

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—With help from Toronto and Calgary, things flowed quite smoothly this night. But the local staff set the pace as Anna Novikov, Dave Blackmore, W. G. Cheriton, Ken Bailey, Lorna Cheriton, Forrest Bard, Graham Camplin, Marg Bolton, Bob Conarroe, Bob (Toronto) Parkins, and yours truly Harvey Thomgirt were out in force.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1968

Simon Fraser set the example

Simon Fraser University, the university which was born deformed, raised in chaos and which, as its first offspring, chose the once ugly breed called student rebellion, has apparently orphaned its own.

In the fall election, John Conway, vice-president under Martin Loney and Loney's selected successor, was soundly beaten by a "moderate" candidate. The student power slate headed by Loney and which conducted mass-involvement council meetings, was elected to office in the spring of 1968 and served for the summer session.

The rejection of Conway by the Simon Fraser students can be interpreted as nothing else but a severe backlash of the moderate students. Plagued by the excessive press coverage given their campus and the notoriety it gained as the first radical Canadian campus, the students got fed up with the whole issue.

The rejection however is not entirely surprising. It is common for humans to get themselves in deep water and then paddle frantically to get out of it. The only way, of course, is to go back the way they came. If there was to be a temporary setback of the "student movement", it had to be Simon Fraser.

We believe this setback will in no way halt the growing awareness of the Canadian student. The Simon Fraser incidents, if their initial purpose was, as Martin Loney says repeatedly, "to make students aware of what is going on on their campuses and in the world," then they have served the purpose well.

From their initiative, Canadian

campuses have begun to take action against the situation that has burdened them for the past century. Students now question the people who run the universities and question the curriculums, the capabilities of profs and the students want a say in the type of education they receive.

If the decline of power at Simon Fraser was meant to be a warning to the rest of Canada, it comes too late. The University of Toronto and its student leader Steve Langdon have taken leadership. Admitting their goal is "to get Bissell (Toronto administrative president) fired", they have been constantly in the news. And they have been effective. They have seats (unless they rejected them, as they threatened to do) on the president's council and have been offered wholesale representation on academic bodies. The concessions have not been sufficient.

The Toronto council has indicated they want no part of these unless the meetings are opened to the public. This is something still in the administrative stage at Alberta.

Now Calgary has stepped into the picture. Last week, a number of students refused to budge for a GFC meeting which eventually was cancelled. The students, including council president Luigi Di Marzo, wanted GFC open, but it wasn't to be that way, naturally.

The signs are all there. The road surveyed by Simon Fraser has now become a reality. What happens at Simon Fraser is no longer a firm indication of might be expected from the rest of Canada. But it has set an example. The next move is already in motion.

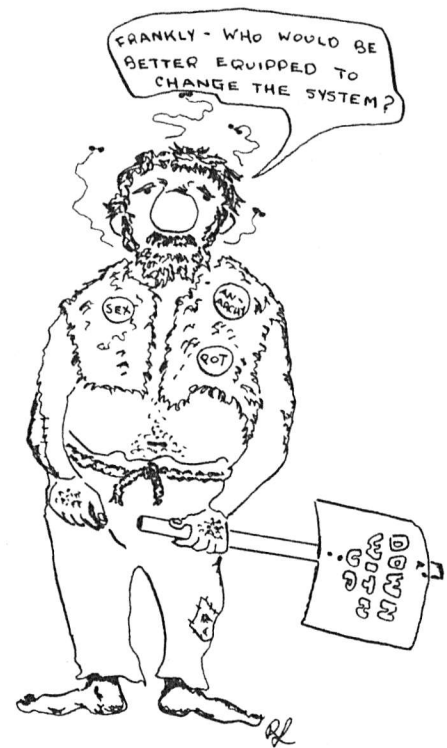
Were their intentions bad?

The antics of certain members of the Students for a Democratic University at the last council meeting must not be regarded too lightly.

There is no doubt that rolling on the floor, uttering profanities and stage-whispering cute asides makes the ordinarily dull council meeting a performance worth charging admission to, but one must realise the intent of these actions.

There is little doubt that certain members of the SDU are out to make a laughing stock of council, and in the process are distorting all the ideals most of the SDU membership believes in.

There is no intent to deny these gentlemen the right to preach their gospel on campus, but when anarchy is all they can succeed in creating, they should reconsider their strategy.



Student movement victimized by deliberate propaganda?

This press release came from the Canadian Union of Students in Ottawa. It was signed by two members of the organization, neither of whom are national figures. It gives another view of the press and the 'movement'.

Canadian press coverage of the growing Canadian student movement has been unfortunate at best, dangerous at worst. A climate has been created in which a rational debate of student demands and student tactics becomes impossible.

It is a fact that there is in Canada a growing student movement, committed to university change within the context of social change. It is also a fact that this movement still represents a minority, and that its "representativity" will be determined only as students debate and act on issues this year. But it is deliberate, cynical propaganda that this movement represents only a conspiratorial elite, dedicated to chaos and violence.

Yet this is the image conveyed by the press. A press which if it sincerely condemns violence should condemn those who create an atmosphere conducive to violence in our society.

CUS would like to make its position on student protest and tactics quite clear. It is ironic that the present press labels—"violent", "anarchist", "saboteur"—should be applied to a movement which has its roots deep in the struggle for peace. Both in the U.S. and Canada the student movement has grown out of a struggle against the institutionalized violence of our society—against segregation and racism, against the war in Vietnam and against the threat of nuclear war.

But the charges of violence against students are as old as the movement itself—they began as soon as protest moved beyond the level of academic debate, as soon as it began to threaten established interests and attempted real change. The point is not that protest is ineffective, but rather the opposite—that our present rulers are unresponsive to new debate.

Radical tactics are not synonymous with violence. The student movement still depends on pacifist (sit-in) and union (strike) techniques. These techni-

ques do not negate our rational and humanitarian ends, as many would claim, nor do they exclude the possibility of rational debate. Rather they offer us the chance to effect change. It is the beginning of a creative dialogue. An opportunity to meet administrators with our demands and the power to effect change.

Violence in the student movement has been initiated by the state and the police. Brutal repression of student protest by the police or army has been matched only by the skill with which the mass media has blamed the violence on the students themselves: at Berkeley, student protest is now regularly met with clubs, dogs, mace and tear-gas—and the students are accused of being "violent"; at Columbia the police were savage not only in beating students but also deliberate in destruction of university property—and the students are accused of being violent and destructive; in France the students used barricades to defend themselves against truncheons, tear-gas and tanks; in Chicago this August the same pattern is clear.

This year, in Canada we may well see theory linked with action, we may see students demanding changes in their university and using their power to see that they occur. But we need see no violence, unless administrators decide to use police against student action and student demands. This is the danger, that the mood now established by a sensationalist media, and fear on the part of administrators, will legitimize for the public—the use of police repression against students. Nothing would please some administrators as much as the chance to crush legitimate student leadership, while support is still growing. Student leaders cannot abandon their commitment to criticism, confrontation and change. They can and should condemn all acts of violence. They can, and should, be careful that there will be no violence. The existence of violence will be decided by administrators and not students.