

Editorial

Vote "yes" to change the national union

The more we listen to certain people talk about the Canadian Union of Students being an unrepresentative, political band of irresponsible students, the sicker we get.

Attempts have been made on this campus to insinuate that the Canadian Union of Students is in cahoots with the communist-financed, Russian-based International Union of Students and thus CUS itself, the logic goes, is communist-financed.

That, of course, is nonsense.

At the same time, students are saying that a vote for CUS is a vote favoring the "radical" stands CUS has taken. That too is nonsense.

Before voting in Friday's CUS referendum, students should realize that very few universities support the stand taken on many issues by CUS. Nobody supports the stands and they argue with the right of CUS to take this stand.

The problem is that the so-called "moderate element" in Canadian universities is, as Judy LaMarsh so lovingly uses the term, "gutless". And chief among the gutless ones is our own Students' Union.

For all the worthfulness of the "moderate" element of CUS, not one had the guts to challenge Martin Loney when he ran for CUS president-elect last August. He was in by acclamation.

There was no moderate candidate. There was no moderate leadership. And now all the moderates are crying in their SUB washbowls.

Most important issue in this referendum is whether or not CUS can be changed and whether it is worth changing. The latter needs little argument. Even solid anti-CUS'ers like Marilyn Pilkington agree there is a need for a national union. The only catch is that they want this union to be run they want it.

Can CUS be changed? Of course it can. But in order to do so, schools have to be a member of the organization. No body wants outsiders butting into their business and CUS is no different in this matter.

If policies of CUS are not what they should be, then it is the duty and obligation of schools proposing other policies to stand up and argue for their beliefs. All CUS resolutions must be passed by a majority of the member schools and it should be noted here that the majority of schools within the present union passed the resolution supporting the National Liberation Front in Vietnam. And the same with the rest of the resolutions.

Nothing is ever changed by sitting home and brooding about it. Students ask "what has CUS done for us". It should better be asked of the leaders "what have we done for CUS?"

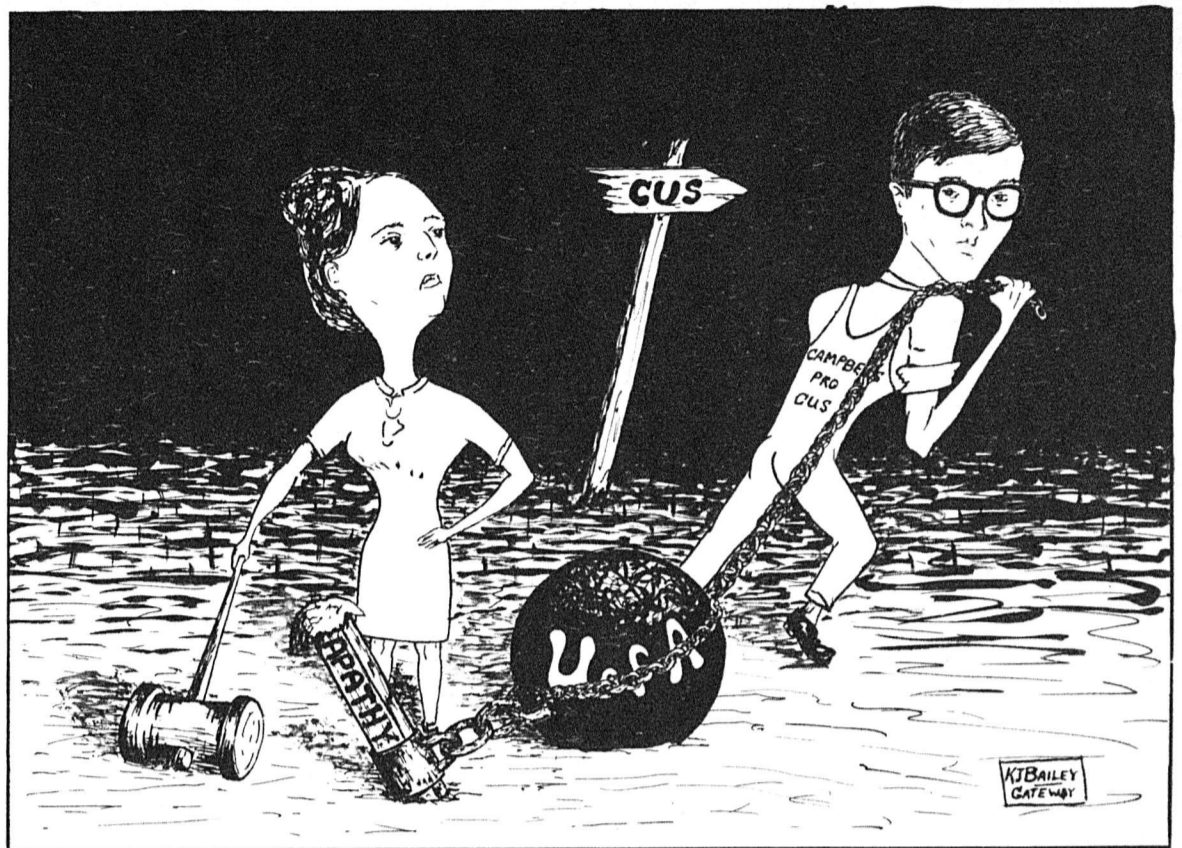
Even the majority of schools present at the Waterloo Lutheran University conference on student unionism agreed that CUS should be changed from within. Queen's University resolution to form a moderate union was shot down—pronto.

Financially, the Students' Union operates on an annual budget of almost \$800,000. The cost to be a member of CUS is about \$13,000 or as Martin Loney said "the price of two hamburgers per student".

Perhaps we have overlooked thus far, one of the very supreme benefits of being a member of CUS and that is to have proper communications with other schools in Canada. The University of Alberta, with its extremely unfavorable geographical location, has almost been incestuous in keeping to itself. Being a member of CUS should increase communications with other universities. It won't mean that much to the average student, but it will mean a great deal to the leaders you elect this term because without outside communications, the job of serving the student is hampered. Consequently the student suffers.

We believe a vote to rejoin the Canadian Union of Students is a vote to change the union to a more powerful one—one that would include all universities in Canada and consequently have an influential bargaining position with the federal government. It is the federal government that pays a substantial portion of the estimated \$3,000 needed to keep each student at university. It is the federal government that backs the Canada Student Loan plan.

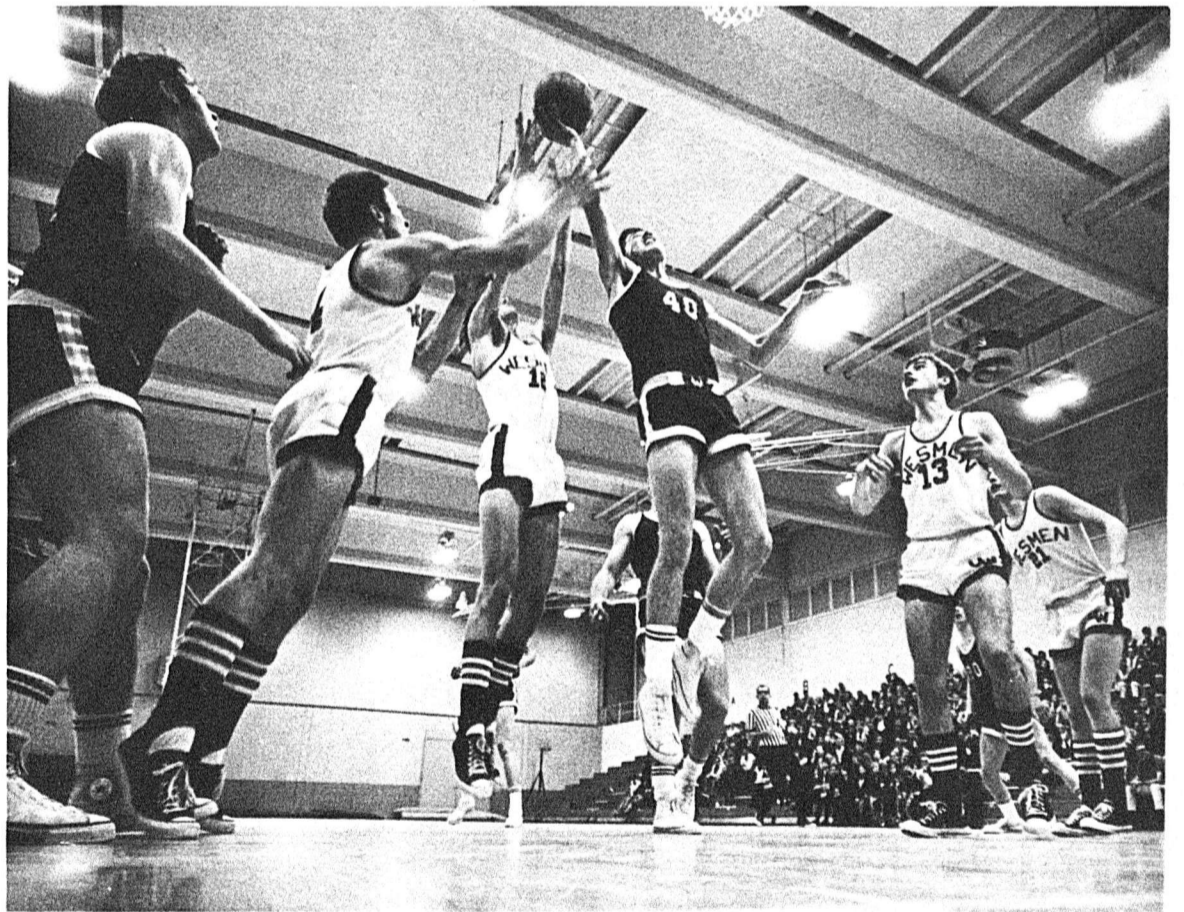
Vote to change the union. Vote "yes" to CUS.



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—Al Yackulic photo

GRACEFUL AS A SWANN

—Golden Bear bounceballer Dave Swann (40) takes the aerial route in counting two points against the Winnipeg Wesmen on the weekend. The Bears rolled to their ninth and tenth straight victories of the year by defeating the Wesmen 93-72 and 86-67. Coach Barry Mitchelson's crew now has a six point edge over the second place Manitoba Bisons and look like good bets to take the conference title. (Story on page 6)

Official Notice — CUS Referendum

Friday, January 31, 1969, the Students' Union will conduct a referendum regarding rejoining the Canadian Union of Students.

Wording of the referendum: Do you favor the University of Alberta Students' Union re-joining the Canadian Union of Students?

Location of polls open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Agriculture Building, Arts Building, Engineering Building, New Engineering Centre, Rutherford Library, Tory Building, Education Building, Lister Hall, Household Economics Building, Medical Science Building, Nurses' Residence, "V" Lecture Wing, Cameron Library, and the Physical Education Building. The SUB polling station will be open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

An advance poll will be held in SUB Wednesday, January 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Who may vote: all full-time members of the Students' Union upon presentation of their Students' Union Identification Card.

Ken Newington, Returning Officer