

Student government is playing a new game on Canadian campuses this fall.

It isn't as physically demanding as the recent piano smash held on the University of Saskatchewan's Regina campus.

Nor does it hold the stimulation of a march against the Ontario government's student awards program, or protests against construction of a service station smack dab in the middle of Simon Fraser University's campus.

The name of the Game is Quitting the Canadian Union of Students.

Any number of student unions can play, although the number still eligible for the pastime has been steadily decreasing in recent weeks.

Here's a brief, historical guide to The Game, which is being played for fun and not for profit across the country these days.

The origin of Quitting CUS is vague, having its roots back in the fall of 1964, when Canadian student leaders of an earlier generation were grappling with The Quebec Problem.

That fall, three Quebec universities stomped out of CUS during the 28th Congress. They were Sherbrooke University, University of Montreal and Laval University.

All three French-speaking student bodies have since committed themselves to l'Union Générale des Etudiants du Québec (UGEQ)—an organization whose address frequently gets lost in the Ottawa office of CUS these days. Having successfully broken all ties with CUS, the French-Canadians still manage to carry on a "useful dialogue" with their English-Canadian counterparts. Which is really no dialogue at all.

Laudably, after this first round of The Game, English and French-speaking students were able to pursue their separate interests without hindering each other. Both groups could spend more time establishing contact with the student—a soul who hasn't said much about his government in recent years—in any language.

With this new focus on democracy in student government and the university community, came a gradual increase in CUS membership under President Pat Kenniff.

The Game was suspended . . . but only temporarily.

## the ottawa view

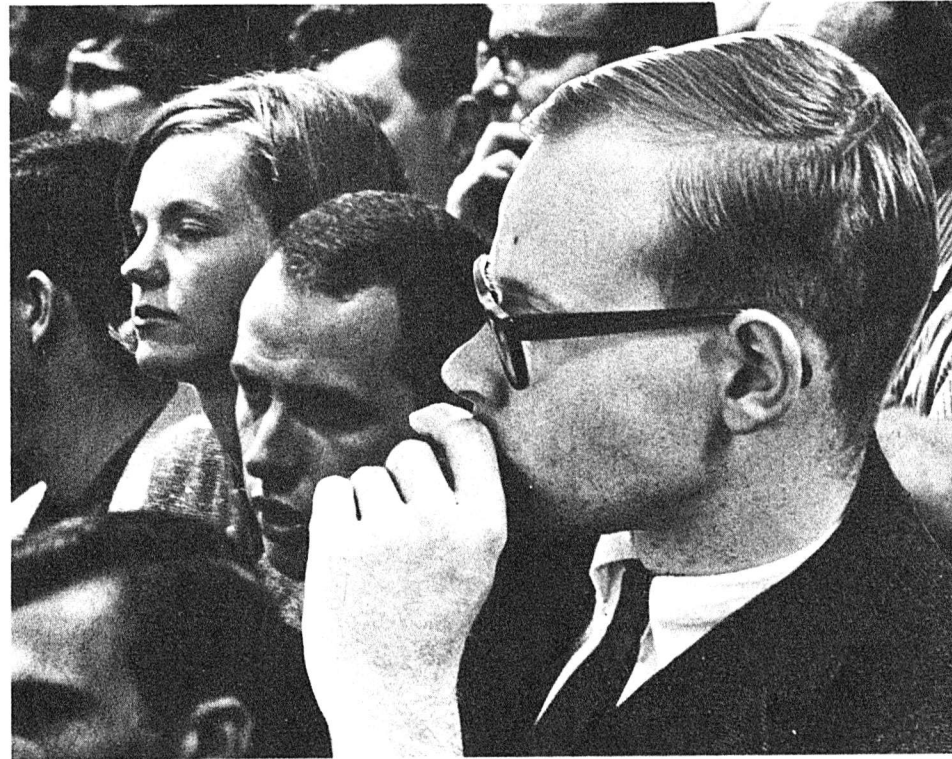
by don sellar

Three weeks ago, Quitting CUS was revived on a grander scale, when tiny Marianopolis College announced its withdrawal from the 170,000-student organization in favor of joining UGEQ.

Few eyebrows at the 30th CUS Congress were raised when another Montreal in-

stitution—this time Loyola College—followed suit, and announced it was going to hold a referendum on whether to join UGEQ or rejoin CUS.

And when Memorial University's student president, Rex Murphy, said good-bye forever to CUS later on in the Congress,



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. . . CUP national president

the only tears shed by delegates were born in mirth. Murphy's withdrawal speech was eloquent, earthy, almost funny.

Then Mount Saint Vincent University walked the plank, and left the good ship CUS.

The Congress ended. Student politicians returned to their campuses to lick their wounds and vent their energies on those whom they represent.

Enter Branny Schepanovich (students' union president from the University of Alberta) into The Game. A vociferous and longtime critic of CUS, the Edmonton president had tried unsuccessfully to change CUS policy to one of non-involvement in societal and global affairs. But at Congress's end, he still found himself at the centre of a minority viewpoint—and still in CUS.

Few observers could have predicted what followed. Edmonton's council voted 12 to 4 to sever its ties with CUS—at least until a March 3, 1967 referendum.

Then, Bishop's University joined the ranks of the disenfranchised, but chose the Loyola Referendum method of opting out of CUS.

All this gamesmanship produced was rumors, which began circulating across the country. Reports circulating at McGill University and University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon campus, had those institutions abandoning the union.

One student newspaper editor who shall go nameless decided the jig was up. In his news columns, Edmonton had left a "crushed and reeling" CUS—a view to which few persons subscribe to these days.

For down in the CUS office at 45 Rideau Street in Ottawa, President Doug Ward and his associate secretaries are huddled over a slightly-diminished budget.

They say there will be no cutback in CUS programs this year as a result of The Game, and point to a fundraising program and recent fee hike as proof of this statement.

Yet, no one can argue that CUS is not the same as it was three weeks, let alone two years ago.

Ward puts it this way: "We're a smaller and a tighter union now."

And it's obvious The Game is to blame.

## Housing

from page 6

Howard Adelman, in his report Student Residences and the University, gives some impressions of the Toronto Co-op in 1958, when it consisted of four overcrowded houses.

"When I arrived in the Campus Co-op in the spring of 1958, my initial impression was a student-owned slum . . . The houses were old; the facilities were crowded and inadequate . . . Not only were there no music rooms nor even common rooms (the kitchens did double duty), but 19 girls in one house shared the same bathroom. . . In 1958 some people in Toronto still used ice boxes—the Co-op students. . . It was a blot because the establishment considered it a blot. To prove it, one merely cited the fact that students could drink in their rooms. . . It often had a smell that sixty years of wallpaper had soaked up. The paint a chemistry student had invented from sour milk failed to cover it up.

"To the well-born it was the height of depravity . . . but for a three-year period (1952-54) there were no failures in the Co-op".

However conditions have not remained static. Adelman has some comparisons to offer after another tour of the Co-op—this time in the summer of 1965.

"The overcrowding has been reduced to provide a net floor area of 75 square feet in a room for a student and a complete bathroom for every six students. All the re-

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cently acquired furniture is new. Most houses now have common rooms. There is even a library in one of the basements.

"There are organizational innovations—division councils, parliament of councils, but the students still own and run the operation . . . The leaders often complain about the apathy of the group, and many of the members criticize the indifference of the student leadership to grass roots opinion.

"They are all jealous of their

authority and control, and to the outsider apathy is a relative word indeed, for one finds an interest and concern in the residence far beyond that found in the university operated structure."

What Adelman has to say about the general atmosphere of the Co-op is perhaps most significant.

"The houses are alive; the students are friendly. There is an infectious atmosphere made up of a mixture of relaxation and drive, informal appearance and serious concern".

Perhaps it is this atmosphere of community without intrusion, this opportunity to share while gaining a sound social and academic education which is co-op housing's most essential offer to the student.

It is quite surprising students can provide more than adequate housing at a saving of some 25% on the ordinary university residence fee.

The saving occurs because the student residents contribute a minimal offering of time each week toward such chores as house cleaning, mowing lawns.

Student housers have managed to overcome some rather formidable barriers to their provision of low-cost residences.

For instance, residences owned and operated by the students are not exempt from municipal taxes as are university owned and operated residences.

Students in co-op housing units are doubly taxed—part of their taxes go to educate local high school and public school students and to support such services as libraries for which they already pay a fee to the University.

But it is interesting to find that in a brief to the Ontario Department of University Affairs, the Toronto Co-operative asks not that student-owned co-operatives be

exempt from municipal taxes but that the Department of Education provide these residences with a grant—equivalent to compensate for educational taxes paid on their properties.

Toronto is not the only campus with co-operative housing. The University of Waterloo now boasts Hammarskjöld House—built for Waterloo Co-operative Residence Inc. by the Toronto based Co-operative College Residences Inc.

The Waterloo project was made possible by an amendment to the National Housing Act which provides for 50-year mortgages at 5% percent for 90 percent of the cost of student co-operative residences.

The Waterloo complex consists of two buildings valued at a total of \$500,000.

Cost of living at the Waterloo complex includes a \$10 membership fee, \$100 per double room a term, \$150 per single room a term, and \$150 for board a term.

Toronto's Co-operative College Residences Inc. is now proposing a new co-op complex for the U of T.

Called Rochdale House, the new building will be a 20 storey, \$5,000,-

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000 complex accommodating 228 single students, 303 married couples and 42 boarders.

This year the Alma Mater Society of the University of British Columbia set aside \$1,500 to hire an architect for their proposed student housing complex.

UBC's action came in the wake

of extreme shortages in available student housing this year.

Will U of A wait for a panic situation before it proceeds with plans for student owned housing?

Not if Glenn Sinclair has a part in it.

Glenn attended a conference on co-op housing held at Waterloo University Aug. 29 through Sept. 2.

His recommendation is that students' council investigate the concept more thoroughly with the possibility of running a trial house for a half year.

In his preliminary report to Students' Council on the co-op conference Glenn Sinclair emphasized the following general points about co-op housing:

- Financing is not a large problem once a co-operative has been incorporated.
- Room and board costs do go down but this is not the most popular reason for co-ops. Students usually find the community life more important than the actual money saved.
- The co-ops are valuable assets to any campus not only because of their internal, educational and social programmes, but they also provide a sense of identity for their students.
- The co-operatives are sound investments and none have lost money—all so far are expanding at rapid rates.
- Student co-ops become a way of life.
- Student co-ops are only one answer to student housing needs, not everyone is a "co-oper", but for those who are it is a great life.

Glenn invites reactions and suggestions from anyone interested in co-operative housing at U of A. Drop into his office on the first floor Students' Union Building if you have something to offer.



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