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SMU students stage demonstration

Students of Saint Mary's University staged a demonstration outside the office of Dr. D.O. Carrigan,



Students are concerned

President of the University, Wednesday morning.

About 150 students gathered in the hallway and demanded to speak to Carrigan.

The group entered the Board Room and proceeded to have a heated discussion with Carrigan on the subject of the work-to-rule campaign and threatened teachers strike.

Carrigan was presented with a petition by students demanding a refund of tuition in case of a strike.

Carrigan promised if students could prove they missed classes because of the work-to-rule campaign, the university would give them a rebate for that portion of their student fees.

A walk-out was threatened by the students at the meeting, should the dispute between faculty and administration not be quickly resolved or brought to binding arbitration.

The debate lasted two hours and



Professors are thinking of strike

culminated with Carrigan's permission for a student commission to be set up to examine the pay of SMU professors.

Members of the non-student

press were excluded from the meeting, and Carrigan refused to be quoted on anything said at that or any other meeting with the students on the matter.

Conference on learning disabilities fights ignorance

by Mike Greenfield

Last weekend the Dalhousie SUB was the site for the 5th Atlantic Conference on Learning Disabilities. The main purpose of this conference is to combat the dangerous ignorance in the Maritimes that prevents the educational system from helping children with learning disabilities.

Over 1000 people attended the 3 day conference. They came from all the Atlantic Provinces; many were students. One entire class from Acadia was in attendance all 3 days. All were serious about discovering more on learning disabilities.

The phrase "learning disabilities" was coined when people started to realize that there were children that were being labelled as stupid, lazy, or mentally retarded that were not. One of the most interesting lectures of the conference was given by Ed Polak on "What is a learning disability". He explained that a learning disability

is anything from learning differently (many of us have that problem) to learning deficit, and can include a reaction to poor teaching. The causes can vary, it may be anything from a poorly co-ordinated mental faculty to a physical disease.

By classifying these children as dumb, lazy or retarded, and by making them compete in the same classroom with all the other children irreparable harm is done to these kids. Many become emotionally crippled for life.

There is only one area left in North America that does not have a commitment to the learning disabled child; that is the Maritimes. Universities here are still turning out teachers who do not know what learning disabilities are, and the provincial governments are still ignoring the problem.

Judy Pelletier, co-ordinator of the conference and social worker, told the Gazette that the Provincial

government would rather see a child with learning disabilities end up in a mental hospital because this is a federally funded institution. Setting up the proper school program to prevent the crippling effects of learning disabilities would be a burden on the provincial coffers.

The conference, set up by a dedicated and growing minority of people, is designed to bring in the primary people in this field and make more Atlantic region educators aware of the situation; to

promote a realization that action must be taken, at all levels.

Ms. Pelletier thinks that by any standards this year's conference has been a success. She was especially grateful to the people connected with the Student Union who gave their utmost support.

In 5 years the conference has made great progress in the field of learning disabilities. However, there is so much progress needed in this field and next year's conference should be even better attended.

Entertainment chairman ignored by council

by M. Greenfield

The October 19 Student Council meeting started promptly at 7 p.m.; by 7:30 President Bruce Russell observed that "everyone was getting bleary eyed". However, despite the lack of any fever pitched, come out punching, hysteria producing debate there were some relevant actions taken by our august leaders.

The council voted that the Student Union support the Halifax City Council Task Force on Housing's proposals. If you are worried about the fact that you do not have a copy of what you are supporting don't worry, neither do the council members. The council support was given after a quick reading of the proposal by John D'Orsay. When one member asked why they were not given a copy of the report the answer was that the report of 16 pages was too long, the reading would be an excessive burden on the council members.

A committee was set up to review the present drug prescription plan with O'Brien's Pharmacy in the light of a new plan that has been submitted by another outfit. Seemingly, one of the more attractive advantages of this new plan would

be the added coverage of birth control pills. At present birth control pills are not included because of the cost.

Carleton Campus was discussed in terms of a Student Union facility on the lower campus. One such plan included the take over of the Green House on College Street. But there seemed to be some confusion over whether or not what is in the Green House now can be moved to the Forrest Building. If the Forrest Building is not available then a new plan will have to be found.

There was a spate of Committee appointments for such committees as Scholarship, Senate Discipline and Entertainment Review. However many appointments could not be made because there was no applicants. These positions are open to the entire student body, there is apparently somewhat of a communications gap between the Students and the Council. The positions will once again have to be open for applications. Watch for posters and ads that will list the ones still to be filled. These will probably be for SUB Operations, Constitution, Senate Discipline, and Entertainment Review.

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Learning Disabilities Conference in McInnes Rm last weekend