

Where was the baiting, or the accusations?

The Editor;
The CUS issue on campus has been buried, but apparently it is not yet dead. The abject despair of Rich Vivone, and the quiet belief in the final triumph of virtue on the part of Peter Boothroyd are both touching. But despite their condemnation of the parochialism in the rest of us, their visions of reality seem limited to the undersides of their own eyelids.

To hear them tell it CUS was defeated by a combination of hysterical anti-Red paranoia, mindless sophistry, and a semi-Freudian desire to return to the apolitical womb.

It never ceases to amaze me that the self-righteous pro-CUS forces on this campus can not bring themselves to believe that their opponents based their positions on rational thought and respectable principles.

A good many insinuations have been made about the manner in which the CUS debate was conducted—most of them unfounded. The anti-CUS forces were accused of conducting a Red-baiting smear campaign. There is hardly any substance to that. We felt that students had a right to know what CUS stood for and quoted freely from the statements CUS itself had issued. We may have inadvertently taken a few things out of context and no doubt we presented a somewhat unbalanced view. If that was the case it was the duty of the CUS defenders to put things back into context, or to have given us the other side of CUS's objectives. But they hardly dared quote any CUS policy statements at all.

The really conspicuous smear was perpetrated against the anti-CUS forces. People were accused of red-baiting for the most innocuous of statements. No one in the "Pilkington Klan", to my knowledge, ever came close to publicly insinuating that CUS was communist-financed, or attempted to draw parallels between the finances of the IUS and CUS. Yet there it was, in the front page editorial of the Gateway—these insidious reactionaries were supposed to be spreading just such propaganda—Smear?

The anti-CUS people were supposed to have contributed nothing to the debate. "How could they

have?" I can hear some say, "They had nothing to contribute."—Nonsense.

The defenders of CUS didn't debate with their opponents, they tried to talk through them. The entire hard-core pro-CUS position stood on the view that the student was as a total person, with a political side to him which he could not afford to ignore. His organizations had to reflect this, so the argument went, and thus CUS was quite in the right in taking political stands.

We never denied that students have a right and/or duty to voice their political opinions. We only objected to CUS, a closed-shop organization, doing it for us.

At any rate the affair is over now. There's no need to gloat nor to despair. I would think very little of the pro-CUS forces if they did not sincerely believe in their position. No doubt they have given it careful thought. But I do object to their categorizing of those who disagree with them as Neandrathal Ku Kluxers who lack the intellectual courage to let go of the nineteenth century.

Ken Tyler
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EDITOR'S NOTE—Red-baiting consists of such things as a giant poster on second floor SUB which read "Ho Chi Minh speaks for CUS—does he speak for you?" It consists of a number of large displays on second floor SUB which contained collages of posters proclaiming liberation for the peoples of Argentina, freedom from oppression in Paraguay etc. These placards appeared the day prior to the referendum. That is red-baiting.

Marilyn Pilkington said from the floor during the Brian Campbell-Dave Jenkins-Branny Schepanovich debate in January that IUS was "communist-financed, communist-based" and she said CUS maintained their links with IUS. The insinuation is obvious.

The students' union is also closed-shop. If a student objects to its stands—political or apolitical—why can the student not withdraw from the students' union as Alberta did from CUS.

The cartoon was the work of our cartoonist. He too has editorial freedom and his opinion can be expressed as yours is above.

Businessman's objectivity

The Editor;
For the first time this year I wore my U of A jacket uptown, mainly to distinguish myself from the VGW'ers, and this action produced rather interesting results.

As I got on an elevator in the new Royal Bank building, two businessmen inside were angrily discussing the recent fireworks in Montreal. Before we had gone very far, one of the men burst out, "Those goddamn Frenchmen!" He looked at me. "I was about to say, 'and students,' but . . ." He didn't appear very apologetic. In our defense I said we didn't think that only students were involved. He muttered agreement, then made a joke

about the Chinese students in Canada; the elevator stopped, I got off, and that was the end of it.

But I can't help wondering how many other people are saying the same things, or worse. Letting the administration do our fighting for us is no good; it is we, those most directly concerned, who must do something—anything—to show Mr. and Mrs. Public our good faith . . . forming a union for the protection of university property, for instance. Whether it would prove effective is not the point; in the eyes of the taxpayer, it's the thought that counts.

Larry Mitchell
arts 2

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT MY OPPONENT HAS LOST SIGHT OF THE IMPORTANT GOALS OF OUR SOCIETY...
... HE KEEPS GETTING ALL INVOLVED IN PETTY ISSUES SUCH AS...
... MY INCOMPETENCY, MY CORRUPTNESS, MY DECEIT AND MY FRAUDULENT CONDUCT!



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More about the views of certain newspaper writers

The Editor;
I am sick and tired of being (along with an overwhelming majority of students on this campus, as shown recently) labelled "non-thinker", "apathetic", "anti-intellectual" etc. by Mr. Boothroyd, Mr. Campbell and their "fellow losers" (among which the author of the "Forgive them for they know not what they do" cartoon, [Gateway, February 4.]).

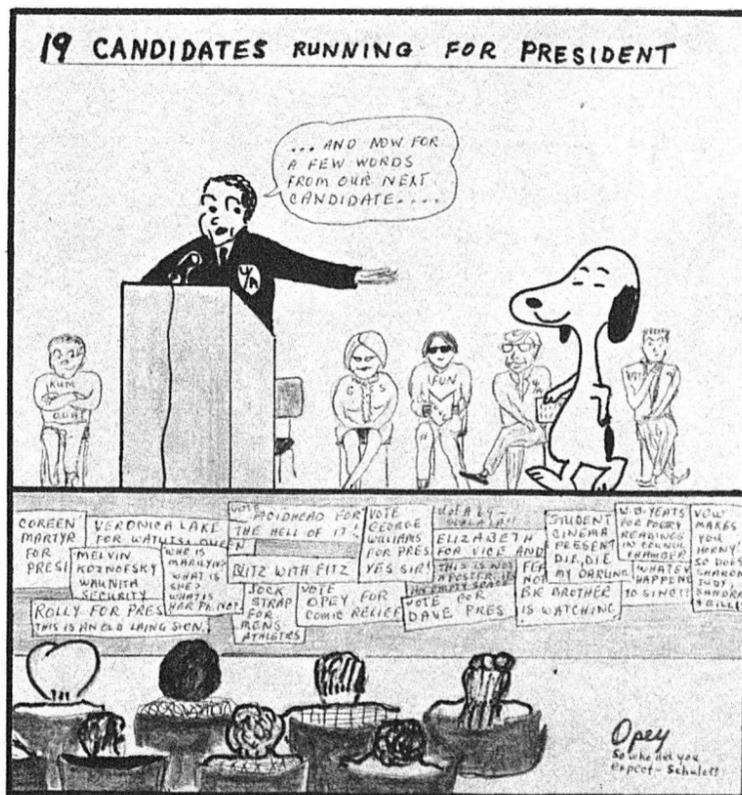
What's our crime? . . . We just don't think the way they do, which is also the way they would like everybody else to think. What bothers Mr. Campbell is that the "inmates of this asylum were so willing to allow themselves to be manipulated in such a ruthless and cynical manner"; the "manipulating" side, of course, is the other side, on his side there is no manipulating, no "manipulated", only the enlightened thinking elite . . .

Talking about "apathy", I wish they would not apply the term to any of the students who bothered to vote; whether their

answer was "yes" or "no", they said what they wanted and showed they had made a choice. Now, if Mr. Boothroyd and Mr. Campbell want to define "apathetic" as "person who does not agree with me", let them go right ahead and compile their own dictionary.

The trouble with man is that he is a conceited creature. Every individual knows the Truth and by God, he is going to let the blind, stupid non-thinkers know what the Truth is; the means are various: in the Middle Ages, the Crusaders cut off the heads of the Muslims who adored the "wrong" god, and vice-versa. Well, could one say that the Age of the Crusades is over? The "truth-holders" on this campus don't use swords or machine guns but, just as their fellow Crusaders, they do not seem to know how to respect other people's ideas. Maybe their dictionary does not include the words "tolerance" and "humility"? . . .

Bernard Rochet
(grad studies)



Why I voted against CUS

The Editor;
I have, in the past, agreed and disagreed with several things you have said, but lately you have pulled off one that really got to me. Your Grade Three attitude in respect to the CUS referendum was totally unexpected. Something like, if you won't play my game, you won't play at all.

It may come as a shock to you and Peter Boothroyd and all your compatriots, but my reasons for voting against CUS were not that I was under the evil spell of the Wicked Witch-Queen, Marilyn, and her minions of evil. I had read several things about CUS, and heard their representatives talk, and also, and most important, I read the resolutions of their latest congress. I found myself totally unable, in all conscience, to give my support to such opinions as they put forth in the name of all university students. Peter Boothroyd, who, for reasons known only to you and him, and God, has been writing the same weary story for issue after issue of The Gateway, has the same spoiled child outlook. Anybody who voted against CUS did so due to apathetic acceptance of the propoganda put out by our highly-esteemed (and steamed up) Student Union President.

Now, before you give me the hairy line about changing them from within, please realize that the only people left in the union are those who lean to the viewpoints I will not support. One lonely voice crying in the wilderness will not be of much use against an overwhelming majority opposed to them.

Also, please do not take this as an acceptance of the views of our students' council. I feel that we have been badly represented, and that they could be doing many things of immediate concern to the students of this campus who came here to prepare to work for a living, not debate the issues involved in someone else's war. I would be willing to wager that at least half of the students who voted against membership in CUS had personal reasons for doing so, and would resent your insinuations of mindlessness on the part of anyone who is not of your particular viewpoint.

That last is one thing I do not like about CUS; their complete intolerance of dissenting viewpoints. Find yourself another drum to beat, Mr. Vivone; CUS is dead, and the students who cared about it, in the majority, were against it.

J. P. Wagner, arts 2