

Professors boycott conference in protest over gov't banning

by Keith Nickson

A conference on Canada and the Third World was abruptly cancelled two weeks ago when many Canadian scholars began a boycott motivated by the immigration department's refusal to allow Andre Gunder Frank to enter Canada and participate.

York professors Judy Hellman and John Saul nevertheless went to Queen's University in Kingston and along with other faculty and students organized a press reception and issued a statement which reads in part:

"The Canadian government's refusal to let A.G. Frank into the country . . . is a blatant violation of freedom of thought which requires the free flow of ideas and intellectuals across international boundaries. All those concerned with freedom and with Canada's role in the Third World must join in resisting it."

The symposium was planned by Queen's University's Department of Sociology and intended to focus discussion on a critical assessment of theories of development and their implications for public policy. Professor Frank, whose theories of global development have run counter to the policies of western governments, was to have been the keynote speaker, but was declared a 'security risk' by the immigration department.

Judy Hellman, who helped draft the press release admitted that "At first I thought it would be useful to hold the conference and use the occasion to discuss Frank's views

and to highlight what such exclusionary policy means for Canada, for Canadians and more specifically for Canadian-Third World relations. In the weeks before the conference, I discussed the issues with some of the other scheduled participants and eventually I came to feel it would be altogether inappropriate to carry on."

"If we did carry on" she added "we would suggest by our action that the absence of Frank was not all that important, when in fact the exclusion of Frank is a most significant act on the part of the Canadian government."

Why Frank was labelled a security risk by the immigration department is not immediately known. "It may be that Frank's outspoken criticism of American policy in Latin America has made him a security risk," suggested John Saul. "The security risk clause is used so often that it's turned on and off like a faucet. In 1974 Frank was initially prevented from taking a position at a Canadian university and after much protest the government reversed its decision but then it was too late for him to take the post."

The government must tell us why Frank is barred" Saul insisted. "If we try to speculate we are playing their game which we must not do."

Saul and Hellman along with the other professors who prepared the statement arguing for Frank's admission, are now planning to pressure the government to either reverse or explain its decision.

ereignty and integrity of Canada" and that is should "safeguard, enrich and strengthen the cultural, political, social and economic fabric of Canada". As Peter Thomson of the **Montreal Star** wrote, "The proposed changes to the CRTC are much more alarming. If regarded in an unkind light, they could be seen as a move towards making the whole communications system a massive governmental propaganda organization". One can only hope that the CBC affair is a government gamble for popularity and not the "threat" which it could conceivably be viewed as.

As Secretary of State John Roberts emphasized in a March 5 press conference, "we cannot examine the political party membership or adherence of people. To me the day that we took very significant steps to turn the CBC into a propaganda instrument of the government would be the day we would be declaring our sense of lack of confidence in our system."

(reprinted from the McGill Daily)



Bryon Johnson photo

Judy Hellman

In a phone interview with the CBC Feb. 6, the former Sir George Williams instructor said he was unable to understand why he should be considered a "security risk."

Federal minister of manpower and immigration Bud Cullen, on the same program, proclaimed his "strong" belief "in academic freedom" but said after examining information concerning Gunder-Frank he had "no alternative" but to bar his entry into Canada. Cullen refused to disclose any specific details of the case.

"The buck stops here," he said.

Gunder-Frank speculated he may have been blacklisted because of correspondence with Pierre Vallieres, prominent FLQ member and author of *White Niggers of America*. While in jail following the "October Crisis" Vallieres wrote Gunder-Frank for information on the subject of imperialism.

He also suggested his brief career as financial consultant to Chilean president Salvador Allende may have provoked the CIA to intervene in his affairs.

A letter sent to the department of immigration by the Queen's university sociology department Feb. 2 said the department has been "inconsistent" in dealing with Gunder-Frank's case through the years.

He taught at one time at Sir

George Williams, but was denied immigrant status "in the interests of security" after his participation in a 1969 faculty strike. Since that time, he has been granted entry into Canada on two occasions, although the last time, before arriving, the decision was mysteriously reversed and he has since consistently been denied admission.

Many of Gunder-Frank's books are required reading in university courses across Canada and the immigration department's refusal to allow him into the country has sparked considerable protest at Queen's.

One organizer of the conference said she believed the government is violating the Helsinki Agreement which guarantees the free flow of scholars and ideas. She said the issue represents "the tyranny of the secret list" because Gunder-Frank has been given no reason for his denied entry.

R.S. Gruneau, assistant professor of sociology and author of the letter of protest, said the whole situation "smacks of Watergate and McCarthyism" and is a "sad commentary on what Trudeau once called the Just Society".

Gruneau said students were being denied "their right" to confront a man whose writing they had studied.

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a close study of the problem posed by the relation between information and national unity. To begin with, it is inconceivable to envisage information in this perspective". He added that the best that we can hope for out of this whole thing "is a constant and sincere effort towards journalistic honesty."

It has been noted that the CBC separatist affair peculiarly coincides with the election victory of the Parti Quebecois and at a time when the Prime Minister's own personal popularity is rising due to his hard-line stance on separatism. This attack on the CBC occurred about a month before the Minister of Communications, Jeanne Sauve, unveiled the new proposed federal telecommunications legislation which would give the federal government broad powers over the now fairly independent CRTC.

In the proposed telecommunications legislation one passage states that efficient telecommunications are essential to the "sov-

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School on the April 1st weekend. The various Science Clubs were present to provide information on courses and registration to high school students. The Society also disseminated information concerning the Tuition Fee increase to students through the respective Clubs. Action may also be taken in the future in using the Science Society to lobby for improvements or modifications in the science buildings, an example of which would be to use the old Book Store in the Life Science Building for a cafeteria.

The Science Council will be active over the summer in preparation for next year, and may be contacted through Box #63 of the Biology

Department. Good luck on the exams and best wishes for the future from the Dalhousie Science Society.

Ste. Anne joins AFS

Students at College Ste-Anne in Church Point, N.S., voted March 30 to join the Atlantic Federation of Students.

All 31 students attending the general meeting of students voted to join AFS. About 200 students attend the French-language college.

Students will decide at their next general meeting on Wednesday whether to join the National Union of Students.

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