



Vol. 3 MARTLET MAGAZINE No. 7

NOTICE

The Martlet Magazine is deeply indebted to Professor Grooms of the Faculty of Fine Arts for his contribution and arrangement of the material for the feature issue last week, the sketches by John Trujillo. MM regrets the omission of deserving credit for his work.

The inalienable fact is that the majority of students on the council do not represent the majority of students in the university except at very random periods (and these are purely coincidental). It is an intrinsic peril whenever we elect a president and vice-president, etc., etc., on their own platforms with absolutely no prior consultation between them, far less a common policy. In other words, every September this university has a dozen or so council members (with a vote) who bring their own ideas (we really only had a choice between three heads — a pretty narrow basis, coming from three heads — a pretty narrow basis, and the council inevitably settles down to a contest of wills with the most dominant but not necessarily brightest, emerging as the power. Hopefully this will be the president. What this actually means is that our present system is a breeding place for minor-league dictators.

This sheds light on another inherent shortcoming of our present system. What then of the integrity of those students elected to posts other than the one to emerge dominant? Are these people able to provide the leadership they had promised? Are they able to instigate the programmes they proposed? Conversely, if they opposed the dominant faction and attempt to propagate their promised platforms are they not then obstructing the 'normal' function of the council? What if none will be subjectated to the 'leader,' or if no one truly dominant emerges; then won't anarchy ensue if they all attempt to have their often conflicting proposals adopted? In short, doesn't it seem to be rather ludicrous for people to run for office with no platform other than their own personal ideas or reform proposals?

Let's look at a brief current example of student leadership being inadequate to the task it had set for itself. This is definitely not construed to be a criticism for the persons involved but rather, to illustrate where the system was at fault and what in very general terms, was the result of the 'fee-raise issue.'

Primarily it was a severe rupture in the communication system of the university. The public, press media, and the provincial legislature were in the rather embarrassed and confused positions of observing what finally ended up as a 'street fight' over fifty-six dollars, or higher education accessibility, or something . . . The administration. They had a university to run and they simply administered the student body? Many agreed, and many didn't but the council felt initially (rightly or wrongly) that it had enough support to carry on. The student body didn't back up the council and unfortunately the blame lies on all sides because the council didn't provide adequate leadership, because it didn't have enough student support, etc., etc. . . . You cannot have leadership without support! I sympathize with the council, I didn't withhold my fees because I believed in paying them for myself — yet what they did took courage and when the dogs are at your heels it doesn't take much for communication to break down — especially when you're trying to convince many; some of whom are the hounds themselves. The council was "beat" before it started because it

# A PLEA FOR REPRESENTATIVE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

could never represent a majority of students on all facets of the issue; hence its support would collapse . . . as it finally did.

There is the high-school neurosis involved here too. Vote for the handsomest, or sharpest, or best-dressed candidate. This shouldn't hold water here surely. It is particularly senseless when it reverses itself and one votes against the "boob" or "oddball" or "creep" simply because one isn't entertained, or infatuated, or impressed by external appearances. Yet, it does happen and any system will undoubtedly put forth attractive candidates in order to gain the vote of those who place their faith in these sciolistic impulses alone. The pathetic part arises when an institution continually holds elections on this basis as I sadly suspect this university has been doing for a long time and certainly offers no relief.

Well, there is an answer. It is designed specifically to provide greater responsible leadership in student affairs, and secondly, to create a definite measure of democracy and increase in participation by all students in their government. It would involve the creation of a two party system in this university dedicated solely to the conduct of student affairs with absolutely no outside political affiliation. This of course would not preclude individuals from running for office, but strong parties would dominate the council.

Let us take a hypothetical situation for the purpose of illustration. Consider a student body of three thousand. Sixty percent (or eighteen hundred) preferred an active role (as opposed to a passive one) for the student government. In other words, they would prefer to see the council spend more; sponsor more; initiate more student activities. As it is painfully obvious, this also constitutes a majority of the students. Out of this mass of students (the 1800) could arise seven committees, with varying functions, yet part of a student political party. We'll call these 'functional committees,' who recruit on a purely voluntary basis from the student body. The leg-work and research required of these committees would probably necessitate from five to fifteen members depending on the amount of work to be performed.

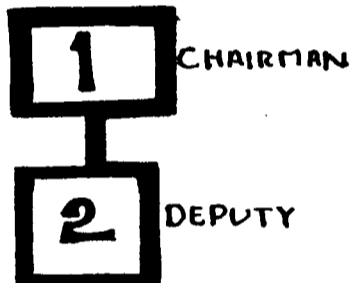
These committees are part of the party, not the government per se. They would elect a chairman and a deputy chairman from within their own ranks. The functions, or roles of these committees (in the order of importance I would assign) are:

- 1. The Policy Committee who would be responsible for consolidating and formulating sound policy proposals that can be brought before a party caucus for endorsement. This party would antici-

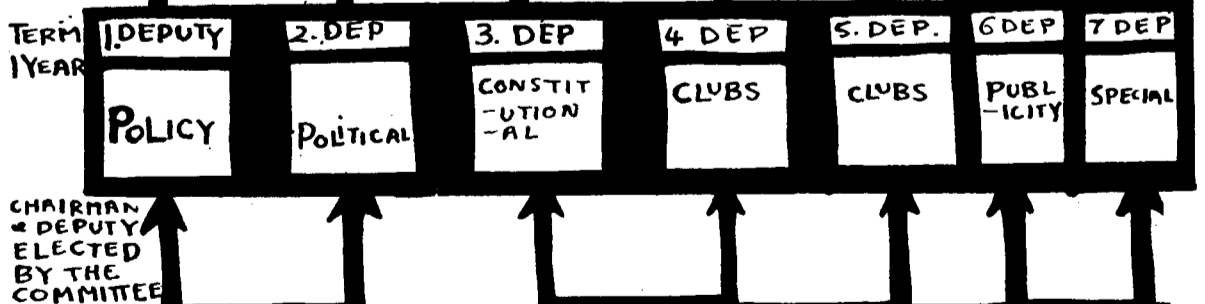
(Continued on Page Four)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

COMPOSED OF CHAIRMAN OF FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEES (MEET AS DESIRED) TERM: 1 YEAR.



## FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEES (MEET ONCE PER MONTH)



VOLUNTEERS AT 5 TO 15 PER COMMITTEE ARE DRAWN FROM HERE ACTIVIST PARTY (1800) (MEET 2X PER YEAR OR IS CALLED) OTHERS IN MAIN STUDENT BODY (1200)

## a review

## Gore, Gloss and Glibness

review of the film "Born Losers" by David Dunsmuir

Somehow, the people who used to make cheap cheap movies have found the backing to make expensive cheap movies. From *Born Losers*, they will probably take in enough to make some really expensive cheap movies.

*Losers* is lavish in all the wrong ways. The colour is lush ("all the better to see your contusions by, my dear"), the outdoor and low-life

indoor settings were chosen with loving care, and the producer spared no expense in renting motorcycles. But who carpentered the scenerio? And why, oh why did nobody think of hiring a script-writer?

When did anyone — even a self-styled "rich college girl" — last say, "I'm only interested in taking care of number one?" Mind you, right after she said it our heroine added, "Me," so perhaps

the whole line was meant to be one of those campy things. When the same girl, though, turned to the strong silent man who had just saved her from a band of hell-bent angels and said, "I don't even know your name," I was ready to cop out.

Like an idiot, I stayed. The suspicion that I was watching a put-on reached its highest point when the local D.A. writhed his rubbery features, lamented over the younger generation, and uttered the memorable words, "Where did we go wrong?" This man should go far on the night club circuit.

The D.A. went wrong in signing up for this film in the first place, even though it gives him broad scope for his comic talents. He's the father of his flock, like, in this Big Sur suburb (Little Sur?), and he has to persuade just one of four cruelly used young ladies to testify in a whole mess of rape charges against a motorcycle gang. Do you think he makes it? Not on your Peter Donat, he doesn't.

Standing against the gang is our hero, Stainless Billy Jack. The credits are superimposed on shots of Bashful Billy trompin' through the woods with his trusty rifle, and we're told he "might" be part Indian. His origins can't be made too clear, as he gets the girl during the final fade and she's all-white and true-blue. Wouldn't do to imply any kind of perversion — and presumably that's what a mixed marriage is to some people, by definition.

For all their hints of illicit pleasures, the producers are an incredibly puritanical crowd. Nobody actually loses any clothes to speak of — on camera, at least. Also, motiveless malignity is too terrifying a concept to handle. The black-jacket brigade never whip out their tire-irons before they're provoked or are about to lose face. All the presentable people presented to us are odd, bullies or caricatures of the tradition-bound. The cyclists turn nasty only in reaction, or when they get the hots at seeing sweet young things in modish beachwear. If that reasoning isn't puritanical, what is?

The film is merely a vial of violence. Casualty-simulation experts have been called in to show the effects of everything from a kick in the teeth to a bullet between the eyes. In passing, I would ask why every plugged anti-hero these days has to raise his arms at right angles to his body and roll over in slow motion before playing dead. This time, the gang leader splattered a king-sized photograph of James Dean with his life's blood before expiring. This not-so-subtle symbolic touch may have been meant as a tribute, but for me it left a worse taste to bad taste.

"Bad taste" is a dangerous flag to flap. It's the only phrase, though, that seems adequate to describe (in brief) the piling of physical horror upon horror, with nothing left to the imagination until the viewer is left sluggish and satiated au Grand Guignol.

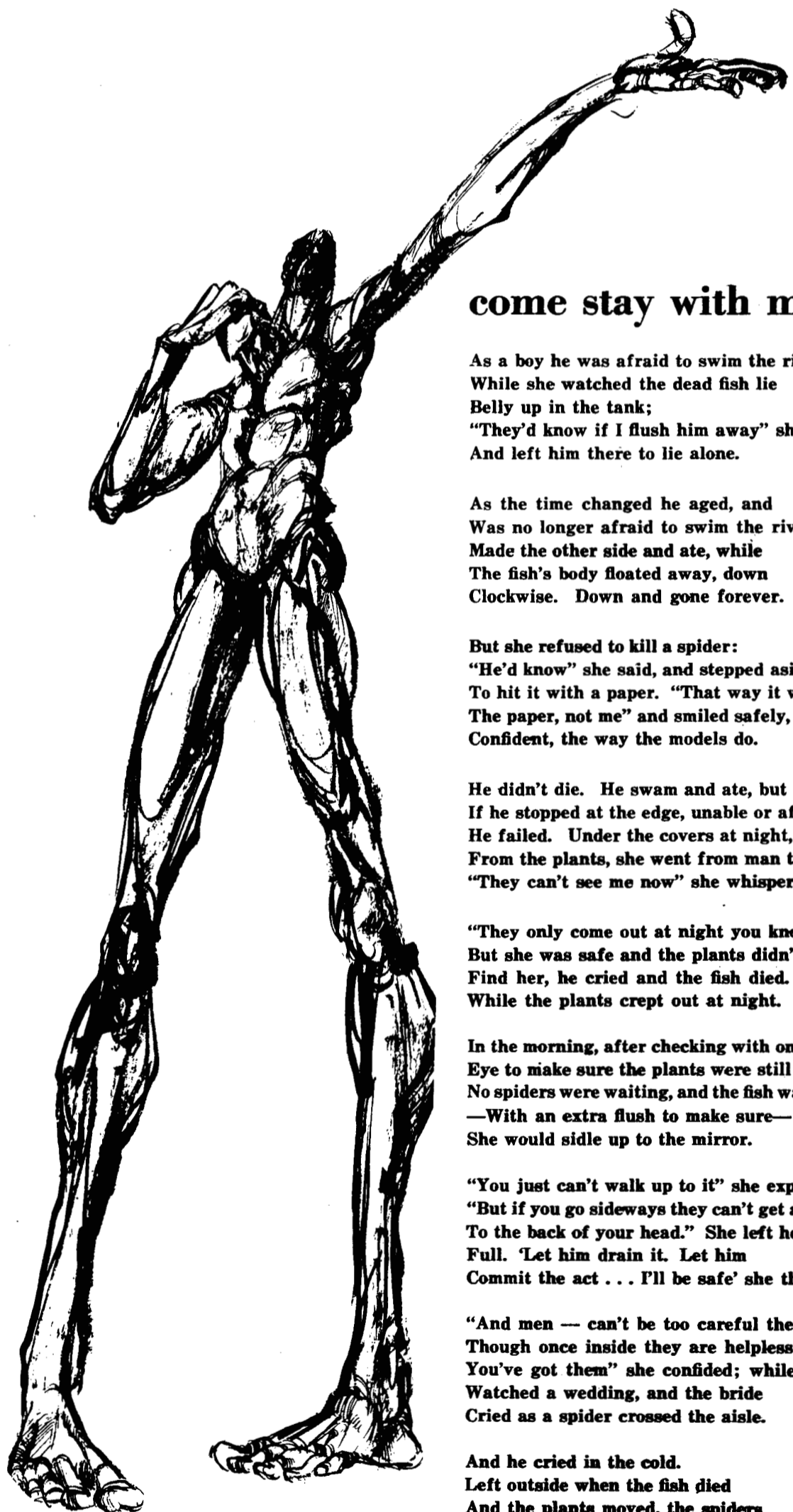
In the slather, images that should have some meaning lose their impact. Neither of the laughs of the evening, for example, came from the audience at the clumsy comic-relief points. They laughed when a policeman brutally upended a hood who had been standing obediently in a line-up. They rolled in the aisles while a (literally) mute member of the gang raged wordlessly in his cell over a vicious demonstration of police methods in the corridor. Dear old "Silent" was by far the outstanding member of the cast; there was Method in his madness.

Right triumphs only because our hero knows his karate and isn't squeamish about using a rifle at six paces. The "animals" that the community accuses but dares not tackle are defeated by another animal who knows when to pop off and when to keep his cool. There's not a word, even from a nice-nelly type, about social conditions as a factor, and their change as a goal. The only social diseases we hear about are personal, not collective.

Gore, gloss and glibness have been cynically combined in a money-making fraud. The film cheats every member of the audience, whether he is looking for a take-off, for titillation, for insight into the meaning of violence, or for a study of youth and its problems. I was looking for a youth study — honest. Guess I'm a born loser. ●

David Dunsmuir is a graduate student in linguistics.

## a poem by john harding . . .



## come stay with me

As a boy he was afraid to swim the river,  
While she watched the dead fish lie  
Belly up in the tank;  
"They'd know if I flush him away" she said  
And left him there to lie alone.

As the time changed he aged, and  
Was no longer afraid to swim the river,  
Made the other side and ate, while  
The fish's body floated away, down  
Clockwise. Down and gone forever.

But she refused to kill a spider:  
"He'd know" she said, and stepped aside  
To hit it with a paper. "That way it was  
The paper, not me" and smiled safely,  
Confident, the way the models do.

He didn't die. He swam and ate, but  
If he stopped at the edge, unable or afraid,  
He failed. Under the covers at night, hiding  
From the plants, she went from man to man:  
"They can't see me now" she whispered.

"They only come out at night you know."  
But she was safe and the plants didn't  
Find her, he cried and the fish died.  
While the plants crept out at night.

In the morning, after checking with one  
Eye to make sure the plants were still and  
No spiders were waiting, and the fish was gone  
—With an extra flush to make sure—  
She would sidle up to the mirror.

"You just can't walk up to it" she explained,  
"But if you go sideways they can't get around  
To the back of your head." She left her bath  
Full. 'Let him drain it. Let him  
Commit the act . . . I'll be safe' she thought.

"And men — can't be too careful there,  
Though once inside they are helpless.  
You've got them" she confided; while he  
Watched a wedding, and the bride  
Cried as a spider crossed the aisle.

And he cried in the cold.  
Left outside when the fish died  
And the plants moved, the spiders  
Walked and the water drained. She wailed  
In her bed — and tucked it all inside.

drawing by j. trujillo

*a review*

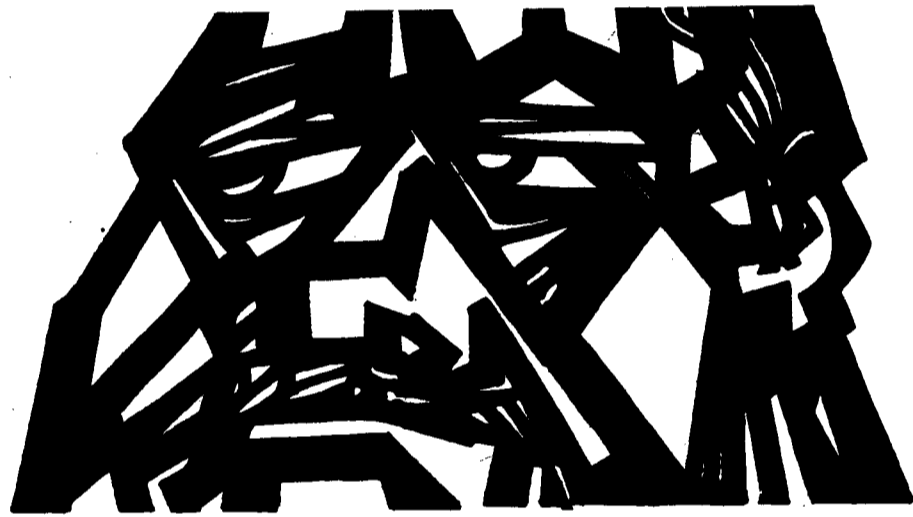
# "Emotional outpouring adds nothing significant to an understanding of Stalin"

*TWENTY LETTERS TO A FRIEND: Svetlana Allilueva, translated by Priscilla Johnson McMillan; 246 pages; New York, Harper & Row; Available at Ivy's \$6.95. Reviewed by Steven Horn.*

"It will be a varied, untidy tale and it will all pour out unexpectedly, for this is what my life was like." So answers Svetlana Allilueva to the request of her friend that she supply an insight into her life and the forces acting on it.

The result, now published as *Twenty letters to a friend*, has achieved a certain fame in its time. It's on *Time's* best seller list and is considered "best reading" by this august journal because "Stalin's daughter shines her beam of light into dark Kremlin corners as she tells how her friends and family were purged". In a less sensational tone, Clifton Fadiman's statement for the *Book-of-the-Month Club News* describes it as "twenty letters to a friend, poured out in a rush of feeling . . . a transparently sincere human document . . . that shows us a Stalin which no historian, no scholar, and indeed no other Russian could have shown us . . . the tragedy of a strange family . . . a small shadowy parallel to the tragedy of a whole people . . ."

The reader would be best to forget this kind of interpretation because a study of this book fails to support it. *Twenty letters* is a direct response to the friend's request. "You want to know all about me. . . . You say you want to know everything about me and the life I led, everything I know and saw around me." It is only because of the friend's place in her life and the importance of his request that she can say "Maybe when I've written it all down, an unbearable burden of some kind will fall from my shoulders at last and then my real life will begin." As a result, it may not provide the expected insight because he friend (probably her deceased husband Brijesh Singh) may well have been interested in different problems than the general reader. Almost certainly the reader is not in a position to feel that "these letters . . . were written to him".



The reader should consider that, under no circumstances, will he be acquiring a literary masterpiece. The translation is good but use of the letter form indicates that style was not Svetlana's concern. In addition the publication of private correspondence creates some editorial problems. She writes, "I see you shining, my beloved chaotic all-knowing heartless Russia. . . . Nothing will ever blacken you in my eyes" and then indicates in a footnote "Four years ago . . . it never crossed my mind that I would be capable of leaving Russia. At that time everybody lived in the hope that fundamental changes in the direction of real democracy might still take place." The necessary devices for making a private document intelligible to a large public are not used often enough. Hence a reader's full appreciation of *Twenty letters*, requires some knowledge of Russian history.

This introduces the crucial question which must be asked of this book. Its lasting importance will rest on the adequacy of the insight given into Stalin's life because, while it provides an arresting view of Svetlana's, her life has no significance to a public interested in Stalin's Russia except for the details she can provide about her life with Iosif Stalin.

The answer to this depends on the value which can be given to the details and insights into the enigma of Iosif Stalin which Svetlana can provide, and the assessment of this depends on the nature of the explanations possessed already.

The effects of Stalin's actions are well known, primarily because the fact of Russia as an industrialized great power hostile to the west has coloured our reality for the last two decades. What is not known is the motivation of the man who was largely responsible for creating this. Since this knowledge is vital to the understanding of Russian attitudes and development, commentators have been guessing for a good many years.

Their usual method has been to combine the extremely limited historical reference points of Stalin's life with the apparent effects of the motivating forces, the accession to and maintenance of power, the effect of Marxist historical and political interpretation, etc., derived from comments by those who were close to him. At best, this results in a patchwork portrait which, while interesting, has no continuity because, until the publication of *Twenty letters*, no one seemingly close to Stalin in the crucial years was willing or able to publish their comments about him.

As a result, the proposed publication of Svetlana's letters created considerable interest because this was the first time that anyone supposedly close to Stalin for a lengthy period of time was commenting in him. Hence *Time's* reference to Svetlana's "light".

Unfortunately, the reality doesn't live up to the promise. Svetlana simply can't supply the desired information. She was not old enough to appreciate the processes resulting in the purges of the thirties and, throughout her adult life Stalin had been very remote from her, as she eloquently testifies. Furthermore, the limited picture is affected by the strong influence the lives of her parents had on her, as she notes on her father's death, "Neither before or since have I felt such a powerful welling up of strong contradictory emotions".

The resulting letters by a person affected by people she never really knew or understood are fascinating at times, amusing at times, but have no value in coming to an understanding of Svetlana's father or mother. While the reader interested in everything other than Svetlana may sympathize with her, her tragedy has little historical meaning. In the process of trying to come to terms with the people who affect our lives, value judgments must be made about the importance of these people. Svetlana's unique life is low on this scale. Her comments about her father will have to appear in a less personalized form to be significant. ●

*Steve Horn is a graduate in history and political science of the University of Victoria.*

## NON ANOY

It seems to me that this campus is far too high-school orientated. Although this statement applies to most campus activities, I intend to confine my remarks to communications. Over the past few weeks the Student Counsellors have received many complaints that they didn't know about some activity or program of the AMS. Ignorance of the Frosh-Week Log Saw or a total lack of knowledge regarding AMS elections are common complaints. If I may be permitted to discuss a vested interest, many students profess, when they profess at all, that they know nothing whatsoever about the Canadian Union of Students.

As a reply to these complaints, council members have asked the concerned students whether or not they:

1. read the pamphlets presented at registration—No! too many irrelevant papers! (Insight without attempting to read.);
2. saw the posters spread generously about campus—No! too many to read;
3. read the ads and articles in the Martlet—No! didn't see them;
4. asked questions at the Speakeasy (Oct. 5)—No! didn't attend;
5. picked up the pamphlets at Clubs Day or the pamphlets under the bulletin board in front of the SUB office—No! couldn't be bothered;
6. asked council members, committee chairman or anyone at the SUB office for information—NO! no reason at all!

After completing this ritual and finding out that the students haven't tried to find an answer to their questions or haven't looked for activity information, the council is told again by these same students that communication is lacking. I would like to ask how. The only alternatives I see are to take each student by the hand as he comes into the SUB and tell him what he is to do that day or, perhaps this is what the students really want, reconstruct the 'home room' atmosphere of high school at 8:30 every day and have the pupils listen quietly to the announcements of the day's activities, followed immediately by the teacher reading the Bible.

Is this what the AMS has to do?

By the time the students walk on to this campus they should be able to find some answers for themselves. For those answers that they can't find, they should be able to do some research for themselves. The AMS provides a means for every student to discover the answers to his questions right now. Although I am prepared to answer questions at any time, I, definitely, am not prepared to spoon-feed anybody. I refuse to make this campus into any more of a glorified high-school than it already is. I would suggest that if those people who complain about poor communications act more like university students, the communications problem would solve itself. ●

STEVE STARK

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### MARTLET MAGAZINE

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Unsolicited material can be left in the MAG box in The Martlet office in the SUB. MM's office is located in Office 12, J Hut.



# A Plea for Representative Government

(Cont'd from Page One)

pate broad areas of student problems and be required to make policy acceptable to the majority of students in the party itself.

2. **The Political Committee** which would be charged with analyzing the party's position in the main student body; its effect on students; determining student political trends, likes and dislikes. In short it would be responsible for "taking the political pulse" of the student body.

This committee would also be the primary vehicle for inter-party conflicts to be studied and reasonable co-ordinating formulae should be made here. Finally this committee would assume the task of seeking (from the party) the best potential candidates for upcoming elections.

3. This would be a **constitutional committee** who would be responsible to determine exactly the constitutionality and opportunities of any planned major legislation by the council on regards to the AMS constitution and the party's own constitution if one is adopted.

4. & 5. Would split the Clubs and assume approximately fifty per cent of the total clubs on campus in order to provide—

a) The party to be aware of clubs activities and needs.

b) The clubs to have a spokesman in each party (for the other party would have hopefully, a similar arrangement). In no way would the party involve itself in the affairs of the clubs at this level. Simply it would only be another form of communication, giving the parties and clubs, a broader basis of mutual understanding.

6. This would be the **Publicity Committee** and its functions are self-explanatory.

7. This would be a special committee and would simply assume all pressing or longterm problems of the party that are not directly under one of the other six committees.

The co-ordination of this broad functional base is very handily provided for by an **Executive Committee** which is comprised of the chairman of the seven functional committees. The chairman of the Executive Committee would be rotated from year to year if desired or could simply be the chairman of the **Policy Committee**. This committee (the executive) would meet as required and would record all meetings (as would all other committees). Its primary function would be to lead the party and provide the liaison between the various committees. This is the body of main co-ordination and the body who would be responsible, for calling and conducting any meeting involving two or more committees, any major party caucuses, or extraordinary party meetings. This is the committee that would be charged with bringing significant policy changes or proposals to the main body of the party for endorsement (probably twice yearly in a caucus.) The executive would also present the various nominees for the party to choose their candidates for the student council.

Now let's examine the new rep's role in the council.

By the constitution he has specific functions to perform, which he does because the party is not opposed in any way to the constitution at any time. Remember, we have a committee specifically for this purpose and it exists for the various party and government leaders to consult. Secondly his general policies are those of the party itself and coincide naturally with the president and other members of the council. Thirdly he becomes an administrator after the election and does not require to set a political record for himself (in case he wants to be president next year). His record will be judged on how he serves his party and the student body — not himself. Fourthly, he and the other members of the council will have complete administrative autonomy when they are elected. As long as they follow the main prin-

ciples of the party who elected them and fulfill the campaign promises and policies to the best of their ability, then there can be no legitimate interference from the party or its committees. These are just a few of the obvious advantages to the councillors themselves under a party system.

### What of the students themselves?

First of all the majority of students will be represented by the majority on council simply because they belong to, and have voted along, party lines. **Secondly**, the students themselves will have determined the policies of their government — not one or two individuals. It will be the students who from the various committees who recommend policy changes. **Thirdly**, the number of students actively participating in campus politics is enormously increased and when one considers that it is their own affairs they're guiding, then its validity is readily apparent. **Fourthly**, with the relatively large number of party positions, an unprecedented mobility factor is introduced, serving two purposes: little opportunity for personality dominance of any area; and a constant generation of fresh ideas attended to the needs and desires of the junior students. Hence, even first-year students will have an opportunity to participate on a large scale. **Finally** it may clear the scene of many avid campus players and embryo politicians who could direct their energies in a constructive manner.

The ease by which this plan could be stated is amazing. All that is required are about seven persons whose political sympathies (for student politics) are in accord. They may be activists generally; or follow more conservative lines — doesn't matter. They simply would draw up rough tentative guide-line or "constitution" embodying the principles they would like to see followed by a student council and they would then each recruit several other students to form the committee skeletons. From this point it would be a relatively simple matter to encourage and recruit more members until enough would be available to hold an initial "convention" to delineate the party's purpose and objectives. Each tentative committee head would then explain the functions and responsibilities of his respective committee and call for volunteers.

Primarily, the majority of students would always be represented by the majority on council. This means that every decision would have the support of the students as long as the council stayed within the confines of party policy. Policy, it should be said, that confines itself to the reasonable conduct of student affairs and has been endorsed by the party itself. Secondly, the council would be knowledgeable at all times of the students attitudes, needs, and aspirations through the broad spectrum of the party and therefore the whole student body. In other words everyone concerned would have some measure in the decision making and therefore would be responsible to a significant degree. This then, is the participation factor, a third feature of the party system. The executive committee would make unilateral action on the councils part, in determining major student policy, the exception rather than the rule. The students would have immediate lines of communication (through their committees) to the council. The participation factor also serves to have many more students take an active role in their own student government and with this activity comes a vested interest in making student government succeed — not to be threatened with impeachment or ignored every January. It's unlikely that all apathy in this area would cease; however, it would diminish quietly. The experience alone, in real terms, of several hundred students actually participating is an added benefit in a university education. Some knowledge of administration, politics, and committee work is often quite valuable. Today very few are afforded the opportunity. This alone would, in the true sense of the term, democratize the student government process.

Leadership in the council would be handled much easier. The president would be responsible to see the campaign goals were carried out and he would employ his council towards that end. Each member would have a specific series of functions to perform (as per the AMS constitution) and co-ordinating these with party policy, he would be primarily an administrator of student affairs.

By the party's stipulating absolutely no outside political interference the council in turn would confine itself strictly to student affairs and leave the area of external action to the political clubs-on-campus.

Finally the council would feel the greater incentive and strength of representing the majority of students — expect their support — not endless criticism for their actions from all quarters.

The possibilities of such an adoption as the party system perhaps modified to an extent, presents a very exciting and beneficial prospect to the whole university community. The participation factor alone is more than appealing.

Lastly, the students themselves would have a measure of self-determination and autonomy that they could certainly never hope to attain through the present system. MM ●

## TOWN & CAMPUS:

"Wedding on Eiffel Tower" by Cocteau and "When the Dead Awaken" by Ibsen directed by Audrey Stanley will be playing at the Uvic Workshop Theatre from November 8-10, starting at 8:00 p.m.

On November 13: in the series, "100 Years of Canadian Law" Dr. Gilbert Kennedy of the University Extension Uvic will speak in Ed. Arts-144, 8:15 p.m.

The Grind Coffee House will be presenting programmes of folk music and poetry reading regularly every Saturday in the basement of the SUB.

The Chinese Paintings and Scrolls of Stephen Lowe will be on display at the Pandora's Box Art Gallery until November 16.

Until November 12, the Greater Victoria Art Gallery has a display of Canadian Painting from 1850-1950, featuring many works of the group of seven.

**JULIET OF THE SPIES**

**IN COLOUR. CREATED AND DIRECTED BY FREDRIKO FELLINI. STARRING SILVA KOSCINA AND SANDRA MILO. FOR THREE DAYS ONLY, NOVEMBER 13, 14, 15, AT THE ODEAN THEATRE.**