

FAS confronts internal strife

By Greg Harris

Internal labour problems of the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) were discussed at a meeting of provincial student groups last week.

Delegates from across the country met in Ottawa for a central committee meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

"The entire staff and executive did discuss the Federation of Alberta Students," said Martha Elliot, spokesperson for CFS.

"The discussion pertained to fair treatment of student staff in FAS," she said in a long distance call from Ottawa.

Steve Howard and Percy Toop were dismissed as employees of FAS on November 10, 1981. On December 22 their grievance of wrongful dismissal was settled with a cash award of \$1917.00 each.

Matt Shaughnessy quit his post as Northern Alberta Fieldworker over the Christmas holidays. He was unavailable for comment.

Keith Krause resigned his position as editor of the FAS Student Voice newspaper in December, for academic reasons.

"In the long run this is a FAS internal matter, and we're in no position to comment on the resolution of the dispute," said Elliot.

Learning...

the Gateway

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1982.

...the kind of ignorance
distinguishing the
studious.

Ambrose Bierce

Montreal student riot sends seven to hospital

MONTREAL (CUP) — It was all over in about an hour, leaving a fourth-floor lobby in Concordia University's main building strewn with broken chairs and pools of blood.

While bewildered students and administrators looked on, a group of Iranian students opposed to the reign of Ayatollah Khomeini clashed with Khomeini supporters outside a University meeting room January 4. Seven people were taken to hospital, and one man was charged with possession of a dangerous weapon, an axe handle.

The fight began shortly after 4 p.m., at what was supposed to have been a prayer meeting for the Concordia Muslim Students' Association (MSA), but MSA executives say they didn't call the meeting, or book the room claiming another group was responsible.

"They used the name of the Association to book the room, but it wasn't us," said MSA President Abdul Rahman.

Ari Arlani, the Concordia Iranian Students Association President, said his group heard about the proposed meeting, and believing it would be a forum for government propaganda, decided to oppose it.

"They called a meeting, but the whole thing is they come in and start to advertise about the government," said Arlani.

"We have over 200 (Iranian) students in Concordia, the majority of them opposing the government," he said.

Iranian students opposed to the Khomeini government began milling around outside the meeting room early in the day. About 4 p.m., a group of pro-Khomeini students charged up the escalator, welding sticks and shouting slogans.

The two groups met in the hallway outside the meeting room, making barricades from chairs and tables, and shouting slogans and then insults at each other.

The barricades were later dismantled when both groups hurled furniture at each other and several fights broke out.

University officials say Montreal Police were called in to break up the riot after University Security staff could no longer control the violence.

Arlani said the clash was provoked by the pro-Khomeini group, which he believes was brought together by the Muslim Students' Association in

collaboration with the Iranian embassy in Ottawa. He said most of the pro-Khomeini students were not from Montreal, but had come from Ottawa by bus for the meeting.

Arlani said he saw "members of the Iranian embassy staff with and perhaps directing a mob of 80 to 100 people" who marched into the building. Arlani said the careful organization of the pro-Khomeini group and the fact that same-day news of the clash was carried on Tehran Radio points to Iranian embassy involvement.

A spokesperson for the Iranian embassy denied their government was involved in any way.

"No embassy officials were present at the meeting," said Iranian embassy Press Officer Mohammed Fadaei. Fadaei maintained the pro-Khomeini group was not responsible for the incident.

Arlani said the riot was intended to draw out Iranian

students who oppose Khomeini, enabling the embassy to identify these people.

"The embassy has recently denied renewal of three student passports and will probably deny renewals to many of the students who were at the riot," said Arlani. "Students without passports could end up being deported to Iran."

Arlani said that if the Canadian government didn't offer support there could be dire consequences for those whose passports are not renewed.

"If they deport one student," said Arlani, "it can be equalled to just handing him over to the firing squad or at the minimum to prison."

Fadaei rejected claims that student passports were being delayed.

Fadi said, "Nothing happens to people who are active in counter-revolutionary activities outside of Iran when they return to Iran."

Time's running out

by Wes Oginski

Nominations for this year's Student Union general election closes next Thursday.

Why does the SU need an executive?

"It's important," says current V.P. External Lisa Walter.

There are six positions available in the election. These include the executive positions of president, v.p.s external, internal, finance, and academic, and a student representative on the Board of Governors.

"There's a lot of potential for learning," says Walter, about both administration and politics.

Current President Phil Soper says it is an exciting, and challenging responsibility.

Both Soper and Walter found the experience rewarding.

"I'd do it again, but I'd never do it twice in a row," Soper says. "It's extremely high pressure, long hours, and a lot of problems (in areas of administration, government bureaucracy, and personnel)."

"I'm not going to say it's not frustrating," says Walter, but adds she is pleased looking back on her own term.

"It's a position of influence," she says.

The deadline is not until next week but Soper says the issues should be interesting. He

speculates that they will include SU finances and government programs in university training.

Mike Walker, former Gateway news editor, is rumored to have formed a slate for the upcoming election. Soper says there may be two joke slates and hopes that other serious slates will form by next Thursday. Walter expects two serious slates to run with some independent candidates.



photo Ray Giguere

No, they are not rallying against cutbacks.

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