

## casserole

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of the gateway

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We're here because we're here this week, with no other justification possible.

The cover is one of those pictures worth a thousand words (taken by Bev Bayer). A footnote: Linda Layton and Greg Berry, our people on the cover, are getting married tomorrow.

C-2 gives you another view of the Mexican student uprisings. C-3 has a nice fairy tale by Peter Rabbits—oops, Roberts.

The centre spread? Well, sari, folks.

The arts pages bring you a look at The Owl Behind the Door, a review of Closely Watched Trains which won the Academy Award for best foreign film, and news, finally, of our old friend the Phantom of SUB.

# Mexican students fight for justice

By DENNIS LOMAS  
President, Young Socialists  
On the eve of the Olympic Games, scheduled to open October 12 in Mexico City, civil strife in the nation's capital has flared into street fighting in a number of neighborhoods.

What news of this comes to Edmonton? Almost nothing compared to the magnitude of the events.

The immediate cause of the flareup was a decision by the Diaz Ordaz government to use all the military force necessary to put an end to the student movement that has been building up since the end of July around the central slogan, "Free Mexico's Political Prisoners!" The government hopes by massive police action to repress the movement so quickly and so thoroughly as to definitively eliminate its potential threat to the success of the Olympic Games.

Up to now, however, the police violence has served only to broaden the protest movement, to give it fresh dynamism, and to intensify the crisis.

The latest turn began September 13 when the students staged another march to publicize the six demands they have been fighting for since the end of July. The demands are: the freeing of all political prisoners, repeal of the law designating "social dissolution" as a crime, removal of the main heads of the police in the federal district, dissolution of the granaderos as a repressive police, the payment of indemnities to the families of persons killed in the July 26 repression and in others mounted by the police, and fixing the responsibility of the public officials involved in the repression.

The government had attempted

to convert the September 13 march into a fizzle by dropping millions of leaflets over the city from planes and helicopters warning parents to keep their children from participating in the parade because the army intended to keep order.

But about 120,000 students from the university level on down assembled at the Museum of Anthropology. They staged a "silent" march down the Paseo de la Reforma to the Zocalo. There they were greeted by a crowd estimated at 125,000. The demonstration was orderly and no violence occurred.

## APPEAL MADE

Javier Barros Sierra, rector of the National University, had appealed to the students to end the strike they had been conducting since July and return to their classes by September 7. The government sought to strengthen the rector's appeal through helicopter leafleting.

The leaflets said the majority of the students wanted to go back to their classes. Furthermore, they could resume their movement, if they wanted to—but after the Olympic Games.

Besides, they ought to be grateful to the Mexican people for their great sacrifices, since they "are paying for the greater part of your education."

Following this round of psychological warfare, Diaz Ordaz opened the next phase of counterinsurgency. On September 18, thousands of troops, trucks, and armored cars moved onto the campus of the University of Mexico, and sweeping arrests were made. Being young and near the campus was sufficient cause for arrest.

The invasion was in flagrant violation of the Mexico constitution

which guarantees campus autonomy. Rector Javier Barros Sierra at once denounced the military occupation as uncalled for and as an "excessive act of force." With the judiciousness proper to his office, however, he also denounced the striking students for using university buildings for "political purposes."

On the following day, student groups sought three times to retake the campus, only to be defeated by the soldiers.

By Sept. 20, the press admitted that more than 1,000 arrests had been made. Special riot police were battling students in many areas and a number of injuries were reported.

## STRIFE WIDENS

The strife widened the following day. In one area students battled police for seven hours before troops were called.

The students replied to the tear-gas grenades used by the police, with stones and bottles, sometimes filled with gasoline.

In an exchange of gunfire in one district, a policeman was killed.

The populace sided with the students in scenes reminiscent of the night of the barricades last May in Paris. Pursued by police, students took refuge in apartments in the neighborhood. From the windows, tenants shouted imprecations at the police and hurled missiles.

Meanwhile the government obstinately went ahead with the preparation for the Olympic Games. Athletic teams, sports officials and newsmen were received with pomp and ceremony. At the Olympic Stadium doves of peace were released in a dress rehearsal for the opening ceremony.

The National Strike Committee issued a statement.

"To the People and Students of Mexico:

"In ordering the army occupation of the university, the Mexican government committed a very serious political error. The responsibility for this grave measure falls on the authorities who have shown themselves incapable of understanding the historic significance of our movement and that it cannot be suppressed.

## STRIKE COMMITTEE DEMOCRATIC

The National Strike Committee does not consist of isolated individuals, and thus it is able to understand the blindness of the bourgeoisie in power and all those around them. The committee consists of representatives with special direct power bestowed on them by the rank-and-file students, whose initiative is the main driving force of the movement.

The embattled Mexican students may now very well begin to receive substantial expressions of solidarity from students in other countries.

An indication was the statement issued in New York September 23 by the Students for a Democratic Society and the Assembly of International Students which convened at Columbia University September 18-25.

The statement ends as follows: "We call upon students, workers and all supporters of freedom to:

"Protest the police repression—in Mexico and everywhere!"

"Protest the attack upon political and academic freedoms!"

"Boycott the Olympics!"

... The Mexican student movement continues to grow.

# UCAP IS

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- a group of people who are concerned about Edmonton and its citizens.
- a number of individuals who agree upon the problems of our city and the way they should be solved.
- experience—six of the candidates have been members of city council.
- youth—five of the candidates are still in their thirties.

If you are 19 years of age or older and have been a resident of Edmonton for the past twelve months, you have a vote October 16th.

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