

This is page FIVE

The press has one extremely important job to do. We must try to keep the issues for decision clearly before the people, a task not really being done.

—James Reston, New York Times

Page FIVE today has an article by Al Scarth on professors who are charging one cent each for handout papers. While the names are fictitious, the facts are true.

We have letters from the SDU, from students who are unhappy about the registration photos, and another from a grad student who quotes Jean Jacques Rousseau.

We also received an excellent poem but the author did not give his name. The initials are C.N. We would like to know his name.

Keep the letters coming. There is a lot to bitch about on this campus. But don't restrict the conversation to your friends. Let the campus know about it.

—The Editor

On the yearbook and the phone book

The Editor,

I would like to express my opinion of the new student directory which will include photos of all undergraduates.

Most students prefer to destroy their student ID cards the minute they receive them because they feel they have taken a very poor picture. This is a small wonder after the way one is rushed through the photo line.

The photographer is not interested in the quality of the photo, he is only trying to obtain an identifiable image of the student before him to satisfy theatre owners, etc.

Now, this "picture" is to represent us through the entire year exclusively. No longer will a student be able to have his photo taken by an experienced photographer and placed in the year-

book because an undesirable one is already in the phone book.

What type of yearbook contains only pictures of graduate students and lists activities on campus? The average student could care less about who is graduating at this time. He is interested in the students he comes in contact with most frequently—the undergrads.

If the problem of printing the yearbook is \$10,000 expense, which comes to a less than \$1 per student, then the student should be given a chance to say whether or not he is willing to pay this fee for an important symbol of his university career.

Cathy Allarie, pharm 2
Gayle Housch, pharm 2
Beverly Dick, ed 2
Norah Smyth, ed 2
Linda Burgar, ed 2

On administrators, Rousseau and force

The Editor,

I see that U of A's president is attempting to abort student activism on the campus before it even has a chance to raise its ugly head (as everyone knows, that abortion is illegal in Alberta).

Could it be possible that in his remarks he implied the use of force or coercion, and, if so, is this the only feasible method he could think of? Advocating force can be potentially dangerous.

Jean Jacques Rousseau said, "If force creates right, the effect changes with the cause: every

force that is greater than the first succeeds to its right . . . the only thing that matters is to act so as to become the strongest.

Clearly then, any governing body which establishes the use of force as its right can only enjoy a temporary existence at best.

Administrators who resort to the use of force (even before they have to) seem to me to be showing the students a very dangerous example of the way to "stand for your rights".

Winston Gereluk
Grad studies

SDU 'clarifies' a few points

The Editor,

The purpose of this letter is to publicly clarify a few points in Miss Pilkington's statement at the SDU meeting Friday.

First Miss Pilkington said I was a representative of SDU on the pluralistic committee Walter Johns convened to discuss his "value-free" description of how the U of A operates (his 'memo'). It is true that I agreed to be on that committee—and, in fact, one meeting of that committee was held—but, strangely, I was not contacted about that meeting. The point of contention, however, concerns my being an SDU representative. The fact is that Miss Pilkington asked me to be on the committee but never mentioned SDU.

Whatever explanations are proposed for her having approached me, the point is that SDU is not an elitist organization—unlike the students' union.

No SDU member can act in SDU's name without first discussing it with the membership and then getting their approval. The "democratic" part of SDU's name is taken seriously, unlike the "union" part of the student union's name.

The second point is to clarify Miss Pilkington's statement that she gave copies of Dr. Johns' memo to "Jon Bordo, John Thompson and Mort Newman, all SDU members" so there would be a discussion of it among all interested sectors of the campus. (Did the Campus Police get a copy?). It is patently false that she gave us copies. We "acquired" our copies before the memo became public and Miss Pilkington never offered us copies.

Her misrepresentations in the SDU meeting were tactically useful—and in line with her typical manipulative actions in students' council meetings and on campus generally to make it appear as if she is always acting after consulting everyone. If any of the 700-plus who attended the SDU meeting Friday, you probably interpreted the words of her speech in much the same way that I did, i.e. believing she wanted exactly the same things as SDU but was simply being coy with Dr. Johns so she could eventually achieve these aims.

One simple test of this is to ask her position on the abolition of fees or the Board of Governors' powers. A few suggested her speeches are vague on various points because she is not a very intelligent girl. I believe, on the contrary, that if you force her to articulate her position (by demanding more public meetings with her concerning important issues) you will find that her beliefs are quite similar to Dr. Johns. For those of you who were not in Edmonton this summer, you will be interested to know that the 'apolitical' Miss Pilkington attempted to set up a postal system—using the student union's name and facilities—in an attempt to break the postal strike.

Last week's Gateway editorial called Miss Pilkington "ultra-conservative". At last Sunday's student council meeting Jon Bordo called her a "proto-fascist". Why don't we have more public meetings with Miss Pilkington so we all can decide which of these finely-distinguished positions she actually holds?

Mort Newman



Pages at a penny each

By AL SCARTH

Professor Elite Epigenesis was bowed slightly to one side as he entered the over-crowded basement lecture hall. That seemed natural enough. A cash register is neither the lightest nor most convenient bulk to carry twixt a bruised rib cage and already briefcase-laden arm.

It was an apologetic yet stern look he cast toward the amused faces which confronted him. Had it been the first lecture, 40 sociology students would probably have emptied into the cattle-pen hallways, certain in their belief they had mistakenly wandered into basic bookstore economics.

Professor Epigenesis, MA, PhD, plugged in his cash register. He opened his briefcase. He took out the shiny metal coin changer stored within.

"Never trust a naked bus driver," warned an awed whisper from the back as the PhD fastened the changer securely about his MA midriff.

This was too much—even a senior sociology student; inured to the grotesque antics of such as the Nacirema tribe; hardened against the shock of being in the ten per cent of college students who have not experienced pre-marital sex; and steeled to be objective towards The Professional Thief, The Power Structure, The Military Mind and The Child Beaters—even a senior sociology student gulps an unobjective breath at his professor lecturing from behind a cash register.

"I have been advised by the department," Professor Epig-

enesis intones above the jingle of his coin changer, "that as of now, all mimeographed handouts will be distributed at a charge of one cent per page. As today's handout is only three pages long; to facilitate change-making, the department has provided me with this (a flick of his jacket reveals the steely glint of the changer), in addition to the standard cash register.

As the MA, PhD explains further that the department has cautioned against late payment which may result in final exam results being withheld, his students queue up to obtain the day's ration of information.

"Apparently," a thought traverses the class, "that extra \$100 per head fee levy (faction though it be of the total cost per unit), did not find part of its way into the department."

But it's not the two or three dollars that rankles as much as that it seems just, well, sloppy; rather reminiscent of a heap of silver on the teacher's desk to finance an elementary school picnic.

"Could not," say the students, "we pay the two or three dollars to the university instead of embarrassing and inconveniencing our two or three sociology professors with mounds of coins which must be transported, counted and generally mucked about with?"

Will our classes one day resound with "Get your red-hot handouts here!?" Will cash register bells be added to buzzers, cash slips to Permit To Register cards, and total sales to class lists?

