

Editorial

Another CUS referendum

Several weeks ago, Jon Bordo, one of more influential members of the Students for a Democratic University, got up at the Canadian Union of Students congress at Guelph, Ont., and boasted that by the time the congress met again, "Alberta would be a voting member."

This seemed to be a big laugh at the time because Alberta, now two years out of CUS, was not taking kindly to the apparent left wing direction of that organization. The three delegates at the congress, all council members, were not overly impressed at what they saw.

David Leadbeater, students' union vice-president, presented the most pro-CUS report to council Sunday and even it had lofty reservations.

Leadbeater wrote that Alberta re-join CUS only if there was a referendum in favor of it, a levy negotiation since he believed the \$1 per student was too high for the returns, and that the CUS members be willing to accept Alberta "with a feeling of good will".

He concluded by saying that Alberta "must broaden its view so as to permit the adequate representation of the opinion of the university students at a national level in a national student organization such as CUS".

Rolly Laing was less optimistic. He said in his report the university should concentrate its efforts on the Alberta Association of Students. He wants to make the AAS "a viable provincial organization".

Marilyn Pilkington was at the congress too—as everyone who reads the newspapers is well aware. She has all but completely given up on that organization. She said in her report Alberta has lost little as a student body outside CUS. She said she could not support an organization whose policies were not favorable or needed.

She too wants to make the AAS more advanced. And she wants to investigate possibilities of affiliating with other students' unions across the country and in the United States.

These three people seem to have little use for CUS. Therefore, it can't be a good organization to warrant such abuse.

At the risk of being labelled conformists, we must question these views. At the congress, British Columbia, Manitoba, Victoria and Saskatchewan at Saskatoon withdrew but none for the reasons the Alberta delegation did in 1966. Money was the problem with Manitoba and UBC. Victoria relented later and went back in. Then did Manitoba and UBC when they were assured they would get levy privileges. Saskatoon also rejoined.

Which leads us to ask—what is so terribly obvious to Alberta about CUS that the rest of Canada misses? If other universities are ready to work to make CUS more favorable to their students and they are ready to do this within the framework of the organization, what is the matter with Alberta? What makes this university so different?

Here we are trying to reform The System by working within, i.e., Board of Governors reps, faculty council reps etc., and yet we refuse to work within the framework of CUS to change it.

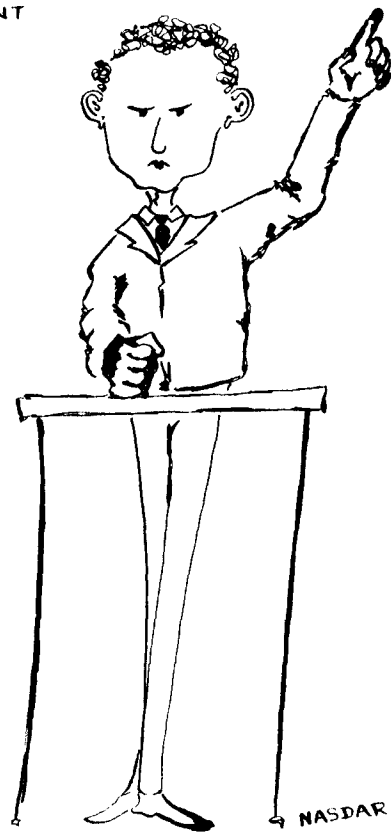
Now, because of a decision at Sunday's council meeting, Jon Bordo seems a bit closer to having the last laugh.

Council approved a referendum on CUS—again. But this will be preceded by an extensive education for the student body. We all know where Bordo and SDU stand and we know where council stands. It only is a case of who can convince more people they are right.

This is not right. We maintain that other student leaders should be brought in to educate us a bit. Calgary is in CUS. Lethbridge wants in. Saskatoon is in. So is Manitoba.

Why shouldn't we hear from these people too? The students here should get a rounded view of CUS and then decide if it's good or not and then elect leaders who can implement their decision.

GIVE ME GOVERNMENT
ASSISTANCE OR
GIVE ME DEATH



It can't be THAT long ago

By BRIAN CAMPBELL

The scene is Rome. The time is a fall night in the '60's A.D. Nero, the emperor, is reclining on a couch in a classic pose, as befits his classic calling, munching on a grape and swilling chianti. A used-looking secretary is leaving with some tablets the emperor has finished dictating. With him are Caesellius Bassus, Antonius Antonius Rianus, Meretrix (Presidentus), Darius Bonus, and some slaves. Meretrix (Presidentus) is speaking.

Meretrix: But, but . . .

Nero: Look, I've had about enough of this for one day. You've said what you came to say, now get out. Anyway your bad breath irritates me.

Meretrix: (grovelling and kissing his feet) But, but . . .

Nero: She does her thing rather well, don't you think? (to the guards) Take her away.

Rianus: We can deal with this. It's not much. The people are just rebelling because they're starving, the food's rotten, and the rents are too high. Most of them are merely insane from working like slaves. And talking about conditions, the smog does seem a little thick in here.

Caesellius Bassus: It seems we are out again with Ernestus, the god of government across the Tiber. Why not sacrifice one of those abominable, radical Christians to old Ernestus and have Houghius, psycho-analyst to the praetorian cohort, examine the entrails for signs?

Darius Bonus: Except for telling us how to run our lives with his bloody "Back to Romulus Hour" 'we haven't got any advice from Ernestus in years, and we'd better think of something quick because there is a rumor about that the senate and the emperor don't know what they are doing. The citizens are threatening to burn the city down.

Nero: (getting angry) Shut up. (throwing

empty wineskin into rubbish) Pass me another wineskin, this one's dry. Who turned off the air conditioning?

Rianus: Cool it, man.

Nero: (to minion) Get that janitor, and tell him if the temperature isn't down about ten degrees damn fast, he's out—tenure, or no tenure.

Darius Bonus: It's those Christians that are causing the trouble, mouthing off about some insane utopia all the time. I have a few of them chained up as permanent residents in the galleys. They're nothing but trouble.

Nero: I'll fix those long-haired, bearded scum. If there is one more peep out of them, they've had it. Call the centurions Sulpicious Asper and Bullus Edmontonus.

Two centurions with clubs and other goodies come in. They are ugly.

Nero: Those trouble-makers look like animals, so we'll treat 'em that way. The first time you see one of those hairy Christians preaching, round up the whole mob, throw bear skins on 'em and let the dogs tear into them. I'll nail the bastards up, and if there is anymore of this burning jazz, douse them with gas and let them light the streets after sunset.

The centurions rush out frothing at the mouth.

Nero: (gulping down wine) It's still hot in here. FIX THAT AIR CONDITIONER. (looking over at the curtains, which still seem to have a lot of light left behind them) What time is it?

Rianus: 11:30 p.m.

Bonus: Quarter to twelve.

Bassus: 11:15.

Nero: That can't be right, it's still light out. Oh well, you work so hard around here you never know what time it is.

They all nod in agreement as the curtain falls and we here muffled cries of "fire."

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—If it hadn't been for the student council meeting, we'd all be feeling pretty good today. But, as it goes, those who contributed to the third Gateway of the new term were Marilyn Astle, Terri Moore, Joan Swanlund, Gail Evasiuk, Rolf Stengl, Randy Jankowski, Diana Atkins, Leona Gorn who had a hell of a time trying to find out if there really is a parking problem on this campus (you shall get the answer Thursday), Brian Campbell who is not really back in the '60s, Judy Samoil, Pete Johnston, Joe Czajkowski and Jim Muller. Forrest Bard had the best job of all as you can see on page three. Some other people tried to tell us what to do but we couldn't understand their language which was not complimentary.

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