

African Student's Union begins year's activities

By WENCESLAUS BATANYITA

The African Student's Union, ASU for short, had its first general meeting on Sunday, September 22, 1974. Being the first one for this academic year, the meeting offered an avenue for introduction since members hail from various corners of Africa. You may call it "a get to know each other" meeting.

The Union so far has a membership of 41 students of African origin at this University

(UNBF to be specific). Though the name of the union seems and sounds "African" members do not necessarily have to be African. Associate members are welcome. Anybody who is interested in African Affairs is invited to share the experience with Africans through membership. You can learn a lot of things about Africa some of which you have been taking for granted.

As the ASU president Afam Ogbechie underscores, the Union's main purpose, among others, is "to

encourage and promote better understanding between Canadian and African students and between the Canadian and African peoples, and at the same foster sound international relationships between Canada and our African countries." It really sounds like a covering and vast objective, but in essence that is what it boils down to; although one should not forget to mention that ASU offers a forum for discussion on student affairs with a view to finding solutions to certain problems.

For those who would like to have some ideas of African cultures, ASU annually organizes "African Night" where dances, exhibitions and different African Dishes serve to highlight the occasion. ASU is also a good participating and organizing member of the hostship of the "International Student Night" where students of all nationalities take part. Both "Nights" take place in the second term. You can rest assured they are great fun - so never make the mistake of missing either or both of them if you can make it. ASU will inform you the details when such

occasions are approaching. Keep your ears and eyes open inasmuch as CHSR and "The Brunswickan" will most probably be used to convey the message to you.

In the meantime if you have any questions about ASU you can approach any of the executive committee which includes: Afam Ogbechie (President), Enos Kire-mire (Vice-President), Yakubu Maikano (Secretary), Adamu Iliyasu (Vice-Secretary), Owen Mahowe (Treasurer) and John Msolomba (Public Relations Officer).



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Students' associations merge

MONTREAL (CUP) - After a year of broken down negotiations and "personality clashes" the executives of the Loyola Students' Association (LSA) and the Sir George Williams Students' Association (DSA) have finally come to an agreement over the merger of the two groups.

Talks began early last summer between former LSA co-presidents Boivert and Tigh and DSA president David Saskin but crumbled by November because of uncertainty over the status of Concordia University.

In February of this year Saskin admitted that "the feeling on our side is that it was senseless to continue debating when it wasn't even certain the merger (of the universities) was going through."

Negotiations have picked up since the new executives were elected and according to DSA president John Freedman, a combined brief outlining the proposed Concordia Day Student Association structures will be completed and submitted to the Concordia Board of Governors in late October for approval.

The DSA Council has already approved the preliminary brief Freedman offered although Loyola co-presidents have not yet approached their Board of Directors.

"We don't foresee any problems with having the brief approved," said co-president Bill Loucks, who

added that some joint projects have already been scheduled, such as Carnival and Graduation Exercises.

"It's very important that we present a united front instead of two separate ones," said Loucks, while Freedman elaborated that "we'll need the power to stand fast and take action either concerning a library strike or if students are getting the short end of the stick on any issue."

Structural forms have not yet been made public but according to both of the executives individual campus autonomy will be preserved and representation on the main councils will be "split 50-50."

"We haven't destroyed the separate structures," said Freedman, "we've only built a 'super-structure' around them in order to cope with the university problems."

It will not be "for a few years yet that the faculty and departmental associations merge" said Freedman although he plans to recommend they consider such a move.

There have not been any negotiations between any of the associations concerning the date of the merger although Loucks cited the Sir George and Loyola Chinese Student Associations as taking the initial steps towards merger by working on various projects together last year.



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