

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—Only a few loyal souls showed up to welcome home darling Darla: Elaine Verbicky (scandal editor), Boom Boom (could that be Bernie Goedhart?), B. S. P. Bayer (VIP), Maureen Gunn (SUB-shooter), Bob Jacobsen (our bleeding host), Gerald Polack, Ron Yakimchuk, Marion Conybeare, Lorna Cheriton, and yours truly, Harvey Thomgirt.

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the situation is blackmail

Mr. Schepanovich's recent tirade against The Gateway could be termed, in some circles, irresponsible student politicking.

The Campbell-Schepanovich feud is an excellent example of what happens when an irresistible force (Campbell) meets an immovable object (Schepanovich).

It all started when Campbell had the audacity to suggest that Schepanovich's CUS position was perhaps "imperfect". Three members of our editorial board attended either the CUS seminar or congress this summer. All three came away feeling there were some obvious failings in the national organization.

We supported the withdrawal, but only conditionally, for we had some reservations about how effective Schepanovich's drastic measures would be.

In the light of information which became available after the withdrawal, Campbell felt that in the interests of truth, the whole CUS issue deserved some further thought and examination.

Schepanovich interpreted Campbell's action as a direct personal insult, and since then he and his "little trio of synchophants" in the students' union office have used every occasion to accuse The Gateway of bias, maliciousness, personal attack, incompetence, and every other conceivable fault.

In fairness to students' council, some of the criticisms were at least debatable. We do not pretend to be perfect, and we have attempted to constructively apply what were intelligent criticisms of our policy.

But these criticisms did not threaten our editorial freedom.

one year old today

The new students' union building has progressed a long way from the hole former students' union president Richard Price and former SUB planning commission chairmen Iain Macdonald and Andy Brook dug in a pile of dirt one year ago today.

It has come much farther from the dream of students here five years ago. It has turned from a fantasy into near-reality.

The construction of this tremendous building is a credit to the students involved in its planning. Too numerous to mention individually, the hundreds of students on the planning committees spent many time-consuming, back-breaking hours on the project.

It demonstrates the heavy re-

sponsibilities students are able to undertake, for, as the SUB's consultant Frank Noffke told council Monday, there are not too many people around who think students are able to co-ordinate a project of this kind.

The building is a credit to these people, who, in turn, are a credit to the student body here. It shows we are not the irresponsible lame-brains some people think we are. It shows we can work hard and responsibly on something we believe in.

This building is the biggest and best of its kind in the northern climate of North America. It was planned and co-ordinated by conscientious students.

All it needs now is conscientious students to use its facilities.

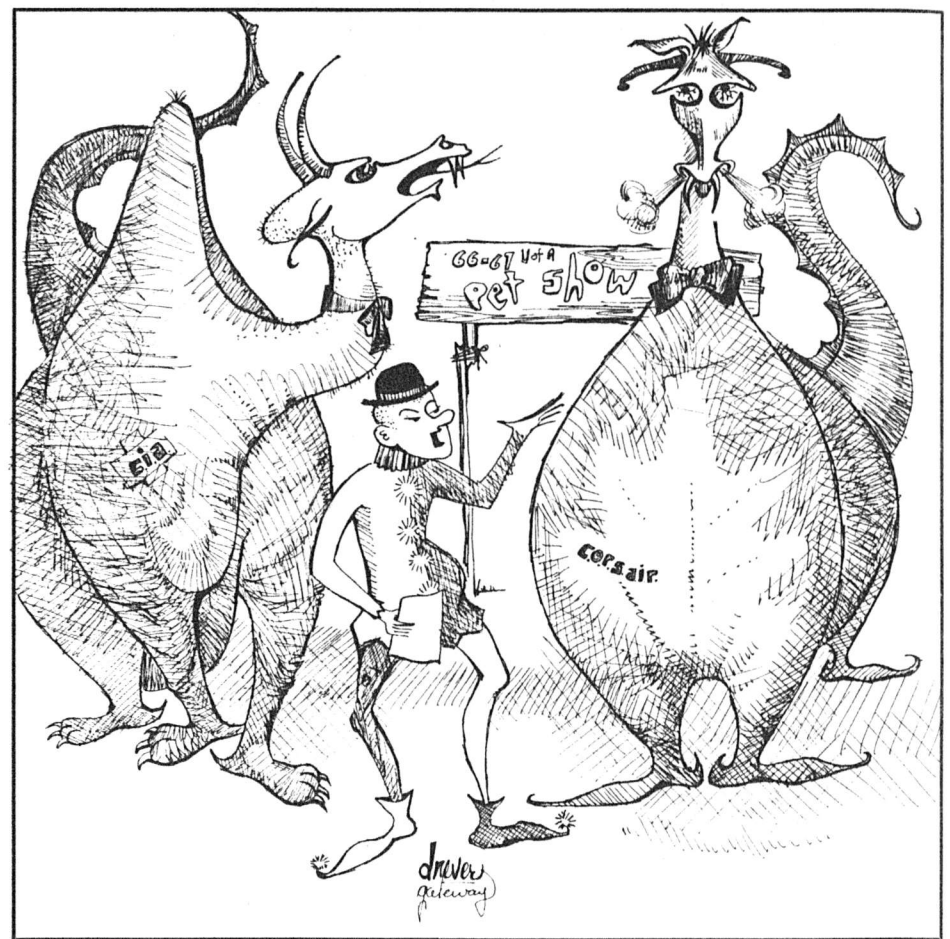
We believe we exist to serve the students directly, not through their elected representatives. We feel that we, along with any student (Schepanovich included), have a right to interpret student news.

We believe this is what newspapers are for.

If Schepanovich thinks we are wrong, or that we have abused our privileges, he should do something constructive, rather than intimidating our editors.

If he would call the CUP investigation committee he is holding over our heads, we believe our policy would be justified.

But the present tense situation amounts to pure blackmail.



"and a new entry to oppose the left on my right we have on my left—the right"

helene chomiak recommended reading

There should be a mad rush for the report on "University Government in Canada" which is available in the bookstore. But few copies will probably be sold.

Sponsored by the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the report has some outstanding recommendations to make on the role of various segments of the university in university government.

If some of the suggestions are adopted, many problems of the growing university could be alleviated.

The report deals only briefly with students. It states, "The subject of the relationship of students to university government is one which only recently received serious consideration. But we saw enough symptoms of student dissatisfaction with their self-perceived status as "customers" of the universities to know that there will be increasing demands made in Canada for their elevation to partners (albeit unequal ones) in the "community of scholars and students."

"Some variation of the Berkeley disturbances may possibly occur in Canada during the coming years. The issue, then is not whether to welcome or stifle this new wave of student sentiment, but rather how to develop channels into which it can flow constructively."

The commission suggests joint student-faculty committees be set-up in various departments and faculties on campus. Student members on the committee would have to be elected by students in their respective department and not appointed by the administration or the professors.

The committee would meet every year or every term to discuss matters such as required and elective courses; relative merits of lectures, seminars, labs, tutorials, and library facilities; the quality of teaching and so forth.

The commission states these student-faculty committees have worked well for the departments where they were tried.

This type of a committee is long overdue. Students, perhaps more than anyone else, are concerned about curriculum, the form of classes, and the type of teaching.

Publishing an anti-calendar is a negative method of bringing attention to defects in the university system. Faculty committees like those suggested could be a direct way of improving the university and increasing communication between staff and students.

Another suggestion the commission makes concerning students is that they elect a rector to serve as their representative on the Board of Governors. The rector is available to students for discussion.

This type of system works very well at Queen's University and at the Scottish universities where it originated.

Last year students' council attempted to get a representative on the Board of Governors. This attempt failed, in part because it was opposed by president Dr. Walter H. Johns.

Therefore it is encouraging to have the commission support this system. While the administration is slow to move to student demands, perhaps it will be much more willing to implement recommendations suggested by the commission.

Hopefully they will read the report.