



editorial

Call to resignation

When council decided, on sympathetic grounds, not to expel student reps who didn't attend meetings it was, for many, a blow to participatory student government. But some of the councillors who were allowed to remain on council, after promising to be good and faithful from then on, have not been content to let student government doze off into apathy.

One representative in particular, has decided to play Rip Van Winkle while seemingly refusing to give up dreams of her elected importance.

Education rep, Rita Zetson, did not attend any meetings before council threatened to expel her and even after she became aware of the situation, has not deemed it necessary to attend any since. Further, she has not shown the consideration of others unable to fulfill their obligations by resigning.

On a campus where all faculties are supposed to have the right to equal representation it seems odd that an education student does not consider her peers to be entitled to this right. The views of education students are not being heard on council as much as they should be and there has been no move to remedy this situation.

Education students should get together and demand their right to elect someone to council who will serve in their interests, not someone who is a blight on the whole faculty. There are students in the faculty who would make excellent representatives; they should have a chance to try.

Currently there are arts and science by-elections being contested on this campus. Why, Rita Zetson, is there not an education by-election?

Cathy Partridge

In support of Canadian literature

The Canadian Writers Union charges \$100.00 a year in membership fees, and, says local writer Rudy Wiebe, "that keeps out the riffraff."

The latest and perhaps most important manifestation of activity by the union was reported recently in *The Globe and Mail* when some of the union's heaviest heavies, like Margaret Lawrence, Pierre Berton, and W.O. Mitchell, began to picket a Coles Bookstore outpost.

Coles Bookstores, says the union, is ripping off Canadian writers and publishers by taking advantage of a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Wiebe explains it thus: Many Canadian writers publish American versions of their works for sale in the States. These versions are no different from those published in Canada, except that it is cheaper for Canadian writers to use American publishers for these versions, there being a tariff on Canadian books going to the States. Often more books are published than can be sold, and since the publisher does not wish to keep or read them all himself, he sells them to whoever buys them. Bulk. Cheap. Enterprising hucksters then can buy these excess books and in turn sell, in many cases, to Coles who brings them into Canada, there being no reverse tariff at all. Great deal for the consumer and Coles, but bad luck for the writer.

There are no royalties paid on these books, and Canadian publishers, who often take the first risks on selling a new book, are undersold tremendously.

The prophecy comes about when publishers discover they can keep their per unit costs down by publishing thousands more than American markets will bear, and by breaking even on extras by allowing them to be "dumped" on Canadian markets.

Members of the union have decided not to sign books in Coles bookstores, not to buy books from Coles, and in fact just recently have picketed Coles branches.

We should support them by not buying books sold at Coles stores. We should further support them by asking the government to place a tariff of such books coming across the border.

I can't give figures on what the average Canadian writer makes (or doesn't make) on any particular work, but I feel it is well-known that competition like this cannot be easily sustained.

What do you think? What is your first inclination? Buying a book for \$7.50 when across the street its selling for \$2.00? Or when you buy books, do you think of justice for the authors?

Greg Neiman



This Hallowe'en people are being advised not to give handouts to campus trick or treaters. Police informants say a group dressed as above (like BAC students) are plotting a low-overhead candy resale monopoly that could cripple the industry as we know it.

Letters, continued

with, "how do we keep the Earth inhabitable for man in the next dozen decades?"

Space travel and the building of space vehicles can be quite exciting for a handful of engineers and astronauts. For the rest of us it is a very expensive spectator sport. If the time and energy spent at this pursuit were channeled into the study of our biosphere, to the conservation and proper use of its resources, and to improve our methods of living in it, the future of man would be more promising.

Marc Parent
Ed. IV

Don't railroad a good thing

Dear Sir:

The Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) might have bitten off more than it can chew.

According to the story printed in the last issue of *Gateway*, FAS is taking on the provincial government on no less than the inflation issue, the Adult Education Act, rent review board policies, and all on 25¢ per member student.

With regard to these points, I would like some questions answered:

1. Who played God and said that we are members? Obviously since our executive is on the executive of FAS, one could assume we have become founding fathers. But when was it decided or debated that we should be members?

2. How was the meager 25¢ per student sum struck upon. Is our present budget flexible enough to allow the extra \$500.00 expenditure without our ratification?

3. Where did all the expertise come from on the issues FAS says it is lobbying on? Good Lord, just a few weeks ago, FAS didn't even exist, and all of a sudden a paper tiger has arisen fully prepared to wrangle with the provincial government on issues the students of the province have not yet ratified

Gateway staff meetings

Are to begin on a weekly basis, open to all and sundry interested or devoted persons. Problems and criticisms of the paper will be discussed at the meetings and hopefully some solutions stumbled upon.

This is where we separate the wheat from the chaff, the weak from the strong, the wine from the vinegar. By the time we're finished we should know whether The Gateway stands with the sheep or the goats.

Bah, you say? Come to the meeting tomorrow at 11 am in the Gateway office and see what's happening. Items on this week's agenda: criticism of last two papers, Rookie Night, Staff Party, our economic plight, coffee machine, smashing the state, choosing a time for future meetings, and the ongoing battle of Molson versus Labatt's Velvet Cream.

they want to be lobbied for.

If FAS determined to go ahead and represent me, I think they should, and my thanks to them. But I should have been asked.

For all the executive knows, I might have been willing to throw in 50¢ out of my fees for FAS, or even more. We need a lobbying force, that is true, but we need one that can take the time to set up a little credibility for itself first.

Lets see a vote of solidarity for FAS. Let the students first voice their support. Then the government will listen.

Then let FAS take a while to examine things a little more thoroughly and plan things with more comprehensibility. Rome wasn't built in a day. Lets try to get solidly organised first, then take off and fight.

I don't like being told who my representatives are, even if they might be good ones. And I don't think students who haven't even told me much before now about how the plan to represent me can be totally trusted.

Featherstonenough

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