

The Gateway

member of the Canadian University Press

STAFF THIS ISSUE

I, Harvey G. Thomgirt, being of sound mind and body do hereby declare that there will be no more marathon press nights like the first. Those vallant souls who dropped in to play with the new machines and to help us put out the first issue included Don Ryane (our new cartoonist), Dick Nimmons, Winston Gereluk, our labour relations authority, Bob Blair, Karen Moeller, Lana Yakimchuk, Ann Parker, and Dot Mihychuk.

Editor-in-chief Bob Beal
Sports Ron Ternoway
Advertising Percy Wickman
News Elsie Ross
Production Bud Joberg
Photo Barry Headrick
Don Bruce

The Gateway is published bi-weekly by the students of the university of Alberta. The editor-in-chief is responsible for all amterial published herein. Final copy deadlines are 6 p.m. the day before publication. The Gateway is printed by North Hill News Ltd., Edmonton.

UP THE UNION

It may be stretching your imaginations a little to ask you to believe that behind all of the resurrected bufoonry of "Frosh Week" on campus there actually exists a very serious issue; one that is going to be resolved very soon whether students are ready for it or not.

The SUB workers are really serious about fighting the Students' Union's attempt to have their union decertified. And, students are going to have to make a decision; do they support the workers as they defend their rights to form a viable union — or by their silence, do they allow Darrel Ness, Don MacKenzie, and the SU executive to force the workers of CUPE Local 1368 back into the position of being passive objects of management manipulation.

As is usual for people in his position, Don MacKenzie has produced a trmendously confused 'liberal' argument in order to explain why he has taken his reactionary position.

MacKenzie argues that students will have to bear increased students' union fees and cutbacks in services if the CUPE demands for wage increases are granted.

But the additional money could be gained partly by cutting managementsalaries, a possibility which he has not considered. In any case, the increase in fees and the cutbacks in services would not be at all unbearable for the students. We have no right to enjoy services if we cannot pay our employees decent living wages and provide them with comfortable working conditions.

MacKenzie says the workers have demanded 16.9% increases or a total for the year of \$50,000. According to our information (which we checked several times) this is simply not true.

The workers are asking for an increase of \$44 per month per employee. There are about 32 union members, therefore the total increase for a year would be \$16,896. That is slightly more than the Union is presently paying the General Manager.

The SUB CUPE local is not being greedy in its wage demands. By advocating "across the board" increases, and not percentage increases, they are proposing that the higher paid staff get less of an increae than the lower paid employees. They are advocating a more equitable distribution of earnings.

The CUPE local is asking that the salary range be \$340 - \$647 a month. It is presently about \$274 - \$700. Percy Wickman, Students' Union advertising manager and president of the local, presently receives about \$700 a month. If the Students' Union were to agree to CUPE's demands, Wickman would receive a maximum of \$647.

Students must not sit by and let their elected representitives keep the salaries of the employees, who are necessary for the functioning of the Students' Union, at a minimum.

We must demand that the SU executive take steps to equalize salaries of all SU employees, including management, and to provide better working conditions. And we must, if necessary, be willing to take a cutback in services.

circus anyone?

If the Students' Union was in the hands of the Yippies, the "Circus" theme of FIW could satirically and accurately introduce first-year students to the multi-versity. Since they are not Yippies, the "Circus" theme is an insult.

Circuses are for children and Ring Master Don MacKenzie and his bunch of clowns persist in treating university students as such. Obviously they feel first year students desire nothing else but high school style good times or are not capable of understanding or appreciating activities designed to educate them about the society in which they live or the university environment they are entering.

None of the almost \$17,000 spent on FIW was intended to increase social awareness or to educate students about university life, but rather to drown the students in the blare of bands, a glass of beer, and the dunk tank. As well, Students' Council expects to make the money back from the students they are supposedly serving by selling such things as the "This, That, and Everything Kit."

Students' Union Co-ordinator, Doug Black, told the first year students that institutions are not intended to mold people but that they can if people do no force the institution to serve human interests.

And yet, Students' Union decreed the compulsory attendance of first year students at the gathering at which Black spoke.

Students' Union molded the students arbitrarily into discussion groups depending on what colour balloon they happened to be holding.

Tuesday, students were told (implicitly) that the Powderpuff football

game in the quad was funny because women were trying to play "a man's game."

Today, at the carnival in the quad, students will be taught that the Students' Union executive, who few of them have ever met or seen, somehow deserve to be "dunked."

What "human interests" are the Students' Union serving?

When the university community and students in particular are finally starting to develop a sense of social and political responsibility, we find the "progressive" conservative student leaders at U of A returning to the inane frivolity and mindless mentality that characterized Joe College of the 50's.

The current FIW extravaganza appears to be part of the nostalgia syndrome enjoying cultural popularity. Yet by taking these activities seriously, the Students' Union reveal themselves to be acutely out of touch with what is happening. If they want to perpetuate the illusion that they are leading a children's parade, they are not only foolish and irrelevant, but detrimental.

Imagine these same bunch of clowns appealing to the government for a better grant and loan arrangement or lower tuitions. They will not only be laughed at, but refused.

First year students should enjoy FIW, meet each other, and discover campus life. However, they should not be deceived as to what is going on. This is not the 1950's and not high school, despite appearances. It is time to start critically evaluating what is happening. Students can begin with considering the assumptions and attitudes of the FIW circus.

