

INTERVIEW: Doug Ward

by Bonnie Risely



EXCALIBUR: What does an ordinary day involve for the president of CUS?

WARD: Well, there isn't really an average day. Generally, I start the day with a ten minute conference with my secretary, then read the daily mail. I like to spend one hour on idea work and creative writing, travel plans, staff questions or monthly priorities. The rest of the morning is spent dictating letters, signing cheques and other administrative duties. The afternoon is spent in administrative work, staff conferences and interviews.

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EXCALIBUR: How large is your staff?

WARD: Eight people are in contact with campuses at any one time. The office staff consists of only four people. Our field staff is trying to make the office campus-oriented. We want to get to know campuses.

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EXCALIBUR: What is CUS's annual budget?

WARD: Our budget this year was \$120,000, \$5,000 of which was for my salary.

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EXCALIBUR: That's a small salary for a national student union president...

WARD: I've been offered three times that in university administration work, but this is more exciting.

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EXCALIBUR: There has been talk at York this year about the benefits of remaining in CUS. Also, there have been many withdrawals from CUS this year. Is CUS worthwhile?

WARD: It's about time the students thought about the worth of our organization. CUS has got to be representative of the people on the campuses. On the national level, we have been quite effective; for instance, we have obtained income tax reductions for the student. This involved a great deal of work developing a brief for the House of Commons committee on taxation. We lobbied persistently for the student loan bill in the summer of 1964, when the flag issue threatened to delay its passing. This year we have attempted to get down to the grass roots and visit campuses to help them with their problems. We offer a wide range of information, pamphlets and reports to the students. Although the cost of printing of this material has increased to \$20,000 per annum, 5,000 to 10,000 students will be subscribing to 'CUS Across Canada' which will keep them informed of their union's activities. You can't work with just the elite student government groups. Any student interested will get a CUS brochure and CUS release. A CUS open letter was sent to 150,000 students recently with the CUS Premier Life Insurance information and 3,000 people have requested more information since January. We want an information explosion!

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EXCALIBUR: What other issues has CUS been involved in this year?

WARD: Education has barriers. Not for us, we're all here, by

hook or by crook, paid for by next year's government aid (about three-quarters of the tuition fee is paid by the government), summer earnings, grants and loans and scholarships, part-time job money, and money from home. But for every one of us there is at least one other person our same age with the same native intelligence who does not come to university. To eliminate these financial barriers to higher education, CUS has advocated Universal Accessibility.

We also commissioned Doctor Schwartz to complete a report on health services offered by university campuses across Canada. It doesn't cover counselling services accurately, but remember it is a first report - nothing has ever been done in this before. Many universities presented out-dated statistics, but the purpose of the report was accomplished - the campuses will now read it and get to work. Schwartz is over for us; it is just beginning for the campuses!

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EXCALIBUR: Is apathy on Canadian campuses a flourishing pastime?

WARD: Congress delegates at the national CUS Congress in the fall complained they were unable to cope with campus apathy. One reason for this difficulty is inadequate leadership training. To fill this leadership gap, we are planning to establish a two-week intensive leadership course on the west coast to take place each September. Every campus would send some faculty and students. We hope that with this training the campuses will be able to become more independent.

Most university student elections are not run on issues. One of the criteria of an efficient leader is that he be able to frame and implement effective policy. These policies should become election issues. For example, they could speak out on: Is university education meant to be training or education?

The individual student must realize that it is fraudulent to believe that university is a time for detachment. In today's society it is being run as a service industry to fill middle level jobs. Many students don't realize what the real problems of our society are, and are not prepared to face them when they leave university.

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EXCALIBUR: Should university students have a voice AND a vote?

WARD: Yes! Definitely a voice and a vote. In South Africa the Negro population used to have a voice but no vote and it was the difference between freedom and slavery. With a voice alone, students are given a sense of responsibility but not real power to carry it out. The present system prohibits a development of maturity and encourages rebellion or apathy.

Education is not just academic objectivity but a totality of the experience that you are going through.

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EXCALIBUR: What is your opinion of university presidents in Canada?

WARD: Many university presidents are selected for their ability to run a university with least dissension.

Universities in Canada are often conglomerations of thousands where one hundred are getting an education. More faculty members and seminars instead of lectures would provide some meaningful education.

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EXCALIBUR: Are advisory committees on student affairs valuable?

WARD: Advisory committees are often appointed by university presidents who do not know what the students are thinking. They have no status when they are held in camera but are merely only a controlling factor. If it remains advisory it remains part of the smooth control. Many university presidents are there merely to control the students. Some know how to emasculate student dissent very quickly.

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EXCALIBUR: Is the cost of university education becoming prohibitive to the average student?

WARD: Definitely. And tuition will probably go up next year on most university campuses. It won't be announced though till the university newspapers quit publishing so there will be no organized student outcry.

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EXCALIBUR: Does CUS receive financial support from the federal government?

WARD: CUS appeals to the government for certain projects. For example, scholarships were recently provided for students to live in different regions of Canada but these funds were strictly specified. We cannot spend this money for any unspecified purpose. A recent grant of \$25,000 was made for CUS's Indian Affairs Program. This will be an annual grant.

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EXCALIBUR: Was CUS aware of CIA involvement in the Foundation of Youth and Student Affairs?

WARD: No. We have a very small intelligence squad - my secretary. The Foundation's directors seemed to us to be businessmen with qualifications similar to those of businessmen on similar Canadian student foundations.

Universities should be places where investments don't block your objectivity. What disturbed us about the involvement of the Central Intelligence Agency in this American federation was that projects were not being judged on their merits but on the CIA's secret aims. This is the beginning of a totalitarian system. Because of our concern we asked the Prime Minister to assure us that the RCMP is not engaged in any similar operations.

We need independent money sources. There isn't money for youth activities that are not entirely safe.

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EXCALIBUR: Was this incident a lesson to you?

WARD: Not a lesson - let's say it was a further example to me. I've suspected this kind of thing.

We didn't feel we were violated in this matter but this kind of

Doug Ward, President of the Canadian Union of Students--our 150,000 member, forty university, national student organization is a 1961 University of Toronto graduate in Modern History. While there at the University of Toronto he headed the World University Student Committee and was one of the founding members of the organization that eventually became CUSO. He studied at the Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey and from Emmanuel College at the University of Toronto in 1964. In May of 1964 he came to CUS as vice-president in charge of International Affairs where he championed awareness of South African students. He remained in this position until September 1965 when he was elected CUS President, President for 1966-67 at the annual national conference. Last year he worked as administrative assistant to Robin Ross, the University of Toronto registrar. On the first of July 1966 he commenced his position as CUS President and works at this job full-time. In his spare time he works with the administration of the Company of Young Canadians.

activity can have a great influence on student freedom. Financial domination can lead to control of an organization's activities.

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EXCALIBUR: A recent statement from your office has revealed that the RCMP has been interviewing CUS presidents for fifteen years. Are they good conversationalists?

WARD: Yes, we have our annual get-together. I try to shock them a bit. I talk about Mao and revolution in South America. I want to see if they have the intellectual background to handle their job. I ask them why they watch the Communist Party of Canada. They say they keep it under surveillance because it doesn't have non-violence into its constitution. What organization does?

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EXCALIBUR: Are individual student leaders or dissenters on campuses in the files of the RCMP?

WARD: Yes.

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EXCALIBUR: Are undercover RCMP agents sleuthing about the campus?

WARD: The Prime Minister assured us that the practice of placing undercover agents posing as students on campus was halted in 1963-64. There are no more double-agents on campus.

Mr. Ward's secretary walked in at this point in the interview and deposited the afternoon mail on his desk. One letter was from a university student's

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