

Canadian University Press DATELINE

Thatcher still controls U of S

REGINA—The University of Saskatchewan is still fighting for its autonomy.

Saskatchewan Premier Ross Thatcher refused to reverse his stand that the university come under direct government financial control. Thatcher announced last week that the legislature would vote on several sub-budgets when the university budget is examined.

In the past the legislature voted on the operational and capital budgets of the university, the actual allotment of funds being determined by the Board of Governors.

Thatcher's proposal will mean six or seven sub-votes on the university's budget, which will cover such areas as salaries and buildings.

Other plans announced by Thatcher include the control of university building by the department of public works and the setting up of a special department for the university either independently or under the Treasury Board.

The Saskatoon faculty association told Thatcher the plan was still a threat to the university's autonomy despite his assurances to the contrary.

Professor Jim Naylor, chairman of the Saskatoon faculty association, said, "The faculty association considers the institution of sub-votes unacceptable since they would provide a formal mechanism by which the government would directly influence internal university affairs—this is the central issue."

Profs criticize campus paper

ANTIGONISH, N.S.—Two St. Francis Xavier university professors have attacked the Xaverian Weekly for irresponsibility and low moral standards.

In a bitter attack at a council meeting last week Professor J. Sears said, "The Xaverian Weekly showed no responsibility in its writing and little taste in what it printed."

He blamed the students' council for not wielding enough control over the paper, particularly in the selection of the editor.

Rev. G. Mackinnon said the paper showed "lack of moral standards coupled with a lack of respect for language with any kind of taste."

He said a better set of editors will be in next year.

Mackinnon said he didn't advocate administrative or faculty control, but he said some form of control was definitely needed.

Residence fees rise

LONDON, ONT.—A campus-wide increase in residence fees will bring fees at the University of Western Ontario to \$1,000, among the highest residence rates in Canada.

The Board of Governors said the increase was essential due to mounting operational costs, higher interest rates on mortgages, and the construction of a 1,600 unit residence which began last fall.

University president D. Carleton Williams said there are several Ontario universities with fees higher than Western's \$825 this year.

John Yokum, students' council housing committee chairman, said, "It is obvious the provincial government should step in and provide cash to at least keep our fees equal to those of other universities."

The university is trying to get a better deal from the province, but Yokum charged not enough pressure has been brought to bear, said Williams.

Student expelled after pot charge

LONDON, ONT.—A freshman at the University of Western Ontario, convicted in Magistrate's Court of possession of marijuana, has been suspended from the university.

A special session of the Board of Governors made the suspension indeterminate and in no event less than the academic year 1967-68.

A prepared statement said "the board takes this occasion to remind those who may need reminding that the illegal possession or use of drugs is not only a very serious breach of the criminal law and highly dangerous, in the opinion of every qualified medical advisor at the university; but also carries with it exposure to the penalties of suspension or dismissal from this university."

The suspension brought criticism from some campus groups. A special meeting of the faculty association was called to consider the suspension.



U of A 'student-in-the-street' survey gauges council-student communication

Who owns SUB?

The students do and most of them seem to know it.

In a recent "man in-the-street" survey to gauge council-student communication, 20 of 25 students gave the correct answer. Only three thought it belonged to the university and two didn't know.

One rather surprising result of the survey was that eight students—nearly one quarter of those interviewed—didn't know what CUS (Canadian Union of Students) stands for.

And only 16 realized that U of A no longer belongs to this union, since last year's students' council withdrew from the organization.

Not so surprising is that 84 per cent didn't care whether the U of A belongs or not. Is this because CUS never seemed to be of much value anyway? Does it reflect lack of council-student communication? Or is it just plain student apathy? Perhaps all three.

Of the four students who said they did care, three wished U of A were still part of CUS, while one would like the university to rejoin if changes were made in CUS.

TWENTY OF TWENTY-FIVE

Of the 25 students, 20 know the name of the students union president (Al Anderson), 12 knew the vice-president's name (Judy Lees) and five knew the secretary's (Val Blakely).

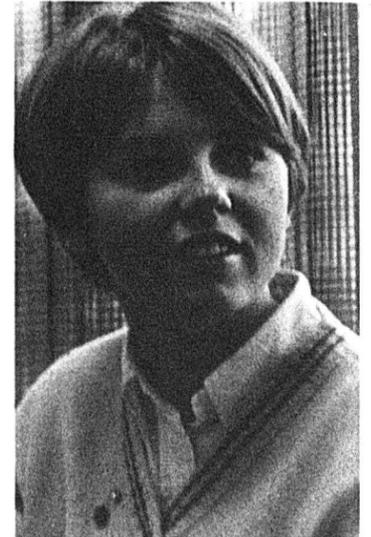
Probably even fewer would have known the vice-president if the election had not been held so recently.

Seven students knew the names of their faculty representatives and two others had seen him (or her) but couldn't remember the name.

Eight of the students had some idea of how to get hold of their reps if the need should arise.

Twenty students said they usually voted in students' union elections, although some weren't quite sure whom they were voting for.

What is the purpose of student government?



STUDENTS JOHN VANDERMEER AND ANNE KNOWLES
... part of 'informed' student body

The University Act states: "For each university there shall be a students' union to provide for the administration of the affairs of the students at the university, including the development and management of student institutions, the development and enforcement of a system of student law and the promotion of the general welfare of students consistent with the purpose of the university . . ."

"A students' council is the official medium of communication between the students of a university and the board and general faculty council . . ."

On the whole, students seem to agree with this view.

When asked what student government is for, answers such as "to communicate between students and the university," "to get across the needs of students" and "to administer student activities" were typical.

One science student could see no purpose for the council other than to organize theatre, entertainment, and sports.

One girl, a veteran of high school governments, felt that it existed mainly to give students a chance to participate in playing a government.

A commerce freshman felt that council's purposes were "to try to keep down students' fees, wonder about joining CUS and to organize new buildings and facilities."

Most students seemed to think students' council is doing what it should be doing, though most admitted that they really didn't know anything about it. An education student thought council was not dealing sufficiently with contemporary matters such as tuition and taxation. Two of those interviewed felt it should be doing something about the parking problem.

A girl in arts stated the students' council should get a pub in SUB.

Who knows, if the students could gather in a friendly pub, they might be more likely to chew the fat on such serious matters as classes, sex and even the students' union.

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