



—Errol Borsky photo

**B.S. IS GREAT FUN**—Building Statues that is. If your club, faculty, residence or fraternity plans to build one this year, submit your theme and the amount of snow required (truck loads) to the VGW office in SUB. Five division trophies will be awarded with a separate women's competition featured this year. Support your campus group and get in on the fun.

## 'Students can't read or write'

"Education has undergone such strange changes in recent years that we now have university students who can neither read nor write."

The above is the consensus of an article which appeared recently in the Winnipeg Tribune.

University of Manitoba student counselling services have incorporated a remedial reading clinic for students who are so weak in reading skills that they would otherwise be unable to obtain degrees.

A reading expert who conducts the classes for some 60 students said some students had passed their high school departmental exams and entered university without really reading a book.

### PROBLEM ACUTE

The U of M deems the reading problem so acute that it now carries out tests on freshman students in an attempt to analyze the extent of the remedial program needed.

Simon Fraser University in British Columbia is among several other colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada who have set up reading clinics as a "necessary" aid to students seeking degrees.

However, a number of U of M professors maintain that reading is not the only inadequacy of students.

The professors are clamoring for a writing clinic.

Preliminary work has already been carried out on the writing clinic which will probably be set up in the near future.

The clinic will likely imitate one

in Innis College at the University of Toronto. Students will be shown how to string simple, clear sentences together.

### BLAME ENGLISH COURSES

Teachers and professors blame the writing inadequacies of students on high school and university English courses which "concentrate too much on literature and not enough on composition."

"The term 'illiterate university students' would be extreme if applied to the situation of U of A and at other universities also," says Dr. A. J. B. Hough, director of U of A student counselling services.

"There are students here who might be low in one of the reading skills such as speed or comprehension."

"The catch is, however, that we would require a very large staff to correct these defects on a campus this large," he said.

Dr. Hough said the responsibility for reading training belongs to the schools, and on the average they are doing an adequate job.

"There is some reason for suspecting the reading ability of university students has improved in the last eight to ten years. This indicates some improvement in the methods of teaching reading in the schools," he said.

### LITTLE DIFFERENCE

"The average reading rates of students here are quite reasonable and not remarkably different from those shown by recent studies in the U.S.," said Dr. Hough.

At present, student counselling

has limited time, space, and knowledgeable personnel to devote to its reading program, but it does handle up to 200 students yearly with serious reading difficulties.

The reading program will be accelerated next year when it will have an exclusive room in the new students' union building.

Student counselling is considering a joint appointment for the program at that time. The appointment will consist of a student counselling expert and Dr. Dorothy Lampard of the department of educational psychology.

Student counselling has not considered yearly testing for freshmen to discover reading difficulties.

The service does not have a writing clinic but incorporates help in both reading and writing in the "How to Study Seminars" offered yearly to freshman students.

### SEMINAR SERIES

A series of three seminars on studying provides students with information on how to study for exams and how to write exams, essays and term papers.

"We encourage those who feel they have serious problems in any one area to return after the seminars for individual help," Dr. Hough said.

"In my experience, reading and writing defects are not the major cause of academic failure," he added.

Dr. Hough said students' personal problems such as concern with particular circumstances, not being sure of themselves, or lack of psychological drive are the greatest cause of academic failure.

# Province against residence subsidy

The provincial government will not subsidize university residences.

"Our stated policy is that university residences should be run on a self-supporting basis", said provincial treasurer A. O. Aalborg.

"We believe that capital and maintenance costs should be met by the rates charged to the students."

Minister of education R. H. McKinnon said, "Our hope is that they are self-supporting. The problem is that if you subsidize those students living in residence, you must subsidize those living outside of the residences".

Minister of public works F. C. Colburn expressed the same opinion.

### NO SUBSIDIES

"We have no policy to subsidize the residences, they are supposed to be self-supporting", he said.

"But we are subsidizing the residences insofar as the government puts up ten per cent of the initial cost."

The policy of non-subsidization was adopted in 1963, but it has not come up before the provincial cabinet for a review.

None of the ministers were aware of the exact losses of the housing and food services in the last three years. One "vaguely recalled" the figure that appeared in the Edmonton Journal on Saturday.

### EXPRESS CONCERN

The minister of education admitted that the government was concerned with the cost of living and the student's financial position.

"The government has shown concern for the student as it subsidizes the university to the tune of \$1,600 per student and has built 100 per cent of the buildings on campus", he said.

"But residence students are only a small percentage of the student body."

The cabinet members seem to be the only ones who knew of any definite policy on subsidizing residences and then only Mr. McKinnon knew why this policy was made.

Chairman of the Universities Commission, Dr. W. H. Swift, admitted that, "I can't say we have anything official on this problem. I'm pretty sure it is not the government's intention to subsidize the residences. If so, I can't seem to recall any definite reasons for such a policy."

## McCubrey stands firm on McGill entering UGEQ

MONTREAL (CUP)—McGill council president Jim McCubrey has reaffirmed his stand in favor of McGill's entry into l'Union Generale des Etudiants du Quebec, but has stressed he doesn't agree with all aspects of the French-speaking union.

"I have not really changed my stand regarding McGill's membership in UGEQ since last year," he said, "but I find it necessary to clarify my stand in order not to gain any misguided allies."

He emphasized he could not accept the opinion of several UGEQ executive members concerning Quebec's role in Confederation or the role of Quebec's English minority.

And he didn't agree with UGEQ president Robert Nelson's view that "the English-speaking cultural group does not merit treatment different from that accorded any

## Executive may still get fifth

Students' council is continuing with plans to update its executive.

Council favored formation of a fifth executive position Monday. The reform suggested by the executive will see the position of secretary-treasurer split to form the new positions of secretary and treasurer.

These changes, if passed, will affect next year's council.

University Athletic Board and Wauneta voting rights have been referred to the reorganization committee for study.

The committee was set up two or three years ago to study ways in improving the efficiency, administration and legislation of the students' council.

Council decided to set aside a half hour each week in addition to the half hour before council meetings for students to air their views and grievances before council members.

Students' council accepted most of the personnel board's recommendations as they filled appointed positions.

- Director of Evergreen and Gold—Murray Sigler
- Science Rep on Council—Richard Hewko
- WUS Chairman—Joan Nykoly
- Senior Class Graduating Committee Chairman—Dennis McCoy
- Members—Sandra Baird and Bonnie Fuller
- Operations Board—Patricia Burrows
- Public Relations Officer—David Norwood
- Expo Charter Flight Secretary—Rosalie Wolanski

other cultural group in Quebec." Acceptance of this attitude would mean the loss of the right to be educated in English or to be allowed to be heard in English before the courts, said McCubrey.

### ASSERT RIGHTS

He suggested McGill join UGEQ as "a constructive attempt to assert our rights in UGEQ."

"One need not agree with the policies of a regional association in order to join it, but should feel obliged to work for representation of this point of view."

"By joining UGEQ, I contend that we are not accepting its policies fully but are indicating a desire to participate in decisions that might affect us."

He added McGill must reserve the right to voice disapproval of some UGEQ policies and to opt out of some of its "nationalistic schemes"