

# The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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**STAFF THIS ISSUE**—As the world continued to revolve on its ceased bearings, we attempted again to struggle through the purple poisonous fumes. Among those without their gas masks were Beth Winteringham who may have gotten home for supper sometime before eleven, Winston Gereluk, Gardiner and Gardener, Bluebeard Bob Blair, Dave Christopherson, our friendly Sheaf cutline writer and couch thief, Judy Samoil, Ron Sveen, who is hung up on subtleties tonight but can't write cutlines, Ellen Nygaard, Barry Nicholson, our official chauffeur, and yours truly Harvey G. just lying here beneath the smoke reading his Dr. Seuss subscription.

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PAGE FOUR

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## Just another committee

by Al Scarth

They'll never accuse the education faculty or its committees of being radical. The almost mirror image the faculty portrays of a repressive school system has had its latest reinforcement in the recommendations of the B.Ed. Revision Committee.

True, the recommendations, if accepted by the Faculty of Education Council and subsequently implemented in the curriculum, would allow students more flexibility in choosing their courses.

That's good, as far as it goes.

But for a committee to spend two-and-a-half years working under the explicit frame of reference of "revision" and then present its platform for change in a program which at best simply ruffles the scum over the authoritarian mire that is education, is almost criminal.

Other than flexibility, the committee has envisaged no significant changes.

There has always been an elementary, secondary, vocational and industrial arts route for prospective teachers.

Not one of the six components which comprise the varying models is original as students choose their courses from virtually the same components now.

The report suggests no real changes in student teaching, now largely a performing art for the supervising teacher which places little true-to-life responsibility on the student.

Students still hold the opinion of student teaching they have of other areas: "We're really not doing anything, it's just another mark for another course."

Worst of all is the staggering omission of student-professor relationships.

Instead, the committee members have placed an abounding amount of faith in the concept of "counselling." Again, they have refused to study the problems of education from outside the present frame of reference.

Student is still nigger and the counsellor is there to resign him to that fate by helping him overcome his "personal" (ha) difficulties in adjusting to the system.

It is a flimsy base indeed upon which to "revise" a degree program affecting about 4,000 students.

However, the blame cannot be placed entirely on the committee.

The members did invite student participation in the committee's deliberations and only an embarrassingly tiny percentage of students took advantage of that invitation.

It is one of those tediously vicious circles—the students feel that the system does not encourage them to participate so the committee members don't know what the students think is needed and the system perpetuates itself.

There is no need for the committee to epitomize the ever-so-cautious approach of the faculty by stating "only a modest revision" is proposed for next year. Its entire program is too modest.

Besides, that ever-so-cautious attitude is nothing more than a don't-rock-the-boat fear of change.

## Med students support rep's resignation; objections raised to derogatory remarks

As several students in the Faculty of Medicine, we feel that it is necessary to respond to some of the derogatory remarks appearing in Dec. 9 Gateway following the resignation of our representative to students' council, Rod Boychuk. We refer to him as our representative because he is truly that. Unlike some other members of past and present councils, he conscientiously attempted to express the desires of the majority of our fraction of the student body. To his defense, we must say that he is not alone in his disgust with the apparent inability of the executive of the students' union to tackle business in a mature and practical manner. We do not blame him whatsoever for becoming bored by the philosophizing at the meetings. Besides, there have been only

three times when our faculty was not represented at students' council meetings; perhaps on those occasions, Rod's absence spoke more loudly of *our* opinions than would any number of speeches.

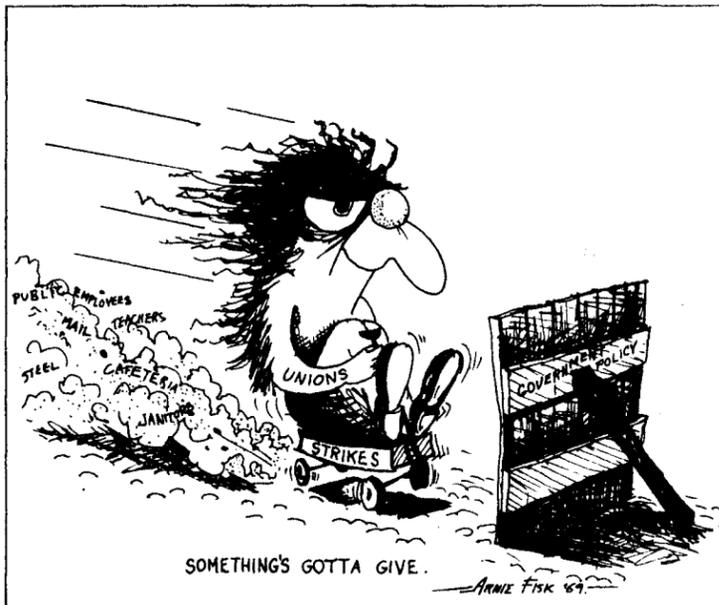
Fortunately Rod is not sufficiently delusional to believe that he can impose his personal opinion upon us or any other group of students. Thus he uses a rational method whereby he determines the consensus of us, his constituents, then presents this informally at first, to other members of students' council. He employed this very procedure with regard to obtaining graduate student status. The prevalent wish of medical students was, and is, that we would most certainly appreciate this change if it could be arranged. Rod, acting in our best interests then approached many

other members of students' council bringing forth this idea. He was soundly ridiculed at the time (off the records, of course) and was wise enough to retreat temporarily and wait until the majority of opinion was more strongly in the medical students' favor. It would have been grossly unrealistic for him to have attempted to waste more of council's time hammering this proposal at an obviously resistant group. The articles by certain members of the executive distorted this and other actions, make Rod appear to be apathetic. We prefer to regard his maneuver as intelligent. This is merely one example of the means by which our representative's intentions were soundly squelched.

Rod has another "weakness." That is, he works devilish hard and has not sense enough to stand up to claim the credit. For example, of course he "was not on top of the situation to bring forward action"—to quote Mr. Leadbeater—in reference to attaining B.Sc's for our students after med 2. Rod was busy underneath pushing the move all the way!

In conclusion it must be stated that we are confident that Rod Boychuk had the welfare of the medical students on campus uppermost in his thoughts during his term on students' council and his actions have been on behalf of his electorate during all of the past three years when he has represented us in student politics.

Leslie Haskayne  
Clarence Graff  
Lou Faucher  
George Chalmers  
Marian Brown  
Gordon Holt



## Poinsettia planting points to ponder

Poinsettia are flowering plants which have very small, inconspicuous flowers and very colorful upper leaves or bracts. As the time for blooming approaches, the upper leaves develop a red or, less common, white color which is their state at Christmas. The normal blooming period is from December to February but this length is not often reached in the home due to lack of ideal conditions.

If one receives a plant in good condition at Christmas and the temperature is maintained at about 70 degrees the colored bracts should last up to three weeks. If one is able to lower the temperature to about 60 degrees the bracts will stay in color for four to six weeks, for the red poinsettia and about two months for the white. During

the color period the plant should be in the full sunlight of an open window. The watering should be adequate enough to keep the soil moist but not saturated.

Once the bracts begin to drop off, the plant should be removed to a cool place and allowed to become dormant. During this period it should be watered sparingly.



In April the poinsettia is cut back to six inches of the pot and is repotted in general-purpose mixture. (General-purpose mixture can be purchased at most department stores.) The plant is then set in a sunny window and normal watering is resumed.

For the summer the poinsettia can be set outdoors and in the fall returned to the window; one must hope it takes to the new environment. Quite often it does not and the leaves fall off prematurely. To remedy this, take some cuttings of about five inches and plant these to root in new pots.

To start blooming about October 1, the plants are moved to a place of 60 degrees and shaded from artificial light for the night. Total light after this date should be less than 11 hours and 50 minutes.

If the plants do well there should be color by Christmas time, but no guarantee.