

**SIR GEORGE TRIALS BEGIN JANUARY 19**

MONTREAL (CUP) - The trials of 70 students arrested after the computer damaging incident at Sir George Williams University last February have again been put off-in most cases for an additional two months.

A Montreal court Wednesday (January 7) set a trial date of January 19 for 11 defendants, all from Trinidad-Tobago. The bulk of the accused will have trial dates set March 2.

The 70 were among 87 adults and six juveniles arrested after the occupation of the Sir George computer centre, and charged with 363 crimes ranging from conspiracy to commit arson to property damage.

The two-week occupation followed a year of negotiations with administration officials over charges that one professor was racist. The \$2 million fire and damage to the computer did not occur until Montreal riot police stormed the centre to dislodge the demonstrators.

Their history since then has been one of waits: preliminary hearings into the incident did not begin until April 12 for 76 defendants; eight others did not face preliminary hearings until March 5.

Since then trials have been set for September, November, and January,

and deferred each time for most of the accused.

The university has so far ignored black students' demands for continued investigation into the racism charges. The students' accusations that racism still exists at Sir George were corroborated in November when The Paper, a joint Loyola College-Sir George evening students' newspaper, printed a cartoon of armed black savages preparing to attend a black studies program.

Publication of the newspaper was suspended for a week by the Sir George administration, and the editor was fired.

**Jagan urges withdrawal of charges**

MONTREAL (CUP) - Guyana opposition leader Cheddi Jagan January 5 urged the withdrawal of charges against 87 defendants charged in connection with the damaging of the Sir George Williams University computer centre last February.

Jagan, leader of the People's Progressive Party in Guyana, was in Montreal for the opening of the January sittings of the Court of Queen's Bench, which will assign trial dates for 70 of the accused including Jagan's son, Cheddi Jr.

"The students have already suffered enough," Jagan said. "They have already paid a high penalty by being out of school. I think the charges against them should be dropped."

The 87 have been charged with conspiracy and property damage in connection with the incident, which resulted in \$2 million in damage. Sir George Williams students involved in the incident have been suspended indefinitely from the university.

The students originally occupied

the computer centre in protest against alleged racism at Sir George; damage to the centre was incurred after Montreal's riot squad was called to evict them from the premises.

Members of the black community in Montreal have said that the hysteria aroused by the incident has completely smothered the actual cause of trouble at Sir George-racism directed against the predominantly Caribbean-born black community.

So far, their demand for continued investigation of the racism charges have been overlooked, despite a furor at Sir George November 3 when The Paper, newspaper of the joint Sir George Williams-Loyola College evening students' association, published a cartoon depicting armed black savages preparing to attend a black studies program at SGWU.

The editor of The Paper was fired, and publication of the newspaper was suspended for one week by the SGWU administration.

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