

Is SUB for students?

The Students' Union Building Policy Board in its meeting of October 24 brought down a recommendation to Students Council to restrict use of SUB Mall. The recommendation reads: At the present time, a Flea Market occupies the SUB Mall on Fridays. Students who participate are charged a fee of \$4.00/day, non-students are charged \$8.00/day. Other groups not involved in the market and who are selling literature are not being charged. There seems to be some friction between the people participating in the market and those who are not. It is recommended by the board that Friday be designated as market day in SUB. This shall be the only day that activities will occur on the Mall. All groups and/or individuals selling commodities will be charged for a space on the Mall. Those who are not selling anything will not be charged. The implementation of Friday as market day, would facilitate the operation of SUB by lowering operating costs, and create a more desirable atmosphere in SUB. This recommendation, which was adopted at the council meeting by a vote of 8-10 without councillors having previously seen the document, is a serious attack on the rights of students and student organizations.

This measure is seriously restricting in two obvious ways. Firstly by restricting the days upon which a student organization may approach students in our building and secondly by placing financial restrictions upon our organizations. Should creative, political, cultural or any other activity of students and student organizations be severely restricted by factors of time and money by our own union and our own elected representatives? I think not.

This new regulation affects every club that wishes to set up a table for display, to sell anything from literature to raffle tickets to memberships. As paying members of the Students' Union, we have a right to reach students through the facilities of our union: to inform them of our activities, involve them, spread our ideas and provide services for them. To cut down by 80% the time that we may utilize our building to do these things is ridiculous!

As a member of two expressedly political organizations, the U of A Committee for Abortion Law Repeal and the U of A Young Socialists, I find these restrictions particularly intolerable. Mr. Spragins, our executive vice-president, who chairs the board responsible for the recommendation said that activities carried by students organizations in SUB Mall were "distracting". If he finds my particular politics distracting, I consider that unfortunate, but that certainly does not make it invalid for me to offer my ideas for consideration by my fellow members of the Students' union. Freedom of speech of the press, to disseminate ideas are all very much part of any society that calls itself democratic and nowhere before have I ever heard of restricting these freedoms to a Friday afternoon Flea Market and charging \$4.00 for them.

The U of A ALR has so far this year in Sub engaged in circulating a petition to parliament and in distributing birth control information. Both of these activities are valuable services for many students here at U of A. How can anyone seriously suggest that a legitimate part of our democratic process, furthering knowledge of contraception, and fighting undemocratic, repressive abortion laws should be restricted to one day out of five?

Spragins also stated in the council meeting that he wanted to "bring us all together" on Friday afternoons, and the recommendation

makes reference to the atmosphere in SUB. Who is he or this board to make decisions about which atmosphere is "desirable" where and when? Those of us who are members of clubs that occasionally operate on the Mall were never consulted about which atmosphere was "desirable", nor was anyone else for that matter. More importantly though, we were not approached by the BPB to find out if we wanted to be "brought together" nor were we even made aware that the matter was being

considered, so that we might appear before the Board or council, let alone what this proposed regulation was in advance. This could be a dangerous precedent allowing elected individuals or appointed boards of our students' union to make arbitrary undemocratic decisions about who or what is desirable when and where.

The Students' Union has no right to restrict use of SUB by students in any way and the imposition of a "tax" for use of SUB space by clubs is deplorable. No one, especially those who have already paid through fees, should be denied use of SUB because of ability to pay. The present Students' Union exec. seems to operate all to often on the basis that if a student organization doesn't pull in profit, it isn't justifiable or worthwhile - witness the art gallery. The Young Socialists, for example, is a group that does not operate on a profit basis. We sell literature only to spread our ideas - the money that we collect (on an average day less than \$4.00) is simply used to replenish our literature supply. Surely there are other ways of paying for the operation of SUB than ripping-off student clubs and hand-craft artists who are probably among those who can least afford to pay.

As a member of the students council, I find certain parts of this recommendation and circumstances surrounding it completely unfathomable. Firstly, I heard nothing of it until the document was presented in council, something which is highly irregular. Secondly, upon receiving a copy of the document I discovered that part of it was based on pure fabrication. Not only am I a member of the Two organizations that I have mentioned, but I have spent much of my spare time sitting at booths for the two groups - at no time was I ever aware that there was anything even resembling friction between the Flea Market and other organizations. How can there be friction if one of the parties implicated is not even aware of it? I have never heard complaints about our tables as a member of council or as someone sitting behind them. Many people do not agree with us but very few have ever suggested limiting our political freedoms. Thirdly, many councillors were unsure about this recommendation, an amendment to it was defeated 9-9, several councillors abstained, and myself and Priegert-arts rep, Riskin-president and West-v.p. admin. and finance registered recorded negative votes. I'm sure others were unaware of some of the implications of what they were voting on. I can see no real, reasonable motive for limiting clubs and individuals activities be they creative or political, and considering this exec.'s past record, I wonder what the real reasons are and what is being left unsaid.

The Young Socialists, in order to oppose this undemocratic ruling, will continue to put up tables and will encourage other groups to do the same. Further, any organization or individuals who are concerned about the new regulations limiting tables and displays and who would be interested in presenting a brief to the next council meeting should get in touch with us at the lit table or phone 433-6885.

Chris Bearchell
Arts rep.

trampled

I have just finished reading Terri Jackson's praise for Prof. Baird. Defending the trees is nice, but not the whole story. I agree whole heartedly that the aesthetic environment around here must be protected! This idea should be extended, though. The students here are just as responsible for the decline in the beauty of our surroundings as the administration is.

Is a great long patch of dead grass beautiful? Do not a couple blades of grass have a couple of trees? Yet how can they? Every day 12,000 pairs of feet trample them to death. People are unwilling to walk a few extra feet so that a blade of grass can live.

How can we expect the administration to pay any attention to us when we ask for a better environment? Killing what grass there is by walking on it tells them only one thing: we need more asphalt and concrete courtyards and plazas to walk on. And if they are going to cover the ground, they might as well put a building there. Buildings are as nice looking as asphalt or concrete and a lot more functional. Grass is nice to sit on and stroll on, but it was never intended to be a sidewalk!

Paul Hazlett
Commerce 1

Bohdan Barabash
Engineering 2

petition

When Campus Development was planning for a university of 30,000 students, it was decided that the building to house Business Administration and Commerce would be built directly south of Tory. A student body of 30,000 is not foreseeable in the future. Yet, Campus Development insists this building must be built and on the site selected. Admittedly, Business Administration and Commerce needs a building. But the reasons Campus Development gives for insisting on this particular site are:

1. Business Administration and Commerce will be close to the Economics Department
2. The building as planned will add to the system of walkways on the campus.
3. This site will enable the Arts court to be reduced to a "nice square."

This site has been selected without the notification of students or faculty members of the university. With Rutherford II and HUB under construction, the Arts Court has diminished in size. Another building in this area will reduce this open space still further, will lead to overcrowded conditions, and will be detrimental to the residents of HUB by reducing recreational space and creating a poor visual environment.

A petition has been drawn up to inform Campus Development Committee and the Board of Governors Building Committee that students exist and that we do have thoughts and opinions on this matter.

I urge all students who are concerned to sign this petition. Shouldn't we participate in the development of our university?

Greg Teal
Arts II

fees reply

In your issue of November 2nd, L. Yusak questioned whether the Fees Division of the Office of the Comptroller was correct in withholding full fees from the first installment of a Canada Student Loan when the University's regulations permit of payment of fees in two installments.

I believe that three major points are relevant as follows:

(a) The official Application for Financial Assistance form issued by the Government of the Province of Alberta, Department of Advanced Education, which all Alberta students complete when applying for Loans under The Canada Student Loans Plan and several Alberta plan states under CONDITIONS GOVERNING AWARDS, Section 3: "Tuition Fees or other accounts due to the institution are first charges against any financial assistance."

(b) The Students Finance Board of the Province of Alberta is the body which administers these loans. The Board usually, but not always makes the assistance available in two disbursements - one in the fall of the year and the second in January following. The amounts of these two disbursements, taking into consideration the students' own financial resources from other sources, are calculated to enable the student to meet all of his expenses for the academic year. Full fees is one of the expenses included in the Board's formula for arriving at the amount of the first disbursement.

(c) In a memorandum dated September 13, 1968 from the then Secretary of the then Students Assistance Board the Secretary wrote: "In the event that payment of the full tuition fees from the first installment of a loan may cause hardship the student may contact the Students Assistance Board to ascertain if an adjustment may be made in the payment of his awards." This stance was reaffirmed by the Students Finance Board by telephone on November 6th, 1972.

It seems evident that the University is bound by and is following the intent of the lending agencies. Under the circumstances their regulations would take precedence over the regulations of the University since the making of the loans are conditional upon the terms of the applications.

M.A. Rousell
Comptroller

r.d. laing

I would like to bring to the attention of those who would regret it if they missed Roll May and R.D. Laing on the Dick Cavett show that this episode is scheduled to be shown on Thursday, November 9th.

Czoa Malloy

On the morning of October 22, 1972, a young university student, only nineteen years old, died due to negligence. There were no telephones available at the Ice Arena to call an ambulance and no first aid volunteers around.

Only three people tried to help and, though their efforts were purely voluntary - no one would help. They pleaded for people to hold him down as he was having an epileptic fit, but the skaters just stood around and watched.

He died on the way to the hospital - the ambulance took fifteen minutes to arrive.

A boy died today
Due to man's callous stupidity.
He fell and hit his head
And no one would stop and help. Why don't people care?
Why did they just stand and stare?
A boy died today
And no one would stop and help.

People say "handsome is as handsome does."
Why then not "man is as man does"?
People who call themselves "man"
Stood and stared as Tony died
And no one would stop and help.

Telephones locked away
Cried as he died upon the ice.
They could do nothing
And no one would stop and help.
The ambulance was much too late
The sirens weeping in the mist.
A boy died today
And no one would stop and help.

Name withheld by request.