

# Varsity Voices

## SUB Expansion

To The Editor:

I, for one, am opposed to the Students' Council's plans for a new Students' Union Building. What is the justification for such a building at this time or even in the near future? There certainly are plenty of occasions when the present building is not used at all, and taking into account the availability of present classroom space in the University of Alberta as a whole, we may safely say that this utilization is less than 30%.

It seems hardly justifiable to spend the amount of money contemplated when the crying need is not for more buildings but better education. How many students on this campus could use a portion of four million dollars to improve their intrinsic educational needs? Quite a few, I'll wager.

The prognostication of the number of students who will be attending this campus of the University of Alberta is likely to be highly inaccurate. Judging from the size of large universities in concentrated metropolitan areas of the United States it appears that there is a limit to the number

of students that can be accommodated on any one campus. I suggest that this limit is being approached at the Edmonton campus.

Even if, however, the limit should be 20,000 students and 20,000 students should attend this campus, is it right to force these students to pay for facilities on which they had no part in deciding? Will students be willing to pay perhaps \$75 and more per year in Students' Union fees? Has the Students' Council asked even the present students' body about their plans?

These are questions to which I, and others, would like to hear answers. Perhaps part of the answer lies in the answer to the question: Are the majority of students getting their money's worth now, at the present scale of Students' Union fees?

I think that as long as membership in the Students' Union is compulsory, it is reasonable to expect some economy in its operation. To construct buildings for no economic necessity other than that of contractors; shows a callous disregard of the rights of ordinary students.

D. Hohn, Education

## Residence Food

To The Editor:

Last Monday we in residence had a wonderful meal. There were 16 pieces of potatoes, 15 chunks of fat and a dish of tasteless turnips. All this was for 12 people. When we sent the plates out, the maid came back with an "I'm sorry, no more." We don't hear that pet phrase very often.

After finishing the meal off with bread and gravy, I was disgusted. What are we paying \$80 a month for? I have never eaten so much wallpaste and watered-down gravy and soup as I have in the last month.

On Monday night some fellows had no grievances. They received thirds. Why must we leave the table hungry while others do not? The food is tasteless and terrible enough; we should at least get enough to eat.

I hope someone can answer my questions.

Gary Smith  
213 Assiniboia Hall

## Richard McDowall's Musings



This is the time of year when most of us start asking ourselves what we are going to buy for Christmas presents.

We have to think of whom we are going to give presents to and what we are going to buy. Now this can be quite an experience in itself.

Mostly, I believe it leads to confusion and headaches because out of all this hustle and bustle that surrounds Christmas, we generally wake up on Christmas morn finding that we have received some of the most unusual gifts imaginable, all the way from gaudy ties to stretchie socks, to pipe holders, to lipstick the wrong color, to earrings for those who don't wear earrings.

Many gifts are impractical because we have not spent enough time thinking about the person involved and what he or she actually would like or need.

Some families I know have tried to solve this problem with good results by using the following method. All the names of the immediate family are put into a hat and each member then picks one name which in turn is the person for whom a gift is bought.

Families can agree as to how much money should be spent on the present, for example, \$15—thereby eliminating the sometimes prevailing habit of outdoing each other as far as the expense of the gift is concerned and thus turning Christmas into something it is not meant to be.

Another nice thing about this method is that people do not get an odd assortment of sometimes non-useful gifts, but instead receive one gift which is generally of some use.

It also allows the person buying the gift more freedom in his purchase, as he or she knows that there is only one present to buy and will try harder to find one suitable.

## Another Reply

Dear Fabius:

Your stinging, though knowledgeable, well-reasoned, and of course moderate, attack on Student Government has struck home. As one member of that "unchallenged," "self-satisfied," "dull," "unimaginative" and "in some cases inefficient" campus power elite, I have been stirred to action. For some time I have been speculating on the virtues of informing the campus of the progress of Students' Council in its first six months of office. You, sir, have compelled me to act.

Five main projects have been under consideration since last spring. The Yearbook Contract is the first of these. This contract is one of the largest handed out by the Students' Union. A renegotiation of this contract was urged by Council. Over the summer, negotiations were carried out with a number of firms. As a result, the Students' Council has contracted for a larger yearbook with a saving of about \$25 per copy over last year's edition.

As a result of discussion last spring at the Western Regional Conference of CUS, the presidents of the various prairie students' unions decided to investigate the possibility of establishing an entertainment circuit. Over the summer, a great deal of work was done by Adrian Jones, the medical representative on Students' Council. The results of his work are already manifested. The Travellers and the Entertainment Circuit have proven their worth. Two concerts will follow in February. It is perhaps worth noting that this is the first time since the Stan Kenton fiasco that a Students' Council has been willing to try its luck in the area of entertainment.

The third project, and one which is completed, involved the hosting of the National Congress of the Canadian Union of Students early this fall. The committee, chaired by Patrick Bentley, was responsible for planning

the congress and did an excellent job. Over \$15,000 in goods and services and financial donations were obtained. The students of the University of Alberta have received compliments from across Canada on the successful planning carried out for this congress. The congress also saw the Alberta delegation involved in important policy deliberations. A part was played in the drafting of a new structure for CUS. The Alberta delegation took the lead in an effort to gain additional revenue for CUS. Finally, a resolution on security investigations on Canadian campuses was sponsored by the University of Alberta. The resolution was adopted by the federation and clear cut action seems to be resulting from negotiations between the national executive and the federal government.

Because of the rapid growth of this campus, the Executive Committee has felt it necessary to propose certain reorganization measures. The Students' Union Office has been reorganized both in terms of utilization of space and in the terms of personnel. The results, we hope, will be a more efficient operation. The position of students' union adviser and general manager of the students' union building has been created. Applications for this new position have been requested. Students' Council has requested COSA to constitute a sub-committee, the purpose of which is to investigate the relationship between the University Athletic Board and the Students' Union. Finally, a leadership seminar has been presented with an executive proposal for the reorganization of the Students' Union generally. The plan is being tested this year to discover its practicability. If it is adopted, it will affect substantially, all aspects of Students' Union operation.

The final long-term project has been SUB Expansion. Very little needs to be said about SUB Expansion in this letter. The pro-

posal is being placed before Students' Council on Sunday and before the general student body on Monday evening. Sufficed to say that having seen the proposal, very few will suggest that it is either dull, or unimaginative.

Students' Council has taken action in many other areas. The academic affairs resolution is an example. To my knowledge, for the first time in the history of Student Government on this campus, Students' Council has taken an interest in academic affairs. If this committee does its job, its findings should have an important impact on the academic side of student life.

The Golden Bowl was specifically handled by the Promotions Committee, a committee of Council. However, because of the necessity for last minute preparations, financial backing for the project became essential. As a result, the executive committee took the initiative in presenting the Promotions Committee and UAB with a proposal regarding the sharing of financial risk. The budget which had to be guaranteed was about \$10,000. The Golden Bowl was a tremendous success. All who participated in this project are to be congratulated. Perhaps, Fabius wasn't at the football game. If he was, I'm sure he would agree that the project and its response were neither dull or unimaginative or lacking in challenge.

If Fabius is correct and if the Students' Council is dominated by fraternity pressure groups then we are witnessing an interesting phenomenon. For Students' Council has agreed to set aside at least three hundred dollars annually for the purpose of establishing an art collection on this campus. It would seem that the fraternities are turning to the contemplation of fine art.

Students' Council has decided that in 1964 region 11 of the Association of College Unions will be held in Edmonton. We hope that this will assist those groups

most likely to be involved in programming in the new Students' Union Building.

The Executive has carried on extensive negotiations with the administration, the faculty of physical education and the faculty of education regarding the use of space in university buildings for students' social functions. As a result, a series of regulations are being drawn up which will guide student groups as they plan their functions and which will ensure that students are able to use university facilities on reasonable terms.

Students' Council has not concerned itself with matters which affect this campus alone. The resolution on Security Investigations on University campuses is an example. In addition, Students' Council has reacted to statements by Chief Anthony on the right of students to assemble as well as statements by Mr. Hinman concerning academic freedom. By these and other actions, Students' Council has recognized the fact that university students are members of Canadian society and must speak on subjects of general public concern.

At the fall meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs, two important matters were discussed at the initiative of the student delegation. The value of the formal exam week in March was questioned. In addition, steps are now being taken to obtain the approval for a long week-end break between Christmas and final exams. It appears probable that both requests will be granted.

Student leaders are active in many other areas. Blood Drive, the Promotions trip to UBC, the Football Weekend, and the new Public Relations show on CFRN-TV, called Campus Camera, are all indications of this sort of "dull, unimaginative," thinking in the Students' Union administration. Perhaps Fabius was not aware that these events had occurred and were occurring.

I've referred to many specific cases of policy decisions and

actions on the part of Students' Council and others connected with the Students' Union administration. I believe I've covered the most important cases of policy decisions. There are, of course, many routine matters which also have been considered by Students' Council. In closing, I might point out that the executive, early in its career last spring, decided to assume a somewhat new role in the deliberations of Students' Council. It decided at that time to present council with the number of important issues which they felt should be discussed. The executive plans to continue in this role. Some of the issues which it will introduce to Students' Council follow. The fee structure and honoraria are being reanalyzed. Methods of decreasing the size of the yearbook are being investigated. Reorganization will continue and will be brought before Students' Council for decision sometime next spring. SUB Expansion is a continuing project. Finally, election procedures will also be investigated. If Fabius was concerned enough to look, he would find that in its policy deliberations, council will probably touch on every section of the constitution and will end up re-vamping almost completely the by-laws of this organization.

You, Fabius, have pointed to "stagnancy," "blundering," "inefficiency," and "dull, unimaginative thinking." You have suggested that the Students' Council which is, on your accusation, dominated and led by a fraternity power structure, has a vested interest in the status quo. If this is the case, sir, I would suggest that Panhel and IFC call an immediate meeting. The subject of that meeting could easily be "Resolved that members of Students' Council be slapped lightly on both wrists for failing to observe in a few minor areas our unflinching interest in the status quo."

Sincerely,  
Wesley Cragg,  
President,  
Students' Union

# Spectrum

## To Famous Fabius