

Eight profs 'Purged' at SFU

BURNABY, B.C. (CUP)—The department of political science, sociology and anthropology at Simon Fraser University—formerly one of the most democratic university departments in Canada—had had its ranks decimated in what has been described as a "purge" of PSA faculty.

In a series of decisions handed down by an administration tenure committee four professors within the department have been denied tenure and further renewal of contract—three other professors, including a student-acclaimed department head, have been granted only one-year conditional renewals of contract, and one other professor has been denied promotion.

In all cases, the tenure decisions were made on the basis of doubts

about the teaching or scholastic ability of the professors, although all have been highly ranked by their colleagues and one, Kathleen Aberle, has an international reputation.

Aberle, co-author of one book and author of approximately 30 scholarly articles, was fired because of "unresolvable doubts concerning the quality of her academic procedures."

Another of the dismissed faculty, John Leggett, had just received a \$7,000 Canada Council grant to continue research on the attitudes of the working class in Vancouver, for a book to be published next year.

"We are being purged," said Mordecai Breimburg, acclaimed head of the PSA department by

faculty and students, then denied the post by an administration committee; now given a one-year conditional renewal of contract.

"Any one who has the least familiarity with the discipline of anthropology is aware that Professor Kathleen Aberle is internationally respected for her scholarship. People familiar with the discipline of sociology are aware that Professor Leggett, who has received a \$7,000 research grant from the Canada Council easily satisfies the criteria of competence in his profession.

"Yet both these faculty, along with others in the department, have been fired.

"The university committees which made the decisions," he said, "are less competent than PSA students to make judgments on tenure, and handed down their judgments on the basis of political decisions rather than academic qualifications.

"The question is not whether people agree or disagree with the views of particular PSA faculty. The question is whether this university will tolerate dissent, or whether it will violate all standards of academic freedom and establish a monolithic conformity.

"Why does this administration refuse to tolerate even one democratically organized and academically competent department?"

The dispute over the PSA department culminating in the tenure decisions, first started to reach boiling point this summer, when the administration of SFU declared the department to be incapable of handling its own affairs and assumed direct control of its operations.

Tenure decisions reached within the department would not be ratified until the department changed its internal procedures, the administration said—implying an end to the total student parity then operating.

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And if that sounds like work, take heart! There will be enough parties, informal gatherings, brunches, and lunches to satisfy even the most inveterate party-goer.

The blitz starts Friday evening, September 19 and ends sometime Sunday evening, September 21. The registration form is printed below. Agendas can be obtained at The Gateway office, Room 282, SUB.

We need you to make the conference a success. We know you won't be disappointed, so please join the budding journalists and battle-scarred pros at "—30—The Last Thing in Conferences".

Registration Form

—30—

The Last Thing In Conferences

Name

Address

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Area(s) of interest: reporting, editing, layout, photography

Related experience

Registration fee of \$3 is enclosed.

All registration forms should be delivered to The Gateway office, Room 282, SUB, by Wednesday night. This includes all persons now on staff as well.

The registration fee is to cover the cost of the Saturday luncheon at the faculty club and Sunday brunch, probably at Emily Murphy Park, and other sundries necessary to run a conference.

campus calendar

WEDNESDAY—SEPT. 17:

- NOON HOUR FILM
"Christopher's Movie Matinee" SUB Theatre

THURSDAY—SEPT. 18:

- CABARET RE-UNION PARTY
Dinwoodie Lounge 8 p.m.—1 a.m.

FRIDAY—SEPT. 19:

- FRIDAY FORUM
SUB Theatre Lobby 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.
- STUDENTS' CINEMA
"The Ernie Game" SUB Theatre
Showing at 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

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WATCH THIS CORNER EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
FOR THE WEEK'S ACTIVITIES

Students applaud new handbook

The students' union never does anything to let the student know what is happening on campus.

The students' union does not do anything to let the student know how to get involved on campus.

The students' union has finally done something about this lack of doing something.

The students' union has published the Student Handbook, not the regular, run-of-the-mill handbook with reams of etiquette but an honest appraisal of this university and its students' union.

Edited by Brian Campbell, the new Student Handbook is a small part of the change that is occurring within the university.

"(The Handbook) is opinionated, vivid, and unrestrained by some of the decorum of the older issues," says David Leadbeater in the opening pages of the Handbook.

The new Handbook deals with many of the same topics that were in the old Handbook but it brings the student into the foreground rather than leaving him in the dull recesses of computer programs.

This year the Student Handbook was published for less than the budgeted allotment. In former years, according to Dennis Crowe, coordinator of student activities, the administration was given \$3,500 by the students' union to help print the Handbook and the

students' union had no control over the content of the book. This year, there was only \$3,400 set aside and with an additional \$500 to \$600 of advertising brought the price of publication down considerably.

The new Handbook became available to students last Friday after nearly two months of hard work by the editor and his staff.

Student reaction to the Handbook has generally been very good.

"It's much more useful than last year's generally—like it tells you WHERE to eat rather than which fork goes where. Also, it tells the other side of campus life that students generally haven't been told," states Janice McPhail, sci 2.

Says Armand Moss, arts 2, "It's a change from last year. It's by students for once and it's all about students."

"I think it's a much better book. At least we can say what we want. Also, we have to say in how, for example, the UAB says what it has to tell," said Dennis Crowe, coordinator of student activities.

Student acceptance of the new book has been slow in coming because at present it is available only from the student union offices.

"I'm kind of disappointed that it hasn't gotten out more quickly," stated editor Brian Campbell. "We just want to give a realistic picture of the University of Alberta. I'd like to see it out on the street."

Registration a breeze with increased efficiency

Registration went smoothly this year with about 17,900 students completing the process. Of these 3,426 are fresh students and 1,500 still to be formally approved. Four hundred of these are anticipated late registrations.

On the average it took less time for a student to complete registration this year.

"I registered in two hours. It was beautiful. I just zipped right through," one student commented.

Students were forming long lines in the Arts Building. One student who had just registered in English 210 commented, "What a hassle, don't ask for a ten o'clock class."

The increase in efficiency was due mainly to better management, more staff, and better traffic control. Part V expected to handle a maximum of 1,200 students an hour.

New policies replaced last year's. Picture taking after Part V is one example. Registration for some courses such as phys ed 218 and 228 carried on through the dinner break.

Technical mistakes were still easy to make. A student while completing Part V noticed he had forgotten a signature in Part II and had to backtrack.

Some students were detained by not having received their formal admission cards from the Registrar's office. This snag was due to a delay in receiving transcripts.

Mr. A. Kuiper of the Registrar's office was pleased with the increase in efficiency but said this system would become impractical as the university increases in size.

He stated that new registration systems are being studied with special attention to pre-registration systems.

One university—two languages

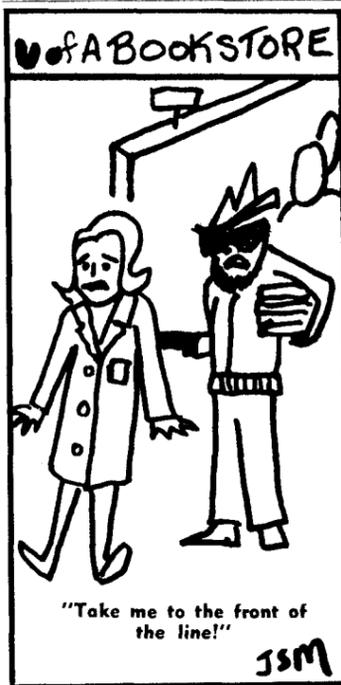
Vive le Leadbeater Libre. Now that the U of A has an honest-to-goodness French-Canadian partner, College St. Jean, the students' union has adopted a bilingual letterhead, as has The Gateway.

It is expected, however, council meetings will continue to be carried out in English.

Official notice

Information contained in the university calendars concerning the Remembrance Day holiday is incorrect. The statutory holiday should be observed on Tuesday, November 11, and not Monday, November 10 as in the calendar.

Classes will be held on the Monday in the usual way, but lectures and laboratories will be withdrawn on the Tuesday.



HELP WANTED

WANTED: Male student help for Thursday night, Sept. 18. Must be over 21. See Trener Tilley in SUB 256.

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