

former CUS president discusses

## CUS, UGEQ and biculturalism

The following is the first part of a two-part series on the relationship between the Canadian Union of Students and the Union Generale des Etudiants du Quebec. Mr. Goodings is a past president of CUS and is presently a member of Program and Liaison Division of the Royal Commission on Biculturalism and Bilingualism.

When the Preliminary Report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism referred to the "two majorities" in Canada today, it might have been talking about this country's university student organizations. Created almost thirty years ago, the Canadian Union of Students (CUS) has attempted for most of its existence to weld together French and English, East and West, big and small universities, colleges and technological institutes into a united national organization.

With the withdrawal of the three French language Quebec universities last year, CUS became an essentially English language institution. Born only last November, the Union Generale des Etudiants du Quebec (UGEQ), is a striking symbol of the new Quebec, and represents one of the most dynamic elements of Canada's second majority.

The reasons for this division and the current relations between the two organizations can teach us a great deal about biculturalism and may even lead us to a more realistic appraisal of the conditions for survival in this maddening country.

For twenty seven years the Canadian Union of Students was probably more aware of its bilingual and bicultural responsibilities than most national voluntary organizations. With bilingual documents, press re-

### letter

on sculpture

To The Editor:

I read with interest the letter by Peter Fubar about sculpture on campus. I have this to say about the subject.

If any group on campus takes Fubar's letter to heart and decides to do something besides sit on their duffs and talk, please don't come up with one of those scrap steel monstrosities.

Any idiot with a welder's torch, a pile of scrap iron and several cases of "Alberta's best" can produce an eyesore such as exists in front of city hall, but it takes real talent to produce a classic piece of statuary.

Please let us have something of beauty from the arts and not another abortion like the Wild Geese.

W. D. Chidlow  
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The Gateway welcomes letters on topics of student interest. Correspondents are asked to be brief, otherwise their letter will be subject to abridgement. And correspondents, in replying to one another, should keep to the issues under discussion and abstain from personal attacks. All letters to the editor must bear the name of the writer. No pseudonyms will be published.

Exceptional circumstances apart, no letter should be more than about 300 words in length. Short letters are more likely to be published promptly—and to be read.

leases and national meetings, CUS had several French speaking presidents, including the current Forestry Minister, Maurice Sauve.

Despite the occasional flare-up, often over federal aid to education, the situation was reasonably harmonious. The last four years, however, have seen the university student community shaken by the revolution reshaping French Canada, and successive CUS congresses have spent hours debating how a maximum of French Canadian demands could be satisfied by a minimum of English Canadian concessions.

The English Canadians were prepared to go a long way. When a structures commission made a number of sweeping recommendations to convert CUS into a partnership of equals, the English speaking majority accepted the report in principle. With a voting system which would have given the five French language universities a voting power equal to the thirty six English language members on all important issues, the proposed constitution was the closest thing possible in the voluntary sector to a confederation of two "nations."

But while the English language members were moving agonizingly towards this last-minute attempt to keep the organization united, the French speaking students were losing interest in federal matters. Quebec had become a vital, exciting place in which to live, and the students were catapulting themselves into the forefront of the reform movement. With a pragmatism that is more often attributed to English Canadians, they realized their goals could only be achieved by a provincial organization which could devote itself to the immediate tasks of helping to build a new society. In other words, the move was not so much a rejection of English Canada, as a positive affirmation of the priority of Quebec's needs.

This feeling of investment in the development of their nation and the movement towards UGEQ were inseparably linked, and both were propelled by a doctrine called student syndicalism. Preached by a small group of University of Montreal students, the doctrine of syndicalism insists that the student is a worker, a young intellectual worker to be sure, but a worker nonetheless, who possesses certain rights inherent to his distinctive position in society.

The emphasis is on the collectivity, which has certain responsibilities towards its membership, its immediate community—the university, and the wider social context—French Quebec. As union leaders, the fathers of UGEQ sought to introduce a particular viewpoint into Quebec life, not as a group insulated from the world by its academic vows, not as youngsters who are potential leaders, but as a united pressure group which is deeply involved with the community and which can influence events today.

The catch phrase was "service aux etudiants, service a l'universite, service a la nation." The syndicalists viewed the university as a community in which decisions should

involve the three sectors—students, teachers and administrators. University of Montreal students were the most vocal advocates of a lay rector, and practised the right to strike when the administration refused to consult them on matters of student welfare.

The impetus for UGEQ was grounded, therefore, on a new concept of student government which seemed particularly suited for the exciting new challenges of Quebec's growth, and on a increasing frustration felt by French speaking Quebec students as a minority group in a federal organization.

UGEQ also represents a tremendous victory for a small group of student politicians, most of whom are from the University of Montreal, who have converted the leadership at the universities, classical colleges, technological institutes, and normal school to their own radical brand of political activity. It was Montreal which led the withdrawal from CUS and it was the Montreal Students' council which played such a large role in helping other student organizations in Quebec.

Last November, students from the University of Montreal became president and international affairs vice-president of UGEQ. While the student leaders from the U of M tend to be rather aggressive, and sometimes arrogant, they are intelligent and resourceful negotiators, and their dominance should probably be regarded as the legitimate consequence of qualified and dynamic leadership. It is too early yet to know if the larger association, UGEQ, will act as a check on Montreal's policies or whether it will simply provide a greater field for its ambitions.

To no one's surprise, UGEQ decided to be unilingual at its founding conference, and told the English speaking Quebec institutions that they could join only by leaving CUS. It is clear that for the moment, the leadership of UGEQ will be concerned with strengthening its support and in providing services to its members, which include the three universities—Laval, Montreal and Sherbrooke, plus classical colleges, normal schools and technological institutes (approximately 70,000 students in all).

It will be a tribute to the leadership if it can hold together such a disparate group. But before long, the basic Quebec nationalism of the organization is sure to be felt in statements about Confederation and other political matters. Their colleagues in Presse Etudiante National (PEN), the student journalists' association, have already opted for an independent republican Quebec, and many UGEQ leaders would like to take a strong position on Quebec's relations with the rest of Canada.

One additional comment on UGEQ: as the name implies, its concern is Quebec and it has none of the missionary zeal of traditional nationalist movements for French Canadian outside Quebec. Two French speaking universities—Moncton and Bathurst in New Brunswick—remain members of CUS and have little interest in UGEQ.



OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

EDMONTON

November 9th, 1965.

Mr. Don Sellar,  
Editor-in-Chief,  
The Gateway,  
University of Alberta,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

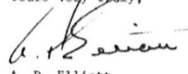
Dear Mr. Sellar:

I wish to refer to your letter of November 4th concerning liquor advertising in The Gateway.

Your request was brought to the attention of the board, together with a copy of the October 29th issue of The Gateway in which it was stated the Board of Governors at the University was not anxious for liquor advertising to go into this student publication. With the information that this is a publication designed primarily to serve the interests of students and indications of the expressed view of the Board of Governors, we felt we were not prepared to approve the placement of liquor advertising in The Gateway at this time.

In regard to your request for information with respect to the Advertising Code, I am enclosing a complete copy of the Code. I trust that this answers the enquiry you directed to me.

Yours very truly,

  
A. D. Elliott,  
Chairman.

Encl.

## Viewpoint

The Students Union can be congratulated on the new project Culture 500. Those who were present enjoyed hearing Frost's work dramatically performed. Irving Layton charmed a full MP 12 with his wit and provoked many of us to new thought.

But can the student body be just as proud of the amount we spend on Evergreen and Gold.

Using the net figures from the budget published in Gateway October 29, which do not include the money for the loans for the old and new SUB, we spend \$39,000 or 22.2 per cent of our net operating expenses on Evergreen and Gold.

by  
patrick  
connell

In comparison we spend 12.8 per cent on culture, 0.11 per cent on science and 18.1 per cent on student projects.

How does U of A compare with other universities? Only does Saskatoon spend more on "Grey-stone" than we do on Evergreen and Gold. In percentage of net expenditure only Saskatoon (37 per cent) and Carlton (24 per cent) spend more than we do. Other universities allocate the following percentages of their net total expenditure to a yearbook—Manitoba 9.6 per cent, Toronto 3 per cent, McGill 20 per cent, Ottawa University 10 per cent.

If we are generous Evergreen and Gold can be said to make three contributions to student life.

First some editorial experience for the staff.

Second some of the student body are able to identify some of those whom we have eyed longingly for a year.

Third at most it affords half an hours entertainment.

The vast majority of people who defend the publication use its pages to boost their ego; a questionable use of our money.

We the student body spend on one item, Evergreen and Gold almost twice as much as we do on the total promotion of culture on the campus. We spend more on Evergreen and Gold than we do on what I have classified as student projects.

In case you think that I am on an intellectual or involvement kick, I have included under culture the following—Culture 500, honoraria, jazz ballet, Jubilaries, political science, radio society, symphony orchestra, march band, debates, Varsity Guest Weekend and Varsity Varieties. Under the category of student projects I have included CUS, Gateway, leadership seminar and Student Volunteer Service.

You answer that we have all the culture we want. But have we? A capacity audience sat enthralled for an hour to hear Irving Layton. Why couldn't the student body invite him to be our guest for a week. Alternatively why couldn't we invite ten poets, artists and musicians to come and share with use their perception, enthusiasm and mature wisdom.

Gateway itself is valiantly struggling against terrible conditions and archaic machinery to produce a daily edition. The amount we spend in one year on Evergreen and Gold would by two reconditioned linotype machines both of which are badly needed. In two year the money we save on Evergreen and Gold would buy four new machines body needed by the print shop. Some of their equipment is thirty or forty years old.

Some of the student body speak of universal accessibility to university education. The amount we could save in one year from Evergreen and Gold would educate 26 students on scholarships of \$1,500 for one year or more than 8 students for 3 years. In my opinion if this student body offered 26 bursaries of \$1,500 each year to students who would not otherwise get to university we would not only be using this money in the best way possible but the government couldn't ignore this example and would be forced to revise their totally inadequate scholarship program.

Many other student projects of the calibre of the Education Teach-In are stillborn for lack of funds. Twenty such projects could be financed by the money we would save by scrapping this publication Evergreen and Gold which is a doubtful value.

Patrick Connell is a U of A graduate student.