

Grads being ripped-off by their executive

Grad students are being ripped off but not by the Student Union. Their own executive is leading them down the garden path and so far it appears that the grad students are willing to merrily follow their leaders blindly and unthinkingly. Of course, the referendum on December 9 (Tuesday) may yet prove the graduate students do have common sense and intelligence and that their leaders are either remiss in determining the wishes of the majority of DAGS members or have received full citizenship in "never-never land".

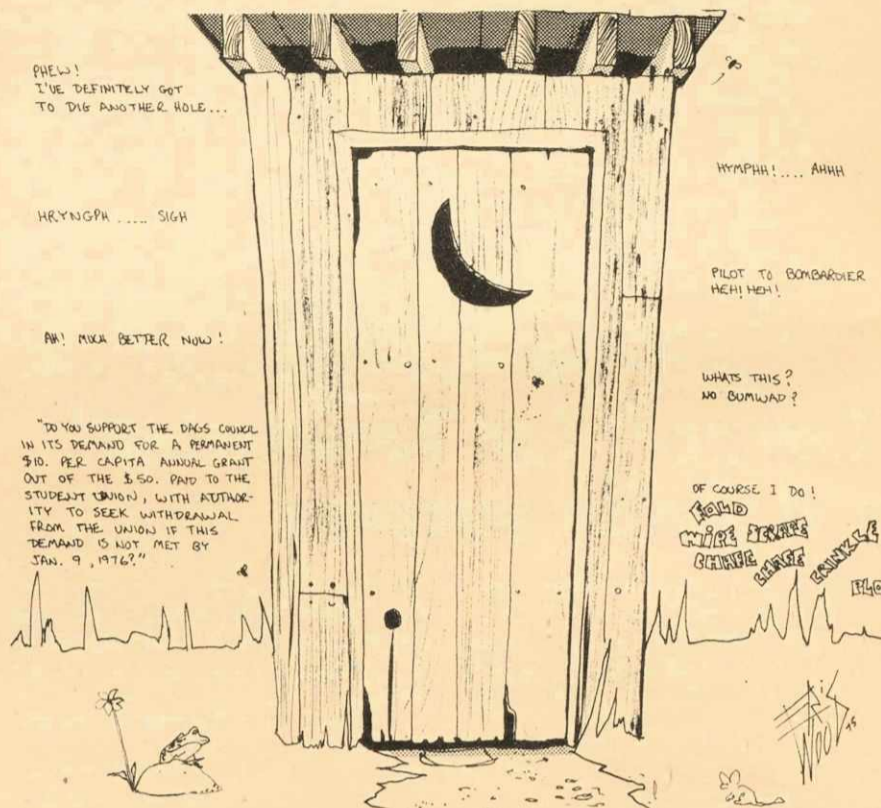
The ballots for the referendum, which the Gazette was informed would contain three options for grad students, contain only one question. Members of the grad society may vote yes or no for "Do you support the DAGS council in its demand for a permanent \$10. per capita annual grant out of the \$50. paid to the Students Union, with authority to seek withdrawal from the Union if this demand is not met by January 9, 1976?" Grad students apparently are not considered well informed enough or intelligent enough by their own society executive to decide whether or not they wish to accept the students council proposal of a \$15,000. cost sharing plan for major societies to carry out special projects. This option has been totally omitted from the referendum ballots.

A vote against the question on the ballot sheets will mean maintenance of the status quo for grad students. The status quo has been shown as limiting to the fulfillment of the potential of DAGS. The Students Union is perfectly willing to establish some kind of extra funding for major societies to tap for important projects they could not otherwise afford. Several major societies other than DAGS were present at the Council meeting on Sunday when this alternative was discussed. Commerce, Pharmacy and Medicine seemed to think the cost sharing program was a good idea and one which the Student Union should implement.

Many of the grad students present spoke against the cost sharing program, apparently because they found it somehow degrading. They want no part of Student Union control over the money their society spends. The impression received by several of the observers present was that the grad students were looking for any excuse to secede from the Union. The referendum ballots would seem to bear out the impression.

The time limit imposed by the DAGS executive on the Union is totally unreasonable and if it weren't so serious it would be laughable. Change in any organization, especially in an organization as large and diverse as the Students Union, takes time - more time than the DAGS executive is willing to allow. Secession from the Students Union will hurt the graduate students far more than it will hurt the Union but the DAGS executive has publicly stated that secession is a last resort. When they have made little or no real attempt to consider alternatives to the \$10. rebate (other than the alternative of demanding a higher rebate) and when they have provided the DAGS membership with no options on the referendum ballots one cannot possibly believe they see secession as a last resort. Any excuse for secession is more like the truth.

Having stated that the DAGS executive lacks any feeling of responsibility for their membership we'd hate to call them liars too but one is tempted to do so. They have already said there



would be three choices on the referendum ballot sheets - there is only one, they have said secession was a last resort - it appears to be their only resort.

The Gazette has tried to be fair and objective to both sides in this dispute but we can no longer do this. Graduate students are being ripped off by their own executive and we cannot support this or even suffer it in silence. A vote against the wishes of the DAGS executive on Tuesday is a vote in favor of the Students Union and apparently only the Students Union really cares about the well being of graduate students. The DAGS executive appear to have a persecution complex - graduate students voting no on Tuesday will be voting against maintenance of this complex.



Letters

Gazette provides comic entertainment

To The Gazette,
Not being able to find any decent comic books recently, I just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed Christine Neilson's letter on the Trudeau demonstration. Somewhere (inside of me) I have a soft spot for dogma, rhetoric and the lunatic fringe. The letter itself was a classic - a definite throwback to those nostalgic times of Trotsky, general strikes and bomb throwing anarchists. I was disappointed to see that she forgot to include

'swine', 'running dog', 'imperialist', and that old favorite 'bourgeois' in her tirade against Trudeau. Though 'Prince of Lackeys' did score points for its originality. I am glad to see that the students, workers, progressive liberals, unemployed, and, no party would be complete without them, the Marxist-Leninists, managed to get together for a good time. Nothing like a little class solidarity, eh Christine? Still, it makes me proud when I think that the next revolution found its beginnings in Halifax.

Mark Landy

Canada's Oldest College Newspaper

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