

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—The pseudo-Harvey G. came in and wrote: Tonight's drinkers were headed by Ken Bailey, Ina (pronounce that Eena), Catriona Sinclair, and Al Scarth. Also under the table were Terry Pettit, Rolf Stengl, Ron Yak, Judy Jankowski and ol Harvey Thomgirt himself, who can drink anyone under the tables. Everyone drank a toast to the new "Exhibition" mascot. Finishing off what was miss-ed (and (mr-ed) was the true-blue, slithly, paint it black snake: the people who tucked the paper in were Don Young (who works fast and leaves a ring), Jim Bratvold (who saw things blackly), Ellen Nygaard (not bed-tested yet), Don Carroll, Gail Evasiuk, who may fare well in her practical and here to make snide, pre-party comments on it all, still-at-it Thomgirt.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1968

Editorial

Simon Fraser — not apathetic

By the time you read this, Simon Fraser University may be the scene of one of the first general student strikes in Canada.

A campus-wide vote, which is the only way to grasp the true feelings of the majority, will decide the fate of the proposed strike. A strike, of course, is the ultimate in student rebellion in Canadian terms. Anything stronger would be termed outright anarchy.

While many would look upon students at Simon Fraser as a bunch of screwballs who have strong lusts for power and desire nothing less than total control, we should take a very intense look at what is happening not only at Simon Fraser but what is happening at other universities.

All universities have problems. The situation at Simon Fraser seems just to put the whole problem in a nutshell.

Dr. Kenneth Hare, UBC president, probably hit the jackpot when he was quoted as saying "Put in bald terms, we shall have nowhere to put the students and not enough people to teach them, yet we suspect that other universities and colleges cannot absorb them.

"... This university (UBC) is ready to play its part, at present inevitably the biggest part, but it cannot do so without help."

This is the essence of the root of the problems at Simon Fraser

and, coincidentally, it is a problem just about everywhere else.

Adequate residences, adequate but not staggering residence rates, curriculum decisions, campus expansion, more money to develop more facilities for the campus, more universities, more loans, equal if not universal accessibility to university, etc. etc.

Martin Loney, summer session student president at Simon Fraser and current president-elect of the Canadian Union of Students, put the problem on its most basic terms. In a speech to CUS delegates last August, he said "What are students supposed to do when the university has 3,000 students and the library can only accommodate 100."

These are the problems that affect students the most. It is a vital part of their education. While numbers may say that Simon Fraser is the hotbed of student revolt and have nothing but two-bit marxist student politicians, it would be wise to realize that they, if they strike, are putting the entire Canadian university situation right on the line.

In essence, they are fighting for better universities.

It is difficult to condemn Simon Fraser students for that.

And it should be worthwhile to note that the student body is taking action — not a committee set up by some administrator.

"Communists" are here

So students radicals are communist inspired. Tough.

Patrick Walsh, another of the abundant spies who, like Joe McCarthy, thinks everyone is a communist. That is, anyone who is not on his side.

But the way these guys toss the terms around makes one wonder what has happened to the word "communist".

No longer is it a society or a system with an economic trend quite different from that practised in North America. The term "communist" has come to mean something evil and bad and not to be trusted.

"Communists" are the enemy, the suggestion implies. Hate the communist and rid our country of him and we will be nice and safe and secure.

People like Patrick Walsh prey on people who listen to that sort of stuff. Walsh is a member of the crew who published the disgusting Trudeau pamphlet which was widely distributed prior to the June federal election. The sheet was just a pile of innuendo and trash.

The frightening part is that many people believed it. And now students who agitate for reform are communists.

Sickening; mostly because it has no meaning.

Non-conformists are hidden in places like grad faculties

By JOHN MILLER

Any educational institution is a reflection of its founding (or floundering, whichever the case may be) society and the university is no exception.

In a society that preaches "don't make any waves", it is quite natural that the university should be geared to produce technicians rather than intellectuals.

The Province of Alberta has been very successful in this respect. The students who conform best to society's standards are usually the ones that receive the best grades at the undergraduate level.

There are many advantages to this system. By producing conformists the system is self-perpetuating. Very little adjustment is required to go from the university to the mainstream in society. As long as the university continues to fill the need for technicians, industry and the government it elects and controls are willing to give the university all the funds it requires to operate.

I realize, of course, that not everyone wants to conform. For these individuals society has a special place. Non-conformists are encouraged to continue in university in graduate studies. Eventually they obtain their doctorates and teach at the university level.

The security and seclusion of the university offers a haven to the non-conformists. Here the intellectuals can live a monkish existence with their own little social group, quite oblivious to the rest of the world. They can expound on the evils that exist in the world and develop pet theories on how society can be changed to a more utopian existence.

Of course the theories go untested. Society at large regards the inhabitants of the university as romantic idealists who should be patronized but otherwise ignored. The intellectual's ideas, in the opinion of society, sound good but are

too impractical. There is merit to this opinion, as ideal theories usually incorporate ideal people work under ideal conditions.

The promulgators of the theories seem quite content to allow their theories to remain untried. After all, without testing there is no risk of failure. Can you imagine the loss in prestige if an idea was put into practice and found unworkable?

Society is very careful to ensure that the intellectuals keep to themselves. Sanctions are quickly imposed on any individual who absent-mindedly forgets his place in the scheme of things.

For this reason, you seldom see any of these non-conformist professors dabble in politics. Politics is no place for an idealist. A man who hasn't learned the art of compromise would be like a fish out of water in the political arena. Our learned men may be principled but they are still very much comfort-oriented. Who can blame them for not wanting to risk their security and piece of mind for some pie-in-the-sky cause, however just it may seem.

I am not suggesting that all profs are non-conformists. There are some very conformist people in the university. This is not really surprising, as the needs of society could not be met unless there are slavish civil servants to administer the affairs of the university.

Left to the non-conformists, the university would quickly erupt into chaos, and would be of no use to anyone at all. There are great advancement opportunities for those who don't make any waves.

So life goes on and on. The people that act but don't think govern the country, while the thinkers sit on their asses at the university and produce slaves for the labor market.

Ain't life beautiful?

"Greedy" readers

McMaster University is located in Hamilton, Ont. Some people feel it has an apathy problem. . . . like this short editorial suggests. It says in a few lines a great deal and suggests that everywhere may be the same—and just as bad as at The University of Alberta. We thank The Silhouette for the wisdom.

If apathy of McMaster students disillusioned the editors of this paper, we would have ceased publishing long ago. Certainly no other university in Ontario can claim to have students who show less active interest in the affairs of other students the nation and the world than our own. This is the traditional definition of apathy.

McMaster students are an uninspiring breed; they cannot be roused to action by logical appeal—Professors Grant and Davy demonstrated this last week when they spoke to vacuum-packed student audiences about the role of the university. In Toronto and elsewhere, both men have drawn thousands of students to their speeches.

They cannot be roused to action by insult. Jelte Kuipers, former Assembly delegate proved this Wednesday when he called 70 of them "greedy, self-seeking, small-minded little cowards". No one batted an eyelash.

The Silhouette has long been aware that McMaster students are not worth worrying about.

For almost five years we have been reading letters to the editor which complained about coffee shop sugar which wouldn't dissolve; we need no further proof from professors or student leaders of apathy.

Earlier this year we suffered a momentary mental lapse and published full interpretative reports on free education, "universal accessibility", the Bladen report, student protests and so on. They were not read; the stories about sex, food and booze were well read—as always.

This is what is so delightful about editing a campus newspaper—you know and understand your readers.

And our readers are: "greedy, self-seeking . . ."