

# The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

editor-in-chief ..... Al Scarth

Managing editor ..... Ginny Bax  
news editors ..... Sid Stephen,  
Peggi Selby  
short shorts editor ..... Beth Nilsen

sports editor ..... Bob Anderson  
layout editor ..... Joe Czajkowski  
photo editor ..... Dave Hebditch  
page forum five ..... Jim Carter

**STAFF THIS ISSUE**—With Barry Nicholson taking over the fifth of forum-five, and Brian Campbell rocking the news desk with four-barrel salvos, we joined in communion with Dorothy Constable, Dan Carroll, Bob Blair, Judy Samoil, Dick Nimmons, Beth Winteringham, Winnie the Pooh, political that is, Ellen Nygaard, Dennis Fitzgerald, sorry about that Dennis, hope we're still friends, consultant David Leadbeater who did the Christian thing and gave the editor some ideas (watch out new executive) and me, yes, I'll be groovy me, just moving right along there (move, move, move, Harvey G. for Gushminder Thomgirt with a special tip of the surgical knife to Opey's member.

The Gateway is published tri-weekly by the students' union of The University of Alberta. The editor-in-chief is responsible for all material published herein. Final copy deadline for Tuesday edition—6 p.m. Monday, Advertising—noon Thursday prior; for Thursday edition—6 p.m. Wednesday, Advertising—noon Monday prior; for Friday edition—6 p.m. Thursday, Advertising—noon Tuesday prior; for Saturday edition—6 p.m. Friday, Advertising—noon Friday prior. Short Shorts deadline, 3 p.m. day prior to publication. Advertising manager Percy Wickman, 432-4241. Office phones 432-5168, 432-5178. Circulation 13,000. Circulation manager Wayne Box.

Printed by The University of Alberta Printing Services.

PAGE FOUR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1970

## No backlash

by Al Scarth

The election of Tim Christian to the students' union presidency has most effectively snuffed out any predictions of a strong conservative backlash to the actions of the outgoing students' council.

There was a time when one had the distinctly uncomfortable feeling that a majority of students (at least of those who spoke up publicly) would as soon spit on as listen to advocates of women's liberation and student power such as Mr. Leadbeater and Miss Law.

Apparently, spokesmen like Miss Law and Mr. Leadbeater did get through to students. That becomes amply evident in the election of Mr. Christian, virtually a revolutionary when it comes to students' union politics, to the president's chair.

One of his main planks is forwarding the cause of women's rights. In addition, his whole platform carries a militant air about it. While it can still be said it is to a large degree just an extension of policies initiated by the outgoing executive, there is nonetheless a tough air about how the new president will go about fighting the union's battles.

The question still to be answered of course is what kind of a council will the president inherit to back him up or, on the other hand, throttle his programs before they get off the plush floor of council's co-opted chambers.

Already, there have been indications from two members of the executive, that the executive will be doing some intensive collective soul searching in the next while to forge a minimum of cabinet solidarity.

Those indications came at Monday's council meeting when incoming academic vice-president Trevor Peach and secretary Anne McCrae voted against council's decision to remove representatives from university governing bodies until parity was achieved on General Faculty Council.

That was the fourth (and finally successful) time the action had been attempted by councillors this term.

## ... so don't stop now

Their opposition was a surprising move, a disappointing one in view of the president's now well beaten-in head which has suffered running into the many brick walls the administration committees proffer for his charges.

Then again, executives are gaining a reputation for becoming "radicalized" as they run into more and more closed doors. I just hope that this year's executive and council learn from their predecessors and don't renege on council's much delayed decision to stop supporting tokenism.

Although the action may be interpreted by many as the result of a temper tantrum over GFC's tabling of the student motions re the Ted Kemp tenure issue, this was just the straw that broke the camel's back. Student participation in GFC has been a record of frustration. The "great Gateway cartoon scandal" and the Ted Kemp tenure hassle are two outstanding indications of where the power isn't.

Let's face it, two votes out of 79 just don't make any bloody difference. And anything that has to be said to GFC can be said just as easily from the gallery.

Student reps should stay off until the students are granted parity on GFC and all GFC committees which are relevant to the student.

# DDT being burned in city incinerator

*This is a letter to the Honorable H. Strom with copies to Prime Minister Trudeau, H. A. Olsen, Minister of Agriculture, and John Munro, Minister of Health and Welfare. The letter speaks for itself.*

We would like to quote you the following statements:

1. From Dr. K. S. Penniford, a director of environmental health in the City Health Department who said in the Edmonton Journal Friday, December 20 (page 24) "Dr. Penniford described as negligible the atmospheric pollution that would arise from the incineration of the DDT by the engineering department."

2. A letter from W. D. Charles, Officer in Charge, Northern Alberta District of the Federal Department of Health and Welfare, replying to our telegram stating that we felt it was irresponsible for Mr. Krusche of the City Health Department to advise the population to use up existing quantities of DDT they may have

(C.B.C. News, Thursday, February 12) and pointing out that a small quantity to a previously large user might very well be two or three barrels. "As I recall, the statement by Mr. Krusche of the Edmonton Health Department, he advocated that these people do not use the pesticides presently on hand, and that *these materials be incinerated.*" (emphasis ours)

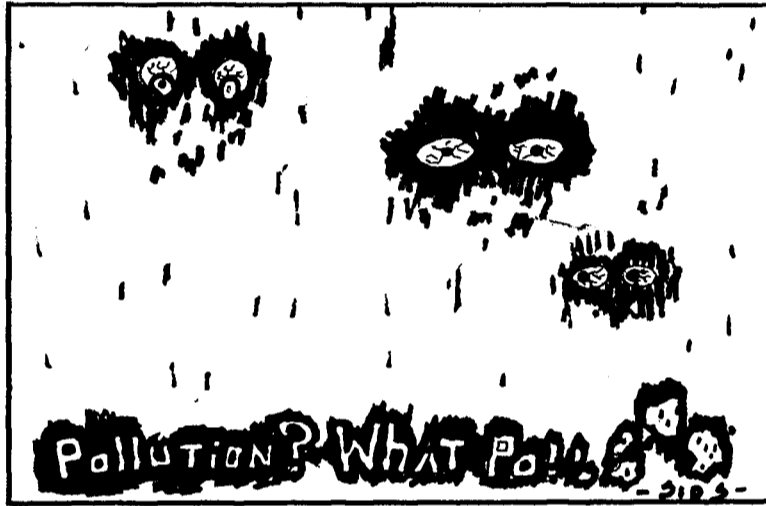
We would point out that on Thursday, February 12, Mr. Krusche did make the statement over the C.B.C. News. Further, it is our understanding that several barrels of DDT have been incinerated at the City plant and we would assume from paragraph one that this might indeed happen again in the future. We would once again quote Mr. Charles who says in his letter, "We would also wish to point out that incineration of DDT poses a severe technical problem inasmuch as an incinerator is required which will produce a temperature in excess (sic) of 1800 degrees. So far as

we know the only such furnace on hand is being developed in Ottawa by the Canada Department of Agriculture and which will hopefully be available to the various parts of the country in due time."

Mr. Charles however, is mistaken about the temperature necessary to combust DDT. The temperature necessary is 2300 degrees. We would also point out that at this time the City of Edmonton incinerator reaches a temperature of only 1400 - 1500 degrees. (see Edmonton Journal) It would be difficult, but perhaps not impossible for us to prove (we have witnesses prepared to swear under oath on this question) that the City of Edmonton has in the past burned reasonably large amounts of DDT in the City incinerator. However, it is not our purpose to involve the City in litigation but to demand that the City retain any DDT it may collect until it can be disposed of scientifically.

If the City has incinerated DDT, this most definitely added to the already burdened ecological system. The parochial attitude taken by officials overlooks the simple fact that the Province of Alberta does not exist in isolation but is part of a global environmental system. If Dr. Penniford is not aware of the proper disposal of DDT, how can the Government expect the layman to understand the complexities of proper disposal. We therefore demand that you immediately empower the Emergency Measures Organization to systematically collect and retain DDT until such time as proper methods of disposal can be worked out.

"Save Tomorrow—  
Oppose Pollution"  
Mary Van Stolk



## Why do we just sit back awaiting death?

by Winston Gereluk

That last column was certainly nothing to be proud of as in it I accomplished nothing, just gave vent to my spleen at J. Radstaak's expense. But if I tell you that I felt like laughing and crying at the same time after reading the MLA's letter, will that help to explain why the resulting column turned out as it did?

My problem is that I love the earth that I live in so much that it makes it hard to understand that it is all going to end. For instance, when I walked to university today in the bright sunshine, the perfectly blue sky, the crystal clean fresh air, and the pungent smell of freshly thawed earth made this threat of worldwide pollution seem as far away and impossible as death always seems to one in the flush of living.

How can I begin to explain my realization that I am a part of the human race? Because, when I become aware of that, every human suffering and joy is mine and I feel somehow responsible for anything that happens to anyone in this world.

Which all contributed to make statements by scientists that the world is going to run out of air in 30 years, when I am only 55 and my oldest boy 34 and the human race just gaining consciousness, so very incredible. I can't believe it; I don't want to believe that we are actually allow-

ing this thing to happen, that we will actually carry on business as usual and just allow the death of the world to approach for thirty years.

At times, I have almost succeeded in resolving myself to the fact of my own mortality—it's so natural and all that. But tell me, how can any mind fully comprehend the end of the human race, the end of all life on earth?

In spite of a world full of conflicting reasons, I have always felt optimistic about the possibilities for mankind. Surely, there is very little that we can't do, once we have set our minds to doing it.

But on the threat of pollution, my optimism receives very little reinforcement—precisely because it strikes me that we probably won't set our minds to it. We can, but we won't combat it. Any threat to our survival, even one as easy to surmount as this one, can't be fought as long as we are a species of job-doers. Because, as job-doers, there is too much that gets in the way of an active concern for mankind.

It is only too conceivable that when the end to life on this planet does come, it will find English teachers teaching grammar, political scientists studying voting behavior and analyzing political concepts, busdrivers driving, generals planning wars, housewives raising children, students studying for exams—everyone doing a job

as if what they were doing mattered.

A few might yet be speaking out about the threat; some eccentric CBCers, a couple of authors, the occasional half-crazy journalist.

But who can really save mankind when the system spells death by forcing job-doers into placing other priorities ahead of living. How many times do people say about pollution control, "It will cost too much." or "It will discourage industry."?

Our first priority must always be staying alive. Can anyone even want to question that? If so, then why are we all standing back day after day allowing this world to die? Why aren't we getting frantic, yelling and screaming, demanding pollution control, no matter what the cost? Signing STOP petitions? Making visits to government? Demanding non-polluting detergents, etc?

In other words what do normal people do when they find out that they are going to die unnecessarily?

