

Quebec high schoolers routed by police

ALMA (CUPI) — 1,200 high school students were freed from classes Mar. 1 when their school was shut down after 30 police were used to clear about 250 demonstrators from the school.

The school principal, after meeting Tuesday, Mar. 2 with 400 parents and the director of the regional school board, announced that the school, about 125 miles northwest of Quebec, will be re-opened.

The battle started when a

popular high student director Remi Cloutier was transferred from his position suddenly and without apparent reason.

"I was removed from my job with five minutes notice last Tuesday, told nothing about why I was removed or what my new job would be," commented Cloutier.

"As a result some of the students became very disturbed and there were protest marches. The parents were as opposed to the move as the students. I think it was because I

was the only one in the school who understands those students — this is obvious now, I think," he said.

Most of the daily press noted that police were reported to have used tear gas in evicting the protesting students Monday, but that the Alma police department had denied the charge.

According to the Montreal Star, however, "what all groups know and think about (students, parents, administrators) is that the 250 demonstrators were maced out of

the school area they occupied. Mace is a gas used by police in riot control. Most people don't like to think about it. Canadian schools and university campuses are not familiar with mace."

One student, Louise Desjardins, was allowed to act as a spokeswoman for the others at the parents' meeting.

What the students wanted, she said, was Cloutier, a human atmosphere in the school, more rooms and lounges to study in and

a social centre.

Then, she said, the students wanted the right to speak and be listened to — and the discussion crumbled into the "when I was your age ..." generation gap.

Asked one man, "You mean we have to lower ourselves to talk and give in to you students?"

The students are not giving up. A small group of them handed out leaflets to parents before the meeting asking for their support. They launched a phone campaign to their fellow students, and met with school mates at the local headquarters of the Confederation of National Trade Unions to discuss tactics.

SENECA SPRING FESTIVAL

A series of theatre events on the new Seneca College stage

- **GWENDOLYN MacEWEN** **MONDAY, MARCH 15**
● Readings by this Canadian poet courtesy of the Canada Council. Time: 4:00 p.m. No admission charge.
- **PAULINE JULIEN** **MONDAY, MARCH 15**
● Famed Quebec singer brings a unique presentation of songs for our time. Time: 8:30 p.m. Admission: \$2.50.
- **ALANIS OBOMSAWIN / NATIONAL BALLET** **TUESDAY, MARCH 16**
● Songs of the Algonkian tribes of Eastern Canada, plus the National Ballet Company's Prologue to the Performing Arts: a pot-pourri of Canadian dance. Time: 8:00 p.m. Admission: \$1.00.
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● Sinbad and the Mermaid, a production of the Seneca College Children's Theatre, directed by Tom Crothers. Six performances over three days. Times: 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Admission: Adults \$1.00, Children 75¢.
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- **TWO ONE-ACT PLAYS** **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7**
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CANADIANS AND THE WAR IN VIETNAM

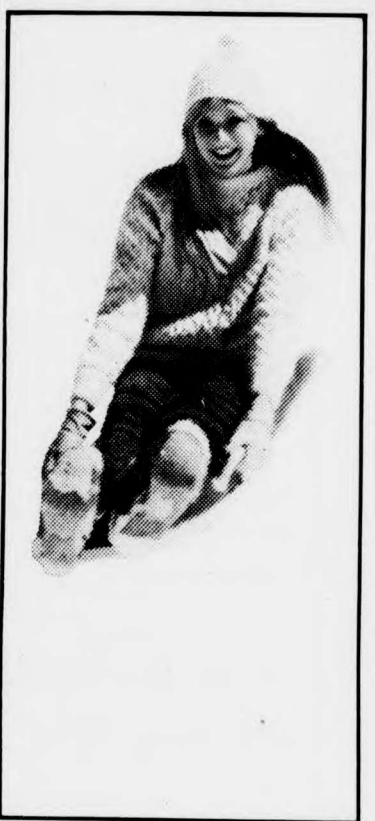
"We are being asked to believe that the government of Canada's display of compassion over the plight of the Vietnamese people is genuine, at the same time that we read that Canada is the largest supplier of war material to the U.S.A. arsenal, used to decimate this population. . . at the same time that Canadian oil companies are drilling off-shore in Vietnam waters. . . at the same time that it prohibits the in-camera investigation of Brig. Ketcheson's admission that as a Canadian member of the I.C.C. in Saigon he personally had handed information to the C.I.A., adding that the External Affairs Department "knew officially and looked the other way"."

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