

Calgary speaks out

One need not go to Africa to observe the tortuous agonies of burgeoning nationalism

In Calgary, a town only a few miles south of Edmonton, an embryo university has been established. It has three buildings and approximately 1,500 students. (A physical set-up analogous to that of a large composite high school, according to some sources).

UAC aspires to be much more than a high school. A stirring campaign is being carried on in the campus newspaper, The Gauntlet. UAC will make Calgary a "Rome on the Bow" despite the diabolical efforts of Edmonton businessmen.

As a service to its readers, many of whom are from the southern area of the province, The Gateway reprints below editorials which have appeared in The Gauntlet.

FREEDOM

At convocation last Saturday, Chief Justice McLaurin advocated complete autonomy for UAC. Several Edmonton bigwigs, including our President Dr. Johns, opposed this on the grounds that competition is bad for a university and that the duplication of facilities would cause financial and academic problems for the university. On the contrary, competition stimulates excellence.

We strongly support autonomy and eventual independence for UAC rather than an eventual "Californian" arrangement whereby all Alberta campuses would be under one Board of Governors and one Senate. If UAC is to remain a part of the "California" system any initiative which might otherwise be developed within the university will be suppressed in the face of Edmonton totalitarianism. Both Students' Council and the administration are constantly being harassed by the limitations imposed on them by Edmonton university officials.

Perpetrating UAC's colonial status with regard to UAE is a system doomed to failure. It was a necessary step in developing this university but has outlived its usefulness. The reluctance of UAE to abolish this system can only be an indication of that university's fear that UAC will better them in inter-varsity competition.

CALGARY PRESSURE

Why do our university buildings although they are new, look so terrible? Why can we not have the full Commerce and Law faculties in Calgary, since the Edmonton campus is overcrowded?

The answer to both problems, we think, may be found with a "group of Edmonton businessmen" who are reluctant to see a part of the revenue from Alberta university students going to another city. They exert pressures on anyone able to help them, in order to keep as many students and as much money in Edmonton as possible.

Perhaps we are overemphasizing the powers of this ephemeral group, yet if it is able to exert any pressure at all, why could Calgary not counter it with equal pressure from our citizens?

GIVE US SHOES

The equanimity and progress of UAC is threatened on many fronts by the growth-limitations placed on it by the Provincial Government's short-sightedness. This campus has perhaps the greatest growth-potential of any university in Canada. Yet the physical facilities this university needs to fulfill its potential, in the form of more classrooms, the immediate construction of a library, dormitories, and a Students' Union Building, are being delayed.

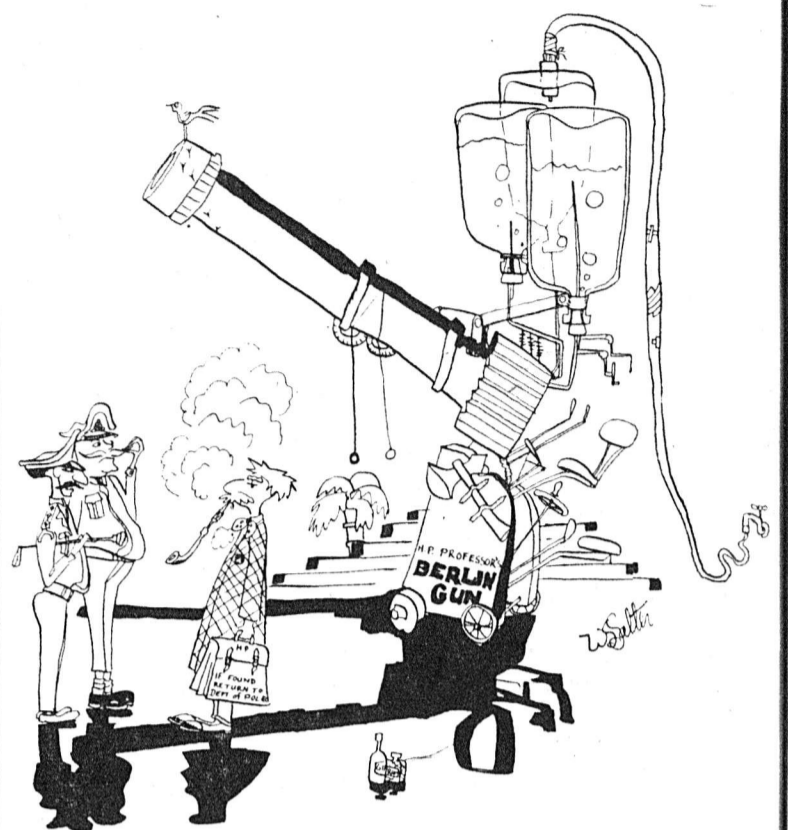
Far more people live in Southern Alberta than in the North. The growth potential of UAC far surpasses that of UAE. It should be evident that a substantial building programme should be undertaken on this campus immediately.

Once the classrooms, laboratories, dormitories, and student facilities for a minimum of 3,500 students are provided, then the graduate programme of expansion would be followed. But the present situation calls for a crash program to provide the needed facilities.

As things stand, UAC students are deprived of the facilities that they need, and many promising students in Southern Alberta (because of lack of dormitories here) are discouraged from attending UAC.

Calgary-Edmonton jealousies are pettiness which the Provincial Government, the U of A's Board of Governors, and pressure groups of Edmonton businessmen cannot afford. The necessity to provide adequately for the present and competently for the future of our Province as a whole, especially in the realms of Education, is far more important than this Chauvinistic rivalry.

Should the powers that be immediately provide the funds for a greatly expanded campus here, we are sure that Southern Albertans will derive full benefit from the great University which will burgeon in Calgary. Give us shoes, and we will travel far.



Professor, we realize that an intellectual invention like your MK 509 Z—Berlin water gun has its merits, but we don't think the Berlin crisis is ready for it.



Nationalism, that patriotic drive for independence, has hit UAC and Quebec. Freedom; and Succession! Drives are under way. The southern campus now calls upon its supporters to rally to the Red and Gold—their symbol of autonomy.

Authoritative weight was added to the cause by the convocation address advocacy of Chief Justice Colin C. McLaurin, "The day must come when UAC will be self-contained and administered by itself."

Though advocating autonomy for UAC, McLaurin stressed UAC must remain affiliated with the parent university, this being the Edmonton branch, in the opinion of Calgary students.

"Since UAC largely serves Southern Alberta, the concept of UAC, in my view, should be larger than the name Calgary," said McLaurin. "Time has perhaps already arrived that UAC should take on a new name: Alberta Southern University."

CULTURAL STIMULANT

Chief Justice McLaurin's address roused editorial comment in greater Calgary's two newspapers. The Albertan stated that the best universities are not merely located in their communities, but are integral parts of those communities. Being part of the community's education as well as part of the community's cultural activities is one of the main functions of the university. UAC is definitely fulfilling the former but is it truly being a "cultural stimulant"? Not really.

ROME ON THE BOW

A UAC Gauntlet columnist has commented on the potential contribution the campus could add to the city, culture-wise. "If UAC can stimulate a more mature urban society here, making her influence felt in the Arts and other accoutrements of a truly great society, Calgary's future as a Rome on the Bow is assured."

"One of the first steps of making UAC a notable university will be to make it a cause as well as a campus."

INFERIORITY COMPLEX

The Albertan further felt UAC must lose its feeling of being a branch, of being inferior, before it can adequately add to and become an integral part of the community. Probably a greater amount of autonomy would help to delete this inferiority complex the university and its students seem to show.

It stressed the goal of education in this province is to have two good universities, not one good and one mediocre one. Transferring the law and commerce faculties to Calgary, it added, would definitely ensure the standard of UAC would not be mediocre. AUTONOMY for UAC would be inevitable. So they said.

Aforementioned Gauntlet columnist has also urged further immediate action of the part of the Red and Gold comrades. Now that they have taken the definite step toward establishing distinctive University colors, perhaps UAC should now merit a distinctive motto—until now they have been borrowing Edmonton's "Quaecumque Vera." His suggestions included "Joe College's Utopia; Edmonton's Anathema; Thinking Cowboys are Born in the South; Per Highschoolus ad Universitas."

And all this has come about a mere matter of weeks after the issue of UAC: University or Glorified High School?, was weakly decided in favor of the former. Will Lethbridge Junior College or Ross Sheppard Sheepschool be next?

THE GATEWAY

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