



editorial

Secret policies for B of G 'rubber stamp'

The Housing and Food Services Committee yesterday recommended that Lister Complex rents be raised by 15%. That's a pretty big story when it's lined up with the approved rent increase at Michener Park (of 13.5% across the board) and the provincial government's "established" maximum of 10% in rent increases for next year.

But it seems there are some people on campus who want that story kept fairly quiet until it becomes fact, which, in this case, will likely follow the next Board of Governors meeting. You see, at yesterday's meeting we tried to have a *Gateway* staffer there to cover the story for our paper. Yes, we *tried*. No way.

Committee chairman Lorne Leitch refused to allow *Gateway* admission to the meeting. He told us that he made the move in order to allow "freer debate" and because he "didn't want to see the media get a hold of a recommendation before it became a policy decision." Well, that's all well and good, but it doesn't allow for much public input to the policy-making decision, does it, Lorne?

As I pointed out to professor Leitch, the Board of Governors (from whom *final* policy decisions originate) has neither the time nor the inclination to debate these matters at length - either philosophically or in detail. In this situation, the B of G is basically a rubber-stamp. Most of the particular pros and cons of an issue are brought forth at the committee level - where the time restraints are not as pressing and the people involved are more specialized in their knowledge. Which is all right. I don't disagree with that method - it works well most of the time.

What I do disagree with is the idea of closing off media coverage of the area where debate really takes place - at the committee level. It makes little sense to make public a decision after the fact. It's like telling the students - "here it is. If you don't like it, I'm afraid there's nothing you can do about it now."

And of course the administration doesn't really close off public knowledge of the debate at all. There are still student representatives on these committees (although always in firm minority) and if these student reps become dissatisfied with a particular decision, they come to the student media and relate their particular beefs. In the case of the Lister increase, I had to speak to two concerned students: Gene Borys and Ian Robinson. They gave me the student stand on the issue. Then I had to phone Lorne Leitch to obtain the administration's stand. All of which took more than double the time it would have taken us had we been able to sit in on the committee meeting and get a balanced view of the arguments for and against.

Of course, the result we publish is then very much written from the point of view of the students. Because they are basically the only people that will talk with us. If I hadn't phoned Leitch and established that we already knew what had happened at the meeting he would not have said a word.

And then we're accused of inadequate news coverage.

Kevin Gillese

This may be your last chance

Twenty years from now, many of us will reflect upon "those glorious university years" with fond thoughts ... remember Saturday night window-smashing at Dinwoodie; remember the great foregone tuition rally? How can anyone ever forget chuckling over John Savard letters, and of course the memories of lovely Alice Chalmers and poor deceased Joe Mundane will live on forever.

So why not keep your memories in print? Bound copies of *The Gateway* are going for only \$12.50 - yes friends, every issue of this year's *Gateway* can be yours in green and gold, complete with your name engraved on the front cover just to prove it.

All you have to do is contact *The Gateway* in room 282 SUB, or phone us at 432-5168. See you in the funny pages.

letters

Demonstrate!

March 22, next Monday, will be a day of vigorous defiance of Bill C-73, Trudeau's wage and price controls, right across Canada.

The militant trade unionists on Ontario and Quebec are organizing for the demonstration called by the CLC for Monday in Ottawa, with the slogan: "Every Worker Onto the Hill!"

The Alberta demonstration has been organized for 2 p.m. Monday on the Legislative grounds.

For the students this is a fine opportunity to unite with our allies, the working class, in our just struggle against the common enemy.

The working class is the only class capable of leading revolutionary struggle to victory against the U.S. imperialist domination of Canada and the Canadian monopoly capitalist class itself.

Bill C-73 is the declaration of war by Trudeau's government on the working and oppressed people of Canada, announced on Oct. 13, 1975, as its "wages and prices restraint" programme.

The opposition of this war has been immediate, universal, and wide spread. Students here are participating in this resistance movement. On Feb. 9, 1976 over 1000 of us marched out of classes to opposed the fee hikes.

Joe Morris of the CLC and Reg Basken of the Alberta Federation of Labour are trying to blunt these struggles by calling on workers to prepare for negotiations, and by disgracing the labour movement through having "talks" with Trudeau and Lougheed.

Workers and students have only this to say: Abolish Bill C-73, Fee Hikes and Educational Cutbacks! We can best say this by getting organized to Make the Rich Pay!

E.S.M. will march with its banner on Monday. We call on all militant, progressive, and democratic students to participate vigorously in this march.

Edmonton Student Movement
Student Wing of the
Community Party of Canada
(Marxist-Leninist)
P.O. Box 2764
Postal Station 'A'
Edmonton

Ag reject

Alice Chalmers is a luckier Ag student than I am.

It appears that she is one of the chosen few that has made it in the Ag Club. I am in the Agriculture Faculty and have been trying for 3 years to get into the Club. It's true, they'll take your 5 bucks at the beginning of the year, but that's as far as it goes. You are welcome to their meetings and other functions but unless you go with a friend you'll be by yourself. The Ag Club members belong to a certain "clique" and do not welcome newcomers.

If you are as lucky as Alice Chalmers and happen to be in this clique I would suspect you'd have a great time - I can't be sure though as I won't be able to meet the requirements for admission.

I know of a lot of other students in the faculty that would also like to get in on the good times, but simply are not one of the elite. Everyone has the right to be with his/her friends, but if this club professes to be one for the Agriculture students then why don't they get off their "high horses" and accept the rest of us. Isn't that what BAR NONE is supposed to mean?

Give-me-a-call-Alice
Name withheld

Dear Give,
You're always welcome at the Gateway....

Ed.

More kidnapping

I finally got up the nerve to study in the Education library last night, and I was really getting into this story about "Billy and the Butterscotch Spaceman," when this girl comes running through screaming something about being kidnapped by a train conductor or something.

Not only did she make me lose my place in that exciting adventure, but my lesson plans for next week got stuck to her boots and now they stink like hell!

Wally Waterass
Ed III

Rescue us, Joe Blogg!

An open letter to Joseph E. Blogg, Commerce hero.

Joe, where are you when we need you? Do you realize that we have a crisis on our hands here in the heart of Commerce Country? Third floor CAB is literally abuzz with shocked excitement! As you know, (or like everyone else - you don't) our undergrad society had its nominations for its executive last week and the strangest thing happened, someone actually put in a nomination for president!

No-one is really sure who this guy is, but we are pretty certain that he is not all there. A few loose bolts if you know what I mean. Anyways Joe, we have a real kook on our hands here - I mean a throwback to the looney-tunes era and we need your help to get rid of him. The men in the white coats won't even touch him, so we had to appeal to our man in the know, our hero, Joe Blogg! Please don't let us down, Joe. I mean this character could give us academically orientated, job hungry, young businesslike mercenaries a bad name by actually doing something worthwhile!

You know what a blow that could be to our image on campus.

A concerned CAB socialite

Alice abdicates

I am being forced to write this by five of the 'biggest engineers I have ever seen (they told me to say that). As you probably know, I was kidnapped last week and held captive in the Mechanical Engineering building.

Well, I tried to escape to the Agriculture building, but I slipped on a buffalo chip in the storeroom and broke my leg, so they recaptured me.

I have come to realize that Aggie's are nerds and that engineers rule the world (they told me to say that), so I have decided, of my own free will, to join the engineers.

This decision was not an easy one - it was only after they threatened my father's prize Hereford that I relented. It is with a heavy heart that I submit myself to them (well, maybe it won't be that bad).

Please say a fond farewell to all my dear friends in Flux Management 201, and tell Massey I'm returning his Roy Orbison collection - from now on I'll be belching to B.T.O.

Alice Chalmers
Ag. I

Unimpressed with Gish

In his address to an overflowing audience in SUB theatre last Monday, Dr. Gish asserted that it really *matters* whether one accepts the theory of Evolution, or on the contrary, believes, as Dr. Gish does, in the Special Creation of Man. Those who accept the evolutionary theory (most of them atheists, Gish insists) are leading us into a belief in a random universe where human beings have no dignity or significance. On the other hand, those who believe in Special Creation are safeguarding the belief in man as a creature of infinite meaning and worth. Or so Dr. Gish says.

I believe there is reason for scepticism about these claims, however. Two or three weeks ago SUB Theatre was the scene of a talk by another international speaker, Dr. Marion Gallis, a Christian economist from West Germany. She came to us almost breathless from an interview with newsmen and in a thoughtful talk analyzed some of the crucial economic forces that are the cause of widespread poverty, malnutrition, disease and famine in the developing nations. She discussed the drastic measures necessary to be taken by the developed nations in order to alleviate this immense human suffering. Her audience filled barely a third of the same theatre where Dr. Gish spoke. It

was evident that believers in Special Creation stayed away in droves. On the other hand, amongst the small numbers that attended I recognized many, both Christians and non-believers, who if questioned, would probably say they saw no reason to utterly reject the theory of Evolution.

Only last week, a group of native speakers and other long time residents of the North urged and challenged an audience in SUB theatre to realize, and try to prevent, the destruction that would almost certainly descend upon our Native peoples if development is forced into the North without their consent. Once more numbers were relatively small, and yet again, many of those who did attend were of the sort to do not think the theory of Evolution intellectually unacceptable.

If believing in the Special Creation of Man does not lead its adherents to a more decisive demonstration of concern and compassion for the world's suffering peoples then it is shown, by those who repudiate such a doctrine, then, regardless of any intellectual arguments, I refuse to be impressed by the supposed moral superiority of this belief, whatever Dr. Gish says.

Margaret V. Nelson
Education