

MONTAGUE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN "CHAOS"

by Jim Hornby

The situation at Montague High School has deteriorated from one of discontent to one that a student leader describes as "complete chaos."

As it stands principal John Hughes resigned the second week in December after holding the position since the opening of the school in 1960. Students say he found it impossible to work any longer with the present school board,

many of whom had wanted to fire him in January of last year and who blamed him for what they considered a definite drop in the standard of education at MRHS in the last several years.

Vice-principal John Martin had to resign for reasons of health, and the school board appointed four teachers to act as supervisors and control the day-to-day operations of the school, as well as teaching. At present it is believed

that three vacancies in these roles have been created, with only John Yeo remaining.

Yeo had been fired as vice-principal in 1966 for "incompetence".

Students asked the teachers if they were happy under this situation and 13 out of 45 teachers — many from grade 12 — said they would not return next year. Ten of these related their decision directly to the administration

and policies of the school board.

The students, charging that they were being kept in the dark and that no leadership was being given by the Students' Council under its president Tim Ardenne, held a meeting in the gymnasium. Five hundred out of roughly eight hundred students were present. Classes were boycotted for an afternoon, for the purpose of publicity.

Their objective now is to get a new principal and vice-principal administrative, and to get the ten-member school board — one student called it a "family compact" — replaced. This could be done by having the approximately 70 district trustees elect a different board.

More action should be forthcoming as the students have a lot of support among the teachers, and in the community and districts.

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Students make demands almost



THE GREAT CADRE CONTEST!

To the person who submits to our office by next Wednesday the best 500 word essay dealing with the resemblance between this picture and your average Board of Governors meeting, we will give an autographed picture of Jim Hornby! This offer good for limited time only, so be the first on your block.

TEACH-IN ATTRACTS FEW

by Dennis MacKay

"As far as content is concerned the Teach-in was very good. I feel that we really got down to the real issue on Saturday night when we discussed what we were doing at university," said Reg Phalen, chairman of the Education Committee at UPEI.

The teach-in which was held last weekend attracted people from Fredericton and Halifax, but very few people from UPEI. At times there were more people from off the Island than there were people from the Island.

Barb Cameron, a student from Ontario, addressed the meeting on Friday night. She dealt with the development of university curriculum. The next topic on the agenda was a discussion of the present role of the university, with particular reference to the problems faced on PEI. Acting were: source people in this were: Dave Black, Economics lec-

turer at Brock; Peter Warrian, past president of the Canadian Union of Students; Sister Catherine Wallace, President of Mt. St. Vincent University and Gordon Bennett, Minister of Education for PEI.

On Saturday morning Gene Chatterton, from the Dept. of Development and Roy Atkinson, President of the National Farmers Union led a discussion on the University and the development of the Island. Atkinson was asked, how to stop companies from bringing in potatoes from outside the province, thus undercutting the price determined by a strong farmers union. He replied that if they are taking them across by boat then what you do is sink the boat.

Saturday night could perhaps be called the high-lite of the conference. Ron Baker, president of UPEI and Cyril Levitt, a student from Waterloo University started by discussing the Ideology

of the University. Levitt was half way through his discussion when he said he could not go on in this "academic bullshit" manner that he was criticizing. Dave Black then got up and put a quarter in the Juke Box. A very heated argument followed with Reshard Gool of the Political Science Dept. at UPEI, at one time challenging Levitt to a fist fight. Bob D'amatteo in a rebuttal to a statement made by Gool said that those present should start discussing in concrete terms the power wielded by Baker, "That --- up there,". D'amatteo then went on to say, "You first have to deal with who has the Power. You students have token representation on the Senate, but what do your reps do? they suck ass."

The teach-in ended on Sunday afternoon with John Smith discussing the new curriculum he has drawn up and presented to the Committee on Curriculum.

MONDAY Students at Board of Governors meeting are told that:

- (a) tuition increase can not reasonably be recalled.
- (b) that the quality of education at UPEI is quite good.
- (c) that some aid system should be instituted for needy students.
- (d) that the UPEISU will have to work through the Post-Secondary Commission.

The students present decided to mobilize with a class boycott and demonstration at the Provincial Administrative Building.

TUESDAY Meeting in Malpeque Coffee Shoppe did not start until Keaveny arrived about 45 minutes late. Baker, Duffy and Smith stated administration views. Students psyched themselves into a march on the Administrative Building. Around one the third floor Department of Education offices were packed with students and a smaller group were camped outside Campbells office on the 5th floor. Some students met in Bennetts office with Campbell and Bennett. At 3:05 p.m. Bennett asked (again) that students leave his office so things could get back to "normal". Students refused so Corporal Edward Furey of the RCMP informed those in Bennetts office that "all necessary action" would be taken to remove anyone who did not leave voluntarily. The 25 students decided finally to leave.

A body of about 100 students gathered in the secretarial pool. Again Furey informed that charges would be laid and students jailed if they did not leave. About 7 plain clothes RCMP Officers and a couple of Charlottetown policemen were present. Students debated the issue internally but in front of cameraman and reporters from the Guardian, the Journal Pioneer, CFCY, CBC and CBCT. A hard core of 10-15 who wanted to stay was reduced to 4 or 5 although maybe 50 curious were also present. At about 4:35 it was decided that it was worthless to martyr themselves for such an uncommitted group and the exodus from the building began. Some papers were disarranged and some debris was left although students leaving Bennetts office carefully picked up their debris (contrary to the report in the next mornings "Guardian").

A meeting of the activists in Duffy Amphitheatre that night resulted in students deciding to boycott another day. Students displayed the aimless pliability for which they are becoming famous — many were not sure whether the boycott should be for the bursary or the bursary and a freeze on tuition. Among the dissenters (who seemed inhibited from expressing concrete opposition) was Ombudsman J. Alan Doucette who took this opportunity to resign his position because he didn't agree with the "student structure".

WEDNESDAY Students picketed both campuses with varying degrees of success. Approximately 35% attendance at classes on the average, although the majority who did not go were not interested in active involvement (e.g. picketing). There was little or no dialogue between those who boycotted and those who didn't.

At 2:30 President R. J. Baker hosted local news media in his office for a press conference. He said he wanted to communicate to the people of the Island his feelings. He felt that UPEI was having some of the internal trouble because in a new university "Everyone thinks that everything is up for grabs." He repeated his opinion that tuition could not remain the same and gave reasons, notably the high cost of ancillary services. He said he thought students would have demonstrated back in October when the raise was first passed, rather than now. His support for a bursary system based on the NB/NS plan was reiterated.

A student meeting of about 250 at Duffy that night voted to end the boycott, feeling that "no more can be done at this time."