

# editorial

The Report of the University Priorities Committee initiated lengthy and overdue discussion about the future of this institution, at all levels. Since last summer constituent groups of the university community have studied the Report and many have made formal responses.

One of the most detailed of these responses was that made by the Association of Academic Staff (AASUA). Unlike other responding groups the AASUA did not address each of the nine recommendations individually; rather its observations were subdivided into two major areas.

The first of these, "On planning for a University," is a good introduction to both the concerns of the Priorities Committee and to its Report recommendations.

In that context I am reprinting the abstract of the first part of the AASUA response. It also provides a background for the soon-to-be-released Students' Union response.

1. The two assumptions of the Priorities Committee Report, that the University has entered a steady state in terms of enrolment and that the University must prepare for a steady state in terms of funding, are not necessarily correlative. The second assumption could be and should be invalidated as a result of a review of the debate generated by the Report of the Priorities Committee.

2. The University has not projected its multiple goals and objectives to its internal constituencies, to the public, and to its patron; it must prepare a rigorous and detailed specification of goals by department and Faculty.

3. The University must emphasize its role as the centre for basic research in society.

4. For universities, the funding formula and the internal allocative mechanism must recognize the costs of basic research programs.

5. Cost studies at the University have revealed the problems of basing decisions on data alone. Many University programs cannot be quantified. Academic judgments must be utilized. Even academic judgements on priorities are difficult in assessing the relative worth of research programs in a multitude of disciplines.

6. Planning is vital to a university but planning must avoid a preoccupation with financial considerations to the neglect of academic and political factors.

7. The existing planning structures and administrative systems of the University are probably adequate for necessary planning. Provided the motive for such planning is clear, the will to conduct plans will follow.

Loreen Lennon

## the Gateway

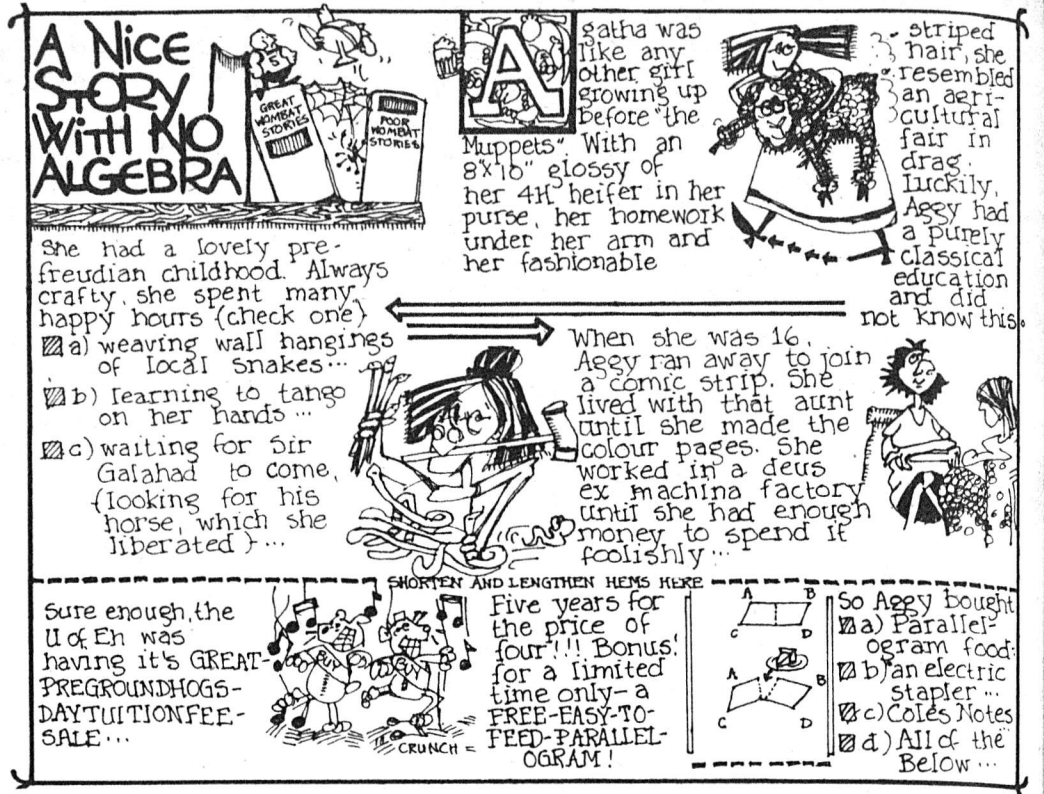
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## Pro-NUS committee speaks

There is a lot happening with student activities nationally. U of A students deserve to be full voting members of Canada's national student body. The National Union of Students is younger than the students union, has fewer staff, and a much smaller budget. But already through it students have had more of an impact on the federal government than the U of A students union could hope to have. Witness the lobby that resulted in 26,000 jobs through Young Canada Works in 1976, or the lobby that resulted in

federal funds for on campus student housing in 1975, or that the Secretary of State contacted NUS for student input in developing a new student aid plan. NUS appoints a student rep to the National Youth Advisory Council, and Warren Allmand has asked NUS for student representation on the new Canadian Consumer Council.

The federal government funds half of our education directly and another portion indirectly through research council grants. In 1977 direct

funding was cut by \$450 million this year the National Research Council was cut \$1 million, and was only one program to be cut. The Canada Student Loan Plan is a federal program: This year up for review. We need NUS deal with these issues now, the same way the faculty need the Canadian Association of University Teachers to deal with Ottawa for them.

The \$1 per year membership fee would go to maintain and expand NUS activities and services. But for all the students in Canada, \$1 from another 18,000 students is not going to produce any miracles.

Yes, NUS provides concrete services too. The travel office opening here this week is a venture of AOSC the service affiliate of National Union of Students. Other services include a national newspaper and research staff.

Any way you look at it, makes a lot of sense that you should join NUS and participate in the national student activities in Canada. On Friday vote YES to NUS!

Darrell Rankin for U of A Yes to NUS Committee

## Rights for non-smokers

This letter is directed to the jerk in study hall who tried to tell me that I as a non smoker had no right to ask him to extinguish his cigarette. There are 12 signs in study hall prohibiting smoking which are there to protect non smoker's rights. Most people are considerate enough to obey these signs. This twit told me when I politely requested that he refrain from his habit that the Students' Union, Administration and smokers were in a battle over the issue of smoking in study hall and that there were at least 3 other libraries to which I could move thus escaping my predicament. When I, still politely mind you, pointed out that I was in a work space where smoking was not allowed he gave me a hard luck story of how there was no place to smoke since the other smaller section of Rutherford South has been declared a non-smoking area. (sob) (sob) (cry here) Peacock feathers to you sir! Are you so lazy that you cannot

even walk through the passageway to HUB for your habit? Or if you prefer staying closer to your books, walking 20 paces from Rutherford south to the great outdoors! I think it's getting pretty bad when a smoker can't go without a cigarette for a short while or cannot be bothered to move to a more considerate location. People are trying to work in study hall and it is rather difficult with the "aura" of the habit, and considering the fact that study hall is the only place open on campus early Saturday and Sundays and late seven days a week, smokers have to be considerate of non-smokers.

But let me add in fair warning that if said jerk again lights up and distributes his smoke I will loudly inquire as to how many people would like for him to "BUTT IT".

Cheryl Donnelly  
Commerce I

## Politician packaging protest

With the shortly upcoming students' Union elections, it is up to each separate voter to consider that type of government that he wishes to install. The whole concept of a slate — as it has evolved to the present at this university is utterly ridiculous. A system of slates would be fine if it represented a group of persons, all with relatively similar ideologies and policies, wishing to form a unified, coherent executive. Looking at the choices offered in this election it is readily seen that this is far from the case. One slate (that of Mr.

Fenna) was hastily formed when the presidential candidate changes his mind and backed out of involvement with the infamous "joke" slate. The other serious (?) collection of hopefuls (under Mr. Olmstead) could not even field candidates for all positions. Are we to believe then that there aren't even six people in this entire institution who think like or even remotely resemble these people? What kind of an executive would that be? As for the pseudo-politicians of the Liberal Democrats — fun during an election campaign is

fine, but does anyone want the decisions made by one (or even their sister to marry one?)

The only advantage of a slate is that it allows candidates to pool campaign finances and give every one of these people without thoughts or ideas their own added exposure. As everyone knows, the key to selling any product to an apathetic group is publicity. Let's hope that voters can be individual enough to make their own clear choices.

G. Mazur