

Greek Notes

When the hurly burly whirlwind of rushing parties finally ends; when a seemingly endless parade of extended hands and frozen smiles of welcome cease; and when serious-faced men in eight houses have extended the all-important bid, the rushee will be left with the task of evaluating the fraternity system, the individual fraternities, and his own position and stand in the system.

A more intense soul-searching regarding fraternities than "Does it take up very much time?" and "How much does it cost?" must be undergone.

Over the years a somewhat stereotyped list of pros and cons as to why one should or should not join a fraternity has accumulated. Each year these are brought out of mothballs and presented to the new crop of freshman rushees.

One of the greatest criticisms vented against fraternities deals with the evils of rushing. Rushing is certainly artificial. Few fraternity members would argue this point. The rushee is a guest and presumably a guest the fraternity is anxious to impress or he would not be there in the first place. Is it so appalling then for the host to be somewhat overattentive, to lay out the best silver and linen, to counsel the rest of the family to be on their best behaviour and in short to underplay its faults while touting its good points? The discerning guest will see beyond this facade and arrive at an intelligent opinion of his host.

Conformity and fraternalism are interchangeable in the minds of many. Avoid joining a fraternity and integrity of character remains unhampered; whilst once the jewelled pin is accepted, the rushee is labelled in speech, thought, and dress as a member of that particular fraternity, so the idea runs.

Fraternities do breed conformity, and in doing so, defeat one of their primary functions, that of interchange of ideas and personalities. The extent to which individualistic characters are represented within a fraternity house determines to a great degree what the rushee will gain from pledging his allegiance to that fraternity. To remain nonfraternity in order to retain one's identity signifies little. If a man can become a Greek and still be an individual, then he is the type of man the fraternity system needs and from whose membership it will profit.

Members of a fraternity often do little to combat this conformity. The rushee should be aware of who else is rushing this particular fraternity and decide whether he is the same type of person. Are they all star athletes, eggheads, or nothing but good party men?

Every fraternity is anxious to excel in intramurals and make a decent showing in scholarship. But if the reason a particular type is being rushed is to make up a deficiency in a football team, then perhaps this is not the fraternity to select.

Fraternities are more than just a place to go on Saturday nights. Every fraternity expects a good deal of time and participation in many activities. One must come to a decision as to the value of these activities in relation to alternate activities on campus, either within the faculties or for the University as a whole.

Are you the type of person willing to scrub and polish your Saturdays away for one year? Will you be willing to assume the responsibilities that go with becoming an active or just the privileges? Are the academic, and financial qualifications, necessary to going active, within your means or are you planning to drop out after taking from the fraternity for a year?

A University does not revolve around the fraternity system as many would believe. On the contrary, fraternities are only extra topping for a cake already laden with so much frosting that it is difficult to find the cake, and many Universities get along very well without them. However, since they are on our campus it remains to the individual whether a fraternity is necessary to his stay in University.

You will be told it is worthwhile belonging to a fraternity if only for the advantageous business contacts possible. Many leaders in our society, past and present have been members of a fraternity. Others have had no such affiliation. John Diefenbaker did not belong to a fraternity; Lester B. Pearson did.

When, on Sunday, the final decisions of whether to join a fraternity, and if so, which one, have been made, let them not be based upon what your high school friends are doing or what your father or your girlfriend expect you to do. Look to what you truly believe to be the right course of action for you and you alone. If your decision is for fraternities, then be prepared to live up to those high, idealistic pledges you will be asked to accept.

Sign Up

Between construction, potholes, mudflats, cars, and people, getting around the University of Alberta campus is quite a problem. An even bigger one, for the uninitiated, is determining where to go.

Only last year the Students' Union Building got a sign that said to the campus stranger, "This is the Students' Union." In the fall, signs of a similar nature appeared on the administration Building and the Ag Building, too late, incidentally for the elucidation of the incoming masses of freshmen students.

What about signs on other major campus buildings — Arts, the Rutherford Library? Where are the signs on the Med Building, and on the big blank south wall of the new Chem Building? Where are the signs that say this is the Engineering Building and that the Education Building?

This University is big, not only in terms of faculty and students, but in terms of the people and organizations that service it and use its services. Not only do first week frosh need to know the location of campus buildings, but the truck drivers, taxi drivers, night school students, evening non-credit students, and the visitors and guests to the University.

Another device to help the uninitiated find their way would be maps similar to those placed at the outskirts of the city on the major incoming highways.

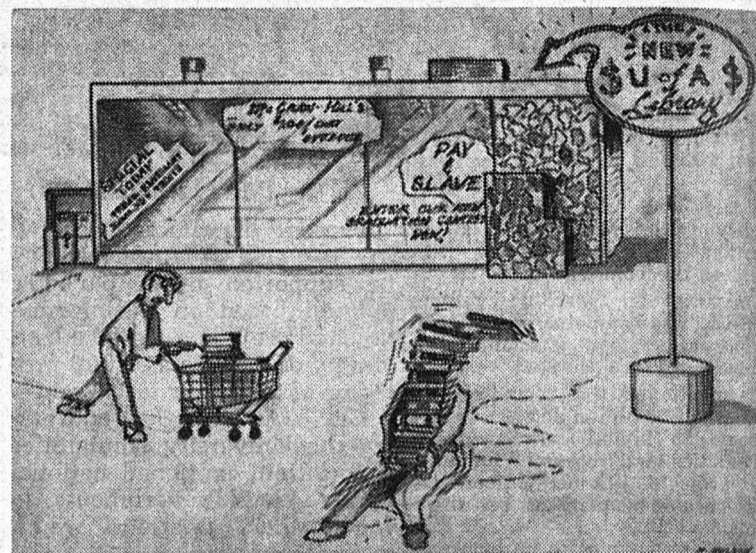
There used to be one sign of this type on this campus, located across the corner from Tuck Shop. A few years ago it was torn down before

it fell down.

Someone made the mistake, following demolition, of not replacing the old "campus map" with a new one and few other new ones strategically located around the campus.

We do not need personal guides on this campus, but we do need something to guide.

Saturday's Wauneita formal had an Indian theme. Judging by the half-time calypso entertainment, it must have been West-Indian.



Ed. Note—Re Letters
The Gateway is happy to publish letters expressing student opinion, but wishes to remind its readers that letters, unless reasonably concise, will have to be edited for length; and also that names must accompany the letters, whether the letters are to be published under a pseudonym or not.

Togetherness

To The Editor:
Segregation is a positive necessity in this, our modern society. Don't let "segregation" with all its present day reference to differences in race or religion throw you. This is segregation of a much more BASIC difference. A difference that the whole world is thankful for, of course, but nevertheless one that can lead to embarrassment under certain conditions. Such as the janitors (male from all appearances) wandering into the Women's washroom. Might as well change those signs from "Mens" and "Womens" to "Family's". This further hastens the growing sense of insecurity in the world, our last retreat from the males in this world, lost. How can we make those necessary adjustments, etc. without rebelling against all that our mothers have taught us!

Rita, Moe, and Glo
Unadjusted

Christmas Exams— At Christmas

To The Editor:
Now that Council is convinced (at least they should be), that the Kenton folly rests upon THEIR shoulders, what are they going to do about it?

Obviously it is too late to do anything about the Kenton fiasco itself; however, there is one field of endeavor in which Council could try to vindicate their recent misdemeanor. I am referring to the problem that was so vividly brought to our attention by an editorial in

the last issue of The Gateway, namely the Christmas exams.

I would like to commend the editor on his adept presentation of this most deplorable situation. Personally I find it hard to understand how any intelligent administration could come forth with such a biased piece of legislation.

At any rate, I trust it's not too late to do something about it, and this is where our Students' Council comes in. This is one issue on which the students will certainly lend their full support.

The idea of having to study during Christmas holidays is enough to make students from out of town think twice even before going home for Christmas. For whose home will be conducive to study during the holidays? This gives many students nothing to look forward to, and I fail to see how anything so morbid could spurn a student on to greater effort.

I believe Council should go to work immediately and circulate a petition asking the administration to revert to the old system of conducting Christmas exams. If this fails, the very least they could do would be to postpone the exams one week, in order to give student a chance to eat their Christmas dinner without a textbook in their hands.

I hereby challenge Council (including Ken Campbell) to take the matter up, and exercise all the power they possess in an earnest attempt to carry out the wishes of the great majority of students on this campus.
Edward Boldt

Blow Man, Blow

To The Editor
WOW! I just thought of something really BIG. In future, instead of sewerage something like \$7,500 on some band leader whose music stinks worse than the feet at a Pogo Sock

THE GATEWAY

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