

SGWU verdict: deportation Guilty on one count

MONTREAL (CUPI) — Eight black students, found guilty on one of five charges of conspiracy in connection with the Sir George Williams affair, received stiff fines or the alternative of prison sentence along with a promise from president judge Kenneth MacKay that he would recommend their deportation.

The students will not have to worry about providing the money for the fines themselves; the government of Trinidad and Tobago, under severe pressure from the poor at home, immediately promised to deliver the funds, totalling \$33,500.

The eight defendants, all found guilty March 12 by an allwhite jury of conspiracy to interfere with the lawful use of the Sir George computer, may still appeal their verdict.

Found guilty on the one conspiracy charge were Jose Amoroso, Ian and Valerie Belgrave, Glenda Edwards, Hugo Ford, Edmund Michael and Robert Ranjitsingh and Kelvin Robinson.

Robinson was also found guilty on a charge of conspiracy to interfere with the lawful use of a faculty lounge.

Following the Thursday verdict, defence lawyer Robert Lemieux announced the appeal, declaring the jury's decision set the legal precedent of punishing students for taking part in a sit-in.

Two other defendants in the trial — Robert and Kenneth Wil-

liams — were cleared of all five conspiracy charges: conspiracy to set fire to the Sir George computer room, to interfere with the lawful use of a faculty lounge, to destroy cafeteria furniture, to destroy university computers, and to interfere with use of the computers.

The two Williams were ordered released from custody immediately following the trial, but all 10 of the defendants, who face seven more charges in connection with the Sir George affair, will have to return to court May 4 to have a trial date set for completion of their prosecution.

The charges are a conspiracy count pertaining to endangering life, the substantive offences which go with the charge, and the substantive offences relating to the other five conspiracy charges.

The defendants — all natives of Trinidad and Tobago — were the first group from among 87 defendants charged in connection with the February 11, 1969, incident.

In sentencing the defendants, judge MacKay said he preferred to impose fines rather than jail terms because "It has already cost the Canadian taxpayer enough."

MacKay cleared the courtroom of spectators before announcing the fines, after a coughing bout broke out following remarks by the judge that the defendants received "an extremely fair trial."

Fines for the eight defendants were: Robertson, \$15,000 or six

years in jail; Ford and Michael, \$5,000 or three years each; Amoroso, \$3,000 or three years; Ian and Valerie Belgrave, \$1,500 or two years each; Glenda Edwards, \$1,500 or two years; Ranjitsingh, \$1,000 or one year.

In addition to paying the fines, the Trinidadian government announced that all of the students would be allowed to take up studies at the University of the West Indies upon their return to the Caribbean islands.

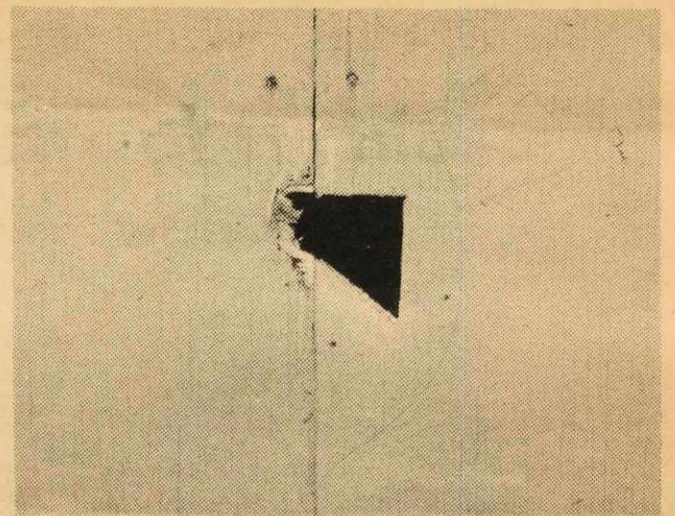
The government's offer undoubtedly came as a response to massive demonstrations on the islands, originally sparked by the Sir George trial, which spread to include the entire issue of foreign (predominately Canadian) domination of their economy.

Reaction to the Montreal trial was relatively low-key in Trinidad, as leaders of the island's Black Power movement made no statements on the outcome.

When the final verdict and sentences were announced, several hundred demonstrators from northern oilfield districts were gathered at Port of Spain, the island capital.

The demonstrators listened to speeches for several hours, and then marched around the office of prime minister Eric Williams.

They stopped outside the headquarters of the People's National Movement, Williams' party, and jeered at government and business dignitaries gathered to say farewell to the island's ambassador to Ethiopia, but no incidents occurred.



Where it's at

Shirreff Hall girls know where it's at — a small hole in the wooden construction wall along the walk to the rear entrance.

Reactions by those who participated in the mid-afternoon sightings varied: "I pulled out my biggest, hardest textbook and whanged it," said one. Another — "I was going to hit it — but I didn't want to give him the satisfaction." Still others ran around the wall to see what the rest of him looked like.

The girls had heated discussions as to its size. "Whether or not it was big — I think it depends on which part of the province you come from," remarked one Sherrifite pensively.

The Administration refuses to take a stand on the issue. Henry remarked, "It is a construction site, and it may well have been nothing more than a workman's tool."

The Gazette too will not become prickish about the affair. After all, why should we condemn someone for just "doing his thing?"

No black studies program

by Trevor Parsons

In talking with various members of the administration I have learned that no serious consideration is being given to a "black studies programme". This is unfortunate for a number of reasons.

First, the Halifax area has one of the largest black communities in Canada and therefore, if this type of programme is to be started anywhere, Dalhousie would seem to be the logical place.

This brings us to another question. Why a black studies programme at all? Because as well as being oppressed by white

society, blacks are systematically being robbed of their identity. A well known example of this can be seen in an experiment conducted with a group of black children.

They were given the choice of either a doll with white colouring and features or one with black colouring and features. Almost all of the children chose the white doll.

More and more blacks, however, are beginning to realize that white is not necessarily right. They are beginning to realize that by raising their position in white society they are not raising their own group — they are simply escaping from

it. When the young black person sets out on this line of reasoning, it is not long before he realizes that he is not alone among the oppressed people.

The Halifax area has one third of Canada's blacks and yet Dalhousie has only five local black students. This would seem to indicate a definite need for some type of adjustment programme to provide so-called culturally deprived students with the basic skills necessary for further studies. TYP is such a programme but it is apparently being sabotaged by the administration.

The official reason for not beginning the programme will be a lack of funds, but this did not appear to be a problem when it was announced earlier that TYP would probably start in January of this year.

The scarcity of money was not mentioned either when people were praising the administration for its outstanding liberalism in following the recommendation of grad students Terry Kemper and Paul and Sylvia Norton.

When it comes down to the crunch and the administration has to produce funds, the liberal veneer starts warping.

So, with no prospect of the Transitional Year Programme or a Black Studies Department becoming a reality, and City Hall ignoring the wishes of the black community concerning "the Oldland Affair," it seems nothing has really changed in beautiful downtown Halifax.

But how long are black people going to continue to take this crap?

Leader demands fines rebate

PORT OF SPAIN TRINIDAD, (CUPI) — Geddes Granger, leader of the militant National Joint Action Committee, demanded that the Canadian government return \$33,500 in fines dished out to black students in connection with the Sir George Williams conspiracy trial.

The money was promised by the government of Trinidad and Tobago to cover fines incurred by eight of ten defendants in the first trial of students involved in the February 11, 1969 computer centre burning at the Montreal university.

Granger, heavily involved in black power demonstrations at Trinidad which were sparked by the trial, said March 15, that the imposition of fines instead of jail sentences was a political manoeuvre by Canada, designed to quell unrest on the Caribbean island.

He added that the government of Trinidad's prime minister, Eric Williams, did not have either the "normal authority" to pay the fines for the students, or the right to give away money needed for the island's poor.

"That money we cannot afford to lose," he said.

"We need schools, we need better roads, improved electricity supplies and services and employment for our people. We must have that money back."

But the government's move — if it was a play — appeared to have worked over the weekend, as a number of minor demonstrations but no major incidents took place after announcement of the imposition of the fines.

Granger said his movement, which has put as many as 10,000 people into the streets in past weeks, was "very angry" at the action taken by the Canadian court against the black students, and the action by the Trinidad government.

"If one is to read carefully the statement of the judge (Kenneth MacKay) one would see he has not only been disrespectful but almost rude," Granger said.

"I have never heard a judge make a comment like this: 'I will not send you to prison because you have already cost the Canadian taxpayer enough and I do not wish to burden him any more.'"

"We are convinced now that there should be absolutely no compromise with imperialists powering our country," Granger said. "If there was any hope whatsoever of the people of Trinidad and Tobago taking any other stance, this decision has completely eliminated that."

Bureaucracy chosen

by Julia McMahon

Much of the Students' Union bureaucracy was appointed Monday night at the Council meeting.

Don Cherry an assistant treasurer last year, was appointed treasurer. Council's new recording secretary is Joy Wiseman. Orientation chairmanship went to Totis Pittas. Two new positions Program Chairman and Campus Co-ordinator, were filled by Charles Cahill and Don Grant.

Grant's reaction to receiving the post was summed up when he said, "The post is a necessary one. It will alleviate a lot of the problems that the Union has been having in running large functions into one another as well as the problem of non-communication with the other sections of the Campus outside the SUB."

His job will be to contact all facets

of campus life and to aid them in the timing and placement of all events.

Charles Cahill was named to the post of Program Secretary. Mr. Cahill will be given the job of booking all the entertainment for the SUB. His past experience in the field includes running the Residence dances.

In his address to Council, he expressed a wish to use the SUB, to its full capacity as a base for the Union's entertainment. "The first place to start," he said, "is the summer dance program."

Applications for Introductory Part II were reopened until Monday the 23rd at five. Perhaps the two most important positions on the agenda were also reopened until the following Monday. Council could not come to a decision re: SUB Affairs Secretary and Internal Affairs Secretary.