

Departmental organizing should ease student demands

The following is an excerpt from an article by Ted Richmond of the Secretariat of the Canadian Union of Students.

It is by now clear in the student movement that our demands for democracy must be made on all levels — from breaking the corporate control of the Board to freeing the student in the classroom situation. The latter requires some sort of departmental organizing, around which students can discuss their immediate frustrations and needs in the university, and act immediately for change. Departmental organizing for several reasons should be our immediate priority:

First, it allows one to organize students around their immediate frustrations with education — crowded classes, boring or authoritarian professors, dull courses, compulsory courses, etc. In addition the pressure of sympathetic faculty in a particular department will make the organizing relatively easy.

Secondly, departmental organizing allows one to confront faculty over their real power over students — status, discipline, grades, exams — at a low level of power (the individual depart-

ment, not the Senate or Board). At this stage it is probably necessary to keep faculty as very strong allies against the administration — for students and faculty on the macro-level to work for common demands. (This depends on the relative advancement of the campus, and on the faculty themselves, of course.)

Thirdly, departmental organizing allows one to immediately tackle the all-important problems

of course content and ideology.

What should be the method of organizing? I think the Simon Fraser model — the PSA (Political Science, Sociology and Anthropology) Department Student Power report — is as good as any we have now. The individual department meets to form a general union; then faculty and students organize separately. They each discuss and formulate their demands, and meet again

with a mutual veto over each other's proposals.

This form of organization emphasizes the essential point — **the absolute equality of students with faculty in decision-making.** At first the demands around which one organizes may be minimal — abolishing TV-teaching, smaller lectures, etc. But in the long run they must be comprehensive — students must debate and control with the faculty,

course content, grades and exams, lecture size and style, hiring of faculty and staff.

For a campus with students seriously interested in organizing, but with no immediate issues, departmental unionization can be the basis for debate and change over fundamental issues of student equality, university democracy, and content and purpose of university education.

YSC says vote and buy Zzardvark too

The New Year is in, and with it come such wonderful festivities as Winter Carnival (Jan. 22-25) and the YSC elections early in February.

We, of course have a certain interest in your council, and so I would encourage all to give some time to a consideration of what type of representation you want. If you don't like this year's group, don't merely criticize it, demand statements from candidates as to the type of government they favour, and the attitudes they will adopt. Your council has achieved a great deal this year, and its' mode of operation deserves your consideration.

By all means become a candidate yourself, if you choose, or run for a college position. This community can only derive benefit from increased student awareness and involvement.

"Zzardvark" — York's Student Faculty Directory — is now on sale. This year, the directory contains the names, addresses and phone numbers of all York and Glendon undergrads, all graduate and Osgood Hall Law Students, and, for the first time, the HOME addresses and HOME and office telephone numbers of all York, Glendon and Osgood faculty members.

Zzaedvark is available for a mere pittance at the York Student Agencies (Founders College, across from the coffee house), the York Student Council office (room A-11, Temporary Office Building), from the Glendon College Council, or through the Osgood Legal and Lit society. Get one!!!
The Speaker

Of toffee taxes yachts and things

LONDON (UPI) The high court ruled Friday that a toffee apple on a stick was a fruit and not a candy and that the tax man could not collect a penny on each seven-penny sale. This means about \$96,000 in tax must be paid back to toffee apple makers.

WINCHESTER (UPI) Andrew Hesketh, 25, who was given a course in navigation while in a reform school five years ago received a suspended sentence in court Friday for stealing a yacht.



Photo: Mike Snook

"What do I know about student power? I have enough trouble just telling the time."

A view from the bottom of the pile

The View From the Bottom of the Pile — Larry Goldstein

Since the real winner of the Six-Day War was Russia, it is not surprising that now she is proposing a plan that will protect her gains in the Middle East. Because the Soviets are so good at this type of international chess match, her solution is also the only sensible one. A peacekeeping force will likely be a part of the solution and while preventing the outbreak of another war, it will also act as a sentry guarding the newly acquired Russian Mediterranean ports.

Russian interest is gaining Mediterranean naval bases goes back to Peter the Great. In the

early spring of 1967 they saw a chance to promote that idea. First they informed the Syrian Government that Israeli armies were massing in the Galilee area preparing an attack. The Syrians panicked. It is well-known that of all the Arab enemies the Israelis hate the Syrians most and would love to fight only with them. For 19 years, the Syrians sat upon the Golan Heights and shelled settlements whenever they felt like it with impunity and no real fear of retaliation.

In their panic, the Syrians called upon Egypt to do something. Levi Ashkol personally visited the Russian ambassador to Israel and invited him to inspect the area where Russian intelligence said the Israeli army was supposed to be mobilized. (After all, how big can the area be?

Given the nature of the terrain and its size it is impossible to hide a modern army there).

The Russian ambassador refused.

Nasser, responding to the Syrian plea, thought he'd rattle the sabre in the south by trying to push the UN troops around. He reasoned that as long as the Israelis could not be absolutely sure of their southern flank they wouldn't attack up north. (He was right, by the way.) Now the stage was set.

Whether Russia counted on U Thant's decision to remove the UN troops or whether that was a lucky break is not important. (I suspect the latter). If the UN hadn't removed the troops, then Russia, I am sure, was prepared to make the most of a propaganda victory. They would be the

loyal allies of the Arab world, showing that brother socialists could unite against imperialist war mongers, etc. Also, maybe Nasser would stop hanging Egyptian communists.

So the tragedy of June, 1967 came about. I believe Nasser was just as surprised as anybody when the UN pulled out. I don't believe he wanted a war but like all modern statesman in times of crisis, he got swept along on tides he could not understand or control.

After the war and their huge success the Israelis acted out the drama in a thoroughly typical way — with enormous stupidity.

They had the best part of Hussein's kingdom. Instead of using it as a lever to force Hussein toward peace, they began to cultivate the farm land and exploit

the population centres. After all, they reasoned, it was such a pity to let fertile fields go to waste. World opinion applauds the Israeli industrious spirit.

This Middle East tragicomedy is not over yet. From the beginning, based on Russia's ancient dream, the action was farcical. What need does Russia have of bases there in an age of nuclear submarines? How can the socialist block ally itself with religious dictatorships and reactionary absolute monarchies? How can the Americans talk about peace and sell weapons to both sides? How can the Israelis form an intelligent foreign policy with a concept of the Arab world that is 20 years out of date? The answer to these absurdities creates a farce from which we may all die laughing.