

editorial

Rumor mill grinding

Its about this time of year (elections coming up) that gossip filtration experts start stoking the rumor mill. And, of course, *The Gateway* is anxiously attempting to establish strong and meaningful contacts with each one of them. If anyone has some interesting tidbit of classified information they would like to see in print would they please come up and see us?

Although it is yet early, some small piece of fleshy fat has been served up for tossing into the fire. Local political career man, Brian Mason, is getting something together for the upcoming election. Unofficially, he announced his intention to run late February of last year. But its probably taken this long to find fourteen people to nominate him. We also hear he has a slate together. Would those individuals intending to run for office with Brian please come forth and admit it?

Also buzzing with excitement is Len Zoeteman, present Ag rep. His qualifications are that he's running against Mason. Maybe.

But of far greater importance is that elections for *Gateway* editor are also coming up. From my point of view, editors have a lot more fun than politicians, but there is a drawback that executives don't have. You have to work, too. And you have to know your job.

At any rate, now is the time to begin thinking politics within the Students' Union. Nominations will be opened shortly, and if there do exist people out there who would like some action toward realising of potential in the SU they should seriously consider running.

Otherwise somebody else might get the job.

The right to be learned

Is education a right or a privilege?

I've heard members of the board of governors of this university say its a privilege. I've heard similar rumblings at senate meetings.

If education is a privilege for whom should the privilege be? The rich?

Apparently the provincial government seems to think so, and thus so does the university. Most university administrators will tell you they regard with dismay the fact that the overwhelming majority of students at university come from upper middle income stratas of society. They say its a bad thing that poor people or native people must remain uneducated because the privilege of education is not theirs.

But in its wisdom the university, with the aid of the provincial government has sought to increase this inequity. They are seeking to increase tuitions and education expenses to the student. Increasing tuitions will only serve to make universities more elite, more devoid of any modicum of a cross representation of society. As the rich become educated to a greater and greater extent than the poor in our society, what will be the outcome? France before the revolution?

I contend that university education should be free for all who have the mental capabilities to make good use of it. Society should pay the burden for what will benefit society.

When I proposed this argument to my friends I was asked to justify the obvious increase in enrollment that would result.

My argument is that there are far too few doctors, dentists, lawyers, and professional people in this society. When you have to wait two weeks for a dentist appointment there are too few dentists.

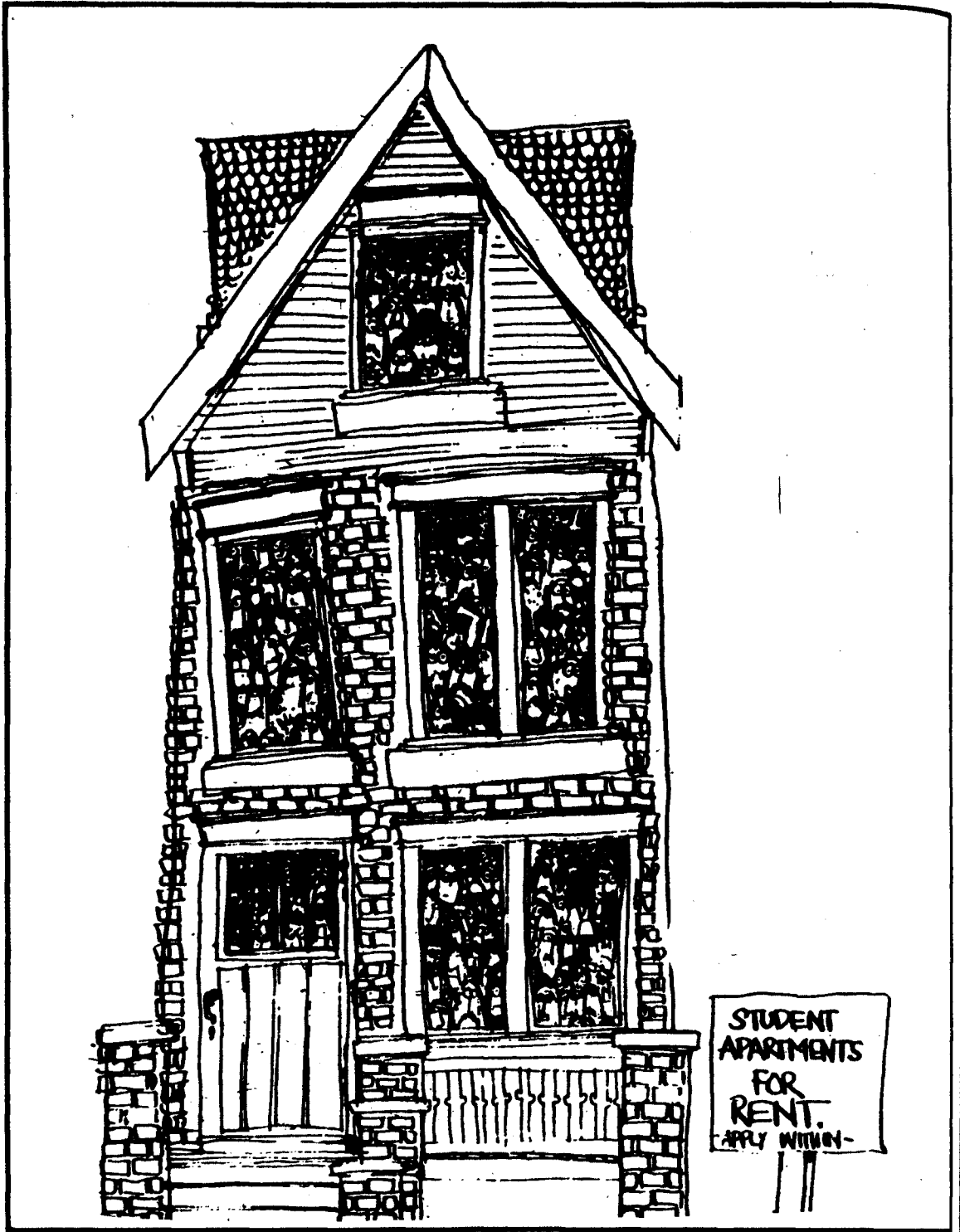
I'm asked about the obvious increase in "deadwood" at universities when there's too much of that here already.

My reply would be close to one president Gunning is fond of making: Everybody can benefit inside himself from a schooling in philosophy, in political thinking, in an appreciation for literature and the classics. If everybody could learn to understand the rich heritage that educated people have left us, the world would be a much better place to live.

Truck drivers could benefit from courses in political and economic thought just as could the child of a rich household. Farmers could benefit from courses in basic sciences and could lead richer lives if they could have an appreciation of literature and expression.

My argument is that no education is wasted therefore there is no "deadwood" at this university as long as a learning process carries on.

The provincial government, with its great amount of wealth should make education MORE accessible, not less accessible. Education is a basic human right!



Top 30 like the plague

READER COMMENT

I am happy to seek that CKSR is likely to open in the near future, as the facilities at hand in the radio station allow for excellent programming and production, and, if intelligently utilized, can provide a valuable source of service and entertainment for students. It was depressing for me, as a former staffer who loved and learned during my "stretch", to walk by the locked doors of the station for over a year. Psychologically induced intestinal disorders were manifest so I was forced to abstain from using the men's room across the hall from the station. This way, I could avoid the bittersweet epiphanies created by the imposing locks on radio's doors.

Will I be able to return to my former favourite nest on campus, and feel the same about it? This is an important question. The format and style of the station are equally, if not more, important than the problem of financing and administration. After all that has been said and done over the past year, the re-opening of the station could become a disaster if what could be termed poor programming is put into effect.

I had the opportunity of visiting the University of British Columbia student radio station over the past year, and there I witnessed what I fear could happen here. With an enviable and efficient administrative

machinery, the station could not achieve artistic quality beyond a CHED-level.

I think that a publicly owned, (or, in this case, a student-owned) radio station should provide *alternative*, and not merely competitive, programming for its audience. Rather than playing pro-radio, the leaders of CKSR will have to make the station open, accessible, informal, fun, and educational, and not stuffy, detached, bureaucratic and autocratic.

It would be impossible to find a former staffer of CKSR whose tastes in music did not develop during their time at the station. Most people's tastes are largely stagnant until they are forced to provide a few hours of varied programming a week, obligating them to look and ask about for new ideas. Equipped with an excellent library, which,

unfortunately, as time goes on is becoming increasingly obsolete, CKSR is a breeding-ground for musical growth and development.

Ask anyone who has ever worked there.

Being one of the most important functions for the staffers, this aspect of CKSR must not be ignored. Top 30 programming prevents a growth in musical appreciation, both for the staff and the listening audience, and therefore, I feel must be avoided like the plague.

So, I issue a heartfelt plea to the powers-that-be, that, upon choosing leaders, staff, and format for the station, that this point will be taken under serious consideration.

And students, don't touch that dial. CKSR is back.

Gordon Turtle
Arts III

letters

Darned directory

I am one pissed-off landlord! Ever since that darned housing directory came out, my telephone (now ripped out of the wall) and my doorbell (now recycled) were ringing and buzzing twenty-four hours per day! I let out the room two weeks ago, but just try to tell that to

1500 students looking for a place to sleep!

Why just the other evening some little foreign fellow banged on my door at four in the morning. By the time I got out of bed to answer the door I saw him running down the street. The words "racist landlord" were written (and misspelled) on my front doorstep. If this keeps up I'll never let out to a university student again. But then again, who else is willing to pay three hundred dollars a month for a cold, unfurnished second floor walkup?

Disgruntling yours,
J. Poughkeepsie