the rest of North America and the world does not exist, and has no relevance to us here at Dalhousie.

"Ideally, as a radical, I feel the next step on this campus must be the creation of a radical movement to contest Council elections. I think the fact that the Blake and Thurrott team ran under an SDU ticket was in itself a brave start."

"Looking at Dal within the context of Canadian society, I would say that it fulfills its role satisfactorily. The university in North America is a factory using students as its raw material and producing trained agents who can perform certain necessary functions in the productive process of the country. Furthermore, Dal provides an opportunity for its members to engage in scholastic work and research. It is possible to receive a good education at this university. My complaint with this or any other bourgeois university is not so much its administration or educational methodology, but the underlying philosophy of the sort of society it serves."

"As an example of what I mean, I am not opposed to the recruitment of students on campus for their future jobs. However, I do oppose a system whereby

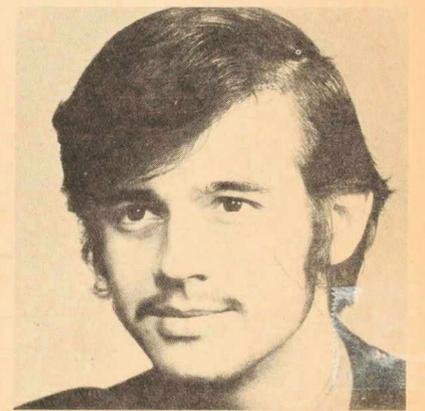


PHOTO BY DOUGLAS HILTZ

giant monopolies such as CIL can recruit students for jobs which will not in any way help the condition of men but rather serve in maximizing the profits of those who produce weapons of destruction to be used to wreck havoc on those people in the underdeveloped world who are fighting for their liberation."

"I am not saying that the actions of the military and industrial complex in its relation to the university is irrational. In our sort of society it makes obvious sense. Therefore, my argument is that one must seek a social transformation first, before there can be a qualitative change in this or any other university." "There is still room for meaningful action in the university. But student radicals should not confuse short term with long-term goals, tactics, and strategy."

For example, I feel that there are good reasons for students seeking to gain representation on Faculty Committees. This can be achieved within the present framework, however, if the university is to be a good one, and realizing that it must serve society, the qualitative change in the university will come only when we have changed the values and foundations of our society. This will never be achieved through such things as faculty or committee representation."

"Consider that the greatest deficiency of Dalhousie students is that there is very little attempt at critical evaluation of the purposes and practices of the university. Students base their complaints on a purely empirical basis with very little attempt to rationalize or analyse their reasons for the injustices that they see. Being a radical, by definition, means getting to the roots of the problem. This unwillingness to follow up empirical findings with theoretical understanding, plus action, is the reason why at the moment it is impossible to get radical action at Dalhousie. Radical action will only come about when there is increased awareness by ordinary students as to the root causes of their problems."

Student Aid Seminar at Dalhousie

The Government of Nova Scotia has asked Dalhousie to host a Seminar on Student Aid, to be sponsored by the Government of Nova Scotia.

Where - Dalhousie's Men's Residence
When - March 5, 1968, 3:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Who - Government Representatives, two student delegates from each Student Council, a representative from aid programmes of university administrations.

What - presentation by Government Representatives, dinner, evening work session.

Why - exchange of views among Government, University, and Student on student loans and other aid.

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