

UNB is alive; is Dal? At the University of New Brunswick, every student is caught up in issues - academic freedom, students' right to protest, preservation of administration authority, the status quo. At Dal, there are few issues, fewer protests. Are we an isolated, fortunate case, or can it happen here? SHOULD it happen here?

ministration until it was apparent that no serious attempts would be made to restore it to administration control; students sat-in, ate-in, slept-in and simply lived-in for up to six days at a stretch; the crowd of occupants rotated, but there were usually about 15 people in at any one time.

Emboldened by their success, the SDS started holding "Teach-outs", addressing crowds below the window of 130 with a bull-horn which still sits atop Strax' filing cabinet. A later technique involved temporary "liberation" of various auditoriums to show movies, mostly radical films imported from the US; if the security police (of which UNB has probably more than thirty, not including student campus police and plain-clothes RCMP) got wind of such plans and closed off the building, then word would spread quickly and another auditorium would be liberated instead. The role of Liberation 130 has now been reduced to that of a centre of SDS activity; and though a quiet, serious-faced boy stood by the window with a peace symbol on each shoulder, there seemed little need to be on guard.

The familiar black-topped, acid-proof lab table still runs along the side of Norm Strax' office, and water still flows into the chemical-resistant sink; but the strongest fluid spilt on the lab-table is Gestetner ink from the host of pamphlets produced from the SDS machine, and the bunsen burners are idle except when heating a tin or two of Campbell's soup.

Signs and posters line the walls, some serious, some facetious, some stolen. NO PARKING (UNB) says one; another is a relic from the October 21 protest in Washington last year, to which Strax led 4 bus-loads of Maritime students. One cheerfully scribbled sign announced WE WANT TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD -- NOW, while a cluster of other proclaim the message of the anti-war protesters all over the world. GET THE TROOPS HOME NOW: JOIN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, FIGHT THE DRAFT.

Liberation 130 has friends outside the walls of Bailey Hall; friends who sent food "up the rope" during the first days of the blockade; an NDP official who sent a stiff telegram of protest to President MacKay when Strax was suspended; 75 students who signed a petition asking that any action taken against the "liberators" be taken also against themselves (no disciplinary steps have been taken). Three professors have openly aligned themselves with the protestors; other are quietly sympathetic, more have dropped into Liberation 130 as sightseers.

Liberation 130, for all its physical appearance as a 9 foot by 18 foot room with a desk in one corner, a lab table down the side, now looks like something far different from an ordinary physicist's office; gone is the telephone, in its place stands a Gestetner machine, while two typewriters sit on the desk; four mattresses, still used nightly, are tucked away under furniture by day; a hot-plate sits near a bottle of French wine on the lab table.

The window of Liberation 130 is smeared with a white substance -- rotten cream cheese, thrown by hostile students at a university chaplain as he climbed the rope to join the protestors during the early days of liberation. The smear is almost unnoticeable to the night-time visitor to office 130, Bailey Hall; but by day it reflects a hideous smear on the name of one of Canada's oldest and proudest universities. Without the suspension of Strax, the library protest would have been an incident; the administration's hasty action against him created a Cause.

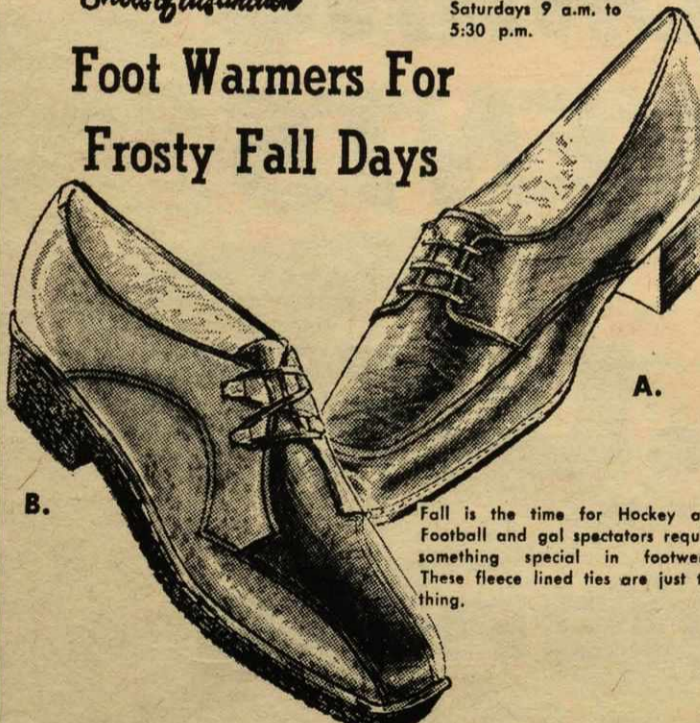


UNB security police prepare to lift industrial magnate K.C. Irving over demonstrators blocking the door at Tuesday's board of governors meeting.

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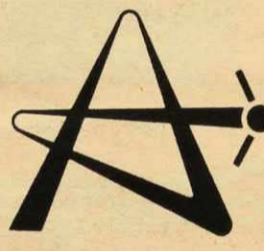


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