



editorial "My faith in CSA is shaken"

Snakes have forked tongues

I've been had.

I am the victim of incomplete and inaccurate information, coupled with not being able to be everywhere at all times, don't you know.

If you've read the articles we printed re this whole CSA vs NASA shmozz and were incensed at their inaccuracies, don't be, or at least don't blame it totally on me.

You, like myself, were the victim of incomplete information received from the wrong sources.

Let me point out specifics.

Ray Kjenner, whoever he is, said "The university is challenging the CSA on behalf of NASA."

The university isn't challenging anybody on anyone's behalf. The only people doing any challenging around here is the CSA.

He also said the power plant workers haven't received any pay hikes for a year and a half.

Well he should have added along with this the facts that the workers have never approached, to my knowledge, NASA for any action. Indeed, they only joined NASA about 10 months ago.

Everybody here, aside from Kjenner, is satisfied with things as they are yet he painted the false picture to my reporters that this was not true.

Now the big one, which I should have seen and never allowed to reach the press: "Hohol realizes that the labour laws which govern the university specifically recognize the CSA as the exclusive bargaining agent for the university employees, but if he goes with the CSA, he goes against the university which has a good thing going with NASA."

Now Kjenner should realize, (and if he doesn't, let me be the first to tell him) that the Board of Governors is the only body which can constitutionally deal with the government in money matters. NASA is the only body which the Board recognizes to represent the workers. Why? Because the workers want it that way. If the power plant workers have a gripe NASA will handle it and probably do a better job than the CSA ever could.

Take a look at the way the CSA bungled twice at the U. of C. (This should have been noted in last issue's articles) and is at present completely out of control of things at NAIT.

I always try to give the students the most in-depth, honest, straightforward news coverage I possibly can. But when the wrong stuff is fed into the system, it's pretty hard to make it come out right.

As to handling CSA advertising we are more than happy to have it, as the Gateway is a valuable advertising medium.

But as to their philosophies, and the way they mislead our reporters, about the only good thing I can see about the CSA is their money, certainly not their honesty or morality.

Greg Neiman

election forum

This is a column of political opinion, open to all nominated candidates for the Students' Union or UAB elections. Submissions accepted on a first come - first served basis. Copy to be submitted by copy deadlines to Gateway, Rm. 282, SUB.

Gateway staff meeting

The Gateway would like to expand its coverage of the news, arts, sports and photo areas. We also require staff writers to work in areas not presently represented.

If you are interested and available, even curious or eager, serious and dedicated, (mildly amused?), please attend the Gateway staff meeting to be held Wednesday January 29 at 3:00 pm in our offices, room 282, SUB.

I'm writing this letter because I am deeply disturbed at some things which have happened in the last few months, things which have badly damaged my faith in the wisdom of the Executive of the CSA of Alberta.

First, there is the remarkable case of the University of Alberta. The U of A was Branch 22 of the CSA for about twenty years. For the last few years, after the Branch was given autonomous status by the CSA convention, it has been the Non-Academic Staff Association of the University of Alberta. NASA has been quite successful, gaining the 51% required to be fully recognized as bargaining agent by the U of A, and then getting good contracts for several years. There are still many people on campus who are bitter about the wasted years when they paid dues to the CSA and got nothing in return except a newsletter once a month.

Now Bill Broad and his merry men have decided that NASA does not exist, and that the CSA should move in and take over. This I regard as both discourteous and unethical. It is union-raiding.

Big Brother Bill is bombarding us with expensive advertising, damning NASA and praising the CSA. Well, we're not having any, and I'll tell you why. Consider carefully the following great examples of quality leadership!

1. The University of Calgary was ordered out on strike. Maybe there was a formal strike vote, but I doubt it. I don't think Bill Broad even knows the legal requirements for a strike vote. If you were involved, answer these two questions: A. Was every member contacted and given a chance to vote, with the amount

of notice required by law? B. Did everyone have chance to discuss it fully, with full understanding of the issues involved?

I'll bet not. Because no one but a complete egomaniac would have struck in circumstances so completely foredoomed to failure. That strike is going to cost CSA, in money and in future credibility.

The U of C was ordered out in the middle of an existing contract. That is against the law, and breaking the contract makes

READER COMMENT

the CSA liable for damages. The U of C, getting an injunction from the Supreme Court of Alberta (Chief Justice Milvain presiding) to order them back to work, requested \$100,000.00 in general damages.

They will probably get it, as the CSA has a very weak case. Ross McBain, counsel for the CSA, claimed that no contract existed, on two grounds. Both are interesting:

1. He said that no collective agreement was in force because the section of the Universities Act bringing the U of C under the Crown Agencies Employees Relations Act is ineffective. That's interesting, because the CSA has been spending large amounts of members' money telling us at the U of A that it IS effective, and that we therefore cannot exist as NASA. Well, who is CSA lying to? U of A employees or the Supreme Court?

2. His second ground was that the CSA was unaware of and has never been properly notified of the arbitration board decision last July (1) on the terms of the collective agreement. That's interesting too, because the CSA organizers who have been pestering us claim that one of the major advantages of joining the CSA is that all bargaining will be done by the Edmonton office, by CSA "Experts". Some "Experts"!!

I can't tell from the newspaper report (Albertan, Jan. 14, 1975) whether he intended to plead that the CSA executive is incredibly stupid, or just totally incompetent. What's your opinion?

Note that the U of C now does NOT have to pay their employees an extra dime. The contract stands. Offers of settlement for all the money the U of C could scrape up were rejected by CSA, although they had no right to expect that any increase would be forthcoming while a contract was in force. The CSA Executive seems a bit dazzled by the technique of British workers, "Down tools and everybody out!" at the drop of a hat; but that doesn't work

in the courts of Canada, and look what a mess it made of Britain. Perhaps another executive would be more familiar with Canadian law?

Bill Broad is riding high on the strength of legislation that says the Provincial Government employees can belong to no other union than the CSA. Well, I wonder how long that would stand up in court. It dates back to before the Bill of Rights. Besides, NASA has already demonstrated that such legislation can be circumvented, if necessary. Perhaps they would tell you how to do it, if you're tired of Big Brother Bill Broad and His Flying Fiascos.

Are you aware that 93.1% of your dues go in to Edmonton to be spent by the Executive? That leaves you 6.9% to run your branch, which is, I suppose, to buy postage stamps when you have problems for your union to solve. It sure won't pay for long distance telephone calls very often, but I guess Bill doesn't think your problems are urgent.

Do you get good service on your problems? Are your grievance cases resolved promptly and fairly? If not, why not try the NASA system - 100% of the dues to local problems and nothing to faraway strangers!

While we're on the subject of dues, did you know that NASA members pay under \$3.00 per month, Federal employees pay \$4.75 a month, and you pay \$6.50 a month. Why? What have you got that we haven't?

I'll make a bet with you - I'll bet you get asked for another increase in dues before the end of April. Bill Broad seems determined on strike action - and that costs money.

U of C were out for four days. People on a five-day week work about 250 days a year, so they lost 1.6% of their year's pay on that short a strike. Do you think that CSA will get an extra 1.6% on the next contract to make it up? Tune in next July and find out!

The latest "Perspective" tells you that 75% of your delegates voted for the last increase in dues for CSA members. Actually, the increase passed by four votes, over the 2/3 majority required. (252

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Art Varker by GERRY RASMUSSEN + JON

