

Course unions

New representation tactic being used

By SHARON COOK

In several departments on campus, new movements, affording students the opportunity to become more directly involved in their education, have been developed. They are Course Unions, a form which has already been initiated by several universities in other parts of Canada, and which provide forums on which student representatives report on faculty committee proceedings and receive suggestions and reactions from other students.

The executives of the unions are generally chosen by the students taking at least one course offered by the department concerned and are responsible for implementing policy decisions made at general meetings and for realizing all other objectives of the unions. Course unions have several important objectives. They allow the students to make in-depth analyses of courses offered by the department which results in more awareness of the aims and limitations of the courses. By frequent communication with the faculty these limitations are brought to the professor's attention and possibly rectification may take place more quickly than in any other system. Students' wishes bear more weight and bargaining power because discussion first among the student body has made them more articulate AND BECAUSE THE REPRESENTATIVES HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE STUDENTS BEHIND THEM.

At Dalhousie, these have been diverse approaches among the departments on the structure and operation to be adopted depending upon the size, the subject, and the aims of the union. The Engineering society this year has begun to consider such problems as more effectively correlating the engineer-

ing courses with the mathematics department, better communication concerning course requirements in undergraduate school as laid down by the N.S. Technical College, and cooperating with the professors to find improved methods of presenting and evaluating courses and labs. Dave Bell, engineering representative on Council adds that "the whole constitution must be rewritten to change the emphasis of the Engineering society from the bookstore co-op and social highlights to the building of a more informed student body. It must aim at self-education and less elitism among those now co-ordinating student and faculty opinion."

In the Commerce society, there have been student meetings where problems have been aired and the resulting sentiments are being presented to the professors by elected representatives who at present have seats on a tentative basis on faculty committees.

In the Political Science Clubs, meetings have been scheduled with both graduates and undergraduates with the hope of obtaining from professors more unity between the behavioralist, institutional, and philosophical courses, of starting a program whereby speakers can be obtained to talk with the students on topics related to course content, and of establishing a means by which students and professors can meet more effectively to discuss how courses can be improved.

The Sociology students have succeeded in obtaining parity in representation on several committees and of finding ways in which students can utilize their academic knowledge in a practical way while still at university, resulting in a more

aware, interested, and cohesive student body.

In the graduate schools similar advances have been taken by students to improve rapport with the faculty and to realize the remedies to several ills in curriculum.

The Law school course times have been altered so that subjects are taught in two-hour sessions, instead of split up sporadically over several days. This has allowed more time for preparation and for a more unified presentation by the professor. Students and faculty have also had several meetings to settle growing discontent over courses from both sides. There had also been co-operation in starting effective programs of legal aid with the Neighbourhood Centre.

The students and professors in the Education department are now reviewing courses and examination proceedings in order to ratify the problems exposed last year.

In some of these organizations, a group began by drawing up a constitution and submitting it to a general meeting for amendment and adaptation. They then elected an executive to develop a program and student members became authorized representatives with the obligation to determine and speak for the wishes of the students.

With other groups, the structure varies. But the students are determined to unify and explicitly state their demands and present to the faculty coherent plans and suggestions for improvement. Several problems have arisen that prove more insoluble than others, but at least sympathy and communication are evoked from both sides and in some areas educational reform is being achieved to the satisfaction of both students and faculty.

Moncton Students Occupy University

By KEN CLARE AND HARVEY SCHWARTZ

More than 150 Universite de Moncton students have occupied their university's Science Administration building.

They are demanding a substantial increase in the

Marat/Sade to be presented

By BETH NEILY

The horrors of the nineteenth century insane asylums in France lash out with cutting satire in a post-revolutionary age. In the film Marat/Sade inmates of the asylum perform for an audience of Royalty and the play becomes a sounding board for thought-provoking, deeply controversial ideas on revolution that strike home even in our comparatively sophisticated twentieth century society.

Marate/Sade is a special presentation sponsored by the Dalhousie CUSO Committee and will be shown in the McInnes Room at the Dalhousie Student Union Building at 8:00 p.m., January 20.

The drama portrays the clash between two historically political extremists: Jean Paul Marat, the revolutionists and Marquis de Sade, who, as director of the play, takes the role of devil's advocate for the reactionary Royalty. Throughout the play, Marat is taunted and subjected to mental torture until he sadistically murdered in the last act.

CUSE Chairman, Alan Ruffman, explained, "That CUSO is using Marat/Sade to show those people who are planning to work and live in a developing country the number of different ideas of development that they will run into, not the least of these will be revolution." Mr. Ruffman continued, "That the film was brought to Dalhousie to expose the university community to ideas and controversy that revolution can engender." He said that "CUSO hopes that the audience will look beyond the artistic merits of the film into the ideas and philosophies dealt with in the play."

university's budget, which they say is inadequate for the five-year-old institution. They quote from an Ontario government report which says that a university needs at least \$34 million to get off the ground, and point out that the Universite de Moncton was founded on only \$1.6 million and has since received only 6 million more. They also point out that the University of New Brunswick receives a higher per-student grant.

Because the provincial government is already \$41 million in debt, U de M students are looking to the federal government for the necessary funds. To back their case for a federal grant, they point to the precedent set by a federal contribution to the University of Toronto medical centre, the Bilingualism and Biculturalism Reports recommendations on financing minority colleges, and Trudeau's call for a "just society."

The action was initiated to draw the attention of faculty and students to the problems. The demands

to be made of the government will be formulated when these two groups agree on possible solutions.

The Student's Federation has already supported the demands, and is acting as the spokesman for the occupiers, but there is wide disagreement on the methods used. Support from the general faculty, who meet on Friday, is anticipated.

The occupation, which started at 11:00 on Saturday night, had been planned since October by a group centering around the campus newspaper L'INSECTE. The Building is stocked with three week's food, and L'INSECTE editor Michel Blanchard said, "we plan to stay indefinitely."

The students say they plan to use firehoses to ward off any attempt to retake the building.

The university was closed by the administration on Sunday. "Most of the students are dividing their time between meetings and talking in the coffee shop," said CUS fieldworker Barry McPeake. "They're all real revolutionaries."

Wanted

Crew for the production of Fiddler by Dalhousie Glee and Dramatics Society. People are needed for costumes, carpentry, publicity and Public Relations. If you have a few spare hours a week, phone

454-7227 or 422-4334

FEB. 6, 7, 8, 9.

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