

Gained widespread support

Students establish parallel government

SHERBROOKE (CUPE-MDQS) — About 230 students in the Department of Social Work at the University of Sherbrooke have set up a parallel department in defiance of faculty

attempts to restrict student participation in course determination and grading.

The student initiatives have received widespread support in Sherbrooke and throughout

Quebec. The Sherbrooke Central Council of the Confederation of National Trade Unions and the local construction workers' union have declared their support for the students, as have the Parti Quebecois Association of Sherbrooke County and an unemployed people's group.

Education is no longer simply the responsibility of the professor, the students feel. The entire department must cooperate in deciding the goals of the teaching process.

"Our action sustains a vision of the student based on responsibility and personal development inside a collectivity. The student cannot lose three or four years inside a cocoon of university courses, powerless in the face of the social reality which surrounds him," the students' manifesto declared.

The students decided to create a parallel department rather than organize sit-ins or demonstrations because they feel this best expresses their capabilities and responsibility with regard to their future.

"The record confirms that students are capable of assuming their responsibilities and not simply of saying so or of

claiming them," a student bulletin reads.

Since the creation of the department of Social Work in 1967, students and professors had been unofficially cooperating planning the curriculum and in grading.

Following closed conferences last summer, however, the professors decided that they alone had the right to grade students.

The students held a general meeting on November 2, a few days after they learned of the secret faculty decision, and issued a statement claiming equal rights with the professors, and declaring that any other situation was unacceptable.

At a closed meeting on November 5, the professors rejected the student demand for participation in grading. Only one of the seventeen faculty members dissented from this decision.

The students held another general meeting on November 10, decided to set up a parallel department, and to open formal negotiations with the faculty and administration. A five-person negotiating team and a twelve-member committee charged with running the parallel department were named by the students.

Immediate and overwhelming community support have helped to make the parallel department a success. Eighty-eight resource persons from across Quebec consented to lecture free of charge, and 35 appeared during the month before Christmas.

But negotiations have made little progress. Department head Jules Perron attempted to divide the students by threatening to fail the students who did not submit their term work when it fell due in early December, but only 30 students broke ranks.

Failing grades were recorded for 72 other students, and the department's refusal to expunge these grades is one of the major remaining obstacles to a settlement.

A student assembly decided on January 12 to publicize the struggle across Quebec. Five hundred information packets were prepared, but just as they were about to be mailed, a group of professors including Perron, requested new meetings with the students.

Some progress has since been made toward a compromise on the issue of grading procedures, but the two parties are still some distance apart.

CUPE may strike at Ryerson

TORONTO (CUP) — Janitorial, maintenance, boiler room and motor pool staff at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute would legally go on strike by the end of January, said Jim Anderson, a representative of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), if conciliation proceedings fail to bring about a satisfactory agreement.

"The Union could set up picket lines at all the main entrances to the campus by the end of the month," he added.

The contract with the 112 workers of local 233 of CUPE expired September 30, 1971.

"Members voted on January 6, rejecting the latest offer of the administration by 80 per cent," said Anderson, and in addition they "authorized their bargaining committee to proceed with strike action if it became necessary."

Officials of local 233 emphasized that "it is the negotiating team's desire to continue talks with the administration in the hope of avoiding a strike."

Since the contract expired, a total of ten meetings have taken place between the union and management.

The basic rate of pay for janitorial and other staff was \$3.00 per hour. Now the union negotiating team is bargaining for a basic rate of \$3.65 per hour. In their last vote Thursday, the members rejected an offer of \$3.24 as proposed by the

administration negotiating team.

CUPE members at York University recently negotiated a contract for a \$3.50 basic hourly rate. Union members at the public school level had an agreement expiring December 31, 1971, which had ensured them of a basic rate of \$3.57 an hour.

In a recent labour dispute between the administration of Glendon College and a CUPE local, the union was supported by the students. Glendon had a student population of 1800 and it is affiliated with York University which has a total enrollment of 23,000.

When it was evident that the CUPE local at Glendon would go on strike to strengthen its bargaining position, the students voted to honour the picket lines in the event of a strike by the local. With the added support of the student body at Glendon, the CUPE local was able to settle the dispute with the administration.

"If Ryerson's staff did go out on strike, at the end of the month, they will be able to draw upon a strike fund of \$2,000,000," said Anderson, "which is the amount the national offices of CUPE has on hand for members who are on strike."

CUPE is the largest independent union in the country which has no formal ties or head offices at an international level. It is the second largest union in

Canada, slightly short of the International Steelworkers in total membership. In the Toronto area alone, CUPE has

40,000 members.

A union member commented that "in the event of a possible strike at Ryerson at the end of

the month, the administration's supervisory personnel would have a hell of a time keeping the place heated."

Food "riot" in Howe Hall

Beaver Foods pressured

by Don Refson

"A small food riot" in Howe Hall may spell the end of Beaver Foods at Dal.

For three long years Beaver Foods has been responsible for the serving of food at Dalhousie but this may be the last year, much to the pleasure of those who must eat in Howe Hall, Sherriff Hall, and the SUB cafeteria.

During this year, and particularly in the past few weeks, a number of complaints were raised about the food in Howe Hall and, as usual, they were largely ignored. By January 17, the residents had had enough and, as Robert Hilchy, chairman of the Howe Hall food committee put it, "a small food riot broke out." While this spontaneous incident was a good way of letting off steam rather than a serious attempt to bring about improvements in the food, it was successful in that it helped unite students to seek solutions to problems that have existed too long. That night the food committee drew up a list of grievances with Beaver Foods and called "a recycling the food" project for the next night.

Under pressure to improve their food or face the consequences, Beaver Foods consented to an open residence food meeting the next night.

The manager of Beaver Foods, Ted Vasilopoulos, began the meeting with a defence of his company as one "always willing to listen to any complaints and rectify the problems."

At this point Vasilopoulos was interrupted with a flood of complaints too numerous to mention. To illustrate the poor quality of food served at the meals one student claimed to have broken a plate by dropping a piece of cake on it.

When it became obvious that the majority of students were dissatisfied with the food, Vasilopoulos charged that it was they, the students, that were at fault for bringing in their friends and cursing at the employees. He stated that the students would have been more responsible if they had brought up their complaints at the previous food meetings, to which one of the committee members reminded him that he had never bothered attending most of these meetings.

Furthermore, the fact that Beaver Foods had suddenly taken an interest in the residents' complaints showed that Vasilopoulos' charges of the demonstrations being "useless and non-constructive" were without foundation.

In his closing remarks Vasilopoulos grudgingly conceded that the food could have been better and promised that, in the future, complaints of little variety, stale foods, and no menus would be looked into and rectified.

Whether or not these and other complaints are eventually acted upon can only be determined by time but, with the food contract coming up for renewal this year, the handwriting is clearly on the wall for Beaver Foods — shape up or ship out.

THE COLUMN

NEW MORNING has begun a campaign against death drugs. In its latest edition, the newspaper says:

"On December 3, 'Buz' Power died of an overdose of methadone. Here. In Halifax.

"Since then Debbie Griffin and perhaps two to four others have died of methadone overdoses. As many as 200 are addicted or are on their way to addiction in Halifax-Dartmouth; how many will die in the next month or year nobody knows. No one wants to guess. Methadone is a narcotic dispensed by doctors through your corner drug store; its sale to addicts adds to the profits of large drug companies that already rip working people off with over-high prices. It's supposed to CURE heroin addiction."

For more information on New Morning's campaign, phone 423-3242 or drop into 1106 Barrington Street.

Dick Gregory's scheduled appearance January 18 was cancelled because of air flight difficulties caused by the Air Traffic Controllers' strike. The Student Union has tentatively re-booked Gregory for the 13th of March at noon.... Tickets will be refunded at the Central Box Office in the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium....

A prophylactic machine (condoms, etc.) has been installed in the basement washroom of the SUB.... why no machines in the others in the more used parts of the building?....

The Great Britain Olympic Basketball team will be touring Canada in preparation for the pre-Olympic Games in Amsterdam in May prior to the Olympic Games in Munich in August. On Friday, February 11 the team will be playing against the Tigers at Dal, likely at the Forum....

Due to the daily addition of books, periodicals, documents, etc. to the library, the Killam Library is beginning a program by which pamphlets and other handouts will be issued on various aspects of the collection.... These publications will be available at the Information Desks and from the "take-one" kiosks in the Killam....

ELECTION

Student Council Nominations accepted from Feb. 2 - 9
Election to be held Feb. 16

Gazette urges you Not To Vote!