

Participation rate low in extra-curricular activities

Getting a degree is interfering with your education.

It has become more and more evident over the years that students here do not have the time to participate in extra-curricular activities — activities which in many ways are as important as the courses you attend.

Only a small percentage of students on this campus are involved in any activities that do not correspond directly to their courses. The great majority of the students attending classes here do only that — attend classes.

They fail to take advantage of services offered here which will never be offered for the same price again after they graduate.

At the same time other students are suffering academically because they cannot receive academic credit for the work they do outside the classroom.

Even with the low participation rate noticed this year students are still as quick as ever to criticise the work done by other student volunteers.

They fail to realize that the best way to improve any student-run organization is to join that organization and give it as much assistance as possible.

Much of the work here by students receives no recognition other than an activities award after that person graduates. We don't think that's enough.

If more competent students are to be found to offer their services some reward must be offered.

Two of the most successful rewards offered to students are financial and academic credit.

The Student Representative Council has expressed a reluctance to reward students financially for their services.

We feel it is time another method of reward was considered and the method that comes most quickly to mind involves academic credit.

Students deeply involved in providing a service for other students deserve some sort of recognition and in most cases the work involved can be related to

some course that individual is taking.

It is only the few involved students that prevent this institution from operating within a vacuum. There are several cases of students who have graduated from this university without even leaving the campus. They spend their spare time in the library — not to say that studying deserves a reprimand — but they never take an interest in what is going on with other students, the town or the province.

In the meantime some students are suffering academically because they take time from their courses in order to provide a variety of services for other students who feel they cannot become involved.

The present system certainly

gives students no incentive to become involved.

Getting that piece of sheepskin has become so important to some students that they interfere with their actual education in getting it.

An education involves more than being able to write essays, attend classes and regurgitate the material learned in class during an examination.

An education should, ideally, be well-rounded. This university may be turning out qualified graduates in forestry, engineering, business and whatever but few of those degrees presented are to persons with a truly well-rounded education.

For some reason the workload for the undergraduates seems to

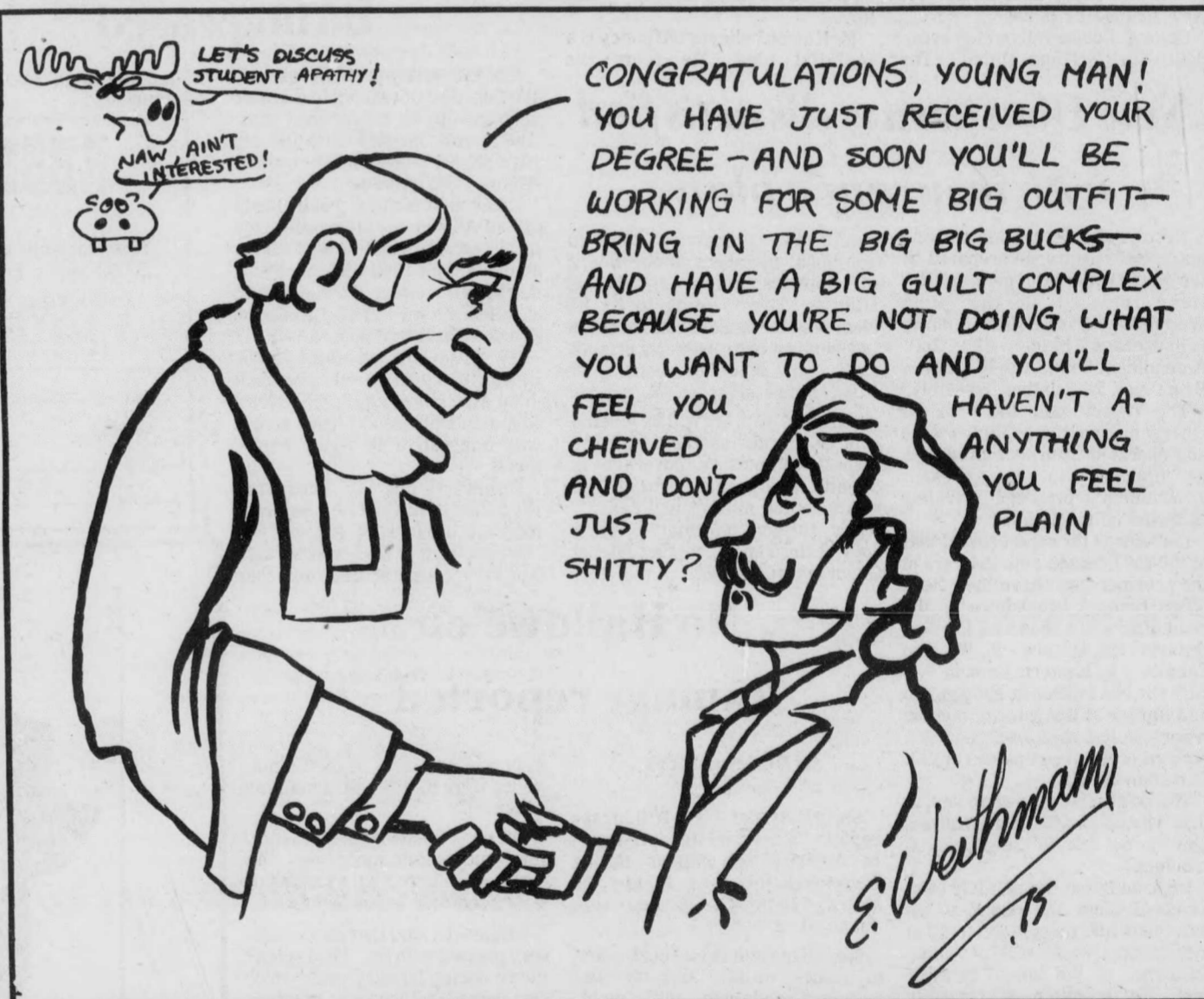
be heavier this year than in the past; preventing most students from being involved.

We are turning out graduates who are well suited to serve the needs of large companies, but not to serve the needs of society.

There is no encouragement to question the actions of such companies, only to work for such companies in search of the almighty dollar.

We think it is time for both students and administrators at this university to take a long, hard look at ourselves and the present educational system.

There are definite problems here — problems that must be solved before this university becomes merely a factory to mass-produce graduates.



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