

PHOTO DIRECTORATE AXED

Many Volunteers Replaced by -TWO- Paid Staffers

by Henri R. Pallard

Students' Council, Monday night, decided to disband the Students' Union Photo Directorate which has provided The Gateway and other SU organizations with photographs.

To continue to provide pictures for The Gateway, Council proposed a Gateway photo department which Gateway and Photo staff claim is totally unworkable.

Photo Directorate was formally established in 1964

when it was recognized as an organization by council. Photo was to provide technically competent personnel and equipment so Union publications could be supplied with good photographs. Photo was also "to encourage the appreciation of photography as an art form" according to the SU by-laws.

Photo Directorate supplies equipment and a pool of talented and competent photographers for the different organizations on campus to draw upon. Pictures for the Union telephone book and the Handbook are supplied by

Photo. Photo facilities are also used by people doing photography for The Bridge, the engineering students' paper. Photo volunteers took the photographs for the Phys Ed, Engineering, and Agriculture yearbooks.

Any Student Union organization in the past simply came to Photo Directorate for pictures and got them. Even pictures for the University Athletic Board programs are being supplied by Photo this year. Many pictures in the faculty calendars for next year will also have come from Photo. Photo members feel that it is very doubtful that under the new arrangement for photo work that these services can be continued. Many feel that most of the minimally required work will not be done.

Under the budget brought to council Monday, Photo Directorate will be disbanded. The restructured photo department is to become essentially a department of Gateway. Two people will be expected to provide the Student Union publications with photographs—a photo editor who will be paid \$150 a month and his assistant. Besides these two persons, only the staff of University Publications will be allowed access to the facilities and equipment.

The \$900 cut in Photo Directorate's budget and the restructuring of the organization seem to have been brought about for two reasons. Firstly, council members objected to some photographers using Photo's facilities to take passport pictures and other such uses of photo equipment. Secondly, it is part of the shift from a services oriented Union to a more bureaucratic one, which is reflected in the proposed budget.

All the Students' Union has been paying for is equipment and supplies. No salaries were paid to any of the photographers, photo editors or the Photo Director. They were all volunteers.

Ed Lilley, this year's photo director, does not feel that the proposal put forward by the students' council is workable. The budget intimates that the photo editor and his assistant will not only be responsible for providing photos for Gateway, but for all other Union needs—HUB, the Handbook, etc. "No person in his right mind would put in the number of hours required for the salary offered. Photo Directorate in the past has been a team effort. No single individual has had to carry 100 per cent of the load," says Lilley. Other staffers agree.

The \$450 budgeted for supplies is not sufficient for the day to day work required for Gateway alone, Lilley states. Council has also budgeted \$3000 for the sale of some of Photo's equipment. "At the optimum market value, Photo Directorate does not have \$2000 worth of photo equipment in total. If council kept rudimentary equipment for the photographer and his assistant, they would only get \$1000 at the most for the rest."

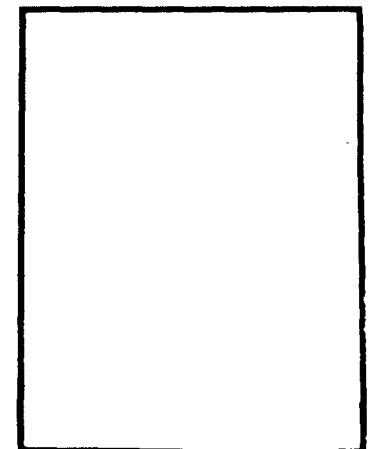
Last year Photo Directorate's budget was \$2195. This expenditure was totally defrayed by a space rental agreement with the University Publications office and by a budget arrangement with SU publications. Next year, council is subsidizing photo for \$1275.

This is simply a \$900 decrease from last year's subsidy.

Last year since all the members of Photo were volunteers, there was no expense for staff costs, and the budget monies were spent on equipment and supplies. For the forthcoming year, council has proposed to hire one photo editor and an assistant at a cost of \$1050. They have made no provision for the possibility of volunteer photographers. The proposed salary is a drain of \$1050 on the proposed \$1675 photo budget.

Lilley was very displeased about the proposed budget for Photo. "Council did not consult me as to what budget remedies could exist for Photo Directorate. Instead they made some unsubstantiated comments about members' use of the facilities and created a perfectly impossible alternative for Photo Directorate. I was never consulted on any of these measures. And my proposed budget for this year was totally ignored." Lilley feels that there are means to overcome the \$900 difference between last year's budget and this year's grant.

Of council charges that Photo members have been using Photo equipment and facilities for their personal gain, he says, "The only benefit that present members



non-photo: Henri R. Pallard

ED LILLEY
Non-Photo Director

have received from Photo Directorate is the use of facilities. This privilege has been revoked in the current budget, implying that these volunteers deserve nothing for their services that they have rendered without cost to the Union."

Individuals within Photo provide services to the student body at large. Candidates for SU elections get their pictures for their posters taken there at greatly reduced prices. Passport photos are also supplied by the members of Photo to students at reduced prices.

Lilley does not feel that the Gateway Editor would be an effective person to be in charge of the new department. Besides the volume of work that Photo Directorate does, "any editor, unless he has had training in photo journalism would find it difficult to administer this program properly. The initial idea of Photo Directorate was to provide the expertise to be used at will without useless redundancy," he states.

At the beginning of the year, any student could join Photo Directorate, even if he had no knowledge of photography. At that time Photo would train anybody. Unfortunately, due to lack of facilities, only people showing competence and a desire to work taking pictures for Gateway and other SU publications could be retained as

members. This year Photo has approximately 30 members.

All photographs taken by Photo Directorate are placed in the archives at Rutherford Library at the end of each year. This provides a well documented pictorial history of the campus from a student point of view, Lilley adds.

Outside sources often call upon Photo Directorate for pictures which they can get more quickly and easily from Photo than from the University Publications office. The Commonwealth games committee asked for pictures of the facilities on campus from Photo. The Indian Association of Alberta also called upon Photo for pictures of Chief Dan George when he came to Edmonton to speak about the plight of the Indian peoples. This provides outside revenue for Photo Directorate and helps to ameliorate its overhead costs. Many Photo staffers feel that this benefit will be lost under the new proposal.

Photo Directorate is one of the best student photography departments in Canada. In 1968, when Photo Directorate was responsible for the photography in the now defunct U of A yearbook, it won the Best Yearbook Photography award.

Canadian University Press at one time offered the Montreal Star Trophy for excellence in campus newspaper photography. It represented the opinion of professional photographers as to which campus newspaper had the best photography in Canada. Until the trophy's retirement in 1969, it was a permanent fixture in Photo Directorate.

The origins of Photo Directorate are uncertain. Chuck Lyall, a Photo member since 1960, thinks it occurred in the following manner. "Photo Directorate was formed around 1945 when the Air Force moved out of Pembina Hall and inexplicably misplaced a photographic enlarger which is still doing service for Photo Directorate." He continues, "In a moment of financial distress and moral cannibalism, Students' Council has seen fit to digest a 27 year old campus tradition of photographic competence unequalled in Canada."

After their surprise attack and hopefully successful scuttling of Photo Directorate, the new executive is expecting some retaliatory moves on the part of Photo members. Yesterday, Garry West, vice-president elect of finance and administration, attempted to forestall what he saw as a possible form of protest by Photo staffers. He attempted to take an inventory of Photo Directorate's equipment, perhaps thinking, as one member says, "that we were going to abscond with their equipment."

A shouting match between West and Photo staffers ensued when the latter refused to allow West access to the equipment lockers. Photo Director, Ed Lilley, was called into the office of Students' Union General Manager Daryl Ness. After the meeting, Lilley said that he and Ness had agreed that a stock-taking could only be done by the General Manager of the SU, the Accountant of the SU upon being ordered for by GM of the SU or the Photo Director himself. Lilley indicated that he would most probably be taking an inventory on Thursday.

Photo members felt that West was exceeding his authority.

Political Lesson Number One

by Winston Gereluk

There's a chance that some of you can remember that I used to have a regular column in the Gateway in which I used to fulminate against such things as the way that the University was being run by the bureaucrats, the way that students were expected to leap hurdles, the way that 'outside interests' were getting their way, and so on.

The reason why I haven't written any lately is not because I think that anything much has improved around here, but because once I finally realized what this place was all about, I just couldn't find the time.

So, this is not going to be a good column - I lost the touch at the same time as I lost a lot of illusions.

But, I've got to say something about what happened at the council meeting last Monday. What happened, was that they decided to shut down some organizations that are offering services to the university student in favour of adding some more personnel to their already top-heavy administration.

What can I say?--That's the way the system works, kiddies?

This proves that the Executive really have other things on their minds? I mean, who the hell is so naive as to not know exactly why people like McKenzie, Biltek, Black, Riskin, etc. run for executive positions?

Look! This is the way it is! At their tender young age, these children are having fun experimenting with the essentials of the administrative game --- exactly the same sort of game that the Big Daddies in University and Business hierarchies are playing for real.

That is, they are being student bureaucrats, student men-of-the-world, and as such are developing the skills and mentality necessary to be successful in that Big Game Out There, the one you can bet they are headed for. Administrators, if they are going to be successful, have to be adept at enhancing their own positions at the expense of the very realm that they are in charge of administering, you see.

I repeat -- In order to add to their administrative inner circle, and thus increase their importance, these young bureaucrats-in-training have shut down some of the very services that they are supposed to be administering in the first place. Precisely the game played by the Big Boys at this place, wouldn't you say?

Is it any wonder, then, that the student body doesn't want to participate in the student politician's little game? Other than costing each student a few bucks, every year, it means nothing to them.

Come to think of it, during the Leadbeater regime, the Students' Council passed a resolution to hold a referendum on the question of voluntary Students' Union membership. The referendum was never held.

The reason I recall this, is not because I am an advocate of voluntary organizations, but rather, because I am so sure that it would quickly show up the truth of the whole Students' Union. Very simply, I am damned sure that students would not pay their thirty-odd bucks every year just to keep the Students' Executive game going.

They're shutting down the Art gallery which has distinguished itself across Canada as one of its finest; more than that, it is one of the few things about this campus that people 'out there' really care about.

They're effectively shutting down Student Radio, which could have been practically the only independent students' voice on campus next year.

They're shutting down Photo Directorate which hasn't said a rotten thing about student bureaucrats all year.

Meanwhile, they're virtually leaving the Gateway alone, and its the very organization that has been telling the Kiddie-Kings to "shove it" all year. Political Lesson No. 1.

So, what can you as an individual student do?

(1) Sign the Petition.

(2) And, phone up Don McKenzie, Dave Biltek, Doug Black, Vera Radio, Ian McDonnell, Frans Slatter, in their Executive Offices. Phone up the members of the new Executive, who are also responsible. Tell them you want the Art Gallery, Student Radio and Photo Directorate more than you want them.