Page 8 - Gateway

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FELLOWS Unions under fire



David Somerville is proud not to be a union man.

by Randal Smathers

The fight against labor unions came to the U of A last Thursday in the person of David Somerville, the president of the National Citizens' Coalition (NCC).

The NCC is a conservative lobby group whose motto is "more freedom through less government." In the last two years, one of the group's main activities has been to support Merv Lavigne, an Ontario school teacher. Lavigne took the

Ontario Public Sector Employees Union (OPSEU) to court in 1984.

The court case started as a challenge against one minor aspect of Canadian trade unionism - the use of involuntary dues to support political causes. It grew into a constitutional challenge of major proportions, with Lavigne and the NCC on one side and OPSEU, the National Union of Government Employees, the Ontario Federation of Labor, and the Canadian Labor Congress on the other.

"History will show that this case will be a watershed in Canadian union history," said Somerville.

After almost two years of legal proceedings, an Ontario court determined that Lavigne's constitutional rights had been violated by his mandatory dues being used for other than collective bargaining and administrative purposes.

Somerville said they will "know in January" whether the court will accept the union proposal to "force individual members to object," which would "leave them open to harassments and threats." The position suggested by Lavigne's lawyers would put all political donations on a "voluntary contribution basis," said Somerville.

In the NCC's view, the strong union opposition to Lavigne's position "implicitly admitted that if workers had to voluntarily support (currently supported) causes, they wouldn't," said Somerville.

The NCC also sponsored an advertising campaign to ensure that no provincial governments would choose to opt out of the court's decision. According to Somerville, "When we finally won the thing, public opinion had to be set."

Somerville's lecture was sponsored by the Edmonton-based **Clarion Institute for Advancement** of Individualism. Only about twenty people turned out.



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Director of Student Awards by December 1.

Protesters block building

OTTAWA (CUP) — More than 100 anti-nuclear activists marked Remembrance Day this year with a somewhat unconventional ceremony, when 58 protestors splattered their own blood on the headquarters of the Department of National Defence and blocked one of the building's entrances for almost an hour.

Demonstrators blocking a major entrance during the morning rush hour Nov. 12 were dragged away from a sit-in protest by Ottawa police, while supporters chanted "hold the next test at the White House" and "DND - you've got blood on your hands.

The 58 were quickly photographed by police, lifted into paddy wagons and taken to Ottawa's only police station for processing.

All 58 non-violent protestors were charged with public mischief and causing a disturbance, said Ottawa police inspector Matthew Boyle.

Staff inspector Brian Ford said the demonstrators, many of whom had come from Toronto, Montreal, Kingston and Peterborough, were

Organizer Peter Dundas said the group was trying to make Canadians "aware of the tremendous increase in Canadian involvement in the testing of new weapons systems and technologies.

"We're linking our protest to Remembrance Day because it's important for people to remember the many wars that are going on around the world today," said Dundas, "so they can be stopped along with preparations for future wars.

He said the protesters, all members of a loose coalition of peace and human rights activists called the Alliance for Non-Violent Action are demanding that the Canadian government immediately halt:

•testing of new anti-submarine weaponry, including missiles designed to carry nuclear warheads, at Nanoose Bay, British Columbia; •testing of the Cruise Missile in Cold Lake, Alberta, due to begin again this winter:

•upcoming testing of new U.S. strategic bombers - the B-1, F-111, and newly refitted B-52s - over Northern Alberta, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories, due to

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begin early next year; and low-level military test flights over Labrador and Northern Quebec, on land presently and traditionally occupied by native Innu.

Supersonic aircraft fly as low as 100 feet over the Innu in Goose Bay, says Dundas. "The flights are a tremendously disruptive occurrence for the Innu, who have lived there for centuries."

ANVA also opposes the proposed NATO Tactical Weapons Training Centre in Labrador, says Dundas.

Major Norbert Cyr, a DND public affairs officer, said he's not sure how much damage was done to the building. "The whole front of it was splashed with blood-like material and a few things were scrawled on the concrete pillars in crayon you know, skull and crossbones, slogans - that kind of thing," he said.

Cyr says DND actually "benefit-ted" from the protest. "It livened up the usually boring days of building security officers, and gave us the opportunity to test our communications and work closely with the various police forces in town," said Cyr.

released as soon as they had been processed.

THE GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIP

FIELD OF STUDY:	Open
VALUE:	Tuition fees and living allowance for ten months beginning October 1.
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CONDITIONS:	Applicants must be Canadian citizens, have a first degree by the date of tenure, not more than 32 years of age, and be sufficiently fluent in the German language.
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DONOR:	The Federal Republic of Germany.
APPLY:	By letter to the Director of Student Awards by December 1. Letter should include academic background, study plans in Germany and projected plans after return.
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Thursday, November 20, 1986