

The Gateway welcomes letters on topics of student interest. Correspondents are asked to be brief, otherwise their letters will be subject to abridgement. And correspondents, in replying to one another, should keep to the issues under discussion and abstain from personal attacks. All letters to the editor must bear the name of the writer. No pseudonyms will be published.

Exceptional circumstances apart, no letter should be more than about 300 words in length. Short letters are more likely to be published promptly—and to be read.

letters

compulsory fees - - ugh!

Once again I have been "asked" to contribute monies to the value of \$34.50 under the guise of student union fees—membership. For the third time I will receive no return.

In the past I have donated this sum graciously, feeling that I was contributing to the general welfare and "fun and games" aspect of the university; my money after all helps to build a steel and concrete students' union palace (dedicated to the placement of wayward students), develops muscles for the university athletic board (or so I gather) and makes possible the purchase of ping pong rackets, pool cues, (of a disturbingly short life expectancy) and other necessities which aid in the attainment of a higher education. As I have long known, a noble concept, this union. Why should I object now?

I object now because today at registration I became aware that a

disturbing number of people hold views similar to the ones expressed above, views which I am sure do not do justice to our fine union.

The crux of the matter probably resolves around some basic questions which should be answered, some of the ones I can think of are:

—at a university where most effort and dedication are channelled into the attempt to create educated "individuals" why is it necessary (compulsory) for everyone to be a (Ugh!) union man?

—is there any reason why those not interested in union activities and benefits should not be allowed to abstain from membership?

—is there any reason why not only people benefiting from the union should pay union fees?

—is there any reason why individual organizations and clubs could not charge membership fees to defray costs and thereby free the union from the budget burden? And finally:

—is there a reason why any student should ever be forced to accept anything which does not relate to his

individual wants, needs or academic requirements?

These are but a few questions (badly stated at that), and are probably not difficult for any dedicated unionist to answer. He must be aware however that "majority rule", "welfare state", "responsibility to your fellow man", "part of the education", "be kind to your neighbour and/or dog" etc. are concepts that can't apply to the answers. The question we are dealing with explores the existence of divine individuality at the university level.

The above questions I believe should be answered to the satisfaction of all students, for everyone at sometime or another asks the question, why do I have to be a member. The fee might be of no significance, the principle behind this whole matter is of utmost significance.

So, the gage has been thrown down, is there one who will accept it, or is "green" really unknown to the blue guitar.

N. Riebeck
arts 3

no CUS, then no council

I must strongly protest against the decision of students' council to withdraw from the CUS without reference to the student body whom they represent and were elected by. It seems to many students that council is doing the very same thing it is accusing the CUS executives of doing: namely both executives are acting in a high handed manner, ignoring the wishes of the students whom they profess to represent and bowing to the opinions and pressures of a minority.

Whether or not council was right to withdraw from CUS is immaterial, this is a question of council stepping outside their mandate. They have no right to make such a major decision without backing from the student body by means of a referendum. No assurances of a referendum next March elections over re-entry into CUS can salvage council's image of an undemocratic executive acting as they see fit regardless of student opinion or authority.

We have been presented with a

fait accompli, and are then asked to ratify or otherwise sometime in the future. Either we have an immediate referendum, or council should resign if this is an example of what we can expect in the months ahead. Otherwise student confidence in its elected leaders will be shaken, if not lost altogether. For this is certainly not student government for and by the students, but student government for and by the elected minority.

D. S. Sanderson
ed 2

re registration

While we are still exhausted, bored and frustrated by the obstacle course called registration, it may be worthwhile to consider a few suggestions for improving the procedure.

Some of these are directed to the FIW Committee:

1. Walking tours of the campus for all new students, complete with free coffee breaks, candy, sex, or whatever is required to lure them to such a time-consuming venture.
2. Many, many, many large campus map-posters (with "x" marking the spot in which each is located) and signs indicating the location

of all buildings involved in registration.

3. Complete directories inside buildings (have you ever tried to find T LB2???)

The following steps ought to be taken by 'The Administration' (whoever is responsible for the registration procedure), if it is thought that they would be useful and feasible:

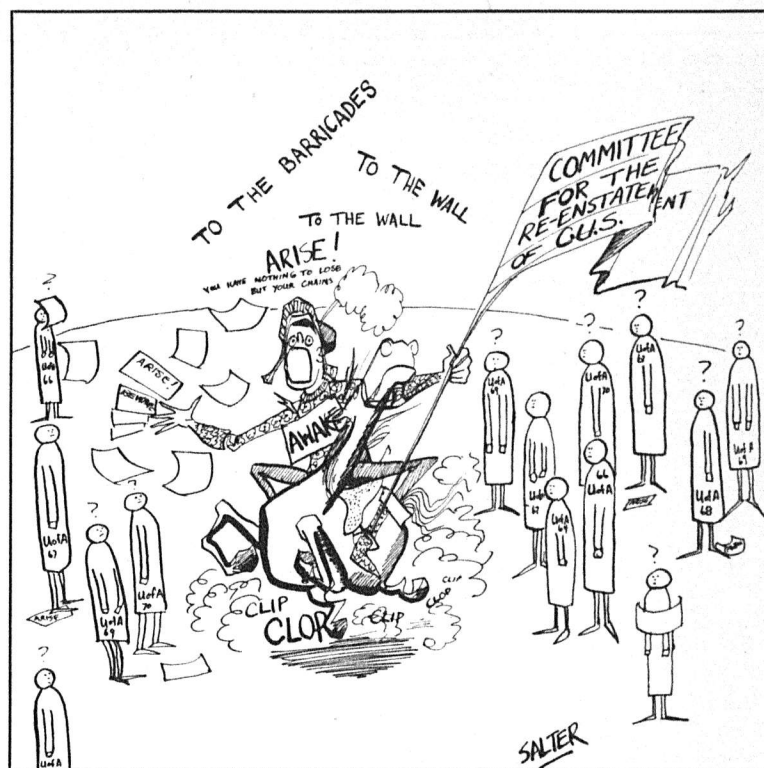
1. Early publication and distribution by mail of the registration handbook.
2. Registration by mail of those students whose programs consists largely of prescribed courses—Household Economics, for example—and of other students who are certain of their programs.

Even if the administration of re-

gistration by these means would require more time and expense of the University, it could surely be justified by the great savings in time and energy for most of the 12,000 or so students who now waste two hours or more while simply waiting in lines, and more time walking from one end of the campus to the other and back again.

There are probably many ways in which this inefficient procedure can be improved. Perhaps the students' council could appoint a committee (yes, why not another committee?) to investigate the possibilities and make suggestions to those concerned. Such a committee would probably benefit by including in its membership somebody who is at least acquainted with the computer.

Cam Burdon
arts 1



problem—find the concerned masses

UofA loses leaders role?

The following is an example of the uninformed comment across the country on U of A's withdrawal from the Canadian Union of Students. The Gateway in no way agrees with the following statements, but presents it in order to show some national student reactions to the withdrawal. The author of the article is not listed among the delegates to the 30th CUS congress, and therefore obtained all his information second hand.

by willby jarvis
(reprinted from the u of s sheaf)

A traditional leader in national student affairs did an about face last week.

The University of Alberta withdrew its membership from the Canadian Union of Students.

To hear students' union president Branny Schepanovich one would be led to believe that 11,000 students reversed interests, political attitudes and adopted a whole new sense of values in the space of five months. Can the election of one man mean that much?

It seems that Mr. Schepanovich is doing precisely what he accuses CUS of doing, claiming to represent total student opinion. The CUS national executive has never claimed to represent every student's opinion, only the majority and it has always received direction from that majority.

The national union has had an opportunity to develop consensus and move in his direction. Mr. Schepanovich had been an institution for five months. Does Mr. Schepanovich claim that the 11,000 students on his campus have made the great reverse? Has he really asked them through referendum? The answer to the last question is no, of that much we can be sure.

Judging by some of the U of A leader's statements, he sounds like a small man seeking to do something great. Ap-

parently he can dominate a weak, non-vocal students' council on his campus and arbitrarily have his own way. In his declining years he can always tell his children that when he was union president he retired from participation rather than sought to persuade and change national opinion.

Indeed he reminds one of the small boy who takes his football away from his friends because they refuse to play his rules. He will discover that CUS has another football.

According to Mr. Schepanovich CUS should restrict itself "to activity which only directly involves university and other post-secondary students in Canada." This attitude is reminiscent of Heinrich Vervoerd-lan Smith philosophy; that if one doesn't like the world situation one need only to withdraw from it. One cannot withdraw from the world. The very fact we exist imposes a participation in the world.

The importance of the U of A campus to CUS had been exaggerated by Mr. Schepanovich. "We can do without CUS . . . but can CUS do without us?" I believe CUS will prove that it can.

Whether the U of A campus can grow from a students' union point of view is not yet answered. Certainly it can "do" but is that enough? CUS is one of the few vehicles that can provide students with the ability to expand their horizons and live a fuller student life—an involved life—or as the French say, "etre engage."

If Mr. Schepanovich and his kind continue to hold sway—the Edmonton students' union will sink into a provincial, may I go even further, it will sink into a parochial mental state. The student leaders will not have access to the new ideas, services and solutions to problems that CUS provides.

If the university student is ever to gain the respect of the nation it will be by responsible participation, not by irresponsible withdrawal from it.