

The Gateway

Member of the Canadian University Press

Editor-in-Chief - - - Don Sellar

Managing Editor Bill Miller
News Editor Al Bromling
Asst. News Editor, Helene Chomiak
Sports Editor Bryan Campbell
Associate Editor Doug Walker
Page Five Irene McRae
Fine Arts Editor John Thompson
Photo Editor George Yackulic

EDITORIAL: Desk: Ginger Bradley, Linda Strand, Jim Rennie. Cartoonists: Dale Drever, Peter Bassek. Production Manager: Joe Will. Office Manager: Peter Enns. Editorial Board: Don Sellar, Doug Walker, Bruce Ferrier, Bill Miller. Editorial Assistants: Carole Kaye, Sue Hill. Librarian: Lois Berry.
STAFF THIS ISSUE:—To Campbell's we're comin', hurrah! hurrah! And if our staffers come to the meeting this aft at 4 p.m., they'll find out the details. Those hardcore slaves who put out this issue and should be comin' to Campbell's are: Pearl Christensen, Gloria Skuba, Sheila Ballard, Alan Hustad, Lee Morrison, Lorraine Minich, Bev Ross, Bill Beard, Nick Riebeck, Jackie Foord, Andy Rodger, Ed Marchand, Marion Conybears, Dave Wright, Hostileman, Neil Driscoll, Fraser Smith, Bob Smith, Jim MacLaren, Marilyn Fix, and yours truly, Harvey McThomgirt.
The Gateway is published twice weekly by the students' union of the University of Alberta. Opinions expressed by columnists are not necessarily those of the editors. The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for all material published herein. Final Copy Deadline (including Short Short items): for Wednesday edition—7 p.m. Sunday, advertising—4:30 p.m. Thursday; for Friday edition—7 p.m. Tuesday, advertising—4:30 p.m. Monday. Advertising Manager: Alex Hardy. Circulation: 8,000. Office phone—433-1155.

PAGE FOUR

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1965

our past mistakes

The present impasse in the development of the new Students' Union Building is not simply a result of increased construction costs and poor estimates.

The project involved four years of planning, and during that period things happened that were not in the best interests of the student body or conducive to the successful development of the building.

First, the project during development expanded far beyond reasonable financial limits. What began as a simple expansion of the present SUB grew to be the huge and wonderful be-all and end-all we are trying to pay for today.

Though the planners carefully set what they thought to be a reasonable debt ceiling for this grandiose structure, recent developments have left us with a beer budget and champagne tastes.

Then, while the planning was going on, various features were added to the building: a theatre, craft

rooms, a tower, recreational facilities.

Other features, like a fire safety smoke detection system, are now described as "needless frills" and will be eliminated to save money.

If some features are indeed "needless frills," why were they designed into the building in the first place, and would they still be there if the present financial crisis had not arisen? How much of our money has been spent on "frills"?

Aside from these considerations, there is the time element. Development of the new SUB has been marked by re-designing, costly trips, and long consultations. This all meant delay. The delay is in part due to the extensive use of student planners, and unavoidable concomittant inefficiency.

Delay in tendering is now costing us more than two million dollars. Is the principle of student control, so long a cornerstone of student government here, worth two million dollars?

... present problems

University of Alberta students find themselves victims of a construction boom in Western Canada. Building contractors are able to choose from a long list of buildings they will construct. Moreover, they can decide how much a building will cost, without regard to materials or designs used.

Students will now begin paying for delays caused by their planners and skeptics, who took so long to reach a consensus as to what philosophy the new Students' Union Building shall reflect. The delays and setbacks have provided us with an expensive and valuable lesson in the running of student affairs: that is, students participating in a responsible governmental system will make mistakes; but they will benefit in the long run from their mistakes.

But what alternatives do we now face in the building of our new home, a structure which we will be

paying for and using for the next fifty years? We see three, though only one seems feasible.

To accept the lowest bid in its entirety and then investigate additional financing would be unrealistic, for there are unnecessary frills in the building which can be eliminated without changing its final quality, function of appearance.

To redesign the building would be costly and foolish, because the resulting time delay and escalating costs would not improve our present position, particularly when facilities such as an adequate cafeteria and bookstore are already required on this campus.

But to cut out frills without reducing the building's function or quality and then to investigate the additional costs involved seems reasonable. Students will have a chance to trim unnecessary costs, move in by the July, 1967 target date and have a building of which they can be proud.

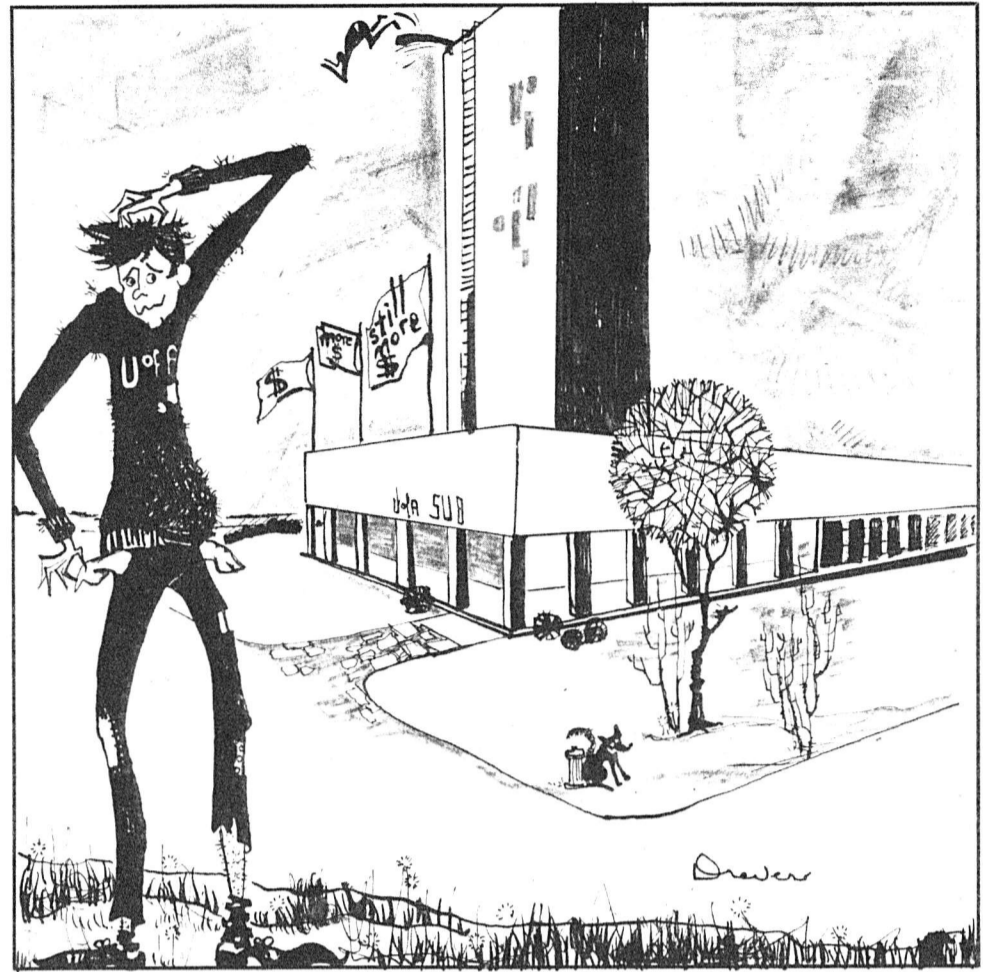
... and hopes for the future

Student politicians promised University of Alberta students last year there will be no further increase in Students' Union fees to finance the new Students' Union Building. Today, each student pays six dollars per year toward the present SUB's cost, plus five dollars for the new building, as part of their \$34.50 union fees.

But this new building belongs to

the students. They have planned it. They should now be willing to pay for it, even if a construction boom has unexpectedly increased the price by two million dollars.

We recommend a referendum for a five dollar fee hike be held immediately, and ask students to defray the cost of a construction boom for which no student politician should ever be blamed.



"Well, I suppose we could leave out the washrooms."

nothing of value

—by don sellar

Today's offering I will call the instant editorial column. It is the product of a few minutes spent browsing through the yellowed pages of a 1912 Gateway.

Strangely enough, the first of two passages which follow was borrowed in 1912 from another student publication, The Princetonian.

Moreover, the first subject under discussion is probably just what you might expect during exam week: nothing. If I may be permitted to quote freely:

"Editorials as a rule are not interesting. But if they bore you, think how awful it must be for the man who has to write them every day, day after day, world without end.

"It is easy enough to fill this column. It is as easy as it is to fill a money bag—with moth-balls. But the poor man who comes along, picks it up, and instead of finding something worth while, finds only the stale, must smell of last year's hand-downs. The function of an editorial is not to fill a column, but to praise, to blame and to suggest. As it is much more difficult to praise and suggest than it is to blame, an editor is therefore one of those men who spend most of their time looking for trouble. And he usually finds it. But there is nearly always something on which to write an editorial. If there is not anything, then there is nothing, and that is what we have chosen to write to-day—nothing.

"It is appalling to look at the number of men in the university who do—nothing. Men who have ability, but spend their days killing time, doing nothing. Men who seem to have no ideas of their own, who produce—nothing. Men who take things ready-made But men who give the world—nothing.

"Look at the men in any lecture hour. They are either asleep or hunting eagerly through the morning's 'Prince' for typographical errors. Look at them in their rooms, studying, maybe, but learning—nothing. Talking, perhaps, but saying—nothing. Day by day they shuffle through their bromidic existence, they travel the easy road of unproductiveness which leads from Nowhere to Nothing You can pick fifty men in each class who do practically everything done by that class, and there are an equal number who do absolutely—nothing. What is their value? Nothing. Yet, after all, they have their place in the system of things, they are the nth term in a rapidly converging series."

But to end this column at forty-two typewritten lines by saying nothing would be treason. My plagiarism now extends itself to January, 1911, when The Gateway heralded the passage of a new University Act with these words:

"In Alberta the enactment of the University bill marks a distinct step in the history of higher education in the Province. The new legislation which incorporates the latest and best thinking on the problems of university organization, provides the University of Alberta with administrative machinery and financial maintenance which should be adequate for a good many years to come—apart of course from the requirement of legislative grants for necessary buildings. The Board of Governors has already met and set harmoniously to work, and the year nineteen eleven appears to be ushering in a new era of enlarged usefulness and increasing prosperity for the provincial University."

How little the times change, don't you agree?