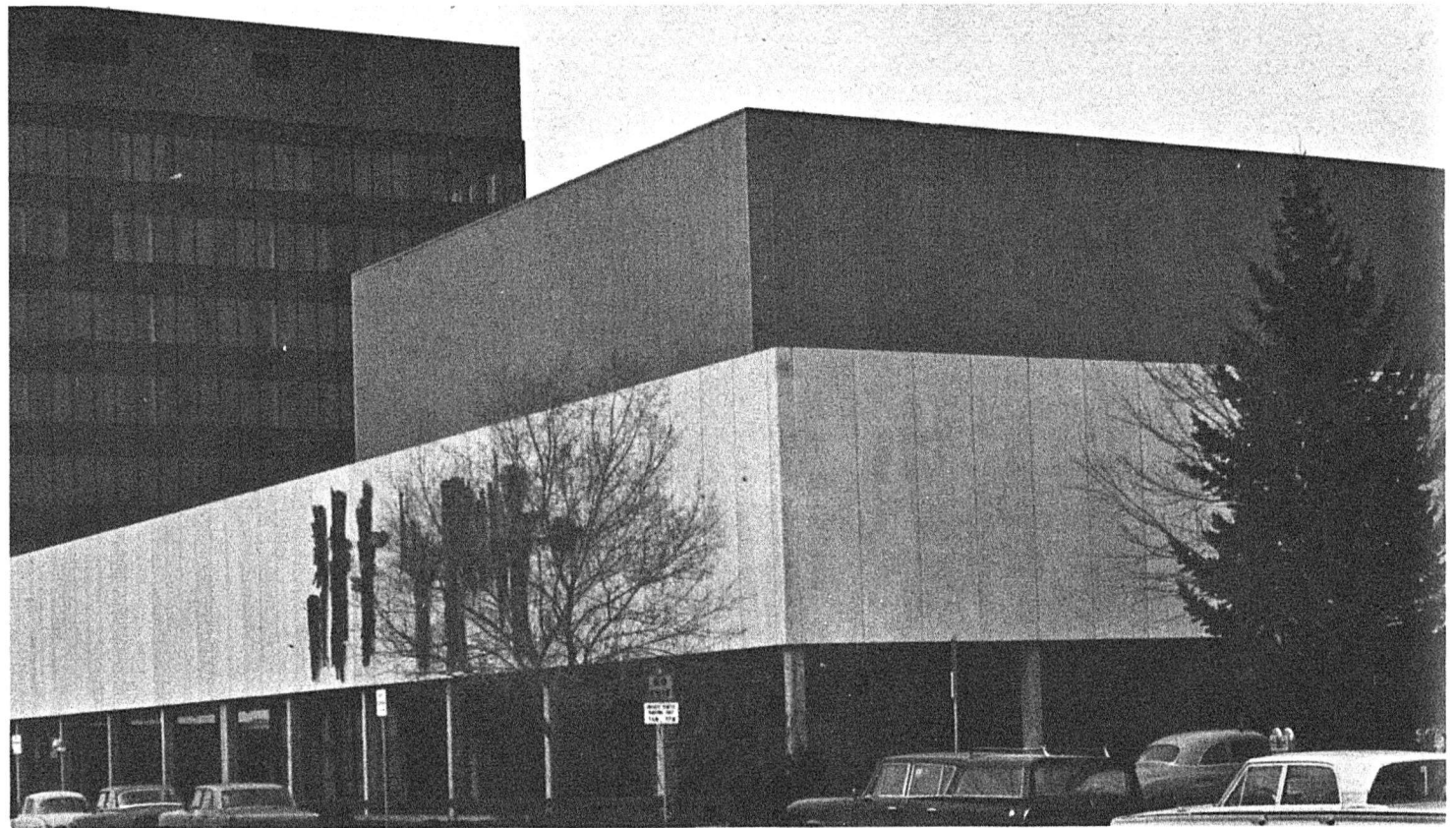


Politics and power

Students' council, administration,

*Students
do have a voice
in the
administration
of this
university*



Students told to participate; then passively trained to obey

In the university one can find an implicit antagonism or, if you like, a fundamental contradiction. Namely, that our administration asks of us that we both participate and not participate in our educational system. We are told that we must learn to make decisions and yet are not allowed to make actual decisions. We are told that education is an active process, yet are passively trained. We are criticized for our apathy and our activity. In the name of freedom we are trained to obey.

The system requires that we passively agree to be manipulated—but our vision is of active participation. This is a demand that our executive administrators can not meet without putting themselves out of a job. This is exactly the type of a demand that the NDY is starting to make and will continue to make until the situation is changed.

What does making this demand

mean and how does the NDY relate such a demand to the students' union? The first step in this process is that of organization—the organization of a student syndicalist movement on this campus.

A student syndicalist movement implies that this movement is similar to the syndicalists' labour movement which calls for participatory democracy and workers' control rather than for better working conditions and higher wages. The NDY accepts this and calls for student and faculty control of the university not for reform measures such as a meaningless voice in the GFC and the Board of Governors.

FOR STUDENTS

We feel that the university exists not for the administration but rather for the student worker and that he should be in a controlling position. The student syndicalist

movement calls for the recognition of the fact that students are not removed from society but rather have the potentiality to be workers in the society and as such should recognize their unity and solidarity with other workers in the society.

The NDY recognizes that student syndicalist demands can not relate to the existing students' union. These "lackies" of the administration are not interested in worker control for they are in positions where they will be, in the near present, administrators themselves.

They see perhaps the contradictions in the existing social order but refuse to take any constructive steps to radically change it. As far as the NDY stands on the relationship between the existing students' union and the administration—the NDY thinks that it would be best if the administration gave this meaningless quasi-representative body NONE of its demands. Perhaps this way the union would recognize the absolute absurdity of its present existence, and recognition of the fact that unless it begins talking in terms of relevant issues it might as well dissolve itself. Since, however, both the administration and the existing students' union are both working to maintain the present social system the administration will continue to grant meaningless concessions to this meaningless union in hopes of pacifying the unsatisfied students.

HOPELESSNESS

The NDY realized the hopelessness of even considering working within such an existing body and sees their only alternative is to build a strong syndicalist movement which will eventually necessitate a change in the existing social order. Quebec is leading the way in this struggle under the Union General des Etudiants du Quebec. In time such a student worker movement will co-manage



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... hard at work, as always

the university with the faculty, thereby eliminating an administration which functions two steps removed from the students. It should be realized that a student syndicalist movement is not an elitist movement, but is one which is comprised of a majority of the students on campus, and acts as the organized voice of the students in society as a whole.

This new type of students' union as any other union functions to serve its members. Such a union would aim at serving and meeting the real needs of the student. Instead of worrying about social functions this union would concern itself with improving the working conditions of the student, would aim at solving his financial problems with reference to the basic causes of his social difficulties, and would aim at democratizing the university and on free education.

DIRECTLY INVOLVED

The students' union can be directly involved in the formation of educational policy and reform. It would have a meaningful voice along with the faculty and as such co-manage the university. Going beyond the university this students' union can and should play an active political role in society. It should take meaningful and act-

ion-oriented stands on the issues which face the world at present. The NDY recognizes that fact that unless the pressing social problems, such as the war in Viet Nam, poverty, and the struggles of economically depressed peoples are not solved, anything that the NDY does which is not aimed at solving these problems becomes irrelevant in the context of the whole. On the basis of the study of history and a thorough political analysis it is glaringly evident that these "problems": (the Viet Nam War, poverty, class difference) are not unfortunate chance occurrences but arise necessarily from a monopoly capitalistic economic military structure. Therefore when we speak of "solving social problems" we do not for an instant entertain pipe dreams of peaceable reform-clumsy bandaging of society's most gaping wounds to prevent futile hemorrhaging. We do see as necessary the liquidation of the present structures and institutions and the introduction of new and radically different system of economic and social relations.

Consistent with this view we call for the death of irrelevant students' union and the birth of a meaningful and active syndicalist movement.

By LYNN HANNLEY

background

The stories on these two pages are the first part of a study of the students' union, the administration and the provincial control of the university.

We hope to present both the facts of the situation and opinions on the situation.

Staff writer Glenn Cheriton did the study of the existing administration—students' council relationship.

The syndicalist point of view presented by Lynn Hannley this week is based on NDY philosophy, though we are told that this cannot be considered an official statement of their views. Lynn is a member of the NDY club.

Unless otherwise indicated, none of these views can be considered those of The Gateway. They are being presented to inform you of the various thinking that is going on around campus.

—The Editor