

The referendum is ambiguous — so a student won't vote

The Editor,

In Thursday's Gateway, Marilyn Pilkington, students' union president, stated:

"A vote in favor of joining the Canadian Union of Students is an endorsement of CUS policies and tactics. A vote against CUS is a rejection of present policies and a mandate to join with other moderate students to . . . develop a moderate national union that represents US (sic)".

I would be interested in knowing how the CUS referendum will be worded. I thought it would read something like "Should U of A join CUS?" However, I see at least three questions implicit in Miss Pilkington's statement:

- (1) should U of A join CUS?
- (2) do you support CUS policies and tactics?
- (3) do you think U of A should join a moderate union?

I can't conceive of how a "no" vote to question 1 can be construed as a positive mandate to form another union. Neither do I understand how a rejection of joining CUS can be logically construed (inferentially, yes!) to be a rejection of CUS policies. The reason for the rejection could be monetary, considerations of efficacy, etc. It would seem that a "yes" vote could still be motivated by a rejection of CUS policies but in an attempt to increase "moderate" influence in CUS.

Possibly this ink is wasted. Possibly the referendum is worded in the manner I have suggested it should be, in accordance with our presidents' statement. If not, I don't think I can bring myself to vote on the referendum, knowing that a simple "yes" or "no" means much more than I intended it should.

Leslie Kroening
arts 3

EDITOR'S NOTE—Well, Leslie, it appears you can take the day (Jan. 31) off and do something other than vote. The referendum indeed is worded as you stated in the first part of the letter. The official referendum notice is printed elsewhere in this issue of The Gateway.

Another man's account

Incidents at Canyon Creek

The Editor,

I refer to an article which appeared in The Gateway on January 16, 1969. To quote the opening paragraph of this article:

"Three native Indians, arrested under questionable circumstances, they claim, have been taken under the wing of the Students for a Democratic University."

The SDU appear to have been 'taken in' by misrepresentations from the "three native Indians", namely Mrs. Rose Auger, Mr. William Lawrence Dunn, and Mr. Henry James Antoine. Of the three only Mrs. Auger is from the Lesser Slave Lake area. The bar in which the disturbance took place was the Canyon Creek beer parlor. The three seem to suggest that the police (RCMP) did not

inform them of the charges at the time of their arrest. This is a serious charge to make against an organization which prides itself on its integrity. Possibly the three involved were not able to recall precisely what took place.

Mr. Antoine stated in court in Slave Lake on Jan. 7, that he was from Vancouver and worked as an organizer. I believe Mr. Dunn is from the East. His original purpose in the area was to film educational facilities for the children in the north. Thus these two are not residents of the Province of Alberta and therefore can be refused bail by the RCMP.

Really Mr. Bordo, how can you call the SDU the Alberta Student Movement? Does your group represent the majority of the students in Alberta? I was also in-

terested to read that you plan "to use this case to publicize the political injustices in Alberta and to form some link between the Alberta student movement and the native people". Before supporting various matters you should take the precaution of examining both sides first.

I would like to close with a quotation from Mr. Archie Calliou of Grouard, Alberta. The following quote appeared in the "South Peace News" of Nov. 20, 1968:

"I would like to apologize for the North Metis People on the foolish statements made by one Mr. William Dunn, whom I have never met. Come on now, let's be Canadians!"

W. E. Marx
ed 3

Resignation — a constituent's view

Dear Friend,

It is indeed gratifying to learn that, as your position on students' council no longer suits your personal ambitions, you have resigned. Your flowery resignation speech, as reported in Gateway, would suggest that your resignation was a selfless, noble act, worthy of praise and commendation. Well, maybe that's the way you see it. My impression is somewhat different. I would suggest

that an elected representative should serve the interests of his constituents first and his own interests second. To me, the resignation of an elected representative in mid-stream is nothing less than the dereliction of a trust, a complete disregard for responsibility, a total breaking of faith.

Maybe the other members of council did not see eye to eye with you on all issues. So what?

Did you take the job on the condition that you would represent your constituents only as long as you might have your own way on council?

Take your ball and go home! The game will go on without you. And maybe your successor will know something about responsibility.

Paul Keough
ed 6

Sorry, our mistake

The Editor,

I would like to report an error in your recent article on events in the sociology department. Contrary to what is reported, my chairmanship of the new staff selection committee of the department has not changed, though I have exchanged correspondence with the new Executive Committee regarding the matter.

While, as reported, matters are yet very much confused in the department and the objections of those of us who walked out of the November 18 meeting remain, inaccurate information tends to increase rather than decrease our departmental problems.

Sethard Fisher

A problem with manpower

The Editor,

The Canada Manpower office located on campus, by arranging interviews with employers for students, helps many students obtain jobs. This year a problem has arisen with these interviews. A number of students fail to notify the Manpower office when unable to keep an appointment. Thus an employer (perhaps from a great distance) is forced to wait needlessly and other students are prevented from having an interview.

As a solution to this problem, employers have suggested that the office on this campus do as many others do—if a student fails to keep an appointment twice he is

no longer allowed to use the Manpower office. The Manpower office here is reluctant to do this. It suggests, instead, that the students solve their own problem by phoning the office when unable to keep an appointment, even if it is the day of the appointment. At least then the employer would not have to wait, and perhaps another student could use that time. In some cases it may even be possible to arrange another appointment for the absent student.

Carmen Paradis
sci 1
student representative
Committee for Student
Employment

By Peter Boothroyd

The wakening stages of a sociology society

Students might consider following the example of sociology students. Tuesday night an organization was formed to include all students taking sociology courses.

Sociology undergraduates now have a means through which to obtain representation on departmental committees. Without such representation, undergraduates would continue to have nothing to say about course sizes, course topic, textbook policy, teaching quality, and other matters which directly affect students.

As was to be expected, the question was raised: how could the some 25 students who showed up at Tuesday's meeting claim to be representative of the thousands of students who are enrolled in sociology courses. The group took what seemed to be the only reasonable course. Because the meeting was well publicized, and because future meetings would be open to all, an organization was established for the purpose of representing undergraduate sociology students. A temporary executive was elected.

Having taken these steps, sociology students now have the mechanism for becoming involved in the problems and issues of the department. Not all students will take advantage of this opportunity to get involved. But those students who are most concerned about their education, and who perhaps therefore have the most at stake, will benefit greatly from the new organization.

Hopefully the department's temporary executive committee will seat the two representatives which Tuesday's meeting elected for this committee. They were elected because a number of faculty indicated, at a public meeting in December, that they thought the Executive Committee would be amenable to such representation from undergraduates.

With representation, information about the department can be continually fed back to the undergraduates for their consideration. On issues of importance, mandates can be given by the organization to the representatives and in this way undergraduates will have some say in departmental policy.

If there are students in other departments who have as much energy as the half-dozen students or so who organized the sociology meeting, other departments could also get organized. Within a month, students in all departments could begin having more impact at the level where decisions of immediate importance to students are made.

To my knowledge, students' council does not have anybody to help you get organized. But if you're interested in learning from the experience of the sociology students, you might call one of their original organizers: Dave Belke, 433-0368; Millard Evans, 699-7471; Dan Makarus, 454-4907; or Gary Mitchell, 455-2937.

Of course no blueprint for organizing a department can be provided by these people. What is appropriate to the sociology department may not be so to a much smaller department, or one where the faculty are reactionary. But usually it's helpful to talk with somebody who has faced the same general questions even if the particular situations are different.

In all cases, there will be faculty—and even students—who feel it is none of students' business what goes on in a department. Nothing could be further from the truth. The students must stand up for their interests—particularly as the university becomes more and more oriented to research, with the concomitant competition for the professor's time between research and teaching.

The faculty are continually fighting for their interests. The Canadian Association of University Teachers and the local Association of Academic Staff at the University of Alberta are usually ready to help develop departmental democracy for faculty. If students at U of A do not have such support in getting organized at the department level, we'll have to follow the lead of the sociology students and do it on our own.