

EDITORIAL

An important trio

Up here on the second floor of the Students' Union Building, "influential" students look anxiously ahead to the school year. These students belong to three distinct groups on campus that want your attention. The trinity consists of 1) the Students' Union (SU) executive, 2) student councillors, and 3) the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

1) The SU executive is composed of five individuals who were allegedly "ordinary" students-at-large at one point in their university lives. Your support of the SU already comes from the \$54.50 fee you pay. You patronage to the SU — in the form of attending cabarets, going to forums, and getting drunk at Deweys, etc. — would mean a very successful year for the organization.

The SU is off to an auspicious start financially, but whether SU President Robert Greenhill thinks that services will suffer is another matter. The Gateway will get Greenhill's comments as soon as he returns next week from a five-week "Iberian vacation".

2) The student councillors represent the various faculties (Arts, Science, Agriculture, etc.) and are expected to vote at Student Council meetings, held every two weeks on Tuesdays. You are encouraged to approach councillors with your grassroots insight into what the SU is doing right or wrong.

Certain councillors want to switch to open-voting, a show of hands, from the secret-voting, electronic method being used now. (Raise your right hand if you want to know more.)

3) The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) is a fledgling national student organization. The U of A is a prospective member. In order to become a full member, U of A students need to vote 'yes' in a referendum scheduled for October. CFS representatives at the U of A realize that in order to win the referendum, they'll first have to do some explaining: who CFS exactly represents and what they hope to accomplish are questions that CFS will address.

You can be sure that CFS will be campaigning hard starting this month; they don't have much choice.

While all three groups I've mentioned are worthwhile at the best of times, you can ultimately decide whether they're worth your time.

Brent Jang

Dear Prudence

Initially, the plethora of student organizations on the U of A campus will be confusing to the student-at-large. However, you'll soon be able to distinguish the social clubs from the serious, if at times erratic, political groups.

The student politicians have difficulty agreeing upon what precisely makes you tick. (If you haven't caught on, by the way, you've been assigned the role of the mythical student-at-large).

The U of A is hardly a spawning ground for mild-mannered socialists. Remember the Lister Hall polling station where the Conservatives won with 304 votes compared to 141 for the NDP?

Although full-time student activists have fallen from grace — and are no longer in demand — "part-time" help is definitely needed to keep student issues at the forefront. This change in strategy in the student movement is in response to the prudent and conservative nature of campuses such as ours.

Today's student activist is a strange breed: practical, realistic, and perhaps disturbingly non-idealistic. The Sixties appear romantic from the historical view; today's cause is a subdued one, but it appeals to a wider range of students.

The philosophical head-banging of the past may be missed by some, but not by the U of A. It seems there's so much work to do, from pinning up posters to talking with university administrators, that there's no time to be idealistic.

What does this all mean to the student movement? Well, the days of free-tuition pep-talks are being replaced with discussions of negotiation tactics that'll keep tuition-fee increases "down" to six or five per cent. Unfortunately, this realistic approach shows that students are slipping in their bargaining position with the University.

B.J.

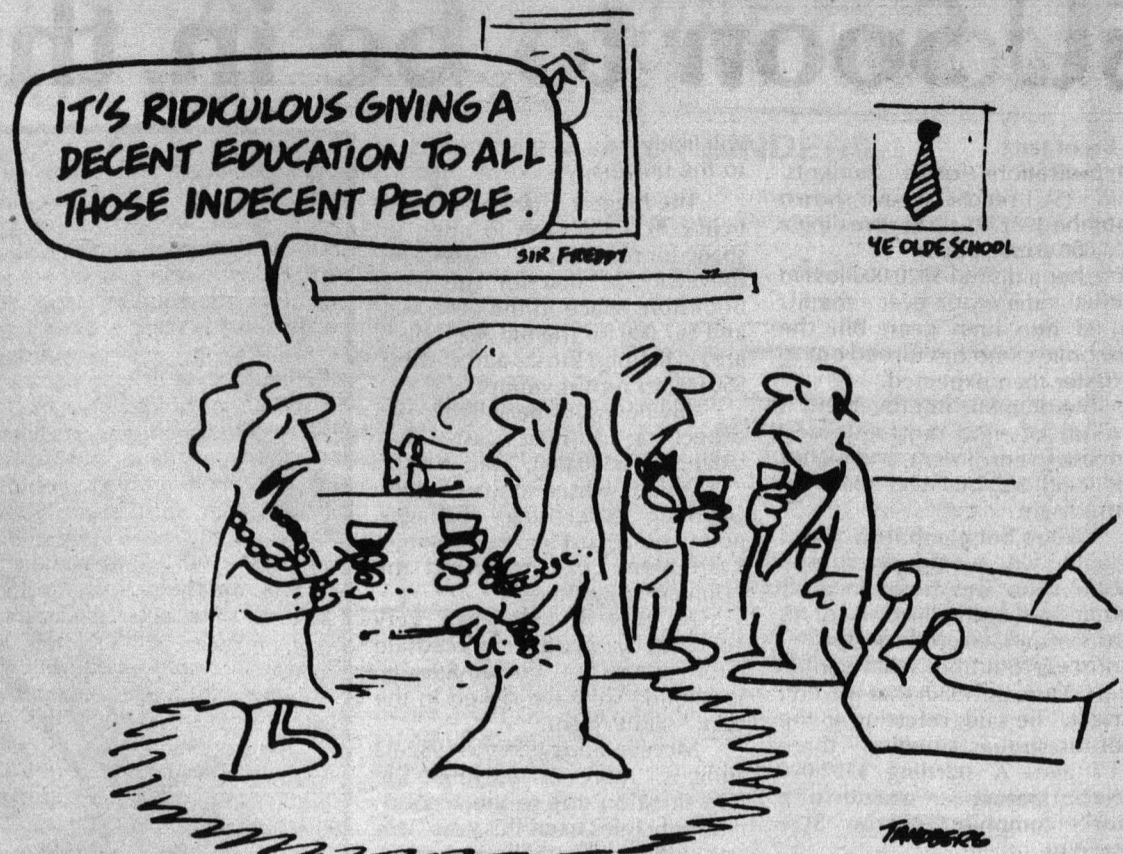
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Staff this Issue

Troll hunter Bruce Pollock returned. Greg Harris and John Algard discussed life after Gilbert; Rich Watts practiced his full frontal layout; Heather Ann Laird became a key person (again); Nate LaRoi reviewed Ninette Gironella's study "Gunnar Blodgett: Live!" Barb Eyles studied wax; Dave Koch and Zane Harker danced the night away; Jordan Peterson committed Computicide; Bruno Betelnutt analysed Terry Lindberg's life; K. Arthur demanded to see Launcelot; Guido Tucker and Tom Hayward took Robert Cook to meet a real person; and life continued on in its mellow way here at the Gateway.

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« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

Problem SORSE

I feel compelled to write this letter to assure a more informed student body. Several things have occurred over the summer that you should be aware of, in order to start the year with a realistic perspective on your Students' Union. Many of you will no doubt have heard of, or have been a part of Students' Orientation Services (SORSE). It is a program (unfortunately) under the jurisdiction of the Students' Union. This program orients new students to the U of A by giving them information on and practice at In Person Registration, finances, a campus tour, and sessions on stress, student life, and a myriad of other areas of University that a new student would encounter. We strive to provide quality and up-to-date information, given by well-trained and caring leaders.

Now, after 17 years of SU rule, a proposal was designed to bring SORSE under the control of the Registrars' Office and the University itself, mostly because the program would have greater public credibility, stable funding, and a sense of continuity. As of now, the program is subject to the whims of the adolescent and constantly changing SU executive. The proposal was made through "improper channels" to all concerned (the University and the SU at the same time) to insure that it was not swept under the rug by the SU's meandering bureaucracy. (sic)

This was a rather embarrassing situation for the SU and they got somewhat irate, demanding retractions and resignations. However, the proposal stands and (so far) no one has been axed.

In order for SORSE to change hands, it must (to be properly channelled) go through the SU for approval. SORSE wants to be free of the SU and it has caused some loss of face and childish panic in the Exec. office.

The proposal was channelled to a Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) for discussion, but at the first meeting only two members of the Exec. showed up and they tried to argue points rather than seriously discuss the nature and intent of the proposal.

As a further act of adolescent presumptiveness, the Exec. (namely the V.P. internal) put forth a motion to dismiss the Director of SORSE on the same day of the first LRPC meeting. The issue is that the director was working two jobs, but the letter had words like "cover-up", "inexcusable" and "neglect" to show how she was not fulfilling her mandate. All the while the SU president Robert Greenhill spent the month of August and part of September in Spain. (But is there a motion to impeach him?!) At least the Director of SORSE did both jobs extremely well, with no loss of effectiveness to the program, but as for Greenhill, he was rather inaccessible.

No doubt as the year progresses you will hear a good deal more about the petty dealings of your SU since they are already on their way even before the academic year has even begun. (who can forget the election travesty). Earlier in the summer the SU held a press conference to complain about the Minister of Advanced Education, because he never returned calls or visited campus and was generally unattainable. Well at least he was in the country. The SU should learn to get their own house in order before they run around looking for "conspiracies".

My impression of SU government was that it is a

place to learn how government works, and to try to improve the system. Unfortunately the present SU has learned all too well the pettiness and dirty dealings of government, and the corruption of power. Instead of commanding respect for working to improve the U of A, they have stooped to wallow in the political mire, and are regarded as little brats playing at politics rather than responsible adults working for their constituents.

Roy van Hooydonk
 Ex. Asst. Director of SORSE

Turn of the wheel

This campus has been the target of bicycle thefts and unfortunately there seems to be no let up in sight.

Bicycles have been reported stolen from almost all areas of the Campus with no specific pattern discernable. Owners are requested to obtain high grade bicycle locks and chains, ones that resist bolt cutters. While such items are not cheap, the investment will assist in deterring theft.

Should any suspicious activities be noted that tend to indicate that someone might try to steal a bicycle, please call Campus Security at 432-5252.

W.F.G. Perry, Director
 Campus Security and Parking Services

Route of all evil

Effective September fourth, Edmonton Transit will provide increased service on 37 bus routes. Late night, Sunday and holiday service will be greatly improved. Some cancelled routes will be reinstated.

School service will resume on yellow buses and all University routes.

The following is a list of bus routes that service the University, including routes reinstated September 4.

- Routes from the North: #19, #119, #32, #37.
- Routes from the Southeast: #8, #46, #63, #64, #69, #152, #169.
- Routes from the Southwest: #36, #40, #56, #68, #69, #136, #152, #169.
- Routes from Downtown: (Routes from the Northeast are serviced to the Downtown via the LRT) #32, #40, #46, #56, #63, #64.

For further information on routes, and schedules call 421-4636 weekdays.

Wendy Campbell
 Communications Officer
 Edmonton Transit

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should be no more than 250 words long. They must be signed and include faculty, year of program, and phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, or very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.