

editorial

Stanine still

Its pretty well common knowledge that undergrad students are barely literate enough to watch TV, let alone produce flowery passages of poignant prose in their essays and term papers. A committee has been struck to gauge just how low the undergrad rates on the English table of verbal abilities.

Everybody knows that. In fact, its boring.

But now there's something new on that level. GFC has just discovered most profs don't understand the nine-point grading system. Its now common knowledge that professors think we're still on the stanine system.

The GFC Executive Committee has been presented with a request on the part of Rehab Medicine to allow them to raise the pass level in their faculty from a 4 to a 5. Snickers from the committee.

You see, the nine point system works thusly: a 4 is a pass. Whatever percentage the instructor in his/her wisdom decides is adequate skill to warrant a pass gets a 4 or better. If that is a 50% average or a 3% average, 4 will cover it. Thus you don't have to ask GFC to raise the pass from 4 to 5, you simply readjust what average you consider "a passing grade."

Students, be sure your instructors know this subtle difference between the stanine and the nine-point system of grading. Your instructor may be "pegging you on the curve" unnecessarily and be either giving you a break or robbing you of your passing grade.

If the governing council of Rehab Med is making a request like the one they are, chances are your instructor might be in error as well.

But if you do check them up on their grading patterns, do it in good English.

NUS is whom?

In just over a week, you are going to be asked to decide on the NUS issue. A dollar is going to be asked of you in return for a strong voice in the federal government on issues that concern you, issues you want to see resolved.

That's the hard part. The dollar.

Someone ought to show you just why it would be worth a dollar of your hard-earned student loan to have some dildo up in Ottawa raising a stink about student financing, student housing, women's rights, native rights, and all those other national issues you obviously consider of crucial importance.

That's right. Someone should. But who has been about it?

A few weeks ago I was asked to be a member of the NUS committee when it should be formed, to use my position to help students decide on NUS. I declined because I felt I wouldn't have time to do the kinds of things I would expect a committee with that type of big job to do. I should have joined. None of my time would have been taken up.

NUS committee, where are you?

By now I should have seen hundreds of posters, and have been invited to debates and forums on the NUS issue. But I've seen nothing, and I've been looking. For the student who hasn't been looking, what have you done?

For those who haven't yet been "reached" by the committee I have a short paragraph on NUS.

The National Union of Students is a Canada-wide body of post-secondary institution students, which has as its goal the lobbying with the federal government for consideration on those issues, students consider important. A professional lobbyist has been hired by NUS to do just that. In addition, NUS is gathering a huge information bank on many issues of student concern which it will share with those doing studies in those same areas. It costs a dollar a student for each institution to join. A dollar thousands of people consider well-spnt. The institutions are asked to partake in the governing of the union, and to help set its priorities.



WHADDYAH MEAN "DEADWOOD IN THUH DEPARTMENT"...HUH BUD!?

DELANEY

letters

Chiding the paper

Your headline "No Housing Solutions at Forum" and concluding statement, "The forum

tended not to expose any very realistic or exciting solutions to the crisis in housing" are a poor representation of what occurred at the forum.

When your reporter says "very realistic or exciting solutions" I am at a loss to understand what he means. One "exciting" solution would be a revolutionary solution - at this time that does not seem to

be "very realistic".

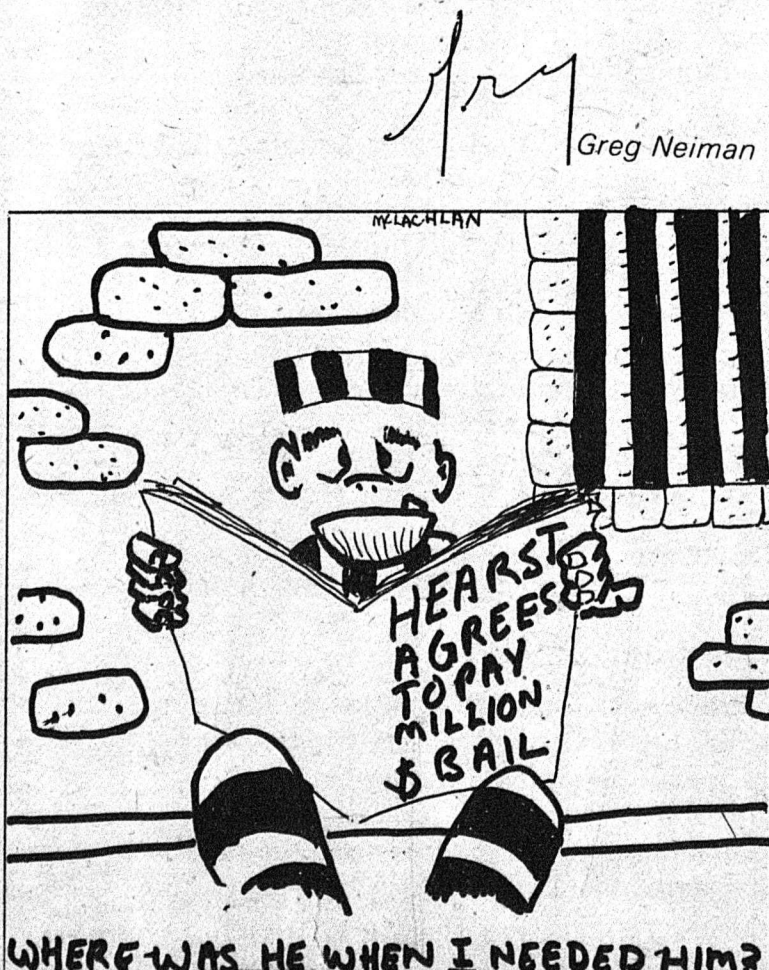
The following solutions were put forth at the forum: A National Union of Students that would organize students and pressure governments; fairly-priced public housing on a large scale that would give persons on a lower and fixed incomes an alternative to over-priced housing; land banks and land assembly programs that would prevent the fantastic profits of speculators; encouragement of cooperative housing projects; rent controls with real teeth and

the requirements that corporations open their books to government audit on a monthly basis (as is the case in B.C.). These solutions probably seem "unexciting" to your reporter, but certainly they are "very realistic."

As a socialist, I feel these measures are not the ultimate solution, but they are a good place to start. Certainly, one of the major reasons for the crisis is the control over Canadian resource development (its rate and direction) exercised by multinational corporations. The James Bay Project at \$15-20 billion, Syncrude and subsequent tar sands plants at \$2 billion and upwards and a probably MacKenzie Valley Pipeline at \$6-8 billion put immense inflationary pressure on our economy, through shortages of investment capital (hence higher mortgage rates) and shortages of construction materials. Nationalization of the resource sector is an "exciting" measure that I hope we will realize in the near future, but it does not provide any relief for those who have a housing crisis today.

Although the content of the forum was well reported, I think the headline and the concluding paragraph distorted what actually took place. Opinionated statements such as those would be better placed on the editorial page.

Ed Matwichuk
Education



WHERE WAS HE WHEN I NEEDED HIM?

Greg Neiman