

UQAM ends strike

QUEBEC CITY (CUP) - The administration at l'Universite du Quebec a Montreal (UQAM) has surrendered to faculty union demands to retain a voice in academic decision-making, ending a four month strike that kept 14,000 students out of classes.

A Feb. 4 board of governors meeting agreed to change the only clause in the administration's conciliation

proposal that was voted down the same day by professors.

The professors voted 82 per cent not to return to work until the university agreed to retain the union's right to participate in academic decision making — a demand they had won after a strike in 1973.

"This was the major cause for the strike, for it took away an acquired right," said Jean Pierre Cheneval, president of the facul-

ty union, Syndicat des Professeurs de l'Universite du Quebec (SPUQ).

Administration spokesperson Marcel Aime Gagnon said the union demand was accepted because the board "considered the situation of all those 14,000 students deprived of their studies for 16 weeks due to the conflict."

While the back to work agreement is to be signed soon, the union said a major stumbling block is salary reimbursement for the 600 maintenance workers who received only 57 per cent of their regular wage while supporting faculty pickets.

The rehiring of 142 professors whose contracts were not renewed by the university during the strike is also an issue.

It might take up to two weeks before the university is fully operational, according to Cheneval, because of the strike, which started Oct. 18, and the large number of people involved.

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U of O hits hikes

OTTAWA (CUP) - the senate of the University of Ottawa has voted to oppose in principle the \$100 tuition hike for Ontario university students, following a demonstration by 500 students at the senate chambers on Feb. 7.

The vote followed the senate's rejection of a Students' Union motion calling on the university to "refuse" the government-set tuition fee hike and a subsequent amendment asking the university administration to refuse to collect the extra \$100 which is set for September of next academic year.

The students met in a general assembly addressed by

student union president P. Roleau, then marched around and through the senate chambers where the senate were meeting to discuss the issue.

The march on senate and tabling of the student motion the U of A Students' Union answer to a province-wide student call for action on the Ontario government's fee hike in colleges and universities. More campuses, following the strategy laid down at a mid-January meeting of the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) had planned a day or half-day boy-

of classes on or about Feb. 10

Nader backs students

CALGARY (CUP) - There's no reason why Canadian students can't be a real source for change while they're studying, according to US consumer advocate Ralph Nader.

But the reason they should strive for change now is because "once you get out (of school) your ability to reflect and pioneer goes," he told an audience of 400 at the U of C Jan. 23.

Nader said the current trend in education is to turn it "into a trade school practice rather than

an intellectually broadening experience.

"All schools teach students is to become good corporate lawyers."

Nader emphasized the need for consumer awareness of banking, taxation, business and industry through education. Students may know a great deal about English poetry or physics, he said, "But how many of you can write a 1,000 word essay about the tax system?"

The long-time consumer crusader said because of the lack of a civic backbone in Canada the public has trouble getting consumer information. Americans "can lord it over Canadians for having a Freedom of Information Act which allows them to readily obtain a wide variety of government and industrial information.

Nader also discussed pollution, calling it "a form of violence."

He said industry has perpetrated the myths that pollution is not harmful, that there is no technology capable of dealing with it and that it is far too expensive to clean it up.

Companies are murdering the public with pollution he said and suggested that corporate profits should be channeled into cleaning up the mess.

"Genius" announces his fraud

SAN FRANCISCO (EN CUP) - Officials of Yale University thought they were getting a genius when they admitted Andreas Alrea to their freshman class last fall.

He had near-perfect high school grades, glowing recommendations and was said to be fluent in seven languages. He'd even managed to run up a \$30-million fortune in Brazilian silver speculation, Alaska home investments and a machine export business — all by age 20.

But, after four months at Yale, Alrea announced that it was all a hoax. He's actually Patrick McDermit, a house remodeler and worker of odd jobs from Los Angeles. He has a relatively poor high school record, doesn't know any foreign languages and has almost no money.

"I did it on a dare from a friend," he told the *New York Times*.

Although McDermit dropped out of his Yale classes just before Christmas, telling his dean his academic work was "unreviewable." Yale officials didn't catch on to his charade until he announced it last week. McDermit says he falsified his high school transcript and recommended printed stationary and fabricated his entire history.

"I just figured I was smart enough to get in," he said.

"If they didn't want me as was, I'd come in as somebody else."



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