

A Quiet Battle

A news story in the Gateway this week describes a new program of reduced student air fares to Europe that is being implemented by the National Federation of Canadian University Students.

This benefit to the student purse may seem insignificant. But it is important. It is part of, let us say, the "syndicalist" aspect of our federation—an unpleasant but necessary facet of our program when we view the high cost of obtaining a broad education.

Since 1955, when Canadian students voted to establish a travel department, NFCUS has been pressing, and pressing hard, for reduced travel rates. These things come slowly—but they come.

NFCUS has never lost sight of the need to bolster the student's pocket book. It costs an average of \$1,400 per student to go to university for one year. The national average contribution made by each family towards this total is \$700. A family with two children needs an average yearly income of \$5,000 to be able to afford this support. How many Canadians make more than \$5,000 a year?

The federation instituted an Interregional

Exchange Program designed to enable students from different parts of Canada to attend another university during their undergraduate years—something out of reach of the average student.

NFCUS was instrumental in securing the rights to deduct your tuition fees when filing your income tax returns.

The federation's life insurance plan provides \$5,000 coverage for \$17.50 per year. This plan was selected, after careful investigation, as the least expensive coverage of the many bids submitted.

Admittedly, reduced travel fares is a minor achievement in a quiet battle. Students in Korea, and Turkey are reversing the tide of history in their fight for basic freedoms. The United States Student Union is organizing the freedom riders in its fight for desegregation. Students leaders in the Dominican Republic were, until recently, "cooling their heels" in a local jail.

Canadian problems are less spectacular. But they are problems nevertheless. And it is reassuring to see tangible evidence that our student federation is constantly working on them.

Voting Hodgepodge

The credo, "It doesn't matter how you vote, just vote often," may become a reality under the present Students' Union election rules.

Normal voting procedure for referendums and elections has in the past at least required showing of a Campus "A" card. This year, in both the referendum and election votes the forgetful student was allowed to sign an affidavit.

Why the relaxation in rules? During the year book referendum last year, all students

had not received their campus "A" cards and an exception was made. This exception was not repeated during the Student Union elections in the spring. So why was voting by affidavit allowed for elections and referendums?

There is no excessive evidence of students voting more than once by the use of an affidavit as well as their campus "A" card (or by using fictitious names at different polling stations). However, the fact that it has occurred, according to reliable sources, make a standard procedure essential.

By Osmosis?

Once again it is time to raise the perennial question of a pre-examination study break. The question has been much discussed, and the consensus seems to be that the idea is good.

A one-week lecture-free, lab-free interval between the end of classes and beginning of examinations would be a boon to all students. During this period the tardy could finish neglected lab write-ups and assignments. The industrious could apply the polish. The confident and the neurotics could enjoy the thera-

peutic benefits of a holiday.

However, it is unlikely that we will get this break without asking for it. It may even require some persistent campaigning and badgering of the administration. This can only be done by the Students' Union, as on this campus the individual voice is lost in the wilderness. It is to be hoped that next year's council will be able to effect a break in the current tradition of expecting big things to get themselves accomplished by osmosis. —M.B.

THE GATEWAY

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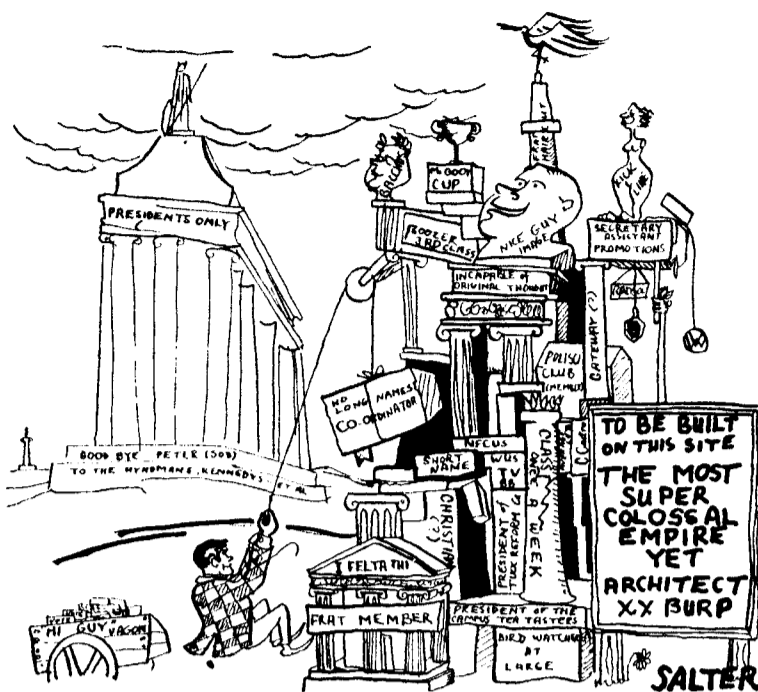
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THEY'RE NOT BUILDING THEM LIKE THEY USED TO . . . MORE BRICKS BUT LESS MORTAR.

WHAT THE HELL

By Jon Whyte

The trend today is to digest away. Everything. Books, records, movies, everything.

Once a month out comes the magazine of everyone's delight filled with handy, nice articles such as "How I Earned \$25 a month in my spare time selling fallout shelters" and "I found love and happiness in Disneyland." Also in this issue sixteen articles gleaned from other magazines which you are too busy to read!

Maybe Canada should have a Royal Commission which could ban such magazines entirely.

TV too is filled with features such as "Children's Digest" which brings children 20 centuries of culture in nice half hour doses. And "News Digest" which brings you all the ghastly news of the week in palatable form. See 17 revolutions, one assassination and other assorted depredations. All on "News Digest."

And records cannot escape this dire fate either. On this disc in handy 45 second tasty portions themes from 212 of the world's greatest symphonies. No longer will you be bothered by symphonies which often last half an hour or longer. We have taken the most famous themes and removed the extraneous material. Save time and money.

"Slime" brings you the week's news already provided with a handy bias so you don't have to form your

own opinion. Book digests bring you the greatest literature being written with any philosophical meanderings or side-lights on social significance removed so you will not be angered. And you can read 20 books the night before a cocktail party and be the real sensation.

Where will it end? It has already been rumored that a book is to be published with all "those portions" in it from Peyton Place, The Tight White Collar, Lady Chatterly's Lover, Battle Cry, and Ten North Frederick. That'll sure save money and exasperation.

P.S. to last week's column: It is not true that while Col. Glenn JUNIOR was up there the Muzak in his capsule played hymns such as "Nearer My God To Thee."



UNSELFISH

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

I would like to ask you for your assessment of student opinion on the matter of Sunday closing of coin-operated laundromats.

Not so long ago my husband and I were university students. As with most students, both time and money were scarce. We felt we could not afford the money for a washer and dryer, nor could we afford the time to wash the families' clothes by hand. A laundromat was the perfect answer. It was convenient, quick and reasonable. And it was always open. We found that Sunday was often the most convenient time.

I wonder to what extent students at the University of Alberta are being inconvenienced by the recent Sunday Closing of Edmonton Coin-operated laundries. As part-owners of the Ezee Duzit Laundromat on

109th St. we are considering how to effectively protest the recent decision by the Attorney General. Is there any student support for such a protest?

Sincerely,
Mrs. Caroline Ackerman.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We almost wept when we mentally pictured you sloshing out gritty gritty drapers by hand, but we brightened up considerably when we realized you were unselfishly willing to devote your time to a protest on our behalf.

BLOOD APPRECIATED

To The Editor:
The Canadian Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service wish to take this opportunity of thanking you and your staff for the very excellent coverage and support that you saw

(Continued on page 5)