



A SLY LOOK AT A PRETTY, TALKATIVE CHARACTER

. . . Marilyn Pilkington (eyes left) is amused at Martin Loney's remarks during the debate

## CUS or not to cuss?

### Pilkington, Loney debate the issues

While a spacious 700-seat theatre lay empty and an estimated 350 students crammed the lobby outside, Marilyn Pilkington and Martin Loney, president-elect of the Canadian Union of Students collided verbally on the issue of membership in CUS.

Even the sound system was faulty and the result was that much of the question period was not heard. But the clearness and consistency of each argument was easily derived.

Loney, former president of Simon Fraser University, attacked non CUS members. He hit hard at universities who "don't like our political statements".

"These universities", he argued, "should come to our organizations and fight us".

He said it was not meaningful to ask CUS not to take political stands. "A political stand is anything from sending patriotic literature in to our schools to Canadians fighting in Vietnam—if there are any crazy enough," he said.

"Looking at the university is another way of looking at society," he said. "And to change the university without looking at society is taking a political stand."

He was giving an opposing view to that expressed by Miss Pilkington. A member of the Alberta delegation which withdrew from CUS in 1966 and the current student union president, she said CUS did have the right to take political stands on issues not directly concerning students.

"Because membership in the student union is compulsory," she said, "it should not take it upon itself to join an organization of its personal preference. Students should not be forced to join a closed shop union just because they are students," she said.

The audience was quiet and ruly during the 80 minute session—the

first of a number of events designed to educate the Alberta students on CUS and its policies. A referendum on whether or not to rejoin CUS will be held in conjunction with student union general elections in February.

Miss Pilkington said that instead of joining an organization that takes political stands, the student council at Alberta was attacking problems in student participation in university government, university financing, university quality of education and student-faculty representation.

While Loney was emphatic in stating that a parallel structures should exist in the university (equal representation by faculty and students on all decision-making bodies in the university), Miss Pilkington said the university "doesn't lend itself to democracy."

## Talk of another union

There is vague talk of a second national union of students in Canada and according to Martin Loney, president-elect of the Canadian Union of Students, it is being talked about at Carleton University in Ottawa where "the students' council only represent themselves."

He said he had knowledge of a telegram which was sent by George Hunter, first vice-president at Carleton, to Marilyn Pilkington, asking that a meeting be held to discuss it.

"I have received a letter," she said, "but have not yet replied to it." She said a good percentage of Carleton students supported the notion of a conservative union.

"We are being kept informed of proceedings towards this union but

"It is a place to learn," she said. "I believe in student influence and not student power."

She also said students are not equipped at this stage to make decisions on long range policies of the university.

"Students can have an effective voice but not control of university government," she said.

Loney said most problems in the university "can be solved by students and faculty and rational debate between them."

As a follow up to this debate, the SDU and Student Christian Movement are co-sponsoring an open speakout at noon Friday in SUB theatre.

The topic will be Student Manipulation and it is planned to be discussed under three headings—CUS, student body and the Board of Governors representation.

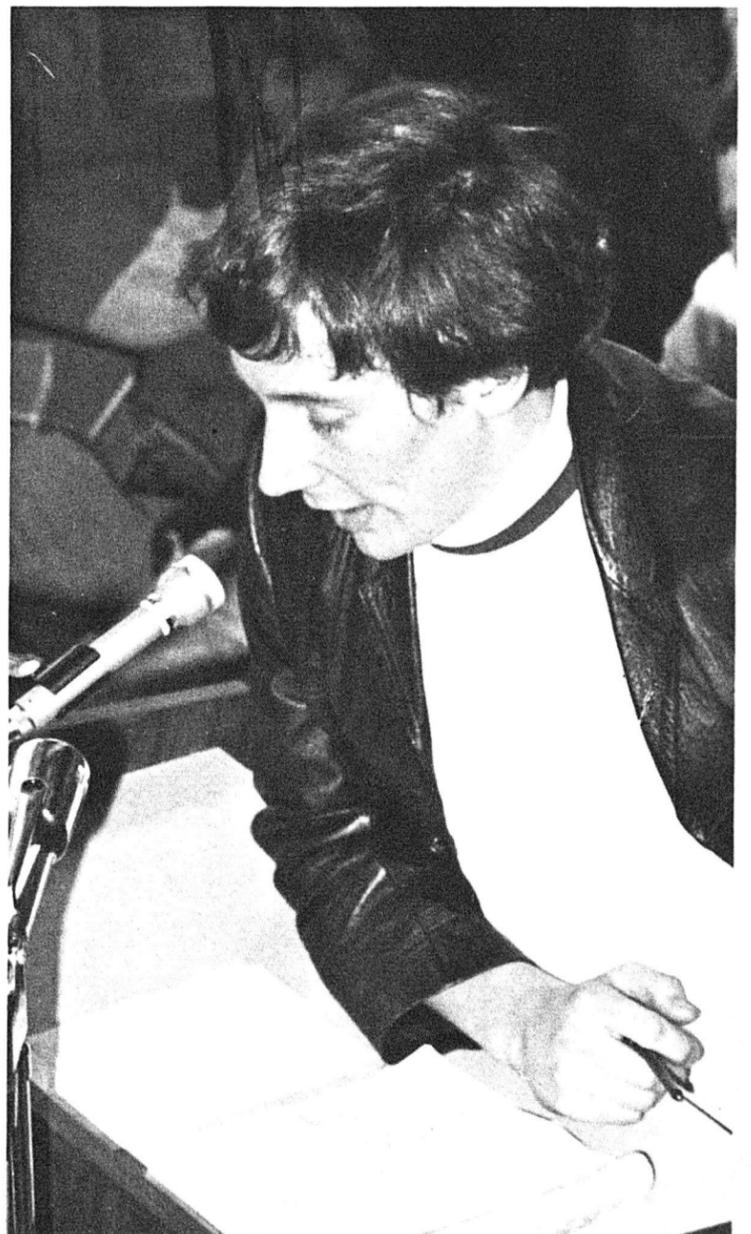
have not as yet replied to any form of communication," she said.

She said she did not favor adaptation of another national union but would rather "reform CUS to be representative of Canadian students". In the meantime, there were enough schools outside CUS "to work towards swaying it" from its non-representative stand.

The Gateway learned of the telegram Sunday and it reads;

"Windsor, Western, Queen's Brock, St. Pats and others interested in new national association concept. Possible meeting Toronto, Nov. 3. Will send details.

"Plan for national meeting by Windsor for Christmas. Most anxious to meet Mike Edwards when in Ottawa. Will write follow up to telegram.

MARTIN LONEY  
. . . CUS president-elect

—Peter Johnston photos