

Dear Mom And Dad

Dear Mom and Dad:

Well, here I am at the Big City!! I arrived yesterday on the train, and golly, I have never seen so many people in all my life!! I went down to "campus" (that's university talk, ha-ha) today to register, and while I was there, someone tried to sell me some grass. I can certainly see why — there's hardly any of it left on the lawns, the way they've been digging it up!! I asked him where I should plant it, but I guess that was the wrong thing to say, because his mouth dropped open about a mile, and he looked at me really funny. Anyway, he told me to smoke it, but watch out for the narx — whatever that is. I guess

there isn't too much tobacco on the campus, so they smoke the grass instead. I guess that's another reason why there's not too much left.

You should see the people here, too. Lots of the boys have long hair and dress really funny—its kind of hard for me to tell the boys from the girls, ha-ha. And, dad, if Effie Mary Ellen Louise Sue ever dressed in the funny shorts that the girls wear here, I bet you'd tan her hide good—if you could clam yourself down long enough to!! I say that because I was "turned on" (more university talk—I'm picking it up really fast) all day just from looking at the "chicks" (girls to

you, dad!!)

I ran into Harvey today, and boy was he a disgrace to the family!! He's got long hair and a beard (!!) and I saw soo-o-o ashamed of him that I didn't even talk to him. I'm sure he's turned into a Communist or something with that long hair and that beard!!!

Anyway, I'd better get going—Bobbi-Joe says there's a dance tonite at the "res" and Country Joe and the Fish are playing. Boy, it's going to be nice to hear some good old-time music again!!

Your loving son,
Albert G. Thomgirt, Jr.

Food

I have a few comments to make concerning the salary demands being made by SUB staffers. As far as the janitorial and clerical help is concerned, I feel they are entitled to better pay and working conditions. But as for the kitchen workers, I think they should all be fired immediately if not sent to jail.

At this very moment, while I am typing this letter, my innards feel as if they are being torn apart by hungry rats. This condition began moments after ingesting something called a "hot beef sandwich", which in reality was an instant tummy ache.

Barry Brummet
Drop Out 1

Socialist Supports SUB Workers

The September 9 issue of the Gateway covered most of the facts surrounding the attempts by the Students' Union executive to bust the union of SUB workers. S.U. president McKenzie's letter makes it quite clear where the S.U. executive stands regarding the Sub workers' union. A number of things are evident in McKenzie's letter. First, he tries to put students in the position of feeling victimized by the workers. This is not a new tactic for management or governments. They always try to play one part of the population against another, if the latter is organized or on strike. McKenzie addresses us though we were stock-holders in a company and the more that we

can exploit those in our employ, the better it is for us.

We as students are part of a union, despite what the McKenzie executive seems to think. We are part of a union that could be a powerful force to defend the interests of students. The prospect of one union trying to bust another is sickening, and clearly dangerous. And further, one wonders how much is being spent on lawyers and court costs in order to 'save us money' by destroying the union of SUB workers in the courts. Let there be no mistake: when McKenzie talks about "equality in size of bargaining units" what he wants is a union that is too weak to bargain effectively. It is ironic

that the U of A itself is a member of a larger union of students—the Alberta Association of Students—and was once a member of the Canadian Union of Students.

The question remains: how can we as students support local 1368 of the SUB workers as they are under the attack of the Students Council executive.

We must understand that the way to deal with people like McKenzie is not to try for back-room deals, or even to concentrate on influencing individual members of the executive. McKenzie was elected but he doesn't represent the majority of students. We must make the situation clear to the

thousands of students on this campus. We must involve them actively in a campaign in support of the SUB workers. Mass meetings must be held which involve large numbers of students in democratic decision making. We can do things like carrying a petition campaign, like holding teach-ins and speak-outs. And if McKenzie and Ness are not forced to immediately stop in their efforts to bust local 1368, we must then consider what actions we can take about the student council, who are after all supposed to be responsible to us.

Don Wiley
Young Socialists

THERE MUST BE A BETTER WAY

by David McCurdy



The Author
... tries again.

I went to Memorial University of Newfoundland for two years, and I always thought that registering at Memorial was an awful hassle. Always, that is, until Tuesday Sept. 7, 1971. On that fateful day I walked onto the campus of U of A for the first time as a student, and started the arduous process of registering.

I arrived on the campus at 8:30 a.m. (I was scheduled to start part 1 on registration at 9:15), and forthwith headed to the Mathematics dept. in the CAB to get my program form filled out and signed. This was not too much problem, but then I had to go to the second floor of the Arts building to get my form signed by none other than the Dean of Arts. What purpose this serves I don't pretend to know, but there was

no way around it, so I waited in line for half an hour or so until my turn came. Then I was notified that the signing would take an hour or so, and that I would have to come back about 11:15 or so to pick up the signed form. So with a sigh I departed, muttering a few uncomplimentary phrases under my breath.

At 11:15 sharp I returned, and after only a ten minute wait (!) was handed my completed form. Immediately I sped to the Phys Ed west gym to pick up my Permit to register, a registration procedure booklet (a fittingly copious volume) and a campus map. Then I went to Con Hall in the Arts building to get "preliminary approval" (whatever that means) for my program. There, however, I discovered, much to my dismay, that Philosophy 449, a course I had selected, was not going to be

offered this year. So I started all over again: math department, Dean of Arts Office, Con Hall, then to Part 3 - receiving class admission cards in the Physics Building. Here I met up with the bane of all students - conflict between two courses. This, of course, irritated me no end - I was irritated at myself for not having checked before (the prospect was so horrible that I had simply put it out of my mind), and I was irritated at the system for making me start all over again. By this time it was about 3:30 p.m., meaning that I had been on campus 7 hours without accomplishing a thing. So, I plod my weary way back to the Arts building again, only to be faced with an enormous lineup. At this point I gave it up for the day in complete disgust, vowing to start early on Wednesday and do it right.

There must be a better way.