

## Editorial

# It took a yearbook!

At least six major areas of concern surround the heated Battle of the Yearbook:

- the book itself,
- the manner in which it was tubed,
- student reaction to the decision by students' council,
- students' union priorities,
- what is to be done about the whole schmozz,
- and, the myth of representative government.

First, to take last things first, the yearbook is the least important section of the battlefield. This university has one of the lowest students' union fee assessments in the country and is one of about three which still publishes a yearbook, essentially a luxury item.

Thus, it is one of the first items to face the axe, as is only right. And that brings up council's method of hatcheting it.

Councillors made an extremely badly timed, clumsily executed and staggeringly insensitive maneuver to lower the axe. They have endangered the totality of the union's program this year by provoking the kind of hysterical reaction that should have been expected in the wake of such blatant disregard for student opinion.

Surely councillors had sufficient time to consider and adopt Mr. Leadbeater's brief on budget priorities, distributed in August, by the start of the academic term. They knew then that the complete and radical displacement of \$44,000 in the budget was being called for and that any change of that magnitude, particularly concerning a long-entrenched tradition, required explanation and a referendum.

Tentative budgets notwithstanding, council should have estimated with reasonable accuracy what to do with a chunk of money that large.

And speaking of referendums, or lack thereof, we trust that councillors are able to explain to their constituents the astounding, indeed remarkable logic that led them to decide against a yearbook referendum (see Leadbeater letter page four), yet unanimously approve a referendum on council's stand against the tenure system—at the same meeting.

Oh, there are lots of things for all those self-righteous petition signers to get upset about, sure enough. Yup, the reaction to the students' council's action more than equalled that famous law of Newtonian physics.

Now would they care to explain why over twice as many students (3,572) chose to object to a council decision as the number who chose their councillors in the recent SU by-elections (1,762).

And while they are explaining that, they might like to confront their consciences with two other little points. The first is the cartoon on page five. We think it should be self-explanatory. Secondly, we can only hope that some of the letters we have received come from the lunatic fringe. These claim, basically, that unmarried students and students' union have no obligations to further married students' quest for an education by organizing a day care centre for their children and lobbying for government funds to support that centre.

That attitude is akin to someone who has no children or who has children now on their own, claiming it is no longer his responsibility to support the education of other people's children.

So much for being our brother's keeper.

Meanwhile, back in the isolation chamber we call the students' union (it would have made the lunar scientists proud), council has established a set of priorities with "relevant" educative functions taking precedent over "service" functions. That's good. That's very good.

Only, what good is a priority on relevance without a mandate backing it from the students—the people supposed to be most concerned about their education.

So what is to be done?

The most crucial missing link that must be found is communication between the students and their union. That communication should be the base of all future referenda.

The most important of those is the one that should be held on students' union priorities, the yearbook being a secondary issue included on or coinciding with that referendum.

The question of tenure at this university is more important than anything decided on a yearbook and the referendum or referenda should follow a campaign which emphasizes this most concrete and significant change in priorities.

Finally, the students here should be participating in more than just coincidental democracy. The fact that this particular council has been taken to task for an unpopular decision makes it no less democratic than a council which makes the same errors in judgment and is not taken to task because the outcome doesn't happen to upset its electorate.

The entire "yearbook question" is nothing more than the surface eruption of an inner disease.

It is a disease which can only be cured by an electorate willing to get involved in decision-making on more than the whining superficial level of "I want my yearbook".

You have objected, you have participated. We would presume it has been an exciting, hopefully upsetting experience.

Wouldn't it be nice if that excitement could be extended to things that matter—like the rest of the world? That's what democracy is all about.

Good gawd, we'd better take a look at our priorities if the only thing that can motivate people is (and it's impossible to express the utter, how absurdly ludicrous utter insanity of it) a yearbook!

# CUS died last night . . . and Toronto, Halifax were the pall-bearers

TORONTO (CUP)—The Canadian Union of Students is dead. Thursday, students at the University of Toronto voted to withdraw from the union. Without Toronto's membership fees the union, which has been losing members for the last two years, can't possibly continue financially.

With its membership cut to less than a dozen institutions it wouldn't be much use continuing anyway.

"The exact fate of the union will be decided at a national council meeting next Monday and Tuesday" said CUS president Martin Loney Thursday night. "I don't want to make any comments until then about future plans," he said

while attending a CUS party generally billed as a wake.

Students at Dalhousie University added to the coup de grace by voting "no" in their CUS referendum Thursday.

It probably didn't matter and maybe the students knew that—237 spoiled ballots compared to 633 'no' and 411 'yes' votes.

Larry Kapz, president of the Dalhousie Graduate Student Association felt "the defeat of CUS could set the cause of student rights back five years."

But for undergraduate president Bruce Gillis the vote was a victory. Gillis tried to bring about the end of CUS at its congress in late August when he proposed the

formation of a new "student federation."

Financially the union may not even be able to meet its present commitments. "If those who are still members pay, and if Toronto pays the portion covering the last two months, we're o.k.: otherwise I don't know," Loney said.

"One of our greatest responsibilities is to our support staff, most of whom have been with us over ten years," Loney continued. "25,000 workers have just been laid off in Ottawa."

The Toronto vote had a record campus turnout of 38 per cent. 5,434 students voted 'no' and 2,222 'yes'. Membership in the Ontario (Continued on page 3)

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## GFC says no non-academic reps

By BETH WINTERINGHAM

The General Faculty Council will recommend that members of the Non-Academic Staff Association not be granted seats on the GFC and the Board of Governors.

A special meeting of the GFC was held on Thursday to review the report of their Ad Hoc Committee on Amendments to the Universities Act. Now the GFC will submit its recommendations at a meeting to be convened by the Minister of Education Nov. 17.

When the proposal not to alter the Act so that a member of the Non-Academic Staff Association could sit on the Board of Governors was discussed, David Leadbeater moved that Philip Arnold, President of the Association, be allowed to address the Council.

Mr. Arnold, who was there as an observer, presented his case but was only to answer questions, and not to participate in the debate which followed. He thereby illustrated his main point, which was that the association's effectiveness in negotiations with the board was limited by the fact that they can only make submissions, without debating them.

Dr. L. C. Green, a member of the Ad Hoc Committee, then asked Mr. Arnold what percentage of the non-academic staff were "service" people like janitors, and whether such people needed a say in the activities of the Board of Governors. Mr. Arnold was stopped from answering the question by chairman Wyman because he would be "debating" by doing so.

After the questioning and debate, a vote was taken. The proposal to omit non-academic staff from the Board was carried.

Later in the meeting a similar proposal to keep non-academic staff off the GFC was accepted, despite Mr. Arnold's statement that his Association is affected by many things controlled by the GFC. He gave parking and long-range planning as examples.

The ad hoc committee proposal that the association have a seat on the Senate was accepted.

The Graduate Students' Association fared better, with one member proposed to sit on the GFC and Board of Governors.

Several proposals by the students' union were accepted. Students on the Board of Governors, as well as all members except academic staff, will be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses while

attending board meetings. The approval of the GFC will no longer be needed before the students' union makes by-laws governing the membership and calling of meetings of the students' council.

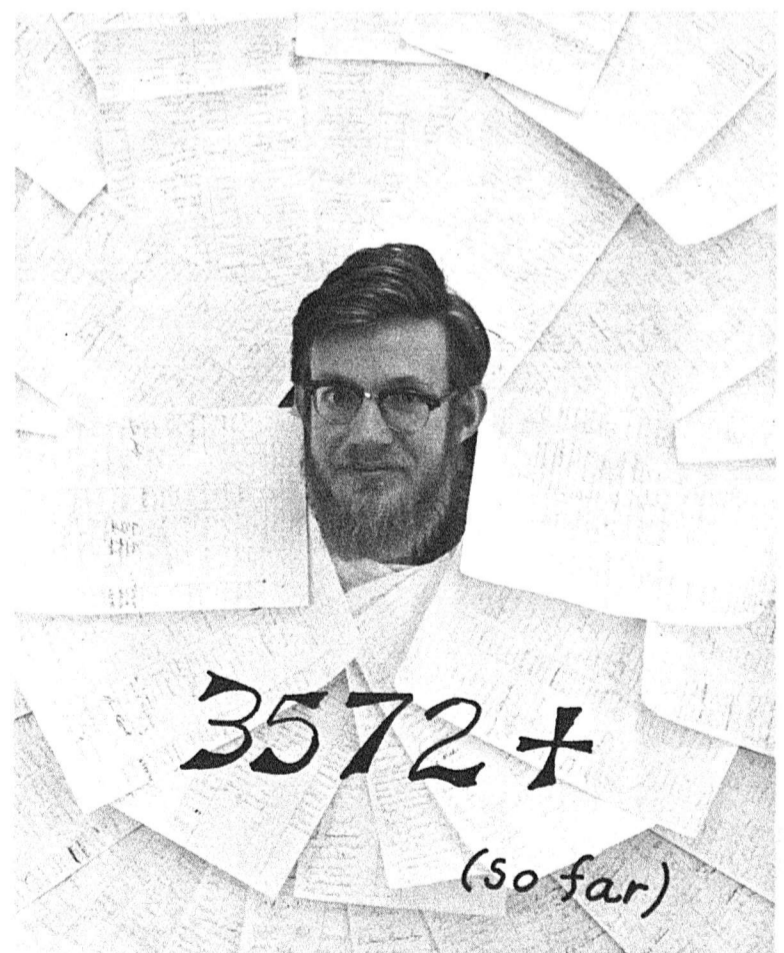
Other students' union proposals were defeated, such as the motions that faculty deans be elected if the faculty so desired, and that the setting of fees be under provincial government jurisdiction.

When asked his opinion of the fate of the Non-Academic Staff Association, David Leadbeater said it "smacked of the old idea that people who sweep our floors are beneath us." He felt that certain members of the GFC had displayed a "snobbish attitude", and that hav-

ing a non-academic staff member on the Senate was "just a sop" for the association.

### NO MORE DAILY

As of today, *The Gateway* is going undaily. Next week look for the news on Tuesday and Friday in between "ye old midterms." All other news will just have to wait 'til the next week when good old eight pages (long enough to read going home on the bus) comes back, three times a week. Happy reading readers!



—Chuck Lyall photo

AND SO THEY SIGNED . . . AND SIGNED . . . AND SIGNED . . . it sure beats voting!