

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—We've found a wonderful way to pad staff this issue. When we finally realized that we had more people writing letters than news stories, we decided to include the letter writers with the rest of the staff. Therefore, thanks to Grant Sharp, Sue George, Bill Konkewitt, Glenn Cheriton, Trudy Richards, Leona Gom, Marg Bolton, Rich Vivone, Bob Rosen, Tony O'Malley, Murray Krempton, Larry Saidman and your own creative creeper, snakey old Harv.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1967

a fair solution

Students' council is to be commended for deciding to go to the students on the question of students' union fees.

The fee structure report drawn up by Marilyn Pilkington and her reorganization committee is, we consider, a fair and workable solution to the problem of inequities which have existed in the fee structure for so many years.

It should not have to be explained that the change was long overdue; the union fee set-up is antique.

Naturally, those people who would be pushed up into the \$15 fee bracket will complain. But, the current fees of \$5 for grad students and \$3.50 for nursing students are quite out of line with the fee paid by full members, when the relative benefits received from membership are considered.

These people may well protest that they don't really care about the rights defined by by-law which membership entitles them to, such as the right to vote in elections, the right to serve on students' union committees, and the right to use the students' union building.

But, the non-apparent benefits,

oh yeah?

The 1967-68 university calendar has on its cover a picture of the campus.

It pictures the North Saskatchewan River in the foreground, SUB near the centre of the picture, and South Edmonton residential area in the background.

The caption reads "Campus of the University of Alberta and the North Saskatchewan River from the SOUTHWEST."

The Boys Scouts of Canada would disapprove.

although impossible to evaluate, are, we think, sufficient to warrant every cent of the fee.

Students' union lobbying ability in areas of parking structures, academic facilities, and tuition fees, is far greater than that of any individual.

At present, optional membership is not only financially unfeasible but impractical as well.

All students benefit in some degree from being members, and so should be prepared to contribute towards the cost of the students' union. If optional membership were made available, probably very few students would choose to become full members simply because they could obtain the benefits of the students' union without having to pay the full price of membership.

Generally, The Gateway supports fully the ideas of equality implied in the proposed revision. It is fair, and there are very few loopholes.

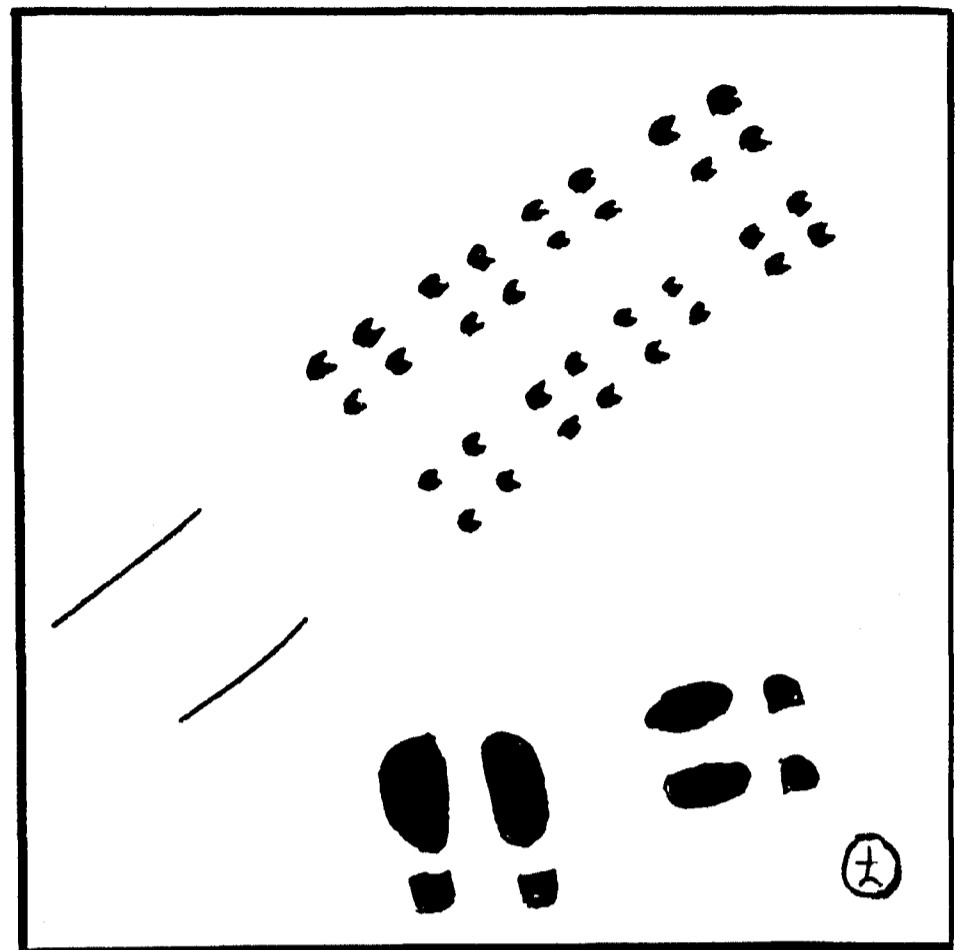
Specifically, we must object somewhat to the manner in which the referendum is being called.

Charges by some councillors of "railroading" cannot be put off so lightly as they were at Monday's council meeting.

Eight days is a very short time, not only for getting the physical aspects of the vote organized, but for allowing all dissenters to voice their complaints as openly as students' council is going to try to sell the idea.

The idea of a fee change has been floating around for some time, but now anyone who disagrees with council has the double task of getting an audience and then convincing the audience of his beliefs.

Financially, it will make very little difference to the students' union if the referendum passes or fails. The onus is on the student to vote either for or against what his representative says is an unfair system.



i don't care who you are . . . get 'em off my roof

rich vivone goodness and light

A friend accosted me in the passageways of this building this week, saluted and said in a hushed tone, "Herr Sir, why do you write about such morbid things? Please sir, write about the good things in life so we can be happy once more."

And another clasped me by the scruff of the neck and said, "Yes. You are morbid. Tell us nice things. Tell us anything, true or not true, but tell us nice things."

That, corporal, is a large order and to serve it is a task of terror. Surely, it will take many months of trapping through the alleys of the Sudden Bunion Building to even begin to think of nice things. But, maybe, these insistent dreamers can be obliged.

First let's discuss 'nice' things. Or 'good' things, depending on which cliché you prefer. A nice thing you should know is that if I ever become Prime Minister of Canada (as Liberal leader only), there will be no more exams at the University of Alberta. Every student will pass simply by completing registration which will be in 1,793 parts. There will be no lectures but you must purchase the text books because they make your library more sophisticated. The main purpose of the professors will be to feed your registration cards into the computers. Any prof that completes the works without an error gets three stars and a Ph.D. Any student completing registration is sent to Calgary for post-graduate duty.

Another nice thing I can tell you is that I won't tell you about real people. There will be no chance to tell the story of Irene, the prostitute who worked out of the north end of Winnipeg. Irene was the busiest girl in town and her pimp wore \$200

suits and \$75 sweaters. She gave him every nickel she earned. I won't tell you about her because she is not nice.

Or there is the guy called Jason J. who was broke one day too often and when he went into a pub and met his friends who knew he was cashless, Jason J. said, "I guess you're wondering how I am going to get some money from you guys" and plunked a revolver on the table. That is not nice either.

Then there is Art whom I met in a cheap Vancouver hotel. Art was a miner by trade and he had \$7,000 when he came out of the camp two months ago. Three weeks later, he was waiting in line in the temporary workers shop. He was waiting in line with the rest of the unemployed hoping to set a little job that morning. That's a bohemian story and not nice.

You would not hear of Flush either. Flush used to shake and shudder every Sunday morning because he didn't have enough money to get a small belt from the bootleggers. So he would cry for 35 cents and run to the meathead at the corner store and buy a bottle of vanilla. Sometimes he drank half a dozen in a single day. He was well fed in a week if he ate three times but he could usually get along on two. That's not nice either, so you won't hear anymore of him.

There will be no more friends' stories because they are morbid which is the way it is in life if you don't fit. Stories about real people depress unreal people who play the Great Charade.

So it is decreed that no more un-good stories shall appear in this column. Fairy tales are the answer. Fairy tales with lovely conclusions in which everybody lives happily ever after under the shadow of the mushroom cloud.