

"does anyone have
my roberts' rules

The Gateway

of order?"
—David Leadbeater

VOL. LX, No. 17 THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, EDMONTON, CANADA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1969, FOUR PAGES

The word from the SFU "truth force"



PAT HOFFER AND JOHN LEGGETT

—Dave Hebditch photo

... tell about troubles at SFU

Trusteeship interfering with PSA ideology and principles

By FRASER COLLISON

If you step on the wrong toes, you'll get stepped on.

That's the lesson in all the trouble at Simon Fraser University, according to Pat Hoffer, a graduate student in the Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology Department at SFU.

She said research by the PSA department may have displeased some Social Crediters and this is one reason for recent administration actions towards the department.

Dr. John Leggett, a sociologist on the PSA faculty, gave the details of these actions, which include the firing of eight faculty members and the setting up of the trusteeship that has been running the department for a month. Miss Hoffer and Dr. Leggett spoke here on Wednesday on behalf of striking teachers and students at SFU.

"Why have the government, Board of Governors and President moved against us?" asked Dr. Leggett. He said the administration has charged the department with administrative incompetence, but not academic incompetence.

The department was run on three principles until the trusteeship took over Sept. 1, according to Miss Hoffer—democratization, critical social science, and service to the community.

RATIONAL COMPROMISE

Democratization involves student-faculty parity on all decisions of the department. Students and faculty met separately to avoid too much faculty influence or co-opting. Then the two groups seek a compromise if necessary, through rational dialogue. Both groups can veto any decision. Furthermore all meetings and all files and memos are open to anyone.

The aim of a critical social science is to challenge the assumptions of society and even the assumptions of social science. "Knowledge for whom?" asks Miss Hoffer.

She said the groups which gave the university money for research want that knowledge to serve their own interests.

STUDENTS SMOKE BUSINESSMEN DRINK

For example, the Ford Foundation encourages studies on how to control workers, but not studies on how the workers' wage demands will affect the company's profits.

If research is done on social deviance, those who supply the money want to know why high school students smoke pot, but not why businessmen drink too much. "We wanted to get out of this."

Service to the whole community means that research and teaching should be available to the disenfranchised, such as union members and housewives, who pay to support the university but are never represented on the Board of Governors, said Miss Hoffer.

Pulp and paper workers had gotten help from the PSA department in finding out who owns MacMillan Bloedel, and how this company would be financially affected by the union's wage demands.

INFORMATION OFF LIMITS

Even though MacMillan Bloedel issues a financial statement every year, argued Miss Hoffer, this information is not public if it can't be understood.

Social science jargon puts information off limits to most people, she said, and similarly most

people cannot find out the real profits and losses by reading a financial statement. Even the Dominion Bureau of Statistics hasn't been able to understand Premier Bennett's figures, she said.

Dr. Leggett said the trusteeship is incompetent and is obstructing normal department activity. If a teacher wants to Xerox more than ten copies, he must sign a form which is considered at the next meeting, and it all takes a week or two.

THE TRUSTEESHIP

The trusteeship was created with five members—four from outside the PSA department, and one department member just arrived from England, said Dr. Leggett. This fifth member has resigned, he said, because he realized he didn't know enough about the department to help run it.

The trustees threw out the recommendations of the PSA committee on tenure, renewal and promotion, said Dr. Leggett, and moved to "phase out" 11 faculty members by 1971.

The administration has committed "massive violations of contract" in doing this, he said.

The normal lengthy procedures were ignored and the recommendations went straight from the trustees to the Board of Governors. No chance of appeal was given, and the 11 teachers were notified if they didn't have a Ph.D. by 1971, they would be fired.

The university is not purging its radicals, he insisted; it is getting rid of troublemakers. On the one hand, the 11 teachers have diverse political beliefs and academic orientations. On the other, the department has a number of "safe radicals" or "elsewhere Marxists" who do not apply their radical beliefs at SFU.

The administration points to these persons as evidence that the university is genuinely democratic and pluralistic, he said.

Dr. Leggett said students and teachers have gone every week to Kenneth Strand, SFU President, asking him to negotiate with them about removing the trusteeship and letting the department control its own hiring. He said Dr. Strand's only public comment has been "no comment," and he has refused to negotiate.

STRIKE

The department's next move was a strike vote, he said; half the students voted and most favored a strike. When Dr. Strand did nothing,

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Council socks SFU; queens

Students' council Wednesday night became U of A's second official body to condemn the Simon Fraser administration for its actions against that university's social sciences department.

Council also requested that university president Max Wyman support the PSA department in its fight against the administration.

Tuesday night, the department of political science here passed a motion declaring virtual solidarity with striking students and faculty at Simon Fraser.

A motion to send \$1,000 to striking members of the university was tabled on a tied vote broken by chairman Dennis Fitzgerald.

The motion, amended from that passed Tuesday by the political science department, called on the administration to halt all dismissal and suspension proceedings and on the CAUT to support faculty members on strike. It also urged that students and faculty here refuse to scab at SFU.

Voting against the motion were Trevor Peach and Rod Boychuk.

Ron MacDonald, speaking as a member of the Students for a Democratic Society here, told council it should have provided funds for professors now denied the support of the CAUT.

Council finally turned thumbs down on beauty contests.

A long-tabled motion by academic vice-president Liz Law withdrawing council's financial

support for "any contests or other activity which relegates women to object status" passed in a 10-6 vote.

Miss Law, speaking in support of the motion, said women should not be considered as sexual objects and that a beauty contest is in effect, "a public auction."

She said people should be judged by more encompassing criteria than physical features. Judging women in beauty and queen contests on the basis of physical features reinforces the concept that women are merely decorative objects, she said.

Voting against the motion were Willie Heslop, Graham Begg, Trevor Peach, Frank MacInnis, Rod Boychuk and Jennifer Shuman.

Students' union treasurer Dennis Fitzgerald, the only abstainer, said after the meeting council as yet has no financial obligations to beauty contests this year.

President David Leadbeater will now inform Waterloo Lutheran that U of A will not enter a contestant in that university's winter carnival and also tell organizers of the Miss Canada Beauty Pageant, council will not participate in choosing a candidate here.

"A good beauty contest is very stimulating," said one male council member while other males maintained that personality, intelligence and general appearance are also important in the contests.

But secretary Wendy Brown said contestants are shallowly judged on their surface appearance and whether they keep their legs together or not.

Both councillors and members of the audience also raised the question of "why not male beauty contests?"

After a lengthy discussion, council again tabled a request for money from the Native People's Defense Fund. This was a repeat performance of last week's council meeting at which the issue was also tabled.

A motion was passed, however, to make the White-Indian question a priority on council. An undetermined amount of money is to be granted to the NPDP.

Polling Stations

Polling stations for the students' union by-election Friday will be located in the following buildings:

All affected faculties: SUB and Lister Hall

Arts: Tory rotunda

Commerce: Tory rotunda

Education: Ed bldg rotunda

Engineering: Old eng bldg (third floor)

Science: V-wing