



Forum, an innovation two weeks ago, is a space in which students may present their views in the form of editorials. Controversial submissions, especially those bordering upon libel, will be given first consideration. Writers are asked to submit their "editorials" typed double spaced. All submissions must be signed. If anonymity is required, articles must be enclosed in envelopes addressed to the editor-in-chief and marked "confidential." If responses are not sufficiently high in quantity and quality, Forum will be discontinued.

WHO NEEDS NFCUS?

Is it not time that someone seriously questioned the wisdom of the continued participation by the University of Alberta in the National Federation of Canadian University Students? This organization is more easily identified as NFCUS, but as has been recently pointed out in The Gateway, few people outside of the local NFCUS chairman are certain what the letters stand for. This year NFCUS will receive approximately \$3,500 from this campus, such funds being realized by the extraction of 50 cents from each student. The only reason that the extraction is painless is because no one is aware that it represents a portion of the Students' Union fees which are annually assessed.

Each year NFCUS makes its contributions to this campus in the form of a photography contest, a life insurance program at reduced rates, the sponsorship of a national seminar to which eight of our students enjoy an expense paid visit and the sponsorship of a national convention to which the local chairman, the western regional chairman, the national chairman and the president of our Students' Union enjoy an expenses paid trip. NFCUS also acts as a national pressure group making its views (which are considered to be the views of every Canadian University student) felt on such questions as racial segregation in South Africa and Communist oppression in Hungary. While these are of course honorable endeavours they do not justify the extraction of \$3,500 nor will they justify the extraction of \$5,000 when our enrolment reaches 10,000 or the extraction of \$10,000 when enrolment reaches 20,000 students by 1972. The University of Alberta would be wise to follow the action of Sir George Williams University and withdraw from

I'M A CAPITALIST

"National one-sidedness and narrow-mindedness become more and more impossible."
—Marx 1848.

There is no immediate necessity for a funeral dirge over either the Soviet Republic or capitalism. And this is not to say we can't live in peace either. I don't say it is easy, but that it is worth working for.

Capitalism has shown itself remarkably viable and adaptable in ways that Marx didn't foresee. The same may be said of communism. The facts are that economically the two systems by small degrees converge on a middle road; and ideologically the west has been noticeably sharpened up by the Marxist stimulus, while the communist camp is forced from time to time to revise its original vision.

No, they don't want to admit a swing in our direction! The Marxists and their ideological heirs still talk in terms of an inevitable plowing under of capitalism. They cheerfully subjugate bourgeois morality to historical necessity. It is true that they are dedicated, and often deadly. But not necessarily our nemeses!

BEST FRIENDS

The communists can be our best friends if we are bright enough in our psychology. They have proven, to their own dismay, that they too are adaptable. This fact we should exploit. In order to exploit it we must do three things: 1. become thoroughly familiar with the two

NFCUS.

Such action of course will result in the raising of the hue and cry that Alberta students are "provincial" and too short-sighted to see beyond the boundaries of their own province. Surely such charges would be unjustified if the money which is presently being sent to the national officer of NFCUS was instead being used in the financing of any of the following projects:

(1) Sponsorship under the direction of Students' Council of a series of "10 Great Canadians," whereby prominent figures in every area of national life from sports to classical music would be brought to this campus to speak to any students who would attend.

or (2) Sponsorship under the direction of Students' Council of a "Scholastic Color Night" to be held early in every academic year honoring students who have been scholastically outstanding in the previous academic year. Scholarship must rank high on any list of reasons why we attend university.

or (3) Increased annual budgets for all Students' Union sponsored organizations, particularly such clubs as the Debating Society and the Political Science Club.

or (4) An increase in the annual budget of The Gateway, permitting it to be published more quickly and more often; and aiding it in its present contribution toward student thought by enabling it to expand such splendid columns as "Forum" and "Gateway Features."

or (5) An outright donation to World University Services eliminating the necessity of these silly little men who annually descend upon us, seeking individual contributions for a donation which should properly come from the student body as a whole.

While these projects may appear frightfully dull, they would cater to the intellectual campus spirit of the university—a campus spirit which, despite the efforts of the jolly boys, is one that will always be with us and of which we have every right to be proud.

—Sycamore

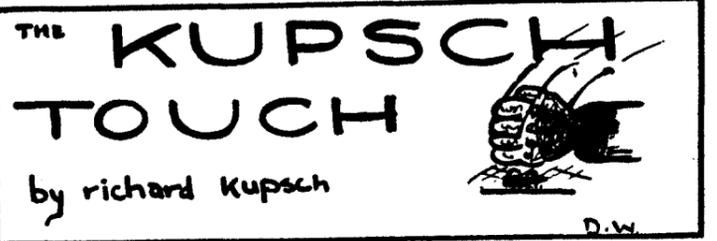
contrasting systems in political, economic, and philosophic ramifications; 2. on the basis of our thus enlightened evaluation of our western way of life, figure out more and better ways to convince them that they haven't after all, the whole truth or historical blessing; 3. take the attitude that our exposure to a lively counter-ideology is, in reality, the best thing that can happen to us in terms of keeping us awake and probably preventing us, if anything can, from succumbing to the decadence

they rather realistically see in us. Take the communist seriously, but calmly! He can be understood, and he can be handled—maybe even loved. That he refuses to play by our rules complicates the game, but doesn't imply that we must play by his. Not if we are really convinced that our viewpoint is valid, and our system on a solid foundation.

KEEP OUR HEADS

If we aren't solid we deserve to crumble. If we are solid we still

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Ever since this nation was torn from greedy clutches of those Damn Yankees 90 years ago, Canadian nationalists have been singing the praises of our so-called "distinctively Canadian way of life." It is not only distinctive, it is superior to the way of life of any other nation in the world.

The time has come for us to get off this ridiculous superiority kick.

Over the past century, and increasingly over the past decade, Canadians have been searching for the image of Canadianism which is a necessity if we are to remain a sovereign nation. The image that they are presenting today is a weird and wonderful misconception based on the theory of Canadian superiority.

Canadians argue that, by right of our British and American legacies, and our so-called "fusion of cultures," we have the potential for a rich and varied culture. All that we need is time and freedom from diluting influences (i.e. American influences) to develop this culture.

But, what is this "Canadian" thing? Canadians are laboring, probably in vain, to define this Canadian thing before the larger and stronger American culture overwhelms us.

To define the term Canadian, we resort to rationalizations, to claims to an inherent, nonexistent superiority, and use the United States as a standard by which we evaluate our way of life.

We say that we have a superior education system, yet we have no universities of the calibre of Yale and Harvard, and few better than most state colleges; we resort to the supposed duality of our culture, yet the French live in relative seclusion in Quebec; we wallow in the glory of our historic past, what little we know of it; we declaim the superiority of our governmental system, for, after all, we have legalized the Communist party, and have organized representatives of all points of the political spectrum.

But the unkindest cut of all is our claim to superiority over the British because of American influences, which make us more willing to accept the new way to do something; and our reverse claim to superiority over the Americans because our British heritage gives us stability.

All this, along with better football, better beer, better television, better nationalism (a sort of an ultra-nationalism, an all-encompass-

sing attitude that places the interests of the world ahead of our narrow national interests), and a host of other "better" things.

All these are rationalizations. They are composed of dream stuff, based on illusions and developed through wishful thinking. They are a defense mechanism of a minority group that is in danger of being engulfed by a larger and more cohesive group, in a situation in which the smaller group has no valid reasons to exist independently.



Goode Editore:—

Upp laste morne and to the citye and did there discovere the haberdashers to be purveying a new and ghastrly garbe; bluiie—blacke tabards, "Applyd Scientists, Lyceum Albertaensis" to the pocket stitch'd, and three buttons, all after the fashion of the Goldish Beastes, their habits of moss.

But methings few will be solde, goode sir, for they will go ill with the usuall fit finerie of that fine facultie.

Such merchantilistes would shoew more wisdom by offering blacke your Presses staffe writing storyes upon emboss'd.

I do perceive a growing glut of Gatewaye ginks writing storyes about themselves, taking pictures of themselves, and heaping laud upon themselves, all by the lighte of the moone, and it does to mee seeme strange that there be not more Noble Councillors or Younge Liberralls gailie Gatewayeing and treading this open avenue to brasse stars, golde keys and applause.

Be kinde to the selfe-seeking guys, That clanticleere may succede, kaiserwise. old Chulmondellie Chumpe writes unmetricallie.

Nowe that one must carry afte one's own vessels in the Commisariate, the tables be onlie wash'd once each se'night, so though the fowle pie be indiv., the germs be mult.

Greatest respect, Sir, Wm. Pepys

STET
a literary magazine published by the gateway annually for several decades will appear again this year . . . writers should start writing pending further announcement . . . watch this space

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