

Hillel impeach Ottawa exec.

OTTAWA (CUP) — The moot courtroom at the University of Ottawa was filled to twice its seating capacity Feb. 2 as the students' federation executive went on trial for impeachment.

At issue is the executive's refusal to grant the Jewish Student Union (JSU-Hillel) club status in September because of its support for Zionism.

That refusal created an uproar on campus and received local and national media attention. The administration eventually stepped in on a technicality and granted the JSU-Hillel club status.

Meanwhile, the JSU-Hillel got more than the required 750 signatures on a petition to bring the five-member executive to student court for impeachment proceedings. The trial was delayed while student council figured out how the long-dormant court should work and who should serve as members.

The impeachment trial finally began the same week campaigning started for next year's executive.

U of O law professor Joe Magnet, one of the two lawyers representing the JSU-Hillel charged that the executive had:

- failed to grant club status to the JSU-Hillel, showing deliberate "and discriminatory practises, calculated to prevent the freedoms of political expression" of the university's clubs;
- held frequent "secret meetings" to prevent scrutiny from the press and students;

• demonstrated "abuse of power in the course of their actions, and failed to act responsibly as official members of the students' federation."

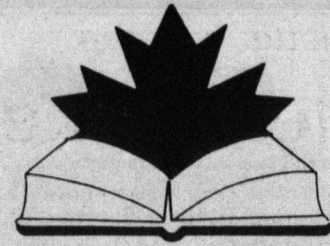
Pierre Bourget, a lawyer representing three of the executive members, charged that the section of the students' federation constitution defining jurisdiction of the student court should be declared invalid. Magnet responded by saying that this objection should have been dealt with before the trial.

When Nissen Chackowicz, JSU-Hillel youth co-ordinator, took the stand, Magnet directed his line of questioning to highlight the executive's constant evasion of the JSU-Hillel's request for club status.

In his cross-examination, Bourget noted the JSU-Hillel's participation in a September club Welcome Week, organized by the executive. He said this constituted recognition of the JSU-Hillel as a U of O club.

Bourget then handed Chackowicz a Zionist pamphlet and asked him to comment on its contents. The JSU-Hillel legal council immediately objected, saying this threatened "to turn the judicial proceedings into one where propaganda is the main focus."

Gilles Renaud, a law student representing students' federation president Chantal Payant, claimed the executive was unaware of the JSU-Hillel's request for club status. The trial continues.



New encyclopedia

by Doug McQueen

Does your outdated home encyclopedia present nuclear power as a "marvelous discovery" destined to become the life-blood of a "brave new world"?

Perhaps your edition of the Encyclopedia Americana presents Canada as "our northern neighbours" and the home of the honourable R.C.M.P. These antiquated tidbits of information make Canada's lack of an updated and comprehensive domestic reference set embarrassingly obvious.

An Edmonton publisher, Mel Hurtig agreed. In 1978 he approached the Alberta Government and proposed the publishing of a completely rewritten and updated Canadian encyclopedia. The outcome of his proposal is the Alberta funded *Canadian Encyclopedia*.

The *Canadian Encyclopedia* is due to be published in 1985 and the information contained within the set is 100 per cent Canadian dealing with topics that concern Canadians, from Acid Rain (and where it comes from) to Zoology. The projected cost of this production of 100,000 copies is expected to be between \$9 and \$10 million

and will retail in department and bookstores for \$150.00

The research and consultation of information is being shared by Universities throughout Canada and is operating out of the University of Alberta. The information is stored on a computer system that allows for updates to be made up until the time of publication. Articles will be contributed by prominent Canadians such as Margaret Atwood, Peter C. Newman and David Suzuki. The gathering of information is overseen by an Advisory Board headed by Dr. H. Gunning of the U of A.

The English language edition is to be printed by Mel Hurtig Publishing; as yet the French language edition has no publisher but a lucrative proposal of royalty tree publishing rights has resulted in eight Quebec publishers expressing interest.

The publishing of an updated Canadian encyclopedia is long overdue. In 1957 the Grolier Society of Canada published the *Encyclopedia Canadiana* and updated it throughout the years but as the New Canadian Publishing Company writes: "many subjects are covered from a badly outdated perspective of the 1950's."

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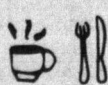


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