

publications from the bookstore at the request of the Students' Union.

As a student of this institution, I feel it is an obligation of my Students' Union to disallow the distribution of material that is sexist; just as it is an obligation of the same body not to allow distribution of material that is racist, and therefore especially offensive to students who belong to targeted ethnic groups. This is not a question of moral preaching but of human rights.

The action of removing the aforesaid publications actually eliminated a situation of hypocrisy where the University, which has a moral philosophy of being a place of higher learning, was profiting from the sale of pornography.

As far as hypocrisy goes, why should Council "stick to South Africa" and not clean up its own backyard?

Sexism is more than a "big, bad issue" and it is one issue that many people are seriously harmed by. The bookstore is in a building that is owned and operated by our Students' Union. What goes on in that building is very definitely their business.

Siobhan Avery  
Arts

### Johnston mistaken

You were misled by the Minister of Advanced Education during your interview of Sept. 27.

Mr. Johnston is quoted as saying that if U of A students were to reject full membership in the Canadian Federation of Students in the October referendum, the CFS would be left with no members in Alberta. This statement is untrue.

Students at the University of Lethbridge and grad students at the University of Calgary are all full members of CFS. As should be obvious to most people, a referendum at the U of A will not affect the membership status of students at those universities — they will remain full members of CFS. Furthermore, the referendum will have no effect upon the prospective membership that institutions such as Grande Prairie Regional College, Mt. Royal College, University of Calgary and U of A grads all maintain.

As a founding member of CFS, the U of A is also a prospective member of the organization. Like all

prospective members, we receive nearly all of the benefits of full membership until the lapse of prospective membership, or until we students decide to become full members. Hence the vote on October 21st. If we vote no, CFS will work with us until April; if we vote yes, CFS will work with us for as long as we want to join with students across the country to fight against things like overcrowding and underfunding.

Underfunding? Overcrowding? Not my fault, says Mr. Johnston. But they do persist — as do cutbacks. Of course, when most people say cutbacks, they speak in real terms, taking into account the rising costs of books and test tubes and the failure of government funding to keep up with those costs. Not Dick Johnston. But I'll bet that even the Minister of Advanced Education realizes that he doesn't have to cut back to cut back, he only has to not keep up. Admittedly, Mr. Johnston may have real reason to avoid the subject of his not keeping up. After all, if he can't obscure the issue with a sanctimonious "There are no cutbacks," the provincial government's failure to maintain its share of the costs of post-secondary education could well become a big political embarrassment.

James Weir  
Arts IV

### Club stuff

The Students' Union provides a variety of services to registered clubs. Each year October 15th is the deadline for re-registering campus clubs with the Students' Union, and that date is fast approaching.

All groups that were registered last year will enjoy full services until October 15, however, clubs that fail to re-register will lose all privileges (room bookings, office space, the works!). To avoid any such problems, clubs that have not yet applied for 1983-84 registration should stop by Room 259 in the Students' Union Building, or call me at 432-4236. I am available to answer questions, and help with any difficulties that you group may have. Also, any students interested in starting a new club should also contact me.

Dawn Noyes  
Clubs Commissioner



Guest Column  
by Joseph Isserlie

It is deeply disturbing to hear reports to the effect that eager young students wishing to enter our universities in order to train for a potential career in the professions should have to be turned away due to the presence of an entry quota imposed on the number of entrants that those departments can take at one time. It is even more profoundly disturbing to find that at this time in this province of Alberta there are desperate shortages of professional people, especially in the field of engineering. Now, the universities receive substantial funding from the provincial and federal governments. How is it, then, that students must be turned away from entering those very professions in which we have our worst shortages of trained personnel? The reason is that the government funding is spread too thinly throughout the plethora of academic departments within our institutions of higher learning. By allowing our universities constantly to add more divisions in our basic disciplines, we find departments created which are of no earthly use to man or beast, and in some cases quite detrimental to our society. It is bad enough that this large number of costly departments drains needed money from our essential tasks of training professionals, but worse, some areas of study are proving subversive to our efforts to build a strong and wealthy community.

The departments of the universities may be generally divided into those that prepare students for work positions presently existing in our society, and those that do not. Those disciplines that do not teach useful work skills are usually referred to as the "liberal arts." The term represents a diverse group of studies which range from splattering paint on canvas to rehashing pointless ethical questions which confused people twenty-five hundred years ago. I scarcely need point out the inapplicability of learning history, philosophy, language, et cetera, with respect to getting work and earning one's keep, but I would like to draw attention to an additional problem, that of the study of literature. Literature is a very good special case in that it has the greatest potential of all the arts (except possibly that of war), to alter people's opinions.

There is no value in the study of literature in today's world because: it cannot assist the self-

motivated man; it can provide dangerous organizational material for the general populace; and it wastes a great deal of public time and money on such unprofitable intangibles as aesthetic beauty.

Alberta's self-motivated man needs only his own desires and ambitions to establish his goals and his code of conduct. Most moral values found in literature are thus irrelevant. Very few authors can instruct in the search for wealth and power, and no ambitious man need waste his time on the worlds of people who for the most part were material failures.

The value of aesthetic beauty in literature is not reflected in any improvement in man's lot. Beauty is not in words but in things, and these are only available, and rightly so, to the successful. Literature for the masses is a waste of human energy and should be discouraged.

Literature represents a real danger in that it can provide the general public with revolutionary models for the disruption of our way of life. Unruly elements, whose inactivities might otherwise be restricted by lack of communication, can use the words of the visionary and the impractical to ferment unrest. Certainly literature should not be available to those who would abuse us.

The written word is for the instruction of others to enable them to work effectively in the building of our society. There is, in fact, no need for the majority of the population to read much at all, and many could do without reading altogether. More and more of the complex work activities are being taken over by computer, with a corresponding drop in a worker's literary requirements.

Literature has no value to man in any sense. It can prove dangerous and time wasting, and should be stopped before our freedom is jeopardized. In fact not only literature, but all of the liberal arts waste our time and money. The study of literature is not only particularly representative of that waste, but also of the insidious effects the liberal arts can have upon a public best kept ignorant of their revolutionary power.

We must implore the governments of Canada and of the rest of the world to not only discontinue the funding of the liberal arts, but also to monitor the outputs of the world's publishing houses, and indeed, of every article of printed matter produced.

If we can implement these improvements, we will have a far greater gross national product, more workers happy with their position, those seeking the professions unrestricted by entry quotas, and a far quieter, more stable population. With the reduction of the liberal arts, the vocabulary of most of the population would be similarly reduced so that, soon after, they would have no need for more than approximately six hundred words. This limited vocabulary will further stabilize the world's work forces because they will become apolitical due to lack of comprehension.

If we act now we can improve man's security, wealth, and power upon this planet and fulfill his great destiny; if we do not act soon we will be torn to pieces by those very people we seek to help.

### ATTENTION ARTS STUDENTS

On October 21st elections will be held for the following positions:

- President of the Arts Students Association
- Treasurer of the Arts Students Association
- 1 Arts Representative on General Faculties Council

Anyone interested in running for these positions can pick up nomination forms at the ASA office, HC2-3 beginning Tuesday, Oct. 11th. Nominations close at 4:00 pm. Friday Oct. 14th.

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