

THE MARILET

Student boycott averted Taylor speaks Wednesday

By BOB McMILLAN

A boycott of classes was avoided yesterday by an almost unanimous vote of 1200 students at an AMS general meeting.

The decision was made in the light of an eleventh hour plea to University President Dr. Malcolm G. Taylor.

Dr. Taylor, after a meeting with a joint faculty-student delegation, shortly before noon Tuesday, agreed to call a joint faculties meeting next Tuesday to mediate the dispute and said that he would address the student body on the outcome of the discussions on Wednesday.

Members of the joint student-faculty delegation were Paul Williamson and Stephen Bigsby, both past presidents of the AMS and Professor Tony Emery and Dr. Peter Smith.

The general meeting of the AMS was called for last week to decide on cohesive student action against the alleged violation of academic freedom at Uvic.

Paul Williamson, told the students at the meeting that Dr. Taylor has consented to release the pertinent facts concerning the dismissals to the faculty meeting. Williamson urged all faculty members, for the sake of the university, to attend.

Calling the general meeting "the most serious meeting since we became a university" Williamson said he was not prepared to accept the kind of situation where decisions affecting the future of the university are based on rumour.

"We told Dr. Taylor that if he could give us something to hang onto we would back him up. We asked him specifically to call a meeting of joint faculties to which the majority of faculty would go, and where all facts pertinent to this case could be reported," said Williamson. We then asked him to come before the students and explain to them the decision of the joint faculty.

"What we must do now is to show clearly that we are placing our faith in the faculty and placing our faith in Dr. Taylor."

Williamson then quoted Dr. Richard Powers who on hearing Taylor's decision said, "beautiful, I will support everything to bring this information out."

Stephen Bigsby seconded Williamson's motion. He said that the faculty will have to make a decision on Tuesday which will affect the university for years to come. He added that the is-

"We must stand by Dr. Taylor and the joint faculties in the hope that they will clear this atmosphere of fear," said Bigsby.

He announced that the Canadian Association of University Teachers report on the dismissals of Dr. Charles Tarlton would be released in Ottawa Monday and would be here for consideration on Tuesday.

Dave McLean said that minutes before the mass meeting the executive of the student council had ratified the motion supporting Dr. Taylor and decide that it should take priority over the boycott decision, made at Monday night's council meeting.

Paul Williamson said that he did not apologize for any statements he made publicly over the last two months concerning the dismissals. He felt now that conflict between liberal and conservative elements on campus was now in the open. He hoped it could be resolved.

Bigsby said that in the controversy students could classify themselves as being moderates.

Some dissention occurred when a question from the floor challenged the motion as not being realistic. "We are expecting some earth-shaking decision," said a student, "Is there not a danger that Dr. Taylor is going to come and say nothing at all."

The two motions passed at the meeting included one supporting Dr. Taylor in his decision to hold a Joint Faculties meeting and commenting on his decision to bring the results to the students. Another motion made by Nan Elliott and seconded by Frank Frketch AMS vice-president, condemned the action taken by the administration concerning the issues and in particular the actions of Dean of Arts and Science Dr. Alex Wood.



—ROBIN CLARK PHOTO

Tarlton, Bush, Powers, and Heron listen to the student motions.

Motions arising from General Meeting

MOTION: WILLIAMSON/BIGSBY

Whereas the President of the University has called a special meeting of Joint Faculties for Tuesday, April 4, to hold a free and open discussion of the current controversy regarding academic freedom at the University; And Whereas President Taylor has agreed to address a General Meeting of the student body on Wednesday, April 5, concerning the results of meetings of the Joint Faculties;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:

1. That this meeting go on record as supporting Dr. Taylor's action to provide a forum for discussion and full access to all information to all members of faculty.
2. That this meeting commends Dr. Taylor's decision to report the deliberations of Joint Faculties to the student body on April 5.
3. That we, the students of the University of Victoria, reaffirm our belief in toleration of diversity and a democratic assessment of faculty members on academic grounds only by their peers.

MOTION: ELLIOTT/FRKETICH

Whereas the decision of the administration of

the University of Victoria to terminate the contracts of Professors Tarlton, Schwartz and Mackenzie on non-academic grounds constitutes a gross repudiation of academic freedom; And Whereas the threats of resignation made to the Dean of Arts and Science by certain faculty members represents coercion irreconcilable with the concept of an academic community;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:

1. That we, the students of the University of Victoria, deplore the fact that the Dean of Arts and Science would yield to secretive threats of resignation.
2. That we, the students of the University of Victoria, deplore the fact that both the Dean of Arts and Science and the Dean of Student Affairs in private conversations with groups of students, by implication, impugned the characters of professors whose contracts have not been renewed.
3. That we, the students of the University of Victoria, express our lack of confidence in the actions of the Dean of Arts and Science.

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University of Victoria

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Support

The AMS general meeting yesterday demonstrated once again that students accept and support university President Dr. Malcolm G. Taylor.

Despite the runaround and indecisive action taken by the President over the last two months, concerning the dismissal controversy, students rallied to the sign of a responsible stand, championed by Dr. Taylor.

This support comes at a time of disillusionment. Releases to the press concerning pressure tactics being successful against the president showed his reluctance to defy lower members on his faculty.

It is further to his credit that students will accept promises at a time when action seemed the keynote. With exams and subsequent reunion around the corner an acceptance by students of Taylor's word, trust and faith should prove to the sceptics the sincerity of Uvic students in accepting a mature method of decision.

Faculty responsibility

Responsibility now rests with the faculty of the University of Victoria to reconcile the dismissals of Schwartz, Tarlton and Mackenzie.

The machinery has been put in motion with President Taylor's assurance that he will hold a joint faculties meeting next Tuesday.

Issues will be aired. The facts will be on the table for each member to decide openly and rationally a subject more worrisome to himself than to students.

Each and everyone by the responsibility contained in his position owes a debt to the students and to the dismissed professors to clear the rumor-coated air surrounding the action taken in these dismissals.

It is hoped that, if not all, a large percentage of our more than 300 faculty will attend the meeting. Questions and answers will be echoed in the arena where they belong — within the faculty, the community of scholars of this University.

The students of Uvic have demonstrated their responsibility. Now the faculty must do the same.

Ineffective

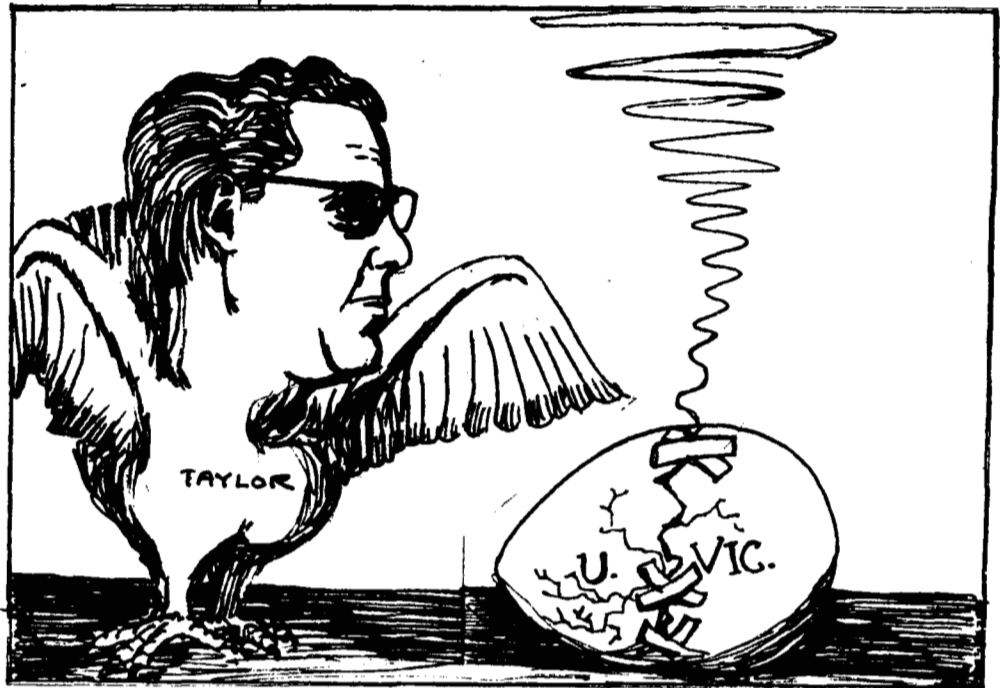
The new council has held office for little over two weeks but ineffectiveness on the part of the council president was shown at the meeting yesterday.

Dave McLean showed hesitance and a lack of communication with the students on an issue vital to this campus. Nothing was taken from the lessons of old politician, Paul Williamson or his successor Stephen Bigsby.

McLean was chairman of the general meeting and as an elected representative of the students he has an obligation to convey ideas and interpretations to the students.

As well as relating instances and developments up to the present time concerning the faculty crisis, Williamson and Bigsby outlined student policy, answered questions from the floor, and conducted the mood and response of the meeting.

McLean is potentially an able leader. All he needs is confidence in himself and a subsequent reliance in himself so that he can carry out his presidential duties without aid and abatement from past presidents.



Letters to the Editor

Graduates legit

Sir:

The Graduate Student Society of the University of Victoria views with growing dismay the recent controversy over the dismissal of three faculty members from the University. While we recognize the right of the administration to make decisions concerning the renewal of contracts without consulting the student body, we believe that the only legitimate reasons for not re-hiring faculty members should be academic ones. The abilities of each person as a teacher and a scholar should not be overshadowed by considerations of personality even when the individual is disruptive or critical of the university.

On the other hand, the graduate students do not intend to participate in any boycott of classes by the undergraduates. Although we sympathize with the obvious frustration of the Alma Mater Society, we do not support the protest of this sort serves any useful purpose.

The Executive
Graduate Student Society

they didn't want to inconvenience the public during Open House, why inconvenience the students the rest of the time. If the bars were gone the students would be more willing to pack their bags, cases, and umbrellas into the library. Unconsidered was the fact that the bars must certainly be awkward for the handicapped students of the university. Of course a few students would sneak out the wrong way, but they would be excuseless if caught with an unchecked out book. Let's face it, students will resist force and inconvenience, so if the library wants their co-operation, they will have to make the check and turnstile system as convenient as possible.

K. Langley,
2nd Arts and Science

Jelly fish

Sir:

In my last letter I took to task the Education Faculty for their aggressive reticence in expediting the Academic guidebook. However, if the guidebook fails (and fail it must) in evaluating the redundancy and irrelevancy of many of the education courses, it will be due to the egocentric, spineless and rabbit-minded thinking indulged in by the majority of education students.

After listening for an entire year to endless tirades against certain ill-defined and time wasting courses, I watched open-mouthed as my class apathetically voted down the first clear-cut opportunity to articulate their objections by filling out the evaluations. Reasons for the refusal were:

"We don't have to worry. We're finished the courses."

"The forms are too long."

"There's no sense making trouble now."

"I won't do any good anyway."

It have often heard education students referred to as "Mickey Mouses" today the term acquired new meaning for me. Us "jelly fish" are going to get your children.

2nd year Education type

Two-sided peaceniks

Sir:

On reading the "Too Far" section of last week's editorial, I felt impelled, with all the force of moral indignation, to offer a couple of criticisms. It is correct that, as only three of the ten speakers represented a war-supporting viewpoint, the Vietnam Seminar was, to a certain extent, slanted. It is correct, also, that the greater part of questions from the floor came from people who oppose the war.

This, however, does not indicate that "the peaceniks are just as one sided in their views as the war hawks". It shows, rather, that, while more invitations to speak were sent to war-supporters than to war-opponents, far few speakers from the former camp accepted; and that, while publicity was spread the length and breadth of Victoria, the people who attended the seminar were for the most part, people committed to an anti-war viewpoint.

To conclude, as you apparently did, that the lack of war supporters in attendance meant that those "peaceniks" present were one-sided and narrow in their views hints at an amazing degree of simplemindedness.

Sincerely,
Rob Gage,
Arts and Science IV

Crap

Sir:

Re: Last week's remark about "communist" Vietnam Literature.

It is the not-too-uncommon practice, in some unlearned and unsophisticated sectors of society, to confuse the term "peace-oriented" with that of "communist". One would not, however, expect such crap from the pen of a university newspaper editor.

Disgustedly,
Sue Fawcett
Arts IV

Cut the trimmings

Sir:

One notices the "Quiet" signs about the library. They don't seem to be working properly, especially on the third floor where numerous frosh and senior students gather in chatter, with apparent lack of interest in their studies. In the reference room however, the librarians make most of the noise, especially a bald headed one.

The book-checking procedure no doubt has stopped much mis-use of books but it has become increasingly apparent that the person in charge has very expensive tastes. In the bookstore one notices a turnstile much easier to walk through, simpler in design, obviously costing a fraction of the library's, and which could easily have been adapted to one-way flow. As to teak and marble, they may be in fashion but I don't want them if their cost increases my fees. The beautiful chrome and teak barrier, undoubtedly erected to replace a \$1.95 rope, isn't of the utmost necessity. What is the use of having a highly educated library staff if it lacks common sense, ingenuity, and insight in solving problems, along with apparent lack of respect for other people's money. Despite all they have done it still remains possible for a student to remove 200 books per week past the checker's inquiring nose.

Just what is the library doing to restore the book storing area for the students? On rainy days the situation is almost impossible when large numbers of people leave their books in the doorway rather than blunder through the turnstiles. Why don't they remove its bars permanently. If

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