

## Executive disregard for Council necessitates railroading

Webster defines "railroading" as "rushing or forcing with great speed without deliberation". By that definition, Students' Union Executive definitely attempted to railroad its bill on council re-organization through Students' Council.

Less than a month before the Students' Union elections, Academic Vice President Dave Biltek brought the proposed council re-organization plans before council. Three meetings are required for the passage of changes in bylaws, and there were three regular meetings of council left.

At the meeting, Biltek made it clear that the plans were his baby and were not to be molested. He even questioned the right of mere councillors to make changes in his re-organization proposal.

The motion, giving extensive powers to the executive in a massive power shift, was passed in principle at the Jan. 17 meeting. Councillors had had less than a week to study the proposed changes.

At the next meeting Jan. 24, the proposed bylaws, which are required to be in a form showing exactly how they will change present laws, were not in acceptable form. The protest walkout by councillors ended all hope of a second reading at that meet. In order to pass the re-organization bylaws before the election, Students' Council executive called three consecutive meetings within two and a half hours Monday evening, a perfect way of circumventing the rules but, as Ed rep. Ron Gillman pointed out, "not in the spirit of the constitution at all."

Finally the executive was forced to settle for a minor power shift within the executive. One less executive member will be elected and the titles of the positions will be different. The slate system has been abolished, except for presidential and vice-presidential positions.

In 1971, Don MacKenzie was elected on a platform that included as one of its planks the abolition of the slate system, a reform he did not attempt until January.

With their undue haste in attempting to force the re-organization bill through council, MacKenzie, Biltek and company showed their disregard for that body.

Although there is a need for re-organization, students should be thankful that this hastily contrived bill was not passed.

## Cameron library discovers rare book in stacks

Did you know that the Cameron library has, since 1966, had a rare manuscript edition of Henry David Thoreau's works, but they didn't even know it? Did you know that you could have easily ripped off this very valuable set, if only you had known it was there? Staggerin' isn't it?

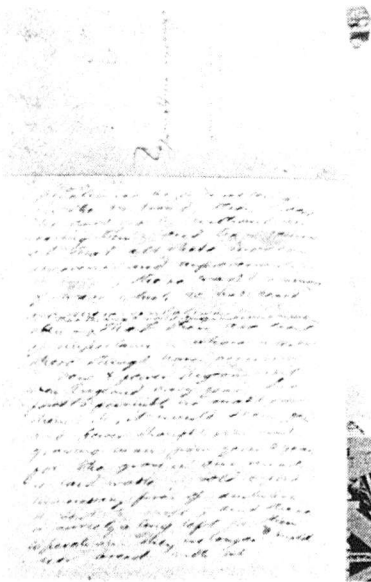
Well, it's true. After Thoreau's death Houghton Mifflin and Co. published 600 copies of Thoreau's works with a page of his original autograph manuscript included in Volume 1 of each set. In 1966 the university library acquired copy 28 of this edition, but through some incredible oversight it was placed in the open stacks, where it remained for five years, subject to mutilation and theft the same as any other book. Nobody ever missed it, despite its rarity.

Then last October Dr. F.J. Kennedy of the physics department discovered the set while browsing through the stacks. When he looked in Volume 1, he found the page of original manuscript in perfect condition - an amazing piece of good fortune for the library, considering the thoughtless treatment of which most library books are subjected.

The manuscript page contains a draft of the essay "Walking". It was likely written late in his life, and critics have acclaimed the finished version as one of his finest works.

Now that the library realizes how valuable the whole thing is, they're going to put it on display on the main floor of the Cameron Library during the week of February 14-20.

Go look at it and weep - now you'll never be able to swipe it.



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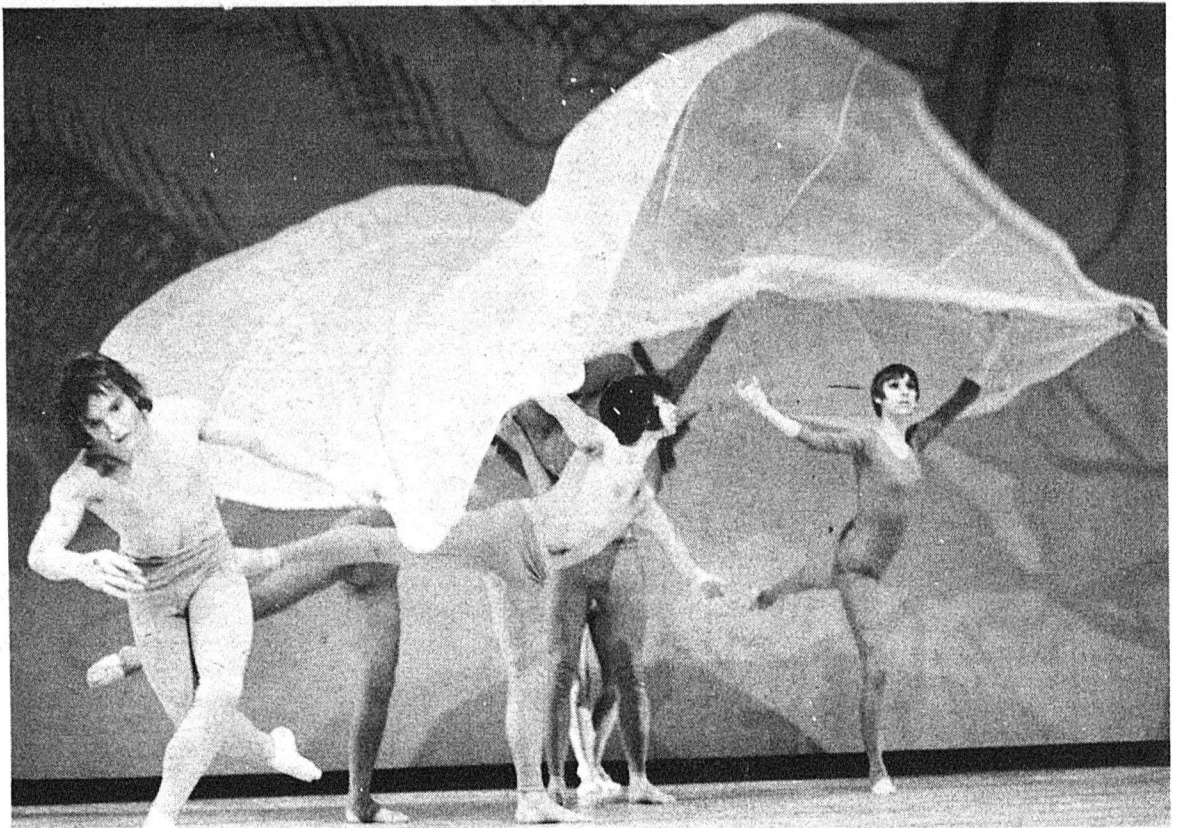
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SUB THEATRE ORCHESIS FINE DANCE  
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## abortion law

A referendum on the repeal of the abortion laws will be included on the election ballot for the February 18 Students' Union election.

The referendum will read as follows: Section 237-2 of the Criminal Code of Canada should be repealed leaving the question of abortion a matter between a woman and her doctor."

Section 237-2 basically states any woman wishing an abortion must pass through two doctors examinations who may then recommend her to an abortion board on the grounds that of not less than three doctors who may or may not allow her an abortion on the grounds that continuance of the pregnancy might result in the birth of a deformed child or a danger to the woman's mental or physical health interpretation at the discretion of the board.

To have an abortion under any other circumstances in Canada is a criminal offence.

### CORRECTION

The article "Abortion Coalition..." which appeared on P. 3 of last Tuesday's paper contained two small errors. Firstly, abortion facilities in Edmonton are nowhere near adequate. Secondly, the Abortion Coalition meeting will be held next Monday night in Rm. 280 of SUB, NOT Rm. 208, as indicated in the article.

## Labour purges

### rumored

TORONTO (CUP) -- The Canadian Labor Congress appears to be launching a holy war against the increasing solidarity and militancy of the labor movement in Quebec.

In a private speech Monday to top congress personnel, Donald MacDonald, president of the National Labor Organization warned of the danger of what he described as the "clearly Marxist" policies advocated by the Quebec Federation of Labor and other large trade union centrals in Quebec.

MacDonald told CLC Quebec organizers they would be fired if they were to pursue such policies. He also told those present that anyone responsible for leaking the proceedings of the meeting to the public would also lose his job.

The precise wording of MacDonald's salvo against the 235,000 member QFL -- which is officially chartered by the CLC -- has not yet filtered through. However, in general terms what the congress president told the meeting was that national policies set up by the CLC must be upheld in preference to decisions made on a regional level. Provincial labor groups must either follow the national organization's line or get out of the CLC.

He said that while the CLC, which the Canadian affiliate of the giant AFL - CIO in the U.S.A. opposes totalitarianism in all forms, it would never support any form of Marxism, Trotskyism or Maoism.

Early in December several of the large labor centrals, including the QFL and the 225,000 member Confederation of National Trade Unions, launched a "common front" and advocated a general strike in support of locked-out workers at Montreal's La Presse.

Louis Laberge, president of the Quebec Federation of Labor, in recent statements has emphasized the need for worker and organizational solidarity in the struggle to build a "socialist and democratic Quebec". That kind of talk does not sit well with the generally conservative CLC and MacDonald's statements may prove to be the first step in a purge of the QFL from the main body of the Congress.

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