

Cruelty to vivisectionists

Shades of Medieval black magic, middle class morality and modern muddleheadedness. Atop the Medical Sciences Building is a vivarium, housing some 1,000 animals used for medical research experiments.

It is worth several hundreds of thousands of dollars and is reported to be the first complete colony of such animals in Canada under a qualified veterinarian. It was completed this summer, and noted Eastern Canadian veterinarian Dr. D. C. Secord was appointed director.

Then appeared a story in the Edmonton Journal outlining the vivarium's features. Shortly after appeared a letter from one of the U of A's more astute faculty members blasting vivisection as a "damnable crime," adding, "a colony of living creatures kept for the sole purpose of experimentation by that species that has them in their power is morally indefensible." Vivisection, he said, entails "countless useless experiments of untold cruelty."

Rushing to his defence was a letter from a local registered nurse stating she was "firmly opposed to the practice of vivisection" as it "reconciles man to brutality . . . is merely a prelude to experiments on human beings." In blundered Joe Citizen hollering in his letter he was "filled with horror" at these revelations, asking, "why does the Humane Society stand for this sort of thing? It should be made public and brought out into the open . . . surely our premier, Mr. Manning, can put a stop to this unnecessary torture."

That light of life, The Edmonton Journal, of course declined editorial comment on so controversial an issue.

The manifold benefits of vivisection are stupendous. It has given us crucial advances in antibiotics, vitamins, hormones, insulin, and cures for such diseases as diphtheria and pneumonia.

The animals are housed in immaculate quarters and enjoy the same operating procedures and conditions as do human beings. The vivarium has the full co-operation of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The aforementioned letter-writers have many historical predecessors—Medieval theologians, Victorian anti-evolutionists, certain modern religious fanatics. Is it more cruel to operate painlessly on an animal than it is to watch a man slowly die of cancer?

Man indisputably is at the top of the evolutionary scale, and must—indeed is obligated to—constantly seek ways of self-preservation. His avenue has been science, when the emotionalized blind haven't blocked the route. The Middle Ages graphically show the amount of progress made by man when science is belittled to his current realm of self-made values.

T. H. Huxley, the 19th century populizer of science whose aim it was to convince the masses of the importance of natural knowledge for human advancement, has still, it would seem, a number of people to reach in our own country.

Better than nothing

At least one concrete plan of action was espoused at the leadership seminar Sunday; that of an arts and science council.

Originally proposed last year, the plan will through the use of clubs and interested groups, attempt to give a sense of unity to the most dispersed faculty on campus.

It is doubtful if eighteen individuals will unify a faculty of about 1,500 students—all of whom are enrolled in different courses. The moribund Arts and Science Undergraduate Society died a lingering death due to a lack of easy communications and a common purpose. Under the new plan, departmental club representatives will at best only represent a very small segment of the total faculty. Furthermore a council will not provide the same services performed by undergraduate societies in the other faculties. However, many definite benefits can be forseen.

Since the downfall of ASUS, the arts and science representative on Students' Council has represented exactly nobody. Thus, ideas or issues were formulated and resolved on the basis of the representative's own opinions. Referenda are slow and unwieldy, making

it impractical for the representative to consult the wishes of his electorate on major questions. A council of clubs, while not totally representing the faculty, would at least provide a reasonable cross section of opinion on debatable issues.

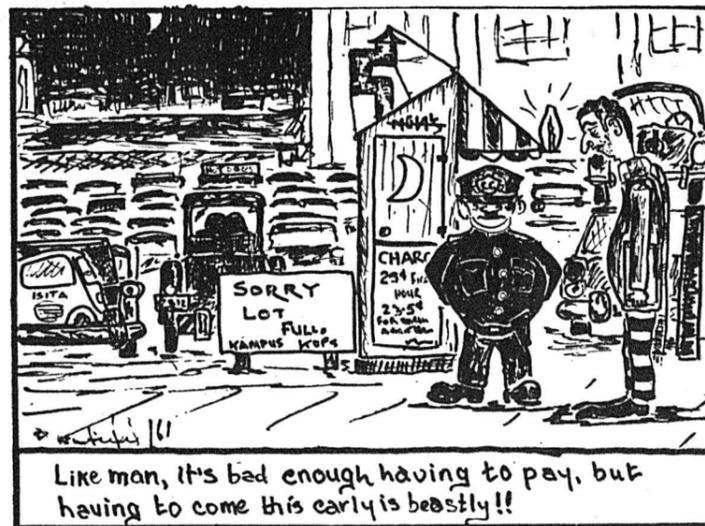
More important, the lines of communication between student and representative would be more clearly defined, allowing students who are concerned an opportunity to state their ideas.

ASC does not solve all the problems of arts and science. It is, however, a practical solution to a difficult situation.

It is better than nothing at all.

Adulation

The Gateway has commenced legal action preparatory to suing Edmonton's newest television station. In a burst of plagiaristic audacity, the station has dubbed one of its insipid interview sessions "Gateway" We veterans in the communication field must expect adulation and imitation from these drooling toddlers, but theft of our very name is too much.



Like man, it's bad enough having to pay, but having to come this early is beastly!!



THE ULTIMATE

To The Editor:

I am so sorry. I hexed Evans, and Scrabble was not in the Tuesday issue.

I wish I could issue an unhex, but the rules of warlockery (a friend told me never to use the term Hexmanship) were strict and do not permit it; I am so sorry. And to show how sorry I really am I will make up for the damage that I have done: I shall strive to justify for you and the world the ways of C. D. Evans, to justify the existence of Scrabble and The Gateway, and, indeed, of newspapers and platitudinous editorials, of the persecution of freshmen and formal university ceremonies, of scholars and engineers, of student unions and NFCUS congresses, of rugger and athletes, of fraternities and the Gold Key Society, of all forms of insensitivity and zany letter-to-editors, and of more, much more . . .

And now—you voiceless readers, are you waiting for it? Gateway, are you waiting for it? Evans, are you waiting for it?—here it is, for the first time, or so I believe, the justification of everything:

Because ultimate reality is incomprehensible, you too may be.

Yours truly,
B.G.S.

GOOEY

To The Editor:

It was with unparalleled frustration that the campus citizenry was prevented from seeing our scrubbed faces smeared with coconut cream pie following a debate in Convocation Hall last December.

It was with joy that we scrubbed the faces of Downton W., and Sanders D., of the campus Social Credit Club, as they audaciously suggested that Santa Claus should not be a woman.

And thus the McGooley Cup was born.

It was with Jubilation, however, several months later when the campus citizenry learned that two snivelling freshmen (one from Red Deer; one from Calgary) had proved indeed that "Christ is the only answer to Communism," and in doing so toppled Dirty Dudley and the Ponderous Peetah from the road to Huggill supremacy.

We are still bitter—and the thought of a cream pie revenge, sweet.

Therefore we challenge Dave Parsons and John Burns—the campus' two most colourful sports jackets—to participate in the second annual McGooley Cup competition in Convocation Hall.

Through your good offices, sir, we request their submission of a suitable resolution and date.

Even now, the meringue brews sticky.

Peter S. Hyndman, Commerce IV
C. Dudley Evans, Law II

THE GATEWAY

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Trouble encountered Varsity voices vacant

Attention male singers! If you are interested in chorus singing the new male chorus needs you.

The male chorus, though new to this campus, is very popular in many eastern and American colleges. Some universities have become famous through their male choral groups.

The U of A group will be conducted by Andrew Kormany, music specialist in the extension music department.

Mr. Kormany recently received his Master of Music degree in conducting from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, N.J. He also holds a BMus in voice and organ. He is at present choirmaster at First Baptist Church, Edmonton.

Mr. Kormany has sung in the famous Westminster Choir, the Princeton Seminary Choir and with the New York Philharmonic Or-

chestra. The male chorus will be singing music ranging from favorite Broadway hits to classical selections.

The U of A male chorus hopes to entice approximately 40 men into their organization. The group does not intend to compete with the mixed chorus, or other campus choral groups. Any male who sings—frats and even engineers—are invited to auditions.

Students can sign up for auditions in the Students' Union office. Audition times appear in the short shorts of this issue.

For further information contact Mr. Kormany at GE 3-6040 or GE 9-3191, or Erick Schmidt at GE 9-7001.