



editorial

Clean-up badly timed

At a time when it seems we are not keeping pace with structural problems at home, we are being asked to be a part in solving problems across the nation.

It might be called bad timing, but timing was never touted as being our executive's strength.

I have to ask once more, where is that flood of literature and material telling students about NUS? Why should the executive waste time *right now* on dredging up a lot of muck and et cetera within the Students' Union just at a time when students' attention should be drawn to the NUS issue?

NUS is lobbying on many issues not just housing, and not just student loans and financing, although these two items at the present time occupy the union's highest priorities. NUS is indeed us; probably more than our own Students' Council in many ways.

I think the issues we all are facing are more important than the allotment of money to clubs and the provision of social services. On the home front, these important issues are not being fought, not for lack of manpower or dedication, just for a lack of the magnitudinal pull that is needed to sway the holders of power and the makers of policy.

What can one local union of students do about housing? Well, we got the housing registry, the most sophisticated in North America. We took a great step forward, only to end it with a step backward. At the end of the month, the registry will be closed, the director will receive his last underpaying and unfair salary, and that will be that.

What NUS can do for students encompasses much more than that. NUS representatives can say to the federal government, "We represent the views of over 200 thousand students who have asked us to tell you the following proposals would be good ones," or "We as a research group have discovered the following information that you could use in the formation of newer, more relevant housing policy for the entire nation."

Which do you think more adequately represents your interests in housing? Or student loans and grants, education for the poor, native rights to a better standard of living, conservation of natural resources, and our ecology, or a greater awareness of the abilities, thoughts, and views of one of Canada's most important opinion and pressure groups?

These are the types of things NUS is.

Why aren't the posters and pamphlets more obvious in explaining just that?

Greg Neiman

Leadbeater no legend

Our introduction to Graeme Leadbeater via *The Gateway* is disappointingly superficial. What do we learn of Mr. Leadbeater as a person? We find that he's 20 years old, the son of a minister... How nice!

But what are we told about those things which count for something - his personal philosophy for example? I read the article several times and quite honestly I found nothing of value in it. Let us examine some of the profound statements which Mr. Leadbeater makes - first with regard to the policies and attitudes of his executive.

1) "I felt that there was a need to make this organization a little more political, to try to bring up a few more issues and try to increase student involvement."

2) "I think we're slightly 'socialist' oriented but I think we're very moderate about it in the kind of issues that have confronted us."

Such precision and trenchancy! His specificity and unambiguity amazes me. What are some of these issues which Mr. Leadbeater intends to bring up?

First, there is NUS. Mr. Leadbeater thinks it "would be a benefit for the Students' Union to join the national organization." He gives no rationale, however. Are we to surmise that the reason is obvious or perhaps Mr. Leadbeater just thinks it's a good idea - after all he is the president; he must know best.

Next, he takes a cheap shot at professors. "We feel there are

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a lot of people who misuse their offices, who spend too much time on working for private interest to supplement their income right on the university campus."

Even if his feelings could be substantiated, what concern is it of his? A student has a right to demand competence of his professors, as well as accessibility to them, but what right does he have to dictate their personal affairs?

Finally, there are the new Commerce and Agriculture buildings. Both have been debated since my first year here - hardly anything new.

Mr. Leadbeater seems to feel he is somewhat "aware of social issues or problems." I would hesitate to call any of the preceding, social issues. If he truly does "feel more commitment to get active and do something about inadequacies," he certainly gives little evidence of it. Consider, for example, Mr. Leadbeater's apparent disregard for the individualism of the students he represents.

There are some of us (I am not alone) who have no desire to become involved in student politics - not because we are apathetic, but rather because we consider politics frivolous. We have much more serious matters with which to concern ourselves.

cial whelp by the provincial government and the University, the students, through their Council representatives, can look forward to something new.

Graeme Leadbeater's call to action regarding the absentee Councillors coupled with an accurate editorial comment on the Councillors' role should and might well bring about a proper attitude in Students' Council. Also, with the introduction of a new SU general manager, the stage is now set for the emergence of the new Students' Union image.

I can only encourage President Leadbeater to force Council to act responsibly in redefining their function, with

I, for one, have no interest in any goods or services which the Students' Union could possibly offer me. I would much rather see my \$34 benefit someone in real need. Perhaps it could go toward the education of a student (Canadian or foreign) otherwise unable to obtain post secondary education or perhaps it could be spent in a fight against pollution. However, I object vehemently to having my \$34 spent in operating a bureaucratic corporation complete with office building executive and staff.

Why does Mr. Leadbeater violate the students' ethical right of freedom of choice? The answer is obvious. By his own admission he is afraid that if he allowed a choice only a small minority would volunteer support to his organization. The obvious logic would be to allow the students to judge the merits of the Students' Union for themselves, as Kim Blundell clearly points out in his letter to *The Gateway* on September 16.

Mr. Leadbeater, however, stubbornly refuses. He knows that to keep himself in power he must play dictator. When confronted with his actions he claimed that students indeed still had an option - the option of paying \$34 or leaving university! Such justice!

At the outset I chided the *Gateway* for a superficial introduction to Mr. Leadbeater, however, having spoken to Mr. Leadbeater personally, I should not fault *The Gateway*. They did the best they could.

Ted Milner
Science IV

their first duty to expel all non-co-operating members. This in itself will serve to bond Council and the student body in a fashion never achieved by either former presidents Mantor or McGhie. After achieving this step, I am confident that positive contributions will be made on all students behalf in the future.

Bernie Fritze

Found on a bicycle

I wish you good luck in trying to protect your expensive bicycle with a cheap lock.

A student

letters

Yeah, SU

Contrary to the oft suggested theory that the Students' Union entity is cracked and decayed, the changes now being made give reason to believe the Students' Union is about to embark on a new and very positive direction.

Now that HUB's financial burden has been dealt a finan-

Racism keeps some of our grads unemployed

The following is a reprint of an article which appeared in *The Ottawa Citizen*, last August 20. It is an entry in a regular *Citizen* column by Geoff Johnson.

Hari M. came to Canada in 1965 as a graduate in the department of animal science (genetics) at the University of Alberta.

He spent six years at the University acquiring his B.Sc. and Ph.D. doing research on beef cattle breeding, and teaching animal production and genetics.

From 1972 to 1974 he did post-doctoral work at the National Research Council here in Ottawa, where he was able to use highly sophisticated techniques such as the ultrasonic method of estimating the amount of muscle in live animals.

He has published in a number of international journals, in conjunction with other animal genetics scientists. He has more papers awaiting publication.

Yet tomorrow night Hari M. will board a bus out to a suburban shopping centre to begin his second week as a night shift security guard.

He claims it is the first job he has been able to get since he completed his post-doctoral research in April, 1974. Since he did not, as a student, qualify for unemployment insurance, he supported himself on his savings until September 1974 when he went on social welfare.

He has been receiving \$150 a month and paying \$112 in rent on his Fourth Avenue apartment. "I hated to go on welfare... I tried for all jobs in all possible ways," he says. He figured the least he could get was a clerical job. The welfare

people finally insisted on his taking the security post.

When he left the research council he applied for a job with Agriculture Canada. The minister's office told him to go through channels with the Public Service Commission. He wrote back: "Public Service Commission can only refer my name for suitable positions in your department."

According to Hari, that's been the pattern with the federal public service ever since.

When he realized there was little hope of his getting the kind of work he wanted, he asked for clerical work. He was turned down. "I saw the directors of all possible departments. Some did not give me an interview. Some were just rude."

One problem, he discovered, was that a very large percentage of public service jobs had been set aside ex-

clusively for French-speaking Canadians, and then mostly for females.

However, the main factor, in his view, was that although a Canadian citizen, he came from India. He is certain in his own mind that discrimination has stopped him from getting a job.

He claims he knows of three other students from India who graduated from the University of Alberta with similar qualifications to his, "and who did not get suitable jobs or unemployment insurance."

By contrast, he says, Ph.D. graduates from the department of animal science from Britain, Peru, Czechoslovakia, and Uganda and South African whites, were offered positions before or soon after graduation.

Agriculture Canada told me officially that it simply doesn't have any work at the moment for someone with Hari's training.

Later, when I made some unofficial inquiries, about this, an employee told me: "If anyone thinks there is discrimination they should take a run out here. Just about every other qualified person is an Indian or Pakistani."

Race problem or not, the phenomenon of a Ph.D. donning a security guard's uniform, swinging a pickaxe with a construction crew or wielding a janitor's broom is not new, not even for native-born Canadians.

Still, the disturbing question remains: How could we allow a Canadian citizen to struggle along on social welfare for so long when he was willing to take a clerical job far below the level for which he was qualified.

To say we don't have any such jobs available is the only laughable thing about this whole sad case.