

It may be unfortunate that Lister Hall, the university's largest student residence is criticised for what it is, for what it is not, and for what it intends to be.

This is, however, the case — and perhaps the reason is the vivid images that come from there.

The place can provide some of the best times the first year student may ever see. It lets the newcomers meet people like then. elves. It provides a sense of belonging.

But such scenes are are pockmarked by incredible animal shows, deep depression for some, and cases of downright cruelty.

Residence is said by some to be too open. It is said there is too much vandalism, too much noise, and, indeed, one of the major reasons given by people leaving the place, is they can't study.

Residence is said to be too restrictive. It is said a two-bit group of immature students with the dubious reputation of being "senior" should not be allowed to place their values on the other students.

It is so with society, with its competing values, and its competing people, and even a small experience with residence will show that the place is very much like a separate society.

The students hold their own socials, they organize their own massive parties, they live together, they talk together, they play together, and even shit together.

For the outsider, even a disillusioned ex-residence student, the place can seem to breed a clique.

Yet the people don't intend to be this way. They organize successful benefit dances. They get close to the community by building ice statues to decorate their yard, and sometimes downtown Edmonton. What's more, they participate. Res is always out to football and hockey games. As another res student put it: "We could win the Students' Union election for any candidate if we organize this place."

The latest images of residence are grim and even hypocritical. They are closing the place up, quieting it down, and restricting the flow of outsiders with electronic doors, a security desk and a big book that tells who is sleeping, or rather visiting, with whom.

It's fine that the administration, and the Lister Hall Students' Association want to quiet the place down — it is their home, they have that right — but by insinuating such a plan as the one in the offing, designed to keep outsiders out of residence, they are reinforcing their bad image of being cliquish, and in effect are placing most of the blame for damage and theft on outside students and the community in general.

But it is residence students who pour gallons of water over their carpets in their "tubbing" and "water fight" rituals. Granted, it is residence students who also clean the water up, but it is also the same students who have been know to throw television sets out of windows, to shower the resident dean's yard with beer bottles, to break the windows, the doors, the lights, the fire alarms, the elevators, the walls, the floors, the tables, the list goes on...

I hope the residence doesn't fear or hate the rest of the community, because when the 1,500 students living there suddenly have nothing left to offer to each other, the place can become very lonely.

by Allen Young

## Old journalists never die...

...they just  
go into  
hiding



Frank Mutton Emerges Sept. 27

## Gateway

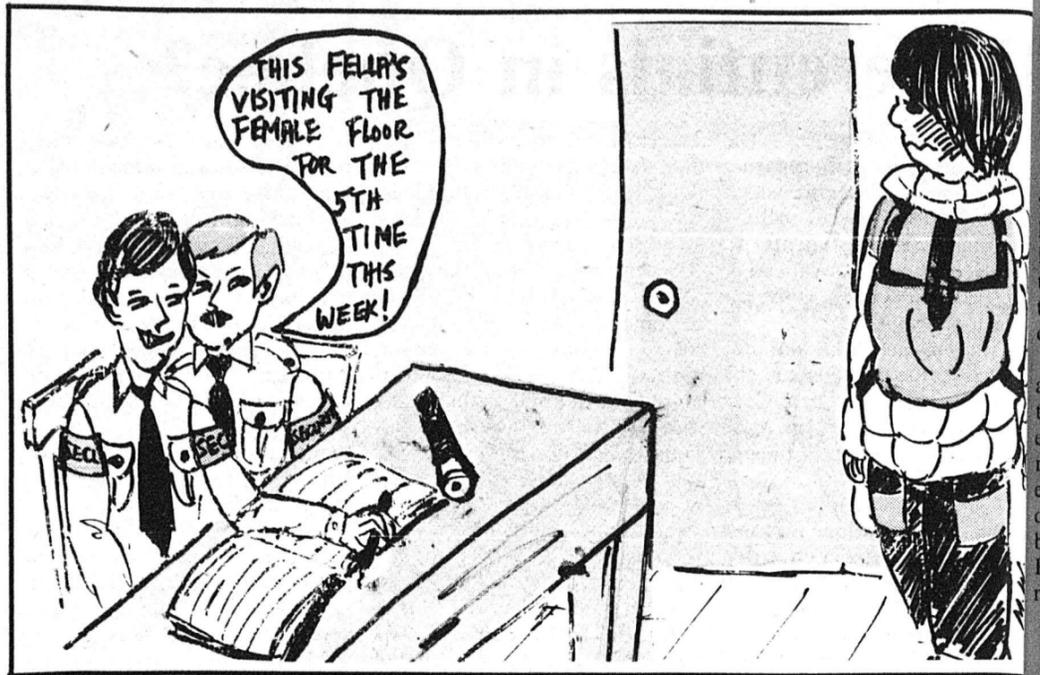
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# editorial



## Existence of conflict first step

The September 15 editorial in the *Gateway* anticipated that the current confrontation between the Students' Union and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 1368 could turn into a "rare display of industrial relations" if and when the parties met in a public forum. It now appears that the SU has chosen not to respond to the challenge offered by CUPE representative Vern Bartee. In my opinion, this was a wise choice.

However, the editor of the *Gateway* is not correct in describing the confrontation as a "rare display of industrial relations." We witness public displays of a similar nature outside employees' premises every day of the year through the use of the strike and lockout weapons.

What is "rare" about this industrial relations dispute is the irony and abnormality that the situation presents.

We have, on one side, a management team that represents, of all things, a union of students. The student

representatives are pledged, just like CUPE representatives, to further the interests of their membership. But the leadership of the SU is not made up of

individuals with any practical or theoretical collective bargaining expertise. The SU's expertise, represented by vp services M

## FSAC exaggerates

It is always unfortunate when the writers of an important article, particularly one printed in both the *Journal* and *Gateway*, exaggerate their case by indulging in errors concerning facts that their readers cannot be expected to know or check.

In their article on the 'Pretoria 12,' Ken Luckhardt and Alvin Finkel say: "The South African legal practice also contravenes international law regarding the treatment of prisoners of war. According to a recent amendment to the Geneva conventions, guerrillas in a liberation army should be treated as prisoners of war. As the prosecution charges that four of the Pretoria 12 performed the role of soldiers and possessed weapons, South Africa openly disregards international law in this respect."

I hold no brief for South Africa and have condemned the country and its apartheid practices for more years than I care to remember, but I was a member of the Canadian delegation to the recent Geneva conference which was responsible for bringing the Conventions up to date. The writers of your article have given a completely false picture of the result of what was done.

The Geneva Conference brought the 1949 Convention up to date by drafting a text which is still unsigned and unadopted by any single country. It will come into force when ratified by two countries, but only for them alone. For everybody else the law will remain as it is. In so far as South Africa is concerned, that country did not take part in the Conference, and what was done at Geneva, even if it comes into force, will have no effect on that country's rights.

If the new text becomes law, members of national liberation movements will, provided they satisfy certain conditions, be recognized as engaged in a legitimate international armed conflict. They will become entitled to prisoner of war status, provided they declare their willingness to accept the new text and fight in accordance with the laws of war — and provided their opponents have accepted the same obligation. If the latter have not agreed to the text, then, whether we like it or not, the guerrillas will probably find themselves in the same position as the four members of the Pretoria 12, especially as the text states that the legal status of the parties remains unaffected.

So far as I know, the official text of the Geneva agreements is not yet available to the public. Why, therefore, did the author use a press mis-report to assume an untruth when they had ample ammunition to attack South Africa anyway?

L.C. Green  
University Professor

## Spark clarifies

In the September 20 editorial of the *Gateway*, it was reported that the Students' Union General Manager, Harry Goldberg, stated that the certification of part time staff would mean a fifteen dollar (\$15) increase in Students' Union fees. I must question the validity of this report.

On 26 August 1977, CUPE 1368 was certified by the Board of Industrial Relations to include part time staff of the Students' Union. This certification will have a definite effect on the service we provide to students. Due to the complexity of the situation, however, it is impossible at this time to determine the degree to which certification will affect the Students' Union. A fifteen dollar fee increase is speculation only; realizing this, the Executive and Managers of the Students' Union have not given any indication whether an

increase in student fees will be necessary.

I ask that the text of this letter remain unedited.

Jay Spark  
President

### Editor's Note:

The president is right. It should be stressed the \$15 fee increase is, at this time, a speculative failure. The sum did, however, originate in the office of the finance manager and was contingent on factors which will be decided when a contract settlement between CUPE and the Students' Union is reached. One would expect a figure quoted by the S.U. finance manager has a relatively high degree of validity and also that any increase in the total expenditures of the S.U., which is funded by students, will be borne by students.