

says Sellar, we do a lot of scalping from papers like the Toronto Globe and Mail and local Ottawa papers.

"The scalping is done because if we leave the office we will lose valuable time that we need in order to turn out a lot of good copy," claims Sellar.

"We avoid using long distance because it costs us a lot of money to get stories by telephone," he added.

"Our stories are incomplete largely because we don't have the proper resources. Some of our correspondents don't write very well either but, . . .

"We run a hit and run sort of news service," said Sellar.

Sellar sees student newspapers as "not particularly responsible".

He points to one campus paper that wrote an editorial on the Stephen Truscott trial. The editorial criticized the judges of the Supreme Court of Canada accusing them of not listening to evidence and of having arrived at a decision before hearing the trial.

"This shows a lack of responsibility, not a malicious lack of responsibility, but a lack of responsibility as a result of ignorance. But again, ignorance of the law is no excuse," Sellar pointed out.

"We want a better looking, better produced, better written finished product. I'm tired of reading a paper that doesn't look beyond its own campus and refuses to give its readers a national view of Canadian students," adds Sellar.

But in spite of the lack of communication and co-operation from student newspapers, both Sellar and Rust contend the problem is primarily organizational.

"We need the organization to get students to become good student journalists within ten or fifteen years," says Rust.

Sheila Ballard

... go from here?

"I'm hoping that in five years we will have a national conference at which we can come to grips with the latest trends in journalism—a national conference that won't be dominated by constitutional or procedural wrangling—a national conference that will start moving toward being a national seminar of student journalists," said Sellar.

"The newspaper game is changing. Television, for instance, is causing the newspaperman to take a serious look at himself—at what he is doing and how he is doing it.



BARRY RUST
... CUP national secretary

"Professor Eric Harrison, executive assistant to the president of Acadia University told me 'it would be worth \$1,000 yearly to the administrations of universities to have more responsible student newspapers—a way in which all of us could say what we wanted and have it printed.'"

"I would like to see campus newspapers serving the whole academic community, not just the students," says Sellar.

In addressing the western regional conference Rust spoke of the dedication that has led to this new concern for CUP and its member papers.

"When you elected him, your national president told you we were producing poor newspapers and promised only that he would work to improve them.

"I want to tell you that he has worked. I do not believe you could ask for, or find a better national president for this stage of our development.

"He has worked unceasingly, ten to 16 hours a day—not five or six but often seven days a week. He has not taken a day off since September 1.

He needs your support more than ever now," Rust concluded.

There are several ways editors of student newspapers and their staff can aid the drive for improved CUP services. Sellar and Rust suggest the papers forward page proofs so the national office gets the papers' copy the day the papers come out. Photo editors could aid the photo service by sending extra prints to the national office as soon as possible after a story breaks. Then of course there is always money and the national office needs a lot of money to provide the kind of service Sellar thinks its member papers should be getting.

Cleaning our own house

I could spend my allotted five minutes bringing fraternal greetings to you from the national office of CUP, but this wouldn't help you to digest your lunch or promote much thought about our national organization.

I hope you have read the annual report. It was written in the hope that we could begin the year with some understanding of our problems. You are as aware of these as much as I.

CUP continues to suffer from an inadequate budget, a lack of co-operation among our member newspapers and a dearth of communication with the national office.

On top of this, we are now attempting to unravel the past two years in which no financial records were kept and therefore no audits made.

If you aren't aware of these problems, you are guilty of not going to the trouble of finding out what the Canadian University Press is and what it can be.

INCREASED PRODUCTION

During the past three months, the national office has produced more than 200 stencils of news, features and sports copy, an increase of about 60 per cent over last year's production figures at this time.

More important than this, our national secretary, Barry Rust, can actually show you a ledger this year.

The expansion of our office staff to three persons has en-

This is the speech which started the action at Edmonton's Western Regional CUP Conference. In it, 21-year-old CUP President Don Sellar paints a bleak picture of university journalism and opens the door for a brighter future. Sellar was Gateway editor last year.

abled CUP services to expand into a photo operation, sports coverage and a house organ.

But with expansion have come new difficulties which CUP will have to grapple with in the months ahead. For example, is it possible for three national office staffers to work in a space fit for only two?

And what is CUP's role?

I don't know about you, but I believe a lot of our efforts this fall have been wasted on a lot of campus newspaper editors who are thinking provincially, editors who aren't interested in providing their readership with sufficient information about the national scene.

What I'm saying is quite simple.

Canadian University Press is an organization which provides up to 44 campus newspapers with fillers. Plugs. A national conference. A trophy competition.

We are definitely not a closely knit group of student journalists working toward a better student press in this country.

PAPERS IRRELEVANT

With precious few exceptions, our newspapers are irrelevant. They are badly-written, badly-laid-out excuses for newspapers.

They lack imagination, insight, spirit and fight.

They lack these qualities because the persons who produce them are reluctant to seek advice from the daily press or from their national organization, Canadian University Press.

How many of you have ever considered the idea of CUP sending a field worker around

the country offering advice and help—when advice or help are asked for?

So this is one thing which CUP could be doing. Time is too short for me to begin to mention the other useful functions which CUP could carry out.

Things like a national advertising co-operative to bring more revenue and more autonomy to your newspapers and more pages to the attention of your readers; a national office composed of staffers from all the regions of Canada (not just from The Gateway, as things now stand); a board of directors to administer a \$150,000 trust fund which would add stability to the financial aspect of CUP operations; hard-hitting, up-to-the-minute news coverage made possible by a telex service and improved printing methods on your papers, and more and better national wrap-ups on current campus issues, to name only a few.

ALL THINGS POSSIBLE

All of these things are possible, or will be possible within five years if we act now.

This is why Barry Rust and I have come to Edmonton this weekend. We want to know what you want CUP to be.

The tiny amount of mail we receive in the national office, the unanswered letters, the general breakdown in paper exchanges, just don't help us to know what you're thinking about as far as CUP is concerned.

RENT GOING UP

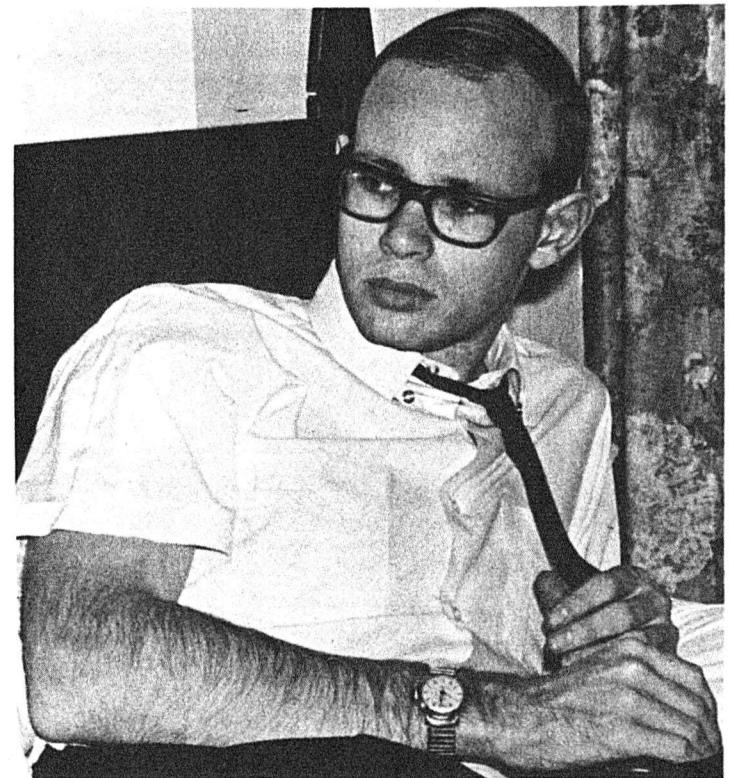
Let's start today. If we don't, I can promise you CUP will surely lapse back into a one-man office next year.

Our budget is at the breaking point.

Our office rent will go up next year no matter how many persons are working for CUP in Ottawa.

Our budget this year is slightly more than \$10,000, and staff salaries now total about 60 per cent of this. And \$6,000 doesn't go very far toward keeping three happy workers in the national office.

CUS associate secretaries make more money than any CUP staffer, yet we work up to



—Neil Driscoll photo
CUP PRESIDENT DON SELLAR
... considers the problem

The national office will soon begin working on a lengthy report which will give you workable, realistic ideas to consider at the next national conference.

We are hoping CUP services won't suffer while this report is being prepared, and I can tell you today that help is being sought in Ottawa to keep the flow of news, sports and features, as well as photos, moving freely from our office.

Our honorary president, Laurier LaPierre, has pledged his support to this project—to the extent that he will assist us to plan a radically different national conference.

He has also offered to assist us by having the working papers printed for distribution before the conference, providing, of course, the mail strike doesn't materialize.

Let's call this CUP's five-year plan. And let's start work on it during this regional meeting. I want to hear what your ideas are before we sit down to write the report.

seven days a week while they're spending five in their spacious offices.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The national conference begins Dec. 27 in Montreal. The national office will have this five-year plan ready for you, whether you are interested in it or not.

If you spend some time talking about it with Barry and me this weekend, then you will have had a share in the development of Canada's student press. If you don't, you will have played your part in breaking up the national organization which has tried to serve you by osmosis for so long.

In running for the job of president last Christmas, I told you that CUP is a two-bit organization.

It still serves the champagne tastes of editors on a beer budget, and therefore is still two-bit.

Let's begin now to make it something more.