

## editorial

### Be a legislator

Well, the better part of a great happening is just about over. It would take a lot of fingers and toes to count the number of people helped by the Housing Directory.

Is the housing shortage serious enough to warrant the keeping of the registry with its staff? For university students, it probably won't by the end of this month. I'm assuming most students will have found a decent place to live by then. But is housing a big enough issue within the Students' Union to keep the registry alive all year long just to retain the talents of our resident housing trouble shooter, Ray LaPerriere? For the people in this general community I would think yes.

After September, there won't be as large a daily listing of available housing, and there won't be the patient line-ups along the SUB corridors for the lists to be printed. But as the organization has matured, and the staff has become more fluent in the business of the housing shortage, we've found ourselves with a small group of experts we'd be fools to allow to leave.

I've noticed as the summer progressed that the registry moved from simple running about placing ads and promotions and building up its listing, to a stronger, more confident voice in the cry for new housing policies. Recently more than ever I've seen the registry take up a political as well as a service stance, and we'd be sorely amiss to let it stop now.

Who is going to heckle and lobby more authoritatively than the Housing Registry staff with the provincial government, especially the backward Bill Yurko? Who is going to continue calling for fair use of Michener Park residences once the registry staff is gone?

Surely the SU executive cannot put as high a priority on these things as the registry staff has. And no other group has the informed potential right now to begin new fronts in the battle for good housing at a fair price.

I think our Council should reconsider closing the registry before the end of this month. Just when the group has found a chance to get moving, it will find its been pulled from the front.

I think we're gonna miss you when you're gone.

### READER COMMENT

## The grain weapon

In the month of July, the mass media reported Russia's buying colossal quantities of wheat, corn, and other staple agricultural products from both the U.S. and Canada. In the following months of August and September, we immediately experience another round of inflation and upsurge in food prices in our country.

On the global scale, one scarcely doubts the termination of the cold war that followed the second World War; but how many of us do realize we are now trapped in an era of another kind of war, an economic war that is extremely subtle and unilateral in nature? Early this summer, the President of the United States commented that inflation was the country's No. 1 enemy. Ironically, only a few months later, the U.S. is negotiating selling wheat, barley, etc. to the Russians by millions and millions of tons.

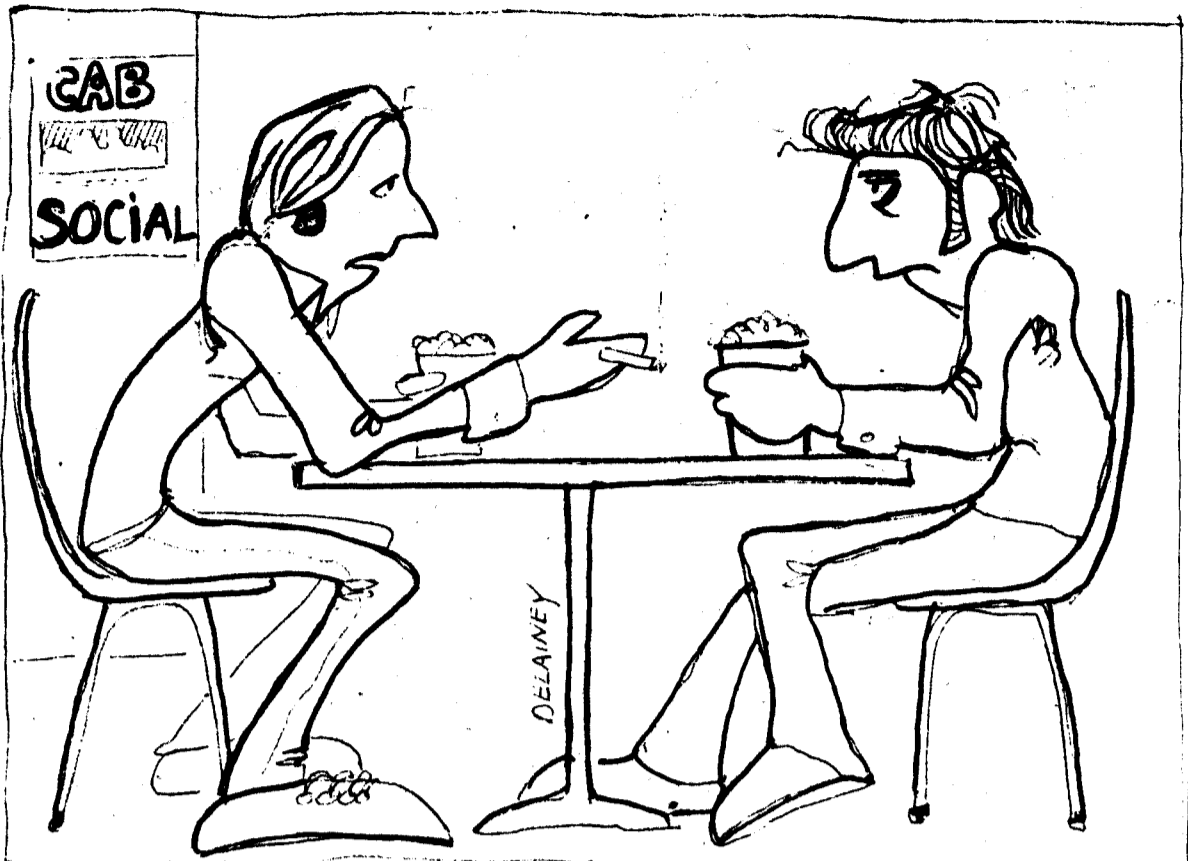
I said "ironically" because one of the causes of inflation is demand-pull is character. It is not difficult to imagine the consequence of massive buying on the price of wheat and other products, both on the national and international scale.

What looks rather obvious,

however, seemed not to have been appreciated by the Western Nations. In fact, in August again, the Russians were buying wheat and what not from Canada, and even from Austria. At this point one cannot help asking oneself these questions: Why is the most sizable country, with vast area of arable land, unable to produce sufficient food to feed her relatively not-very-large population? Is this due to lack of technology or lack of resources? If not, due to what?

Obviously, a nation capable of sending men and equipments to the outer space is definitely not lacking in technology nor in resources. It is undoubtedly, then, that there are some amazing reasons behind. With a little bit of thought, it is not hard to discern two possibilities behind the purchase of colossal amounts of wheat.

The first may have to do with the unilateral economic war, unilateral in the sense that the selling nations are at present totally ignorant of the existence of this subtle war underway, and also totally un-equipped with the means to fight back when they eventually realize they had been fooled. The second possibility of Russian manipulation of wheat has



ISN'T IT NICE TO KNOW THAT OUR MONEY ISN'T WASTED ON SUCH FOOLISHNESS AS... COOLERS FOR BEER

### The Pig's Pen

## Miss 'em when they're gone

Marking systems. Disciplinary tribunals. Regulations. Program quotas and parking. Who makes the rules around here? It is a miraculous gift of fate that this University continues to operate day after day, year after year, with no major eruptions or catastrophes. But we do have problems.

The problem that is foremost in my mind today is that of Student Representation on Councils, Boards and Committees.

to do with politics in a wider perspective. It is aimed at imposing an extra burden (because of demand-pull and cost-push) on the backs of those less affluent nations that unfortunately have to rely on the U.S., Canada, or other western countries for the supply of agricultural products.

Now, in our western world there is a seemingly humane movement to aid developing countries, by providing them with know-how and training and by giving food to them gratis. All these efforts are unquestionably laudable and logical. But what is the logic behind indirectly hurting the Third World or developing countries by selling wheat and what not to Russia - the most powerful nation in the world whose effort is not directed on maintenance of world peace (evident in the Helsinki pact and in intervention of Portuguese integration), nor on producing food to save the world, but with a sinister effort concentrated on political manoeuvre, on unilateral economic war, on invasion (e.g. Czechoslovakia and China), and on dirty treaties such as the Helsinki Pact? Are we obliged to sell wheat to such a nation?

John Steinberg

The problem at this university is unusual. Most university Students' Unions fight for more representation, more power, and more responsibility in university government. But here in "Socialist Alberta" we have to fight to get students to assume the positions that the university is willing to provide.

Take the General Faculties Council for example. General Faculties Council is the main academic decision making body. There is approximately one third administration, one third academic staff and one third students on this lofty body. Yet the student's attendance is poor. Would you like to be on this Council? Would you like to change a bad regulation or contribute to the recreation of academic policy at this university?

Well these positions are now open on G.F.C.

Agriculture	1
Arts	1
Education	3
Science	2
Dental Hygiene	1
Engineering	3
Household Ec.	1
Law	1
Library Sci.	1
Rehab. Med.	1

There are other bodies on campus that may be of interest to you. Each Faculty has a council. Students are often needed on those. *Except for the Science faculty, Dean Ross doesn't need any students on his council so he says.*

There are committees of G.F.C. and in each faculty that may interest students. By contacting your student vp Academic or the Faculty concerned one can obtain information about how to join these committees.

So if you are one of those ambitious or concerned students that sometimes bless the university with your presence, there are many opportunities for your participation.

## letters

A letter was mailed to our office yesterday from a member of the Grad Students' Association (we think).

Its a great letter, it talks about the proposed GSA Social Center, and raises some interesting points.

Would whoever wrote the letter please come to Room 282 and sign it? You might be able to get away with phoning your name in, but we ask that all letters be signed.

Thanx, Ed.

## Boo, SU

Your liking of student-run services, and your hypothesis that student-run housing and food outlets are run better seems to be a good basis upon which to examine one of the largest student-run businesses - the Students' Union.

This organization is so inefficient that it would be bankrupt had not the provincial government bailed it out of its financial position.

Also, its method of funding needs serious examination.

Rather than letting the students judge their individual satisfactions gained from consumption of the Students' Union's goods and services, via a free market where the students pay their student union fees *only* if they feel they derive some benefit, the Students' Union must use force to obtain the funds to sustain its existence. Ironic in an institution of higher learning when reasoning is the supposed basis for action.

What is really disgusting is that students are told they must pay these fees whether they feel there is a value to be gained or not, and that the board of governors condones the situation. If you want to say "No, I do not want Student Union services" - write your cheque for tuition and misc. services for the full amount less \$34 for student union fees.

P. Kim Blundell  
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