

George Drohomirecki photo

Hippogrith is a non-capitalistic enterprise

by Darryl Gregorash

It isn't often that two people can succeed in operating outside the system while still maintaining the necessary ties with it. But Neil and Denyse have done just that.

From their little store called Hippogriff at 10642-101 St. they manage to keep themselves busy "selling neat things" such as posters, beads, Indian goods and jewellery on a cash only basis. They don't want or try to rip anybody off so their prices often undercut some of the large department stores.

No plastic--Neil and Denyse don't believe in it. But they will take handicrafts on consignment if the quality is good. While they love antiques, they don't sell any--the entire place is decorated with the stuff, though.

Between trying to attend classes here at U of A, Neil and Denyse attempt to keep Hippogriff open six days a week from about 10 am to 6pm. This is possible because all their friends want to help. Neil says that this is his biggest problem--trying to co-ordinate the efforts of about ten people. All of them are working not for the money (no pay because the money's barely enough for two) but because they just want to work there.

Hippogriff was opened about two years ago by a "chick who didn't want to depend on the system"--which was also Neil's reason for buying the place. She's now living in a cabin, away from the rest of the world, on Lake Kootenay. He's paying off the loan he took to buy Hippogriff. When that hassle is finished, Neil and Denyse too will be able to live the way they want.

They get the idea that the older people consider them quaint, the younger ones think they hippies. But Denyse finds her customers fun. All sorts of people have come in to buy

something or just to look around--from six-year old kids to nuns and priests. Most of them are quite nice.

In fact, the neighboring merchants don't complain at all, the police once looked around and promptly left, and only once did anyone come in looking for an argument. He left with a smile on his face.

In case you're wondering, the name Hippogriff means a winged horse. If you remember your mythology, Pegasus was just that--he was a Hippogriff. The sign above the door tells the story; the people inside will show it to you. --Gregorash

STUDENT LEGAL AID

A student's first reaction when confronted with the law is to panic, due to a lack of knowledge as to what he can do.

To help people face legal hassles a group of U of A law students formed Student Legal Aid. The campus office located in SUB 272 is open Monday through Thursday from 6-9:30 p.m. and the phone number is 432-5329.

Legal Aid attempts to "help people to help themselves" on matters not handled in a regular court. The bulk of the cases are landlord-tenant disputes although advice on drug offenses, domestic problems, traffic violations, and

immigration problems is also given. All the advice follows legal procedures and students follow all legal channels. The group consists of 70 law students backed up by 20 lawyers, individual members of the law faculty and members of the city law society who advise on more difficult matters.

Student Legal Aid began as a community self-help project in the Boyle street area in 1968. A \$10,000 Opportunities For Youth grant from the federal government this summer allowed the project to maintain the Jasper Place and Fort Saskatchewan locations during the winter.

CANADIAN UNDERWRITERS ASSOCIATION UP INSURANCE RATES

OTTAWA(CUP)--Fire insurance companies, trying to safeguard against insurance losses due to vandalism, bombings and riots by students militants, have found a way to cut costs--by imposing fire insurance deductibles and riot premiums on university administrators wishing insurance protection.

Roy Elms, of the Canadian Underwriters Association, the largest organization of fire insurance companies in Canada, says that the use of deductibles and riot premiums will "Encourage university officials to accept more responsibility in controlling losses at the source."

What this means, within the political and economic framework of Canadian universities, is that big business, through insurance economics, can gain some control of university politics by making student radicalism too expensive a cross for the universities to bear. The Canadian Underwriters

Association (CUA) are increasing university vandalism and riot insurance rates by as much as 100 per cent, while also imposing deductible amounts of up to \$50,000 per claim on university building fire losses.

How do the insurance companies justify this rate increase? By citing examples:

- the growing record of student unrest at the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser, University of Windsor, and Sir George Williams.
- bomb damage at McGill, Loyola, and St. Francis Xavier recently.

- Radical and inflammatory speeches made on university campuses (operating on the theory that all serious student demonstrations can be directly related to the actions of one rabble rouser.)


University insurance buyers, the ones being penalized under the new system, feel that the

insurance companies are overreacting to a few isolated incidents and are being overly influenced by recent insurance policies adopted by American university insurers.

Two years ago, however, those same university administrations reacted to the Sir George incident and other relatively minor radical actions to attempt to impose on students highly restrictive disciplinary policies (notably at the University of Saskatchewan and in Ontario by the Committee of Presidents of Universities of Ontario). Those policies were designed with heavy reliance on similar documents drawn by American administrators after heavy damage and major demonstrations on many American campuses.

Universities have always been easy marks for the insurance sharks, and Canadian universities

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BILLY JACK

*A violent man and a gentle woman who made the mistake of trying to care for other people.

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