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The Gateway welcomes letters on topics of student interest. Correspondents are asked to be brief, otherwise their letters will be subject to abridgement. And correspondents, in replying to one another should keep to the issues under discussion and refrain from personal attack. All letters to the editor must bear the signature of the writer. No pseudonyms will be published.

Exceptional circumstances excepted, no letter should exceed 300 words in length. Short letters are more apt to be published—and read.

# Let's get the Board

By JOHN DUFORT and D. JOHN LYNN  
Canadian University Press

In 1965 it was "Abolish Tuition Fees"; in 1966 it was "End the War in Viet Nam". This year the theme of activist students on campuses across the country will likely be "Student Representation in University Government".

Traditionally the domain of the Administration and a Board of Governors filled with prominent businessmen and generous benefactors, university government in the past ten years has been opening up more and more to professors, who insist on having a say in the policies their university follows.

Former Berkeley president Clark Kerr's term "multiversity" has encouraged a good deal of research into university governing structures, and quite early in the game the student argument for representation was heard, and heeded.

### undemocratic

The idea is based on the premise that the university is undemocratic in structure, and that its policies should reflect the feelings of the "total university community"—including students, professors, administrators, and governments.

Ontario's Duff-Berdahl Commission on University Government paid lip service to the suggestion that universities accord students a role in their decision-making bodies. Quebec's Parent Report came out even stronger for the idea, but both combined to plant the seed of an idea in the minds of both administrators and students.

There are many joint student-administration committees considering the question, and already students are sitting on senates and senate committees in several Canadian universities. However, over the summer the first serious attempts to get freely elected student representation on university Boards of Governors met with failure.

### private bill

A private bill reforming the charter of the University of Western Ontario was the first battlefield. The original bill, submitted by John White, MP for London South, on behalf of the university administration, contained a clause giving students indirect representation on the Board of Governors, through a

former faculty member or a UWO graduate at least one year out of university. This clause was discarded in the private bills committee after chairman A. B. R. Lawrence (PC—Russel) compared it to apartheid in South Africa, where the black man can only be represented in Parliament by a white man. Inserted in its place was a provision for direct representation on the Board.

However, the UWO administration and the London establishment maintained their staunch opposition to direct student representation, and brought pressure to bear on the government to change the clause. The administration at one point threatened to withdraw the entire bill if it did not get its way.

### editorial critical

The "London Free Press" on April first ran an editorial criticizing the idea of a student voice on the Board of Governors, calling it the first part of a long-range plan of the Canadian Union of students to get a major voice in the management of Canadian universities. It claimed the present Board at UWO was unwise to have made the suggestion of even indirect representation. "They should have foreseen their effort to be fair would be used as a springboard to seek a board seat for an undergraduate. And that seat, if obtained, will be merely a new base from which CUS will seek additional representation."

The editorial goes on to say that: "A student on the university board of governors makes about as much sense as high school students on a board of education, patients on a hospital trust, apprentices on an international union's executive, or civil servants in Parliament."

"An undergraduate becomes an alumnus, a high school student becomes a man, a patient cured, an apprentice having served his time or a civil servant retired might well serve on such boards, but undergraduates on a university board of governors, no."

The rest of the editorial condemns CUS as the national "secretariat" which directs organized minorities on Canada's campuses, issues "directives, and is organizing student protests and planning riots."

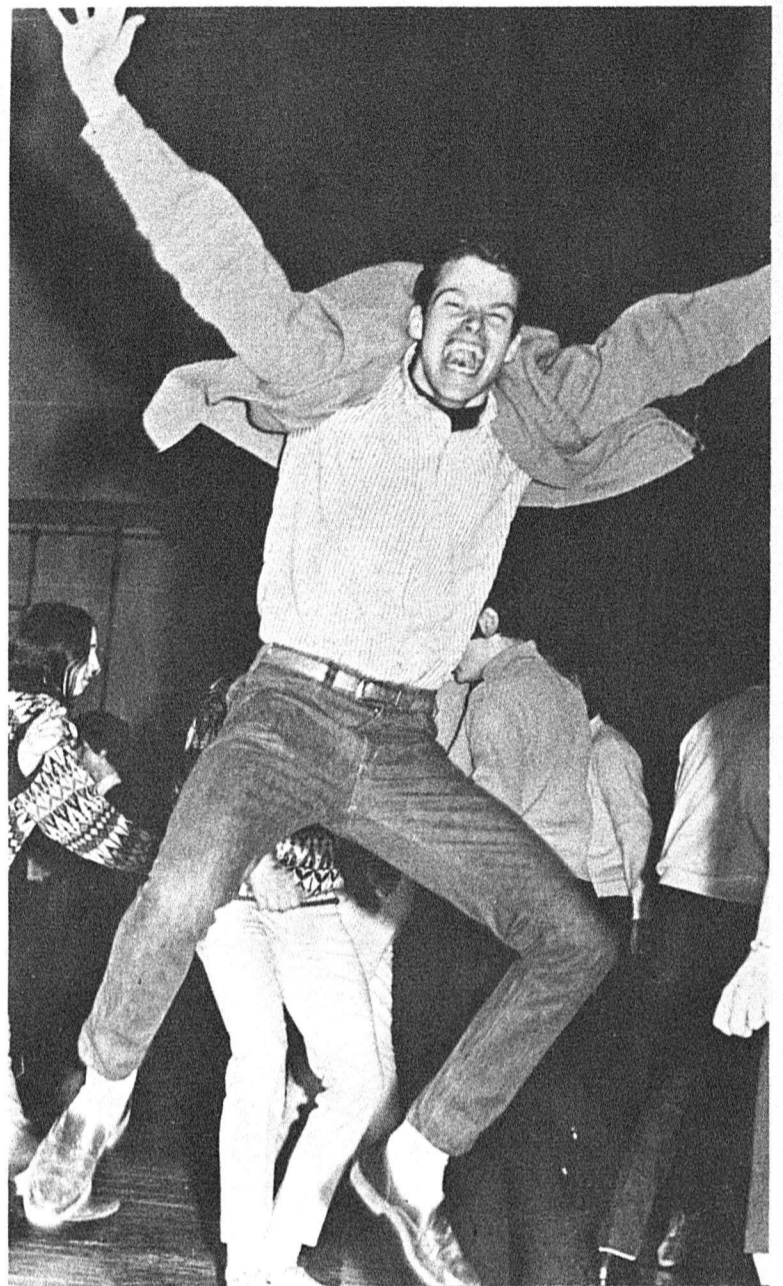
### gov't opposition

When the bill arrived in the legislature, Premier Robarts whose

riding is London North, declared the government's opposition to the clause in question, and so Conservative members who might have voted in favor of direct student representation (there are reportedly 12 such members) were obliged to vote with their party against the clause.

In the midst of procedural objections from the Liberals and NDP, the government managed to substitute the original clause for the one passed by the private bills committee, waiving the two day notice required by ruling that it only applied to "important" amendments and that this amendment was "not important."

Western's Student Council President, Peter Larson, claimed Premier Robart's contention that representation of students on the board had not been supported by the faculty was untrue. "The original draft was prepared by a faculty association and it made unmistakably clear their desire for student representation" he said. Larson also answered those who said that students who wanted a voice in the Board of Directors were in a minority by saying that "to the best of my knowledge candidates who supported student participation on the Board at the most recent election on campus were successful".



YIPPEE, BOOZE IS LEGAL

—Errol Borsky photo

# Co-operative housing . . . a long-term solution?

By D. JOHN LYNN  
Canadian University Press

Ottawa (CUP)—Universities across Canada, beset with a heavy influx of students, are only with great difficulty able to find adequate funds to provide adequate teaching staff, increase classroom space, augment library collections, install labs, and to provide other purely academic needs to adjust to the increased demands of a population bent on educating its young.

The universities' meager resources can barely stretch to provide them with the means to get an education. It cannot stretch to the point where the students will have the services which complement a good education—sports and recreation facilities, student union buildings, dining facilities, and, most critical this year, housing.

### low priority

The above items draw a low priority in university construction. But add to this the general housing shortage in Canada at the present time, particularly as the population shifts from the rural to the urban base, and the situation becomes critical.

Over the past summer all available housing in many centres was filled by people shifting from rural areas. This September undergraduate students returned to university to find apartments and rooms were simply not available for them. University residences had been booked solid since early August.

University officials recognize the problem, but there is little they can do. Most universities prepare off-

campus housing registries, but these are stop-gap measures at best, and in some cases have led to all kinds of abuse by both students and administration.

### co-op advantages

A long-term solution advocated by some is student co-operative living. Co-ops have several advantages:

● Students living in co-operatives require up to 25 per cent less space than those living in apartments, rooms or university residences. If a dwelling suitable for a family of five is turned into a co-op, up to eight students can move in to the same space very comfortably.

● Co-ops do not require financing, in their initial stages, from either the university or the government. If a house rents for \$150 monthly and utilities cost another \$50 monthly eight students paying \$40 per month rent to realize a considerable saving over residence fees, in most cases amounting to 25 per cent. They buy and cook their own food in common, which cuts down dining room overhead costs.

● Even if a student co-operative association gets involved in buying and building residences the university assumes no part of the financial burden. Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation provides approved co-operative residences with loans for 90 per cent of the cost of building, on a 50 year mortgage.

● Co-operative residences are invariably cheaper to design, to build, and to maintain.

### no limit

Because of the favourable financial conditions under which co-

ops operate there is really no limit to their possible expansion. The example of the Waterloo Co-operative Residences Incorporated is typical of the speed and efficiency with which co-op housing can be set up on any campus in Canada.

It all began at the University of Waterloo in 1964 when several students recognized the need for new rental student housing. Within six months a handful of students rented two houses near the campus accommodating 33 students.

Within a year Waterloo Co-operative Residences was set up to operate seven houses with 90 students. At this point they also began construction of Hammarskjöld House, a four-story building designed specifically for student co-operative living. It was 90 per cent financed through CMHC, and the WCRI talked the contractor into re-investing his profit on the project to make up the remaining 10 per cent.

Hammarskjöld House became the first residence in North America to be built by students. It opened for business in April 1966, just two years after the first co-operative residence was set up at Waterloo.

At present the WCRI owns two houses in addition to Hammarskjöld House, rents ten others, and accommodates 130 students, men and women attending university.

There is no particular reason why Waterloo was able to set up such a strong and imaginative co-operative program in such a short time. It was simply a case of students willing to take the initiative and willing to seek out the right kind of advice.

## letter

### why are carpets blue?

Writing from deep in the heart of a six million dollar pile of question marks, we can't see the vast empty halls for the people. But we do have some answers to Gateway's contribution to the questions.

Answering the questions in order: ● Why are the carpets blue? Because the Chairman of the SUB Planning Commission, Ed Monsma, is a conservative. Also, architectural unity is achieved by the use of one colour throughout the building.

● About those unsightly concrete pillars—yes, they will be left. If they were removed, the building would collapse.

● Will there ever be air conditioning? Glenn Sinclair has been installed to provide hot air circulation. The rest of the air

conditioning will be in operation when the maintenance tunnel is in operation—a responsibility of the university, not the students union.

● The colors of the furniture in the Wauneita Lounge. Passionate Purple, also chosen by Ed Monsma. ● Oh, and about those cheap looking fixtures—furnishings in the Gateway office will not be changed in the foreseeable future.

Although some of the features of the building will not appeal to everybody, the overall design is great. We hope that as many people as possible will come out during opening week to get acquainted with the facilities and the potential offered in SUB.

Don McKenzie  
Chairman SUB opening  
Marg Carmichael  
Theatre SUB opening