

The Gateway

member of the Canadian University Press

HELP STUDENT HELP

STAFF THIS ISSUE

Holy hunt and peck! The staffers were all staffing, the layout types were laying out, the heads were headlining, the typewriters were typing, the frisbees were frisbeeing, and students' council was sleeping...but the IBM typesetter was unjustified! What could we do? Of course! We did what any respectable student paper would do: We panicked and sent for the repairman. Those helping to throw the small fit were: Dave McCurdy, Walt Neilsen, Ron McTavish, Ron Ternoway, Ross Harvey, Elsie Ross, Dennis Windrim, Harry MacKendrick, Dick (the \$100 Hero) Nimmons, Peter Tremaine, R. W. Thomas (the Great), nipped in the Bud Joberg, Bob Blair, Doroty Constable, Ken Brown, Lana Yakimchuk, Ann Parker, Winston Gereluk, and Bob in charge of panic and chaos Beal, not to mention, of course, your ever-lovin' snake, Harvey G. (for Good God! Take cover!) Thomgirt.

P.S. There will be a staff party (hic) (cough) this Saturday. Time and place are on the bulletin board in the office. All staphers (including new ones) are welcome. HGT.

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SUE & CUPE

When the Students' Union Executive fought the SUB workers' CUPE certification before the Board of Industrial Relations, they used a very dangerous argument—one which could have grave effects on students' interests and their ability to control their own affairs.

They argued that the workers concerned are not really employees of the Students' Union but employees of the University.

In the words of the Board of Industrial Relations (which is a provincial body legally empowered to certify unions.) they argued "that the respondent (the Students' Union) is not an employer as defined in section 2 of the Alberta Labour Act in view of the over-riding control over its activities by other authorities."

For the appeal, the Executive is using a related, although not identical and much more complicated argument. Again, in the words of the Board of Industrial Relations, it is "that the Board (of Industrial Relations) does not have jurisdiction to entertain the application on the grounds that the respondent (the Students' Union) is an agency of the Crown by virtue of The Universities Act, the Public Service Pension Act and the Crown Agencies Employee Relations Act." If this argument is found to be true by the court, all powers the Students' Union now holds could revert to the University administration.

In any case, at the original hearing, the Students' Union Executive virtually argued against the existence of the Students' Union as a legally autonomous corporation.

The Board of Industrial Relations found that "the Students' Union is an autonomous body, separately incorporated and continued as a corporation under the Universities Act over which the General Faculties Council has certain powers with respect to the activities of students but that such powers do not confine the activities and authority of the incorporated body with the exception of purchasing real property."

In the past, students, not only at U of A but in the rest of the country, have felt a need to have a strong student governing body as much as possible independent of the University administration to administer student activities and to represent student interests.

Our present Student Union Executive is apparently not acting in the student interests and by its actions in the CUPE case could severely undermine the effectiveness of a student administration and interest group on this campus. This is the first time in recent U of A history that an Executive has taken such a stand. Even the most conservative of recent executives has strongly supported the autonomy and power of the Students' Union.

If students feel that a strong Students' Union is necessary, they must oppose the present Executive's attitude towards CUPE.

The present Executive so aggravated the SUB workers that they were forced to join CUPE in an effort to bargain with their management. The SUB workers are asking for raising of most of their salaries, closing the disparity gap between them, and for some say in decisions which affect their lives.

These are not unreasonable demands. They are demands which are necessary for the well being of the workers. The workers are fighting for a better life. Meanwhile the Students' Union Executive is spending students' money on legal expenses to use arguments which are detrimental to a strong Students' Union.

Students' Council may tonight look at the report of the Student Help Investigation Committee.

Before the councillors all jump on the Executive bandwagon and vote in favour of the proposed recommendations they should take a very careful look at just what the committee is proposing. They should also ask why the executive is so eager to implement the committee's recommen-

Buried deep in the committee report is a blatant example of blackmail. Recommendation 6 (b) states that "in order to receive the recommended budget from Student Council, Student Help must agree to the formation and powers of the Policy Board."

The Policy Board is a very interesting creation. It is composed of five members: one student councillor, who is also the chairman, the Director of Student Help, the Director of Student Health, and the Director of Student Counselling (or their designees) and one student at large appointed by the Personnel Board.

Out of the proposed five members of the board only one will be personally concerned with Student Help. The appointment of a student councillor and other Personnel Board "selection" leaves the door open to political manipulation of Student Help by Students' Council.

To justify the executive's sudden interest in Student Help,

SU Treasurer Frans Slatter, has dredged up a lawyer's letter which states that the Students' Union "may be vicariously liable (i.e. liable by association rather than because of direct involvement) for the negligent acts of those clubs" which the Students' Union funds. Slatter has chosen to apply this opinion to a non-budget club such as Student Help as well as to budget clubs. Student Help receives a bulk sum grant from Council and, therefore, Council may not be as liable for the actions of Student Help as it would for the actions of a SU organization which receives a budget.

In any case, no such organization (as Student Help) in Canada has yet been involved in a lawsuit. As well, if they encounter a serious problem, Student Help makes referral to a professional.

The report concludes with a suggestion that a councillor be appointed for the Policy Board at the next meeting of Council. All this for a board that does not yet exist! This recommendation, however, exemplifies the confidence the McKenzie executive has in its every desire being met by student council.

The operation of Student Help should be left as an internal matter for those people who are interested enough in the problems of their fellow students to work for the organization. Interference on the part of the SU Executive is for purely personal political reasons.

COMMENT

being
by Dan Carroll

By now I imagine that most everyone feels they've recovered from the hassle of registration week.

But, the process does more than give us frazzled nerves, sore feet and headaches. If I were to let my paranoid tendencies run wild, I'd say that registration must have been designed by some mad genius merely to atmoze, confuse and push us around. This way we'd be prepared to be atomized, confused and pushed around by the rest of the university for the rest of the year--especially in our classes and our dealing with the administration. Besides, we are seperated from each other and cynically resigned to avoid organizing to change the system that demands inanities on the scale of registration week. The system perpetuates itself.

Just as the first step in the infamous "brain washing" process is to confuse and isolate the prisoner, so the first step of the university year is designed to confuse and isolate each student. Not satisfied with a goodly dose in the first year, we are administered a booster shot each year thereafter.

Don't forget that this university is after your head, and its the only one you've got. It's tricky, though, for "they" go for your head via your gonads. The objective is to intimidate--so that we don't step outside of "rules and regulations", and so that we don't get together with each other in our class, department or whatever and collectively step out of line in an attempt to change things.

This must be overcome, and the first step is to realize that our problems are not only our very own private personal property. The same hassles are shared by every student on this campus, and they must be realized not as personal but social problems.

Social problems demand social action. They can only be overcome by sharing experiences and working as a group to destroy and replace the system of "education" that causes these problems.

So if it turned out that our first class Monday was cancelled because the prof is still on his vacation, go as a group to the department chairman and demand an immediate replacement. Uptight students en masse tend to

make administrators rather nervous.

If you sit in a class and on't know a single person, then make a determined effort to get to know as many as possible.

If you're hassled, find out if others share the hassle--and try to work together to straighten it out by applying pressure as required.

If the problem is the classroom, get together with your classmates, and approach your prof--most instructors are happy to at least hear from their students even though getting action is always another problem.

If you're having trouble with an administrator, call the Students' Union and get help or even call The Gateway and we'll see what we can do for you. Don't forget that university president Max Wyman boasts an "open door" policy, and if you get no satisfaction elsewhere you can always make an appointment and take your problem to the top.

Declare your own war of liberation and get it on. You'll be surprised to find how much we actually do share in our common positions as students, and how much could be learned and done together.