

editorial

1975-76 a year to fight

To my recollection, few academic years have begun with as many and varied a list of problems and issues facing this university and Students' Union as has this year. It seems the present has arrived at a crossing-point with more than just a few problem areas, ones that call for solution before the academic year passes.

Let me run over a quick list of some of the issues facing the university's and Students' Union's administrations this year.

For the university, the problem of general growth and funding will require some kind of solution. As a result of unforeseen growth by this university (larger than the provincial and federal governments can financially cope with) a host of other problems arise. Most serious of these to the student are the issues of academic quotas and staff market subsidies.

The university simply won't have the money or facilities to cope with the number of qualified people who seek entry into university. This is already shown in the university's quota faculties, Law, Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmacy. But statistics, if you can trust them, show that in the not too distant future, this will be true of nearly all faculties. Some method will have to be settled on to choose between the qualified applicants, that both the administration, the government, and the general public will agree is fair.

Included with this is the paying of market subsidies for professors in the "professional" faculties. Doctors and lawyers are finding they can make more money in general practice than they can teaching their professions, and therefore are demanding wages similar to what a doctor or lawyer would get.

The university already spends over 80% of its general budget on wages, and cannot really afford a wholesale application of market supplements, yet as occurred last year, some teachers threatened to walk off their jobs if they weren't provided with higher wages.

These are university issues that seriously affect the ability of universities to teach, and the opportunities of students to learn.

Issues you should see settled with regards to the Students' Union this year deal with the National Union of Students (NUS) and the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS). The Students' Union here has seen fit to break away from looking at its own isolated problems to a broader perspective, finding that other unions are doing the same. Although it will incur an extra expense of \$1.00 per student in Students' Union fees, many in this union feel the expense is well-warranted and that many problems we face cannot be solved by us alone.

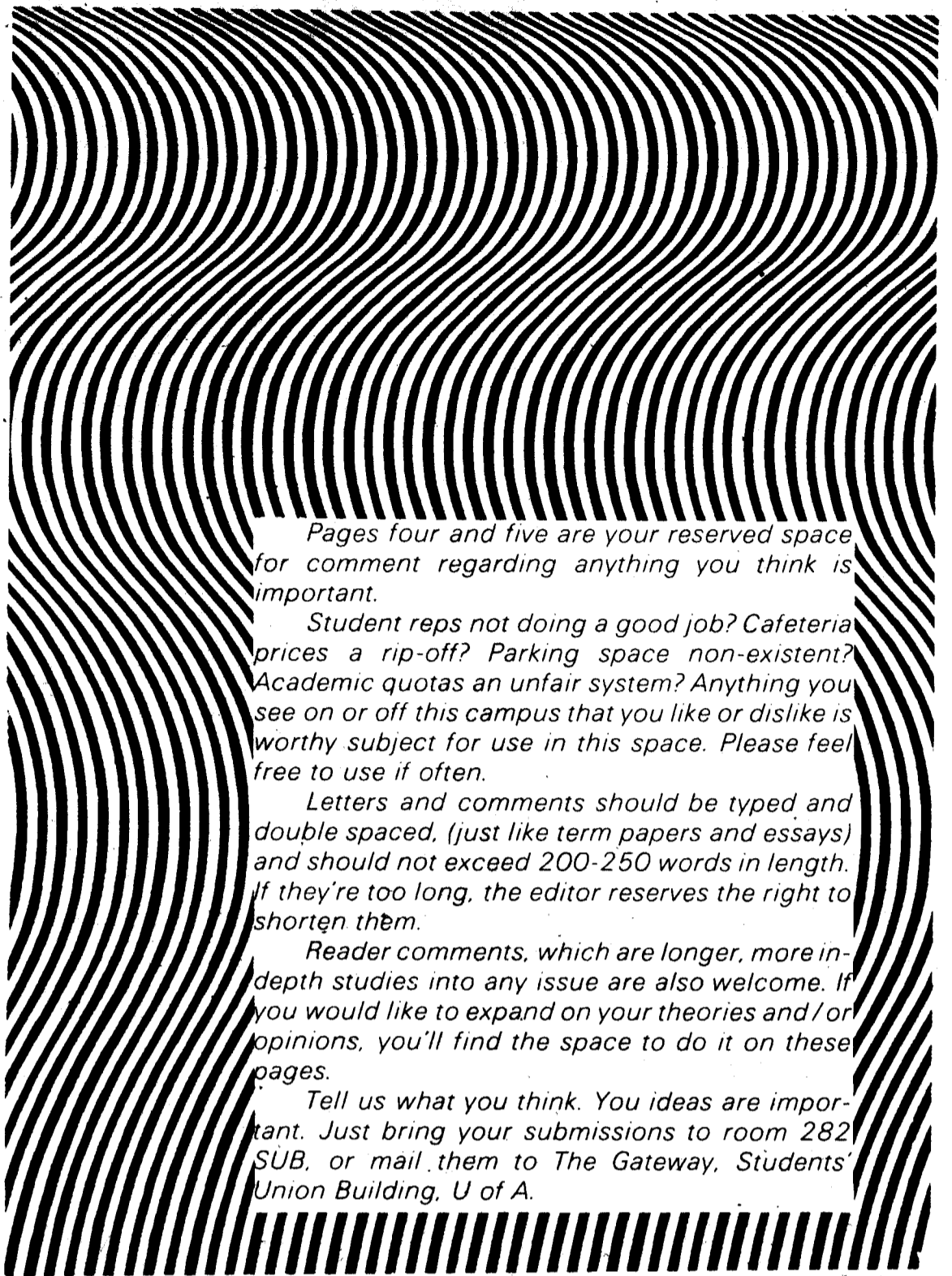
Housing shortages, as you can see on the news pages are in existence all over Canada. The U of A's Students' Union alone can certainly not be expected to begin solving the problem, even at a local level. The same goes for improvements in Alberta's student aid program (reputed as Canada's worst). Alone we simply cannot draw enough weight to arouse government attention.

Therefore, larger organisations representing the views of a larger cross section of society are needed to deal at the government level with these problems. NUS and FAS are natural solutions.

The decisions whether or not to break away from our isolation in these areas must come this year.

It should be an interesting year if not anything else.

Greg Neiman



Pages four and five are your reserved space for comment regarding anything you think is important.

Student reps not doing a good job? Cafeteria prices a rip-off? Parking space non-existent? Academic quotas an unfair system? Anything you see on or off this campus that you like or dislike is worthy subject for use in this space. Please feel free to use it often.

Letters and comments should be typed and double spaced, (just like term papers and essays) and should not exceed 200-250 words in length. If they're too long, the editor reserves the right to shorten them.

Reader comments, which are longer, more in-depth studies into any issue are also welcome. If you would like to expand on your theories and/or opinions, you'll find the space to do it on these pages.

Tell us what you think. Your ideas are important. Just bring your submissions to room 282 SUB, or mail them to The Gateway, Students' Union Building, U of A.

Berry wesGateway

Well, fellow truth seekers, my demise at the hands of the administrative incompetents in the Arts faculty turns out to be a stroke of luck for the literate masses on campus, which at last count numbered 311, including faculty and non-academic staff.

Why is that, you ask? Because thanks to those who have seen fit to hand me yet another setback on the long, hard, dusty quest for the elusive Bachelor of Arts degree, I will be returning for a record 13th stint as your ever-alert public conscience and man-of-low-means.

Hank, whom you may remember from days gone by as an endless source of completely useless trivia and gossip, lost his battle to remain in the institution of his choice when he was abruptly and without prior suspicion removed to another institution, not of his choice.

It seems that in his attempt to carve his niche in our capitalist society (and at the same time repay the \$18,761.06 in government loans which he had incurred as a student) he accidentally stumbled upon a technicality in the penal code which clearly precludes up and coming young Commerce graduates from wholesale distribution of substances not yet under the control of the Food and Drug Act.



Cards of condolence should be addressed to #70753198, Abbotsford Correctional Institution, Rehabilitation Division, Abbotsford, B.C. Incidentally, don't worry too much about attaching the postal code for speedy delivery - Hank says the bread and water they give him out there is of higher quality than the swill he used to lap up in his heyday at SUB cafeteria, and he figures on sticking around for awhile.

I am deeply shaken by his departure, untimely as it was, but the show, as we say in the trade, must go on. As the memory of Hank slowly fades, I will begin again to grind out the scintillating phrases which you and thousands of your friends have come to know and love. Perhaps, in time, I will even seek a replacement for my talented sidekick once removed, though

there will never be another Hank.

Actually, I know two other Hanks, but neither one would do. One is a hockey player, and all I ever hear from him is who soaked whose athletic supporter in liniment, etc. - who needs it? The other Hank didn't drag himself out of bed more than twice last winter, and there is no reason to believe he will this year, either. Since he lives in St. Stephen's, he'll probably be demolished in the near future.

If anyone is having trouble finding a place to live this year, is under thirty years of age, with a good figure, and an I.Q. of 70 or better... well, 60 then... please send your application, along with a recent picture to Berry Wesgateway, c/o The Gateway, preferably before my old lady gets back from Europe in October. Oh, yeah. Females only, please.

They were turning hundred of people away from the Beer Garden in the quad on Tuesday... No, not the organizers - the band. That nifty little six-piece combo drove most would-be boozers away in droves. Only a few of the hard core barley addicts made it to the gala affair, and even we only lasted a few tunes(?) before our eardrums rebelled. They certainly have a nice van, though.

And the beer was nice and warm so you didn't get your hands cold. All in all, just a great time.