

The Gateway

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. It is published by the Students' Union twice weekly during the winter session on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contents are the responsibility of the editor, opinions are those of the person expressing them. Letters to the editor on any subject are welcome, but must be signed. Please keep them short: letters should not exceed 200 words. Deadlines for submitting copy are 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Main offices are located in Room 282, SUB for Gateway, Room 238 SUB for Media Productions. Phone 432-5168, 432-5178, 432-5750. Advertising 432-3423. Circulation 18,500.

Editor - Kevin Gillese
News - John Kenney
Features - Lindsay Brown
Arts - Beno John
Sports - Darrell Semenuk
Photo - Don Truckey
Graphics - Craig McLachlan
Advertising - Tom Wright
Production - Loreen Lennon and Margriet Tilroe-West

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Brian Gavriloff, Tom Baker, Gary Watson, Keith Miller, Allan Anderson, Shawn McCarthy, Ben Verdum, Sue Eberlein, Linda McCoy, Eve Rose, Milfred Campbell, Mary Duczynski, Peter Birnie, Stan Mah, Nancy Brown.

editorial

Vote Oct. 6

The radicals on campus are up to it again. Just read the posters asking us to vote yes in the Oct. 6 referendum on joining the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS). It's one more way for the radical militants to sneak power away from each one of us, a way for them to dupe political influence out of our grasp and into their hot little palms! — Or is it?

Most people on campus are probably unaware of the history of FAS, short though it is, and it might be worthwhile to look at it to give a better perspective for deciding on FAS membership.

The U of A was instrumental in beginning FAS, pulling student politicians from around the province to an organizational conference at our university on Aug. 14 to 16 of last year. The reason for organizing a provincial student body was a belief that, in our political system, the provincial government's actions are largely responses to the demands of various interest groups. The more interest groups can exert pressure on the government, the greater the probability of securing equitable portions of the public purse for each section of society, student politicians reasoned.

Their idea: why not organize an interest group to represent the students, to pressure the government when the need arises, to survey and collate student reactions to educational policies, to provide the government with student reactions to various preliminary policy moves? Why not, indeed?

And so, a "federation" linking the students' unions of post-secondary institutions around the province was begun, with funding at 25 cents per student on a temporary basis for one year. The federation members discussed education programs — student aid, the 11 percent grant ceiling, student housing problems, summer employment, status of foreign students, student loan verification — and sent their resolutions to the government.

When the government brought down three major policy proposals (1) for an Adult Education Act, (2) for a student housing policy and (3) for reduced university subsidization, FAS examined each document in turn, discussed the ramifications and then offered their conclusions to the Lougheed administration. FAS set up seminars for young, struggling students unions at smaller post-secondary institutions and organized a monthly provincial newspaper, *The Alberta Student*. And so on.

Were they radicals bent on using power to advance their "revolutionary" ideas? I don't think so. Whether or not they will be in the future is hypothetical; what we are deciding Oct. 6 is whether the organization, a provincial federation of students' unions, should exist or not.

Certainly when FAS makes representation to government, they hold a certain collective power in their hands which they have taken from each Alberta student. But how many students on campus have the time or inclination to study government reports and send their ideas directly to the government? And how many people think the Lougheed government understands students' needs better than students do?

We DO need a group to represent our interests, just as students behind us will need such a group in the future. And for only 50 cents per student, we can have such a group, right now. FAS is the best way to talk to the government, if we want to be heard.

Mea culpa, mea culpa ... A week ago, I said this year we have a "(yawn) Freshman Introduction Week which could hardly excite the widest-eyed frosh." Quick to complain, quick to apologize. As it turned out, FIW this year was one of the best I've seen, with excellent entertainment in RATT, at the afternoon beer gardens and elsewhere. My apologies to special events director Doug Elves for a superficial judgement...

Kevin Gillese

The sheep look up

Joining FAS is another attempt by the radical factions of student government to foist the sign carrying, picketing group known as the National Union of Students (NUS) on the students of the U of A as their paid representatives to the powers that be. These powers are supposedly unreachable by other than the methods of NUS representing its flock of sheep. By supporting and joining FAS we are supporting NUS and its methods. One needs only to look at the FAS and NUS approach to National Student Day. It has been billed as a day of protest of government spending cutbacks in the post secondary education arena (pg. 1, *Gateway*, Sept. 9/76). This strikes me as another chance to try and show force by taking time off our education to demonstrate as we did when the Board of Governors passed our 25% fee hike. What does this accomplish aside from wasting paid for time? Would we not be better off to attempt to show our financial benefactors the goods that they are buying

with their education subsidization dollars in an attempt to get them to spend more?

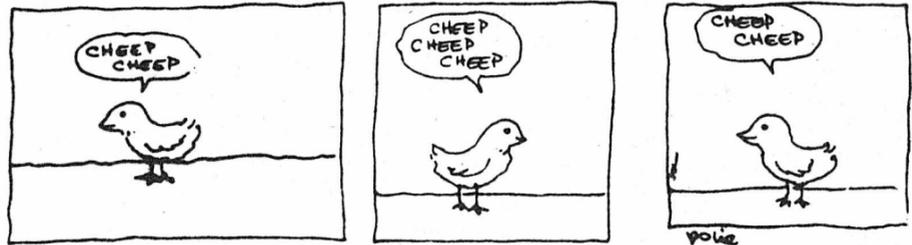
Len Zoeteman states (pg. 4 *Gateway*, Sept. 14/76) that joining FAS will cause our political autonomy to suffer as the outside (non-university) community and government to look to FAS for any and all expressions of student opinion. By joining FAS we are endorsing the opinions of the FAS executive. I doubt FAS will responsibly represent the students of the U of A we well as our own Students' Council can. The *Edmonton Journal* of Aug. 13/76 (pg. 21) writes "A plan by Calgary's Mount Royal College to raise tuition fees for foreign students paying their own way is misguided, says a Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) spokesman." Later in this article this spokesman is identified as Brian Mason, executive secretary of FAS. I for one do not hold Mr. Mason's opinion on this matter. Neither do a number of other Alberta citizen students I have discussed this with.

Joining FAS is cost us \$5.00 per person. It is also costing us our voices. We are paying to become members of FAS's and NUS's flock of silent obedient sheep. We have said no to joining NUS in the past. FAS is a member of and in effect an arm of NUS. Do not let them dupe us into joining NUS under the guise of FAS. Please say NO to joining the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) on October 6; for the sake of our voices.

R. Mark Lasby
Civil Engineering 4

Ed. Note: In fact, Mr. Lasby has incorrectly quoted SU pres. Len Zoeteman who says in his letter (Sept. 14) "each institution's political autonomy MAY suffer slightly." Also, FAS can never become a member organization of NUS as Mr. Lasby suggests: NUS is made up only of individual students' unions across Canada, and by restrictions in its constitution, cannot admit a "federation" of students.

CHEEP THRILLS



Paranoia strikes deep

Many Canadians are unaware that a group of monopoly capitalists are planning to extend their economic domination to Canada, and, in addition obtain control thereby of all our politicians. Already, several countries are under their power. What are conditions like in the domain of monopoly capitalism?

As we all know, rather than giving our Native people hard cash for their furs, northern trading companies paid them in worthless wooden blocks so that they could only buy goods at the company store. This system exists on an even larger scale in the lands victimised by the monopoly capitalists I am now discussing: one of the offences which can be punished by death in the chief country under their control is "speculation in foreign currencies", meaning simple possession of them in practice. Their own currency, of course, is not of any value outside their country: no means for citizens to exchange it for foreign currencies is provided.

Laborers are, of course, brazenly exploited: the monopoly capitalists, in possession of all the means of production, have contrived a system of identification that prevents a worker from seeking new work until his old employer permits it.

Furthermore, the natural function of unions in representing the class interests of labor against those of capital are subverted by limiting the unions to such activities as inspiring the workers to work harder and administering management-designed vacation plans.

A recent Macleans' article exposed the practice of some of our more vicious capitalists of using company doctors to falsely certify troublesome employees as being unfit for work so that they can be fired. Freed from the

restraints of a democratic worker's government, the monopoly capitalists I am discussing have gone much further: those who might cause trouble are certified as insane and then subjected to debilitating and mind-destroying treatments.

And these monopoly capitalists, able to buy luxuries denied the workers through special, segregated shops, have

the audacity to pose as the vanguard of the working class!

Who are these monopoly capitalists? At last report, their cabal is known as the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Canadian workers, don't be deceived! Smash the power of the monopoly capitalists!

With apologies to the ESM
John Savard

Fee hike aggravates

I have just been informed that my Graduate Students' Association fees have been raised 150 percent, from \$10 to \$25, without either my knowledge or consent. Although this matter was apparently voted on at the September, 1975 meeting of the council, no one thought to inform the students of this arbitrary decision in any of the following year's editions of the *G.S.A. Newsletter*.

This kind of irresponsible behaviour can only be prevented in future by a change in the bylaws of the G.S.A. constitution requiring a referendum before any considerable fee increase is instituted. Not all graduate students are willing to pay a \$15 fee hike to support a social centre and such a decision should be made by a majority vote of all concerned.

There seems, unfortunately, to be no possible way to avoid paying the fee hike this year, but this should be a warning to all graduate students.

The G.S.A. Council can do this to you again whenever it likes so long as the constitution states that it may vote itself as much of

your money as it likes and have it collected by the university administration in the form of compulsory fees.

Mary Louise Mitchell
Graduate Student
Comparative Literature
copy to Graduate Students
Association

NOTICES:

Reporters needed who will cover news beats on a regular basis: Board of Governors, General Faculties Council, Students' Council, Senate, forums, and more. Please come into the office, Room 282, SUB.

Saturday Seminars will continue Sat. Oct. 2 at 1:30 p.m. when Terry Cioni, photo-journalism instructor at SAIT, and Ray Smith, Calgary free-lance photog, talk about newsphotography and technical stuff. Public invited — no *Gateway* photog should miss it. In Room 282, SUB.

Gateway Style Guides will be printed by next week and will be available to all (staff or not) who want them.