



## editorial

### A maiden's mind

It seems strange that Students' Council would authorize the expense of sending delegates to every National Union of Students Conference when there exists no immediate intention to join the NUS collective voice. It isn't strange that we maintain an interest in NUS; it is strange that Council sends delegates, and then tables their reports to Council without even holding a debate on the report.

Nevertheless, this is exactly what occurred after the Saskatoon Conference last October. Council received the reports and tabled them without discussion. It was not even apparent that anyone read the reports. The whole NUS question seemed to die with little or no fanfare.

But now, all of a sudden, the Students' Union is sponsoring the last CAB Social of the semester, and all the proceeds from it are going to the National Union of Students. This was one of the recommendations put forth by the Council representatives who attended the Conference. It proves that someone did indeed read the report; the Executive did. And it was the Executive who decided to authorize this benefit Social.

It would be easy to criticize the Executive for acting without Council's consent in this matter, but if any criticisms are to be levelled, they should be directed at Student Council. Their lack of interest in the external affairs of our Union is just another example of the apathetic attitude adopted by many of our faculty representatives after the elections are over.

If there is an interest in NUS, which there obviously is, why weren't the reports discussed in Council? And if there is no interest in NUS, why do we bother sending delegates to the conferences, and why do we sponsor benefits on their behalf?

Bernie Fritze

### fourum five



## letters

### Point of fact

In regards to Mr. Dan Skarlicki's letter in the Dec. 5 issue, Varsity Christian Fellowship feels an explanation of Book Exchange policy is necessary. The Exchange sells books on a commission basis, charging a fee of 20% of the price listed by students. Books which cannot be sold are picked up on the specified dates when money is being returned. The books which students fail to

pick up become property of the Book Exchange. Students who do not come during the specified days may write the Book Exchange, explaining their circumstances. Money for books which have been sold will be returned less 33% commission fee to cover additional processing costs. If a student has been unable to return due to extreme circumstances, we will not increase the commission fee. However, books will not be returned. This policy has resulted from past experience. Limited staff and high room rental costs necessitate early removal of the books. It is not possible to leave the books until all students find it convenient to pick up their texts. The Book Exchange is staffed by students whose time is as valuable as anyone else's.

We feel several of Mr. Skarlicki's statements are misleading and others plainly false. Firstly, our organization was referred to as "a university funded syndicate of rip off artists." Ignoring the obvious emotionality which spawned such a phrase, we feel the implication is grossly misleading. VCF is funded by no one except the students involved. The money received from the Book Exchange goes "to student work overseas" - clearly stated on the Book Exchange official receipt.

Secondly, we were told that "uncontrollable circumstances" prohibited Mr. Skarlicki from returning on the specified dates. We were not informed of anything which prohibited from him returning before the deadline. We're all aware of, and

have experienced, wading through the red tape of many bureaucratic organizations. We do not want to give students dealing with the Book Exchange a similar experience. There have been situations in the past in which students have adequately documented why they could not return to receive books. These students have been reimbursed. In this case, there was no explanation as to WHY Mr. Skarlicki was late.

Thirdly, we read that "since my books were not sold, they were keeping them all, plain and simple." This statement ignores the fact that a contract had been signed. The VCF Book Exchange receipt reads, in part:

All books or money not claimed by 12 noon on Monday, September 23 become the property of the VCF Book Exchange (consignee's signature). Money and books returned Sept. 19, 20, 21, and 23 until noon, room 142 SUB.

Finally, we were accused of "hiding behind the name of Varsity CHRISTIAN Fellowship. Let it be said that we do not hide behind the name Christian but espouse it openly. Part of the difficulty lies in the myriad meanings and associations attached to the word. We maintain that a Christian is one who:

- 1) has a relationship with Christ.
- 2) attempts to follow what He taught.

Even cursory reading of the New Testament reveals the Christ taught understanding and fair play. We have been implicated for our lack of understanding in this situation. We feel that, in the light of no adequate explanation for Mr. Skarlicki's tardiness, understanding has little to do with this case - a simple one of breach of contract. To not abide by a contract would be just as un-Christian as to show a lack of understanding.

At this time, we would encourage all those who have dealt with the VCF Book Exchange and have complaints, queries or comments to write to

VCF Book Exchange, Box 67, U of A.

Allan Josephson  
President, VCF  
Peter Gamache  
Manager, VCF Book Exchange

### BAC injustice

The site of a proposed building for the Faculty of Business Administration and Commerce, first set in 1969, has attracted continuing discussion. Three times in the past thirty months, it has been reviewed by the Campus Development Committee. And even within the past few weeks, as readers of *The Gateway* will know, (issues of November 21st and 28th), it has again been reconfirmed.

As on each previous occasion, the latest review involved much discussion and time and effort. Throughout several months and the course of successive meetings, members of C.D.C. considered criticisms of the site and weighed carefully its pros and cons. Its reappraisal developed through its comparison with other sites and, also, in terms of its suitability to other aspects of the Long Range Plan.

Comparison with alternate sites proceeded by reference to several criteria, chief of which were:

1. Academic relationships between the Faculty of Business Administration and Commerce and other faculties;
2. Proximity of sites to the Library most heavily used by B.A.C.; and
3. Effects of the building, on the various sites, upon adjacent buildings, courts, population density, traffic and aesthetics.

All factors considered, C.D.C. again concluded that the site selected ranked higher than other sites considered. Specifically, the majority of C.D.C. members felt (as did the University of Alberta's planning

consultant) that the placement of the B.A.C. building on the site south of Tory would define and thereby enhance the "Arts Court", while also improving the appearance of and entry to the Tory Building.

Each specific decision, such as the siting of the B.A.C. building, must also be assessed in relation to other aspects of the Long Range Plan. The site of HUB, the nature and the feasibility of its operation, as well as the north-east portion of a campus-wide system of enclosed pedestrian walkways, were years ago linked to intent to place the B.A.C. building on the Tory site. To yield the chosen site for B.A.C. in favour of another, in the absence of clear advantages in doing so, would be to abandon the Long Range Plan for little reason, or even to renege on an obligation to the Students' Union.

From yet another point of view, there is still some reason to consider protection of sites intended for other buildings. Admittedly, the Minister of Advanced Education has proposed a new limit to growth at the University of Alberta. But long range plans are seldom "done". They are, in fact, a series of plans for shorter terms, the last of which is directed towards achievement of the latest goal. Whether our next stage of growth will be our last will be determined by social and political events still unforeseen. Neither we, nor probably the Minister, see any imminent policy as surviving for all time. To make current decisions with some regard for the future, therefore, is in some respects to maintain the essence of a long range plan.

The unfinished portion of a long range plan is always open to review and never free of change. The process of development requires, therefore, consideration of each project, not only in its own right but also in relation to the whole.

Such was the case with the site for B.A.C. Scores of staff, and students have been involved in this decision. Their efforts,

