

DRS. LEDREW ROWAND, JONES, ROONEY, BAIN,
and Associates

OPTOMETRISTS

Announce the opening of a branch of their clinical facilities for the convenience of University students and staff

in the "HUB MALL"
18922-112 St. Telephone 439-5878

**ATTENTION
JEWISH STUDENTS**

The University of Alberta Hillel
Foundation will hold a sleigh ride
and house party

SAT NOV 24th

All are to meet at the SUB Information
Desk @ 8:00 PM .

House party will commence at
10pm at the house of Dr. Bogis,
11712-83 ave.

**HUB
FLEA
MARKET**



Saturday, November 24th

12 - 6 pm HUB MALL

NOTE: For table rentals, phone John
at 487-3971 or 432-3623

STUDENT CINEMA

THIS WEEK!

**ACADEMY
AWARD
WINNER!**
Best Art Direction
Best Costume Design

A SAM SPIEGEL
FRANKLIN J
SCHAFFNER
PRODUCTION

**Nicholas
and
Alexandra**

A HORIZON FILM from COLUMBIA PICTURES
Screenplay by JAMES GOLDMAN - Directed by FRANKLIN J. SCHAFNER
Produced by SAM SPIEGEL

**FAT
CITY**

COLUMBIA PICTURES and
RASTAR PRODUCTIONS
Present
**STACY KEACH -
JEFF BRIDGES -
SUSAN TYRRELL** in
A JOHN HUSTON -
RAY STARK PRODUCTION
"FAT CITY" - Screenplay by
LEONARD GARDNER
based on his book
Produced by RAY STARK
Directed by JOHN HUSTON

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 24 & 25
SHOWS 8:30 & 9:30

FRIDAY ONLY
NOVEMBER 23
SHOWS 6:30 & 9:00

TICKETS: ADVANCE 50 cents
\$1.00 AT THE DOOR
ADVANCE TICKETS AT SUB INFO DESK

reader comment

NATIONAL UNION

The National Union of Students currently being formed in Canada is the latest in a long line of similar organizations with which the University of Alberta has come into contact. Traditionally the U of A has played a major role in the formation of these organizations, a tradition that has been carried in the formation of NUS. We have however also played a major role in their eventual dissolution, and one must wonder when we are going to catch on to the fact that they are, in the end, a waste of time.

The largest obstacle confronting this type of organization, and the one that they are usually unable to overcome, is the fact that they are based on a myth. This myth is that "all students in Canada have a common interest."

Experience has shown that in fact great differences exist between student groups in Canada. These differences are based on the different sizes, outlooks, political orientations, cultures, academic programs, and concepts of the role of the Students' Union of the various campuses. Because of these fundamental problems Quebec, the Maritimes, and Manitoba have never fully participated in national student organizations (as is the case with NUS).

A second related obstacle is that education falls under provincial jurisdiction in Canada. Anything to do with programs, degrees, housing, entrance requirements, fees, transferability, loans, discipline and most other issues of concern to students are not relevant to a national movement.

As a result national organizations deal with issues which can be divided roughly into two groups: administrative and social.

Administrative policy involves things like arranging nation-wide concert tours and running charter flights. Not only are most of these programs economic failures, there is no reason to have a national organization just for their sake. A reasonably efficient manager in one of the member unions and a little coordination could do just as good a job.

The second group of issues, the social issues, involve things like sending telegrams to Nixon, to Trudeau, to Poindeau, and supporting boycotts of grapes, of wine, of cheese, and so on. Students may be concerned about these issues, but not because they are students. Presumably if they left university tomorrow they would still be concerned about them, because these are the concerns of the student in his role as citizen, not in his role as student.

The fact that membership in most students' unions in NUS is compulsory provides the argument for leaving these issues alone - there is little justification for having compulsory membership in political organizations.

The Students' Union should concern itself only with those issues that confront the student in his role as student. The conclusion one must draw from all these arguments is that there is no need for a National Union of Students.

While the U of A has little to gain from membership in such an organization, there are some very real costs involved:

1). These organizations insist on getting involved in political issues. Usually a split will develop, and either the right or the left will drop out, depending on who gets fed up first. Thus the national union, which was never national to start with, becomes even more factional.

Because in most cases only those with some ideological cross to bear are willing to make the personal sacrifices involved in running such an organization (often the executive must delay their education a year), there is a tendency for these national groups to move to political extremes. In most cases this means that the radical left takes over and uses the union as a public forum. Regardless of the merits of their philosophy, they cannot in any way claim to represent the majority opinion at the University of Alberta.

2). Money - In spite of all intentions to the contrary, these organizations tend to build up huge, expensive bureaucracies, and have a knack for losing money on their various ventures. The large universities, like the U of A, are expected to cover most of these expenses.

3). Despite the fact that the large universities are expected to pay for the union, their participation is not effectively provided for, and is often actually resented. Partly because of the fear that the big universities will "take over", and partly because it is more "democratic", each member union is given one vote regardless of their student population.

In effect these are organizations of student organizations, not organizations of students. If the idea is to represent students, and if the big three (UBC, U of A, U of T) represent most of the students, why shouldn't they "take over"?

4). The last cost is that of being associated with the decisions of the NUS. An example is the recent call for a minimum guaranteed income of \$3,000 for all students. In the current political climate, considering the level of educational expenditures, public opinion about higher education and the level of old age pensions, this suggestion is not only impractical, it is irresponsible. It is announcements like these that confirm in certain parts of the public mind the feeling that all students are drug-using sex fiends whose only goal in life is to find a way to live on welfare and to avoid work. The University of Alberta, and students in general, would be better off without this type of publicity.

Over the past six years the University of Alberta has been involved in the Canadian Union of Students, Western Student Services, the Alberta Association of Students, and now NUS. The first three failed for the reasons outlined above, and NUS is already heading down the same road. Would it not be better to get out now before more money and manpower is wasted?

VOTE "NO" TOMORROW.
Frans Slatter
Student Rep. Board of Governors

St. Steve's

Re: Gateway, November 20th, Page 5

I very much regret that you decided to publish a letter from a gentleman by the name of Reza Ghaeli without verifying his contentions regarding St. Stephen's Residence. I should like to answer his letter:

1). I do not understand his second paragraph. "Upon my arrival in Edmonton I had no choice but to reside in St. Stephen's Residence..." He visited us to see if we could give him accommodation - if a cancellation had not come through the very morning of his visit we could not have helped him. He was shown the

accommodation and signed to say that he accepted it and, should he decide to move, he would give the management thirty-days written notice.

2). Mr. Ghaeli forfeited his deposit since he suddenly left, without prior notice, in violation of his signed contract.

3). A refund of the balance of his rent, cheque #275, dated October 5th, was given to Mr. Ghaeli on that date, when he came to see us. He refused to take it.

4). Mr. Ghaeli has spoken to the Manager, to the Secretary, to myself, to the College Principal and to the Chairman of the Board of Directors - some of us on four or five occasions. His contention of someone with a secret identity is almost amusing.

It may be of interest to you that St. Stephen's Residence, the oldest building on the University Campus was scheduled for demolition last year since it was no longer a viable enterprise. Because of its age, heritage, etc., the Child Development Centre intervened to try and preserve it, and to see if they could use part of it for their clinic, which is registered as a Charitable Organization for children in difficulties. The Centre was able to raise \$25,000 to prevent the building being torn down and, almost a year ago, began operating their clinic, at the same time offering rooms from \$1.20 per day (on a term basis) to any student who wished to remain in residence. In the last year we have had twenty-eight different nationalities in the building and almost without exception, they have been dignified and have behaved as gentlemen.

I was rather sorry to see a comment in Gateway, November 8th, in which the building was described as in "a sorry state," and - so were many students, to whom St. Steve's is their home. I can see that the Residence does not have the glitter of Lister, but it stands proudly and solidly. Perhaps it is here that I should mention that the Residence has recently acquired a grant from the Department of Culture, Youth, and Recreation, to completely repaint, plaster and remodel the first three floors of the old building and that work has already started. Maybe, within a year or so, the entire building will, once again be resplendent.

I should like to reiterate that I regret Mr. Ghaeli's irresponsible article, but, if he should read this response, I should like to invite him, once again to pick up the cheque the Manager gave him on October 5th. We were unable to send it to him since Mr. Ghaeli, every time he talks with us, refuses to give us his address. Who is it I wonder who has the "secret identity?"

Sincerely yours,
Dennis Brammer
Dean of Residence

GFC

Though publicity was limited, time was short and responses were not overwhelming, the Education Students Assoc. have been able, on their first try, to fill all the vacancies on G.F.C. that education students are entitled to fill. The Assoc would have been pleased to have been put in a position where an election was necessary. However as three nominations were all that had been received by the five o'clock deadline on Monday, the vacancies were filled by acclamation.

This is not a cause for great celebration for all candidates would have appreciated receiving a mandate from more students than those who signed their nomination papers. But no response is considered too small to be a source of satisfaction to those who are working to keep