

BOOKSTORE ISN'T A RIP-OFF?

Every September two types of students can be seen emerging from the Bookstore in SUB. The first are those that come slinking out looking like whipped pups, and the others are those who charge out like enraged bulls with the words Capitalist pig flashing in their angered eyes. Thus, I decided to do an objective study into the Bookstore operation.

Our true life drama has four characters (not, of course, including me). Jim Malone, Manager of the Bookstore, Mel Hurtig, Owner Manager of Hurtigs Books and Hurtigs Publishing, Cathy Pech, buyer for the Bookmark and last but certainly not least, the mysterious Mr. X, Alberta book buyer for a large "family" chain department store.

I will just give you an erratic, unorganized collection of statements made by these illustrious personages during my interviews with them.

Mr. X — "I wouldn't want his (Mr. Malone) job" Mel Hurtig — "I have a great deal of confidence in Jim Malone" — again "I have no reason to be critical of their operation" "they run a pretty good operation" Cathy Pech — "there's no money in texts".

I asked each of the private business book stores if they would be carrying a supply of texts this fall and they all replied "No". So, it would appear we will all be buying our texts this fall at the Bookstore. Mr. Hurtig qualified his answer by saying "Some of the 'texts' used at the university are not actually texts but 'trade books'".

The following is a breakdown of the items carried by the Bookstore and the profit margin they make — as stated by Jim Malone, Manager. I have verified the margin on texts and paperbacks, the rest I have taken Mr. Malone's word for.

1. Texts (Hard Cover) — normal trade 20% less freight — U of A Bookstore 15% less freight (Canadian published — or handled through Canadian agency). U.S. books sold at list.

2. Paperbacks—normal trade

40% — Bookstore 35% gross mark-up.

3. Stationary — 20% below list on "student" items (lower priced) and list on "non-student" (higher priced pens, brief cases, etc.) items.

4. Art Supplies — "generally competitive with downtown or slightly less" — You'll probably find better selection and prices in the Art supply store in the basement of the Arts Building.

5. Sporting Goods — "Competitive or less than downtown prices" — again you'll probably find better selection and prices at some of the discount sporting good stores.

6. Soft Goods & Sundries — "Competitive with downtown prices". "We also carry goods the downtown stores would not handle and price these at the normal trade mark-up" (40%) — You'll probably find most of these items, especially drug items, cheaper at the discount stores.

Although I can certainly empathise with those who find text book purchases taking a larger portion of their budget than anticipated, let's place the blame where it belongs. The blame for the high cost of first title texts does not belong neither to the Bookstore nor the publisher (according to the Royal Commission on Publishing in Ontario), but rather to the panting python of progress, and clammering to remain atop the billowing cliffs of intellectualism — a part of our times.

Far from being a rip-off, the Bookstore would seem to be an excellent service, for instance the Bookstore lost \$14,000+ last year, and I was not able to find any "padding" in the figures.

If you find any item in the Bookstore which you feel is overpriced, notify your student society and have them send a representative to see Mr. Malone. "I'll even show them the original invoice" — now does that sound like a man trying to hide something?

Larry Anderson
Com.1

TIM CHRISTIAN WHERE ARE YOU?

While Donny the Dove and his Council Cronies are playing power during GFC and B of G meetings, asking the most embarrassing questions possible (For Example: "Why don't we have 'x' number of students in here instead of 'y' so we could ask you even more embarrassing questions than this one?"), a boat called GREENPEACE is making its way towards Amchitka Island, the site of the largest underground American nuclear test ever proposed.

On the front page of the Gateway one reads of the successful Peace Arch demonstration against this latest American slap in the face. Three thousand interested people. Turn, interested people, to page three of the same rag, but don't eat on the way.

Apparently, Donny would rather run along in front of T.V. cameras pushing a plough than perhaps offer the students who elected him some essential leadership in an issue of international importance. (After all, Don, you ran twice, so you must really care about us, musn't you?) When Co-ordinator Doug Black suggested that Council send a letter voicing support of blockade actions to other campuses, Donny Boy, quashed

same by giving yet another demonstration of his masterful control of legal jargon, and illustrious Arts Rep. Barry McLaren came through with a brilliant repartee which shall forever enshrine him in the bowels of Council history. Well, Mr. McLaren, perhaps instead of Just Writing Letters we could give you, sir, an all-expenses paid trip to Amchitka to more efficaciously represent us?

McKenzie and McLaren would be well advised to bear in mind the effect which demonstrations as well as telegrams and letters had on the Nixon administration in the Calley case. For CHRIST'S SAKE! Does the bomb have to be within the walls of this so-called institution of higher learning before Council can quit playing around in SUB?

People at U of A are becoming shy of using the word 'apathetic' often referring to it as an over-used word. I have come to the conclusion that the word has fallen out of use because of councils which are too apathetic to consider what the word means. Stop kidding yourselves, councillors: the world is bigger than SUB. Oh Tim, where are you?

Sandy Shandro
Arts 3

F.U.N.

F.U.N. (Free University North) needs you!

If you are interested in leading a class in your own area of interest then stop by the S.C.M. Office SUB 158F (opposite the Meditation Room) between noon and 4 p.m., phone 432-5327, or leave your name and phone number under the

door.

All class offerings of academic and general interest are welcome. Topics such as Canadian history and literature, metaphysics, and technical and craft classes such as auto repair or cinematography are popular.

Class offering will be accepted until October 1.

F.L.Q.

MONTREAL (CUP) — The Front de Liberation du Quebec (FLQ), in the wake of Quebec intellectual Pierre Valliere's disappearance underground, has come forward to claim responsibility for two robberies and a bombing during the last two weeks.

The combined anti-terrorist squad is presently studying two communiques found Saturday night by a Montreal newsman acting on tips from anonymous telephone calls. The communiques, found in telephone booths, were signed by the FLQ.

The communiques state that the FLQ is responsible for the Credit Union robbery in Mascouche, Quebec, last Friday; the bombing of the offices of the Canadian Association of Independent Associations on Saturday; and a bank hold-up in Montreal two weeks ago.

The Canadian Association of Labour Unions are not affiliated with the Confederation of National Trade Unions or with the Canadian Labour Congress.

RCMP experts, working with the anti-terrorist squad, are attempting to determine whether the communiques are similar to those received during last year's October crisis.

BUDGET NOTICE

Bylaw 900, Section 4(e) says that the Treasurer must call for budget requests and revisions by October 10, and that the final budget must be ready by October 31. Any person or organisation with proposals for budget revisions should submit these to the Treasurer of the Students' Council by October 10, 1971.

U. of A.

INTRODUCTION

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