



## editorial

### Considering elections

What does a student get for his money these days? An interesting question when one considers that \$34 is grabbed by the Students' Union on Day One, to be followed immediately by large increases in admission to student services. Like Student Cinema. Or to touch on other areas, the cutting of previously existing services, like CKSR radio.

All in all, people like the first year students, who will be here another three years, seem to absorb all the extra costs along with the decreases in services.

So what does a student get for his money? Increased costs, decreased services, and virtually no communication from the elected slates of officials running the Union. It can be argued that inflation and the HUB Mall have left us in an uncompromising financial position, but who really knows? The electorate certainly doesn't.

The apparent trend seems to be that once someone is elected to Council, all contact with the students is lost. This is inexcusable for the unpaid Council members, but it is even worse when each individual Executive member pockets \$4200.00 without giving anything tangible, except higher costs, back to the students. Now is the time when all aspiring politicians are planning their campaigns for this year's election. Just for a change, it would be nice to have an election campaign where candidates approach the voters with enough integrity and honesty to make campaign promises and then live up to them. If the overall Students' Union situation is to improve, the first step will be in having elected politicians who look good not only during the campaign, but during their term of office also.

This change would prove to be the death of the old way, and the rebirth of a viable student's government.

Bernie Fritze

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## letters

### Call to action

The Quebec government and public is now reacting to disclosure that teen-age girls in that province have been strapped down in solitary confinement in detention homes, and that many of the girls were formerly homeless girls and orphans, placed with the institutions for "care and protection".

It is not long since a teen-aged girl was held in a private institution in Alberta without due process of law. She hanged herself after repeated attempts to escape, and after informing her captors of her intention.

In this case nearer to home the Coroner's Jury recommended that the

"Detention Room" be not further used, and questioned the advisability of the girl's period of detention in the "home".

I am thankful that we still have Coroners' Juries composed of concerned citizens, rather than functionaries for whom it could be a mere employment.

The recent "Kirby Commission" made an ill-advised recommendation, to dispense with Coroners' Juries. I wonder if they could have read the Brief which I submitted to them, warning and explaining why they should not reach such a decision.

It is to be hoped that the provincial government will now reject this Kirby Commission proposal, and will ensure a constant high quality of Coroners' juries, by requiring that such juries shall come from various age groups and walks of life rather than from "a convenient source".

A prisoner is entitled to fair and humane treatment even when not, as in this case, being unlawfully deprived of personal liberty. A you person, despairing and near hysterical, requires, not to be locked in a detention room in solitary confinement, but the strong arm of compassion and understanding.

The public should be watchful. Delegations from citizens' groups, Church and other, should regularly visit all places of detention to ensure that imprisonment and treatment is in accordance with out laws.

I am not concerned here with vicious and unrepentant murderers, nor with hardened criminals, though even the latter should be redeemed if possible by humane and even handed justice. I write of those who may be locked away without appearing before any court and

without the condonement of Canada's Law for their incarceration.

Nothing can now be done, not by common mortal to redress the sufferings of this girl. One wonders however, how many others are held in illegal imprisonment in this province?

We do not know enough about this case. Even the name of the victim was withheld by the media. This was a mistake, for while a living juvenile can benefit from this anonymity, the girl in question is as dead as Caesar, and beyond further hurt. Had the name been known, the Coroner's court might have received some response to the call for anyone who might be able to present pertinent evidence.

If, as it seems, we are back in the dark ages when persons may be held in unwarranted "durance vile" and thrown into the modern equivalent of dungeons, then there is again the need for "knights in shining armour" to take up the cause of these fair maidens and others.

May I commend this task to those of our public spirited youth who are better able to defend themselves than was this unhappy girl? Citizens, Students, Law students even, this is a call to action! We are all responsible for unchecked evil in our society, and a state of affair as revealed by this tragic suicide raises questions which urgently cry for answers.

Arthur Yates

## Contrary to Mary

The Arab Day promises controversy.

Indeed it does, and here is the first instance. Although I have no doubt that Miss MacDonald wrote her statement (*Gateway*, Jan. 16) with the best intentions, I must hasten to dissociate myself from it. The readers of *The Gateway* as well as members of the Arab-Canadian community will appreciate my concern as Miss MacDonald's publicity does not agree with my ideology and my unfortunate function as a spokesman.

To set the record straight, I should like to make the following statements:

I. The Arab Students' Association sponsors an authentic Arab function, the purpose of which is to promote a better and more effective understanding between Arabs and North Americans, and furnish all concerned with as objective a picture as possible, of the Arab nation. The function, which the Ass'n has not had for three years, is in no way theocratic; is secular in orientation, content and form.

II. The Ass'n. sponsors a noon public forum, at the SUB Theatre, featuring speakers

## Who's who at the U

from the *Silhouette*.

### A DEAN

leaps tall buildings on a single bound,  
is more powerful than a locomotive,  
is faster than a speeding bullet,  
walks on water,  
gives policy to God.

### A DEPARTMENT HEAD

leaps short buildings in a single bound,  
is more powerful than a switch engine,  
is just as fast as a speeding bullet,  
walks on water if sea is calm,  
talks with God.

### A PROFESSOR

leaps short buildings with a running start and favourable winds,  
is almost as powerful as a switch engine,  
walks on water in an indoor swimming pool,  
talks with God if special permission is approved.

### AN ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

barely clears a quonset hut,  
loses tug of war with a locomotive,  
can fire a speeding bullet,  
swims well,  
is occasionally addressed by God.

### AN ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

makes high marks on the walls when trying to leap tall buildings,  
is run over by locomotives,  
can sometimes handle a gun without inflicting self-injury,  
talks to animals.

### A GRADUATE STUDENT

runs into buildings,  
recognizes locomotives two out of three times,  
is not issued ammunition,  
can stay afloat with a life jacket,  
talks to walls.

### AN UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

falls over doorstep when trying to enter building,  
says look at the choo-choo,  
wets himself with a water pistol,  
plays in mud puddles,  
mumbles to himself.

### A SECRETARY

lifts buildings and walks under them,  
kicks locomotives off the tracks,  
catches speeding bullets in their teeth and eats them,  
freezes water with a single glance,  
is God.

## Art Varker by GERRY RASMUSSEN

