

The Gateway

Member of the Canadian University Press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—I never felt more like singing the Blues, especially when I know they're gonna lose. Aren't they, Bear fans? Aside from that, working types for this issue were Pearl Christensen, Jan Sims, Ralph Melnychuk, Lorraine Minish, Sheila Ballard, Ed Marchand, Marion Conybeare, Dave Wright, Gloria Skuba, Marilyn Fix, Shelagh Monohan, Maureen Love, Johnny Hazzard and yours truly Harvey Thomgirt.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1965

the problems of students

The fall meeting of the Committee on Student Affairs Thursday rated as one of the most important events of the university year. We fervently hope students and faculty concerned gave it the attention it deserved.

COSA is a university Senate committee having responsibility for regulation of student activities. It approves the budget of the Students' Union, passes judgment on amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Students' Union, and has jurisdiction over "all other matters relating to students' interests."

For all the utterances about "student autonomy," COSA has great power in regulating student affairs.

COSA's powers, however, are not all regulatory. The committee is composed of approximately equal numbers of faculty and students. Student representatives include the President of the Students' Union, the Editor-in-Chief of The Gateway, residence committee members, and members-at-large from the Students' Union.

This representation of student opinion means COSA can serve as a major agency of student-faculty-administration communication.

We believe the Students' Union's assertion that student representation on the Board of Governors is necessary to communication is an admission of failure, failure to use COSA to its full extent.

There are, however, signs of improvement.

COSA has the power "to make recommendations or resolutions of an academic nature." This year's agenda indicated Richard Price was to bring up the topics of course eval-

uation and student-faculty relations.

We trust student members of the committee took this opportunity to make the strongest possible presentation for changes in these areas. Curriculum faults and problems of impersonality not apparent to, or ignored by the administration, are painfully obvious to students on this campus, and now is the time to bring them into the open.

On the other hand, it is the duty of faculty members of COSA to do their share towards cleaning up campus messes.

One topic of discussion Thursday was the welcoming of foreign students, now the responsibility of Gold Key. Foreign student opinion indicates that Gold Key has fallen down badly in this area, and we mandate the faculty to see to improvements.

We also suggest that COSA undertake to examine the quality as well as the quantity of student activities. As well as setting dance dates and pondering the Commerce Rodeo, they should stop and consider what activities are missing from the university community and make recommendations for change.

Some exciting new ideas were hinted at in Richard Price's report to the committee, such as "recognition of good teaching awards" and the formation of an "education corps" to promote continuation of education among high school students.

Mr. Price, much praise for your programs. There is a stirring of fresh breezes in the musty halls of academe, and the Students' Union shows signs of originality in its consideration of and dealing with student problems.

a brand of humor

You do not always hear them in washrooms, though that is probably where they belong. Instead, you hear them in the corridors of an academic institution.

They emanate from the lips of professors as often as they do from those of students. They draw deep, hearty laughter from thousands of throats on this campus every day.

They represent nothing more than vicious, unwarranted attacks upon members of a certain ethnic minority in our midst. They ridicule and mock, deride and haze.

We speak now of a subject which professional journalists in Edmonton, by their own admission, are afraid to mention in print.

We speak of Ukrainian jokes.

This narrow, cutting brand of humor has its roots in human prejudice, and is nurtured by nothing more than human bigotry.

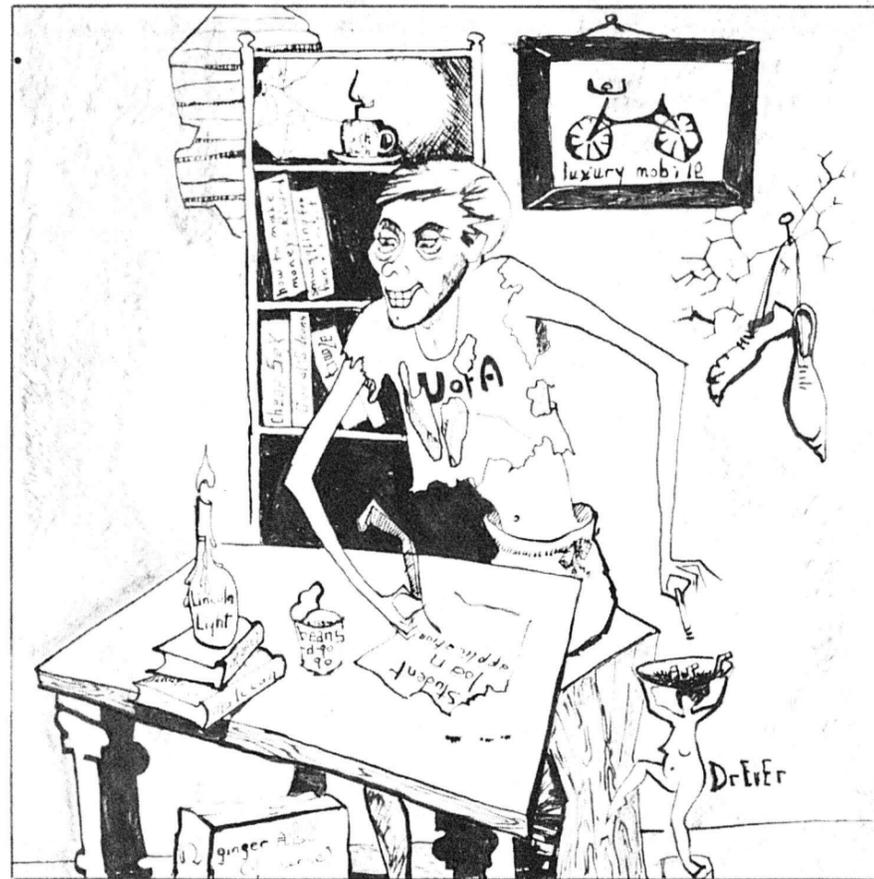
In other cities, Ukrainian jokes are known by other names. In Chicago, they are Negro jokes; and in Toronto they are Polish jokes.

Edmonton, in this list of cities at least, must have had third choice, for Edmontonians delight in telling Ukrainian jokes.

Pssst.

What leaves a choking cloud of garlic when it travels at a speed of two thousand miles per hour?

Superuke.



The Waiting Game

lingvo internacia

by doug walker

Esperanto estas la moderna, kultura lingvo por la internacia mondo.

For a considerable number of years now, linguists have been working on the production and teaching of international language such as Esperanto.

This language would be an artificial and completely regular system of communication, easily learned by all peoples of the world.

That is to say, this language would not replace any of those existing today, but would be taught as a second or auxiliary language to supplement one's native tongue. If this second language were widely enough spoken, everyone, be he Chinese, Russian, or English, would have a common language with which to communicate. The advantages to all manner of social, cultural or economic exchange would be enormous.

Perhaps the two best known auxiliary languages being advanced today are Esperanto and Interlingua. For the most part they represent two different approaches to the question of an auxiliary tongue.

Esperanto is the more artificial of the two, often depending for its form upon the arbitrary selection or manufacture of grammatical rules. Its vocabulary, however, is drawn largely from words common to several European languages, so that approximately seventy per cent of its vocabulary is recognizable to English-speaking people.

Interlingua, on the other hand, has drawn its structure from elements of both grammar and vocabulary common to European languages, particularly the Romance lan-

guages. It is a composite of the commoner elements in these languages, and consequently resembles all of them in some manner or other. It is therefore easy to learn for any one with a background in one of the Romance tongues. As a matter of fact, one great strength of the artificial languages is the speed with which they can be learned in comparison to one of the "natural" languages.

The great difficulty facing the proponents of these auxiliary languages, however, is the unalterable fact of linguistic change. Every living language, that is, language in use today, changes or evolves. Obviously we do not speak the same English as was spoken three hundred years ago. Nor do we speak the same English as our grand-parents, although the changes in this case are less striking.

This means that any artificial language must necessarily evolve. The difficulty lies in the fact that it will evolve in different directions subject to the different linguistic and cultural influences of the different societies using it.

At the end of a century of use, it would be as divergent, say, as the different dialects of English. In a second century it would have progressed far enough so that the dialects are no longer mutually intelligible, that is, they are different languages.

These time estimates, however, are probably far shorter than it would take the language to change significantly, and there are other stabilizing influences that can be applied. In any case, the advantages of a significant segment of the world's population speaking a common language far outweigh any difficulties in its instruction or maintenance.