

CO-OPTION

by: Don Gray

The summer is coming and once more the government will display its wonderful generosity by giving money to the youth of this country. Opportunities for Youth is back again for their third wonderful season and the general collection of ripoffs, and useless jobs will be okayed. It is hard for me to believe that petty Pierre, dashing David and robust Robert are actually doing it for our good. They claim that all this wonderful money will enable all us darling kids to go back to school to do things we're interested in. It is my opinion that this is nothing but the general horse-shit which we receive from Ottawa. By allowing us to work for them, the government has co-opted us into passive obedience. We are not going to support the unemployed in our respective communities because if we cause any trouble the grants that are paying our salaries might mysteriously disappear.

We adopt an attitude of non-involvement for those unlucky devils who didn't get their project accepted and can't find work because of the overall economic condition.

The government realizes that we have been conditioned to crawl. They use O.F.Y., L.I.P. travel grants, and a host of others as the bait.

If there were nothing available the people of Canada would throw out Pierre and he realizes it.

A summer without all these benevolent gifts would be a summer of demonstrations, riots, and trouble in the streets. The situation that erupted in the United States in the 60's can move up to Canada. The problem in the States, centered

around the demands of the Ghetto Negro.

As Rubin describes us "we" are the niggers of Middle America. The pictures of thousands of people gathering in the major centers is not a pleasant one for the government. This

would probably be the result without jobs. So, you get OFY.

The government realizes that we have nothing. By instituting stop-gap measures they hope to appease us. What happens when you turn 25 and are no longer eligible for OFY. There are no jobs, this is evidenced by the high unemployment rate in Canada. Sure you can work on LIP but this still only a stop-gap measure.

There is no attempt to alleviate the basic problems of our society. These measures cannot by definition lead to a bettering of the economic, social, and political ills of Canada.

I'm not advocating that you do not apply for these government grants. Do anything you can to get money out of the government but don't sit back passively and be co-opted. Demand that the government act on the actual ills of the community. We can't live on stop-gap measures forever.

There real aim is to keep you quiet. Don't ever forget it.

Soap Box

As I am an involved member of the student body, I am aware of the bureaucratic structure which surrounds us and the feeling of powerlessness which exists. This is a myth though which could be easily overcome if the Student Union Executive and Council worked to alliviate the problem. The fact

is students are represented on most decision making groups of the University: both academic and administrative. Interesting isn't it?, considering the fact that few realize who these students are. At present they are in "ivory towers" apart from the rest of us students. This must change, and information is the key. The student body is not so much apathetic as uninformed or even worse misinformed. How can we take part in things that we know nothing about? At present we can't, and the situation is worse with the new executive.

Last year the old executive realized the problems and tried to alliviate it by freely giving students access to information. This was available for the asking but few seemed to take much interest in the activities of council. However this was a start in the right direction. Realizing the continuing delima

the past council rewrote the S.U. Constitution to allow fore information to filter out to the students and thus increase involvement. Points specifically for this purpose were the 1.) Introduction of a Communication Officer. 2.) The requirement that the executive keep minutes of their meetings. 3.) Members of Senate and Bd of Govenors also on Council.

The philosophy behind these measures was to insure that an honest effort be made to communicate information to the student. Points 1. and 3. can't be judged at the present time because it would be premature to do so. However point 2. is being flagrantly ignored by the executive at the present time. Thus meetings are held behind closed doors and they will not allow persons to sit in on their meetings. Open meetings have always been

the most efficient ways of communication to the public. If this was not bad enough the executive has also decided that minutes, if ever produced, be kept secret and away from the eyes of students. Why? If we have in good faith elected them to represent us why will they not tell us how they are doing it? How can we react and become involved about something we know nothing about? How do they expect to end apathy on campus when they by their actions are forcing it upon us. This situation must change. Students an campus must be informed to be able to take advantage of the real power we have and make concrete use of it, for the benifit of all instead of a few.

Richard O'Brien

ED.NOTE:

Mr. O'Brien: at least their problem is being new and just learning, as opposed to thinking they know it all and doing nothing.

cadre

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TIRED OF GETTING RIPPED OFF BY THE UNIVERSITY AND HAVING NO ONE TO GO TO. COME AND SEE US. WE'LL SEE THAT YOUR BEEFS GET AIRED, AND ACTION TAKEN. IF NOT WE'LL FIND OUT THE REASON.

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