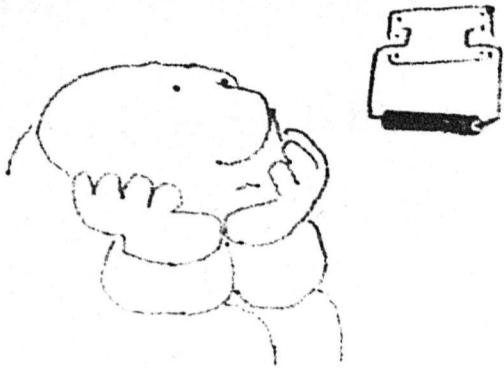


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# DAVID LEADBEATER

David Leadbeater was the president of the U of A students' union in 1969-70, the conservative foil of the more radical SDU. This week, the Gateway's Larry Saidman interviewed a "new" Leadbeater-sporting longer hair, wire-framed glasses and a more "radical" political perspective. Here's what Leadbeater, now a student at Oxford, had to say about students in politics.

Saidman: Do you feel that the students' council is becoming nothing more than a training ground for future politicians?

Leadbeater: I think there's always been a tendency, Larry, for student politicians to be "careerists" or "opportunists" when it comes to student government power. Many of them use it as just simply a means of collecting brownie points for their applications for various corporations or professional opportunities and so on. But there are still a group of students, even at the university of Alberta, I feel, who are seriously interested in promoting serious student politics. At the moment my knowledge of the university of Alberta is not detailed enough to say who each individual person is and whether I think they're giving any sort of serious leadership on student political issues, but I think in general it's fair to say that the present students' council is heading in that direction—towards a corporatist idea of the students' union.

Saidman: What are some of the issues that students are concerned about in Britain?

Leadbeater: Well, unlike Canada, the general situation in England is very much more political at the moment. This has partly been a result of the serious difficulties that the British economy is facing: inflation, unemployment, problems of going into the common market, and the balance of payments, and so on. In terms of students, they have been affected by inflation's cutting back their grant money, housing, students not getting jobs and so on. Because of this there's a lot more interest on the part of students in getting involved in serious political issues. Effectively the national union of students is under the leadership of left-wing and socialist forces and is dealing seriously with questions like unemployment, grants and so on. I don't think all students by any means, like in Canada, are political and aware. But at the moment students in England are more on the move.

Saidman: Do you think, then, that there is more probability of greater revolutionary changes taking place in Britain than there would be in Canada?

Leadbeater: At the moment I think so. Of course, in France, a neighbor to England, there is a serious left-wing challenge to the government. This is in the form of a coalition of legitimate parties, under what is called 'le programme commun'—a socialist programme, and anti-monopoly coalition, effectively, to try and reorient the direction of French society and a direct anti-capitalist attack in its most basic form. Now England doesn't quite have that. But it's certainly at the moment true that the working classes are uniting



against the Tory government in general, against their more a C would effectively give monde po outgrowths of this is that be general movement against rights i

Saidman: In the area of politics wonder if you still have the view have when you were president in working within the system make How do you feel about this?

Leadbeater: Well, you hit the inter question. I mean, there are that if I had it to do over again. I say line of march that I was heads continue. I think there was at that fully clear on the relationship poli whole and I think it's very imanc students engaged in student ally a any way isolate themselves fromur most progressive form in the r union movement, or in workanc organizations, and so on. If mov from the broad struggles of in of will become corrupt and land students themselves.

Saidman: Specifically, how stud themselves more a commun thout people?

Leadbeater: Well, I think porta to be on top of issues with in re facilitate community progr et m students advocate things whiver openings for people in the prc community with more und of w university, then I think we do prc the students have to advoca which i of students as a group and rests think they can have situations ents that they can lead the work sorr vanguard or something like don't is true is that students im act assistance and a support to pass i struggles.

Saidman: What are some specific students can do at this get struggles?

Leadbeater: Well, of course on ou the more recent development, alt the Gateway which should indic which has a different view situa indication. Let me suggest v missing. First of all, I think at st that personality politics, of fostered around any political e, ar start for any kind of serious tice



I THINK LEADBEATER'S  
A RADICAL...



HE'S A CONSERVATIVE MAN

HE'S TOO LEFT WING...

HE'S TOO RIGHT WING, MAN

HE'S TOO "GORE VIDAL"...

HE'S TOO "WILLIAM BUCKLEY," MAN

HE'S A BLOODY COMMUNIST...

HE'S A CAPITALIST DOG, MAN

WELL, HE DOESN'T REPRESENT ME...

ME NEITHER, MAN.