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at last, we're getting letters. this week everyone and his dog seems to have a bee in his bonnet. we have letters of complaint and letters of warning. subjects range from yearbook fees to grad students to sneaky banks. there are three letters about model parliament and/or politics in general, and a letter regarding campus tradition. we even have letters left over for future editions. keep them coming. we'll publish almost anything.

letters

tradition

The beautiful buildings on this campus put University of Alberta among the most modern universities in Canada. The new Student Union Building with its unique design is something that we can all be proud of. What about the people on this campus? Are we different from students at any other university? Not really. We are handing in our assignments, working on essays and studying for the exams. Is this enough you may ask. Or should we be doing more. Every university seems to have some uniqueness about itself. For example at UBC there is the pool in front of the library in which every fall numerous frosh, as well as engineers and everyone else that is around gets christened. At Carleton University there are the tunnels which get painted with most remarkable forms of modern art, at least this is how it was last summer, and one has to be careful not to get his mind expanded. At University of Toronto there is Yorkville just two blocks from the campus and to say more about that would be superfluous.

What do we have that would make this university unique? Do we have something that will remain in our minds long after we have departed from here? Perhaps things which impart uniqueness to a campus appear spontaneously and then become a tradition and to attempt to create something intentionally is unwise. However, there are people on this campus who have talent and skill and could contribute more to the campus life if tradition would so demand. Perhaps it would be a start if a student council official turned to the fine tradition of Hyde Park, brought a soap box, and told the people what has to be done. It may be that others would follow for they too may have something to say.

Oscar Koren
grad studies

what they want

In your editorial "What do they want" (referring to graduate students) you neglected to point out certain facts of U of A life:

1. The General Faculty Council has stated that it wants one member from the Graduate Students' Association to join it. This member may not be replaced if he gets sick or for some other reason is unable to attend a GFC meeting. So long as GFC—not to mention other governing bodies of this university—remains unrepresentative of students in any meaningful sense, graduate students will be hampered in taking an active responsibility for the university. The last GFC meeting was far from a unique opportunity for students and the administration to talk over matters of student concern, as you imply. In fact, there are a plethora of such opportunities. What is needed is not more of the famed "dialogue" but opportunity for real decision-making by students. The representation of all graduate students by one irreplaceable member on GFC can hardly be considered a great occasion.

2. It is absurd to suggest that the

vice-president or any other officer of the GSA should check up on other graduate students. The GSA can only function if its members willingly carry out the tasks they have accepted. We will leave it to the judgement of each member to carry out his own tasks as he sees fit.

3. The graduate students of Pembina and Athabasca Hall have no choice but to eat in SUB. If this is the only hot-meal facility that the administration will supply, you can hardly expect graduate students to be obsequiously thankful about the "privilege".

4. All graduate students who use the games area of SUB pay each time they use a facility. While these rates are said to be below commercial rates, we do not expect the Students' Union to be a profit-making business.

The graduate students are presently discussing the status of the GSA vis-a-vis the Students' Union. We have continually invited the suggestions of the latter. When we democratically decide the course to take—by involving as many students as are interested in the matter—we will tell you "what we want".

Peter Boothroyd
president,
Erik Solem
vice-president

warning

I wish to warn all members of the university drinking coffee in SUB.

Do not look into your cup.

THERE ARE LITTLE THINGEES FLOATING IN THE SWILL.

John A. Makowichuk
arts 2

they're everywhere

Liberals and members of the other parties are becoming increasingly conscious of the "clandestine" activity of certain card-carrying Conservatives involved in student government. It is becoming rather apparent that members of the immediate Students' Union executive have used their positions to ensure that positions of authority and influence in S.U.B. particularly, are filled with P.C. supporters or members. It has been brought to our attention that Mr. Lougheed, leader of the provincial Conservatives, has been selected as a keynote speaker in S.U.B. Could Mr. McKenzie's chairmanship of the S.U.B. opening committee be a factor in Mr. Lougheed's selection? Mr. McKenzie has seen fit to make neat little comments about the new S.U.B. in the Gateway recently, wherein he finds it difficult not to mention Conservatism or the Conservative party (but then—he is a card-carrying member).

Mr. King, Vice-President of the Students' Union, has been quoted

as saying in the Gateway, that the PC party is the strongest on campus (which every party on campus would dispute on a basis of their showing in the 1966-67 Model Parliament), when no such statement was called for. As Vice-President of the Students' Union, we feel that he should concern himself solely with this position. He was not elected to espouse his views on the Progressive Conservative party on campus. We feel that this is both unnecessary and unfortunate. Student Union elections have not been permeated with politics in the past, neither should Student Government. Two members (President and Secretary) of last year's executive were card-carrying members of the Liberal Party and neither maintained a partisan role during the year.

The Conservatives could not control the government in last year's Model Parliament—we should not allow them to infiltrate and run Student Government this year.

Wm. R. Fowle
President, campus
Liberals

sharing an experience

Has your bank tried to cheat you of a tiny part of your Canada Student Loan? Mine did. I thought I should share my experience with other Gateway readers.

The university has told bank branches to forward to it any as yet unpaid tuition fees by deducting them from the student's loan. This does ease the bookkeeping for students who find it a drag to write a cheque and drop it into the fee box. It also suggests the university has found it necessary to crack down on those of us who have been trying to cheat the Bursar's office out of our fees. (How we have been able to do this and also to get our final results I do not know. Anyway, this is the first year U of A has tried this measure.)

When I went to the Canadian Imperial Bank branch at 8204-112th Street (where I have been banking for two years) with my completed loan form, I asked for the balance of my money (beyond that which the bank was to send to the university) to be given to me in cash as I had an immediate use I wished to make of it. You have rarely seen such a disgruntled bank management. Repeated attempts were

made to have me allow them to handle the money in a way that would allow them to make a charge for their services. When I finally had them agreeing to give me the cash, I noted that I was not willing to pay the bank to fulfill its obligation of sending the fee money to the university.

With this the whole situation changed again; and it developed to where I was phoning the university from the banker's office to find out why I should pay for the university's dealings with the bank. It was suggested to me by a member of the university staff that the bank may be obligated by law to give both the student and the university their shares of the Canada Student Loan without any deductions from the amount of the loan.

I asked the manager of the bank to justify the attempt at charges. He refused; but I was told that it is the accepted practice in all bank branches in the city. He then started to ask me personal questions (for example, Where else was I doing banking business?) which had nothing to do with the question of my Student Loan. Then he said it would take them a day to process the loan (although only minutes before the bank was ready to complete the transaction if I would pay for forwarding the U of A share of the funds.)

The next day at the bank I could not see the manager, but a rather somber employee immediately recognized the folder holding my loan and I was given a cheque for the complete amount of money due me. The accountant of the bank refused to tell me how they were going to handle charges on the transaction, and claimed that if I hadn't handled the matter the way I did, it would have cost me fifty cents. He also said other students will still be charged.

Fifty cents is nothing to any one of us. But multiplied by the number of students processing their loans through the banks it must amount to a tidy sum in the ledgers at their head offices.

I am glad to say that the university official who aided me in this business has also promised to follow through on it with higher officials.

Jay Smith
arts 3

bloody obvious

It's bloody obvious that students have little say in what their general fees are used for, but at least the Students' Union could set an example by tailoring its program (and hence use of funds) to actual, and, if possible, individual needs.

That this is to be the case is even recognized by our universal, indispensable guide to all modes of correctness known as the Student Handbook. It is really quite ironical that the keeper of our money, Mr. Ponting, is so ready to quote references to the "greatest need" of the students when defending the compulsory purchase of yearbooks. Students who don't even bother to pick up a book when they have already paid \$6.00 for it obviously are not having any great need met by the payment thereof. At least the books which teachers prescribe as compulsory are bought with the hope of benefiting there from,

though even this is often an illusion.

The learned editors in dealing with this issue are surely typical of university life, deriding the possibility that some students might actually be concerned enough about what is done with their money to protest specific usages thereof. It does not follow that these individuals who naturally expect response to their protests will bring financial disaster upon the blessed institution, unless council is incompetent to rationally cope with objections to existing programs.

You find it "strange that more people complain about paying for the yearbook than about paying for anything else." But really! This is strange only if one assumes in opposition to Miss Turner that a yearbook is an essential, a necessity, a need. Clearly a few thousand students each year put the lie to this proposition.

Students, do you desire the free use of your money to provide for your real needs?

Douglas Hendrickson

childish attitude

I am becoming increasingly concerned about the childish attitude of the New Democratic Party on campus. The NDY have recently decided to opt out of Model Parliament. This, on the grounds that Model Parliament is "sandbox politics", and because of student apathy, generally, for Model Parliament.

We in the Liberal Party feel that if Model Parliament is merely a forum for the practise of parliamentary procedure and the training of political aspirants, this is better than no parliament at all. We are prepared to work with other parties to make Model Parliament an institution on campus for the reflection of university feeling on questions of international, federal and provincial import. To expect more of Model Parliament is to harbor delusions of grandeur. If the NDY feel that Model Parliament is "sick"—why not cure it? They agreed, and stated so last year, that if CUS (Canadian Union of Students) was failing we should remain in the union and try to work out its problems from the inside.

You cannot cure apathy by ignoring it—or as rumors would have it, by inciting others to ignore it.

Wm. R. Fowle
President, campus
Liberals

dissatisfied

The Inter-Party Committee unanimously wishes to express its dissatisfaction with the article on model parliament on the front page of the October 3 edition of The Gateway. The committee feels that the article was grossly inaccurate as to fact and to quotes. In some parties the proper people were not consulted. Although it is fitting that the present discussions about model parliament be given coverage if they constitute news it is to be hoped in the future that The Gateway will be more professional as to its objectivity and accuracy.

Marguerite Trussler
Inter-Party Committee
Secretary

