

# The union from...

By MARILYN PILKINGTON

In recent weeks the Campus Involvement Association, fondly referred to as the CIA, has risen from the remains of the defunct Pro-CUS Committee to imply that the Students' Council is not doing its job, and that therefore they have no choice but to step in and offer an alternative to our student government.

This seems to me a very arrogant attitude and a rather misleading development if it is examined in the context of the facts of student government at The University of Alberta. Because all these facts have not been set before the students, I would like to outline just what the students' council and the students' union is doing and how the CIA is attempting, so far with little success, to undermine these programs in an attempt to discredit our student leaders.

I assert that the CIA is needlessly attempting to duplicate programs already offered by the students'

*Marilyn Pilkington, the new kind of student activist and nineteen-year-old first lady of the students' council takes off her gloves to thrash out at Casserole (students' council's worst friend) and to invite the CIA (old kind of student activist) to bring its "ideas" to council meetings rather than hoard them in "splendid isolation". Casserole invites you to read-along-with-Marilyn and see how things look through the Pilkington Glass.*

union in order to imply that the students' council is doing nothing in these areas. This action is irresponsible, and though I commend the CIA for its interest and concern about students and the university community, I cannot agree with their proposed tactics.

I will be the first to admit there are many problems within student government. First there is a lack of continuity. With student officers changing every year, policies aren't always carried to completion. The short term of office means that by the time student leaders recognize the problems within the students' union system, their term is over and they have done little to reform the structure. It is difficult too when one works within a system to abstract oneself from that system. One becomes committed to the structure because it is his responsibility to administer it. It is especially difficult to lead a student organization, a corporation with considerable assets, when one also has responsibilities as a student which make considerable demands on his time.

## the Pilkington view

These are some of the problems, seemingly unavoidable, which beset student governments. While I don't suggest that they absolve student leaders from all criticism, I think they should be considered before student leaders are condemned.

If the students in the CIA have constructive suggestions for the reform of the students' council, I would like to hear them. And if they are practical, meritorious suggestions, let's incorporate or implement them. I have criticisms of the students' council too, and I have ideas for change. It would seem to me to be reasonable if we are all cognizant of problems, to sit down and examine them and work out alternatives.

But the CIA, which we know of only through The Gateway, which has never approached the council in any way, has never attempted to communicate or discuss with the council the problems which they would like to see examined, has offered no constructive criticisms. In fact they are attempting to ignore council, rather than trying to change it.

Rather than attempting to bring about changes in the structure and in the operation of the students' council to make it more effective in future years, they are in a very anarchistic way attempting through a "spontaneous" ad hoc group to form a "political relationship" with the rest of the students on the campus.

But if the students' council does not represent students, the CIA certainly cannot purport to do so. The November 25 editorial in the Gateway states "If our beloved students' union officials would bother to find out what students are really thinking, they would find that it is the union which is irrelevant—not the students who are apathetic."

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CUS director  
Attack Branny

A delegates accused of  
sh conduct at conference

of A vote  
leave CUS

ates criticize  
national activities

Branny raps  
statements  
made by Tkachuk

Ward on CUS  
Pro-CUS  
group formed

Committee initiates  
against students

King denies proposing second gov't

## The Gateway

I'd bury it myself

Schepanovich  
levels attack  
at Campbell

CIA to serve  
as conscience  
Council

Students' councils are dead

counters campus leftist

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more than cursory notes from real teachers and not much more information to make decisions, he said.

But he went on to chide us for being a bunch of children for taking an interest where we had none in university curriculum. Dr. Scott agreed with when we was declared. Chivers said. Since then they have formed an action group to investigate educational experiments.

There was a discussion of free universities by Anglican Chaplain Marjith McLean at the next meeting. Most of the meetings have had a strong faculty delegation present. Mrs. Sparling, dean of women, has attended most of the meetings. Usually they are about a quarter of the people present, but last meeting they were up to a third, he said.

important issues in the community and outside. Sue Boddington, co-ordinator of the CIA steering committee, will be present for a general meeting. The CIA will be in contact with the students' council.

The 17-member committee was appointed to formulate policy for the CIA. The CIA will be in contact with the students' council.



BARRY CHIVERS  
campus activist

