

welcome . . .

. . . from VGW Director

. . . from Students' Union President

By Colin A. Fraser

It is my pleasure to welcome the citizens of Edmonton and surrounding area to Varsity Guest Weekend '65.

1965 represents the thirteenth annual Varsity Guest Weekend. For these three days the campus belongs to you—our guests. We hope that you find it as stimulating and fascinating a place as do those of us who call this home for a few years of our lives.

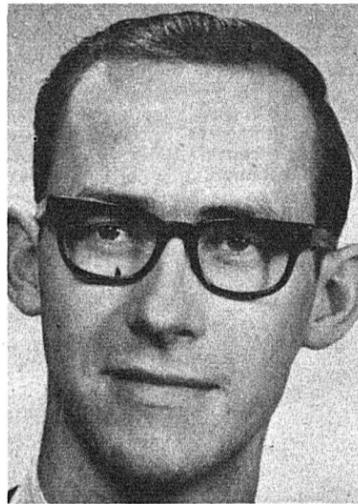
It is our hope that, as you participate in the various activities planned for you, you will feel quite at home at this, your University.

However, its very size, coupled with the limited time which faces all of us, bars exploration of the entire campus. I would therefore suggest that prospective university students limit themselves essentially to discovery of those areas most closely associated with their future studies.

Do not overlook entirely the social activities associated with the

Weekend. Functions of this nature should form a significant part of your university career.

The University is your host today. We hope it may be your home for the next few years.



COLIN FRASER
... VGW Director

By Francis M. Saville

It is my privilege to be able to invite members of the Alberta public to the University of Alberta at Edmonton on the occasion of Varsity Guest Weekend.

Education in Canada in the 20th century is a rather all embracing process, and the primary purpose of a University is education. By this I mean education in the sense of lectures, books, labs, and studying. However, in our present society education is more than this. In fact, it can be said that much education occurs on an individual basis; that is to say it is a process of self-learning.

This is where the extra-curricular aspect of University life enters into the picture. For many students, one of the important parts of their extra-curricular life is the Students' Union at the University.

Student Government exists at a University for three main reasons. The first purpose is to ensure that there is a strong representative voice of the general student body. An illustration of this is the recent action taken regarding the proposed increase in the University tuition fees, where a brief was presented to the Board of Governors.

Secondly, the Students' Union provides many facilities and ser-

vices for the general student body. The present Students' Union Building is owned and operated by the Students' Union, moreover, in the next two years a new Students' Union Building will be constructed

(it is in the blueprint stage at present) which will cover student needs for the next 15 to 20 years.

The third purpose of student government is most important. It is that people attending University are given an opportunity to actively participate in an organization closely analogous to the democratic society in which we as Canadians live. This experience in decision making is a necessary part of the educational program of any democratic society.

To conclude may I strongly urge you to visit the University during Varsity Guest Weekend, February 18, 19, and 20. The University is a basic investment of some of the resources of the people of the Province of Alberta.

Furthermore, it will increase in cost if the program is to expand the way it should. For this reason you have a right to see exactly what the University is like in light of your interest in it.

It is often said that there exists some sort of barrier between the University and the Community in which it lives. This is no doubt true in some circumstances. Varsity Guest Weekend is an opportunity which if taken advantage of, can serve to break down this barrier. I hope you will play your part.



FRANCIS SAVILLE
... SU President

A History Of VGW

By Keith Bresee

The Faculty of Agriculture has been credited with initiating Varsity Guest Weekend—now a university-wide annual function on the University of Alberta campus. The idea arose from a proposal on February 12, 1946 by Howard Fredeen, a graduate student of agriculture, that a field day be sponsored by the graduate students sometime in March. Although the idea didn't get off the ground that year, the following year, 1947, a field day was planned and held on March 15.

The day as organized in 1947, 1948, and 1949, took the form of a judging competition among all students with the exception of seniors. Competitions consisted of judging beef cattle, dairy cattle, grain, soils, weed identification, and involved agricultural engineering. The Field Day was sponsored for the purpose of fostering vocational enthusiasm and to give outsiders a picture of faculty activities. A barn dance in the evening made the day a social success.

In 1950, under the direction of Stan Powers, a student of agriculture, Field Day was reorganized to make it a more fair-type day, to be known as visitors' Day. This was done in the interests of advertising the faculty. It was proposed that various classes and departments set up a display and that a general theme be accepted. The disadvantages of the old Field Day as outlined by Stan Powers were:

- Field Day was left in the hands of a few.
- It didn't accomplish its objective of advertising the Faculty of Agriculture.

from a small field day in 1947, varsity guest weekend has grown into the big scale operation known throughout the province today

- It didn't teach the students anything new.
- Not enough visitors were attracted.

Although the drill hall became unavailable and displays were not possible that year, tours of the campus, faculty and farm were very successful. Letters of invitation had been written to twenty-five organizations and high schools within a radius of 100 miles.

Visitors' Day did its first spreading outside the faculty that year (1950) as the Household Economics girls arranged tours of their school in conjunction with the Agricultural Club.

Visitors' Day received headlines in *The Gateway* that year and was billed as follows:

"The purpose of this day is to provide an opportunity for students from high schools and schools of agriculture to visit the campus and see what is being done here. In general, it is expected that the public will be well represented."

The public was well represented and the success of the day didn't go unrecognized. A letter from Robert Newton, who at that time was President of the University to Stan Powers bears this out.

"I would like to congratulate very heartily you and your colleagues on the splendid success of your Visitors' Day.

"This was a fine piece of public relations work for the University as a whole as well as for the

Faculty of Agriculture. The initiative and organizing capacity displayed by the Agricultural Club are a source of much gratification to the administration of the University."

In 1951 having received full recognition as a very worthy event, a grant was received from the university. Also, donations were received from commercial firms to provide a lunch for the people on Visitors' Day.

A very complete day was planned under the direction of Ron Harvie and included a film, displays by the various departments, and tours of the campus and farm. A program booklet outlining the displays and events of the day was printed and made available for the convenience of the visitors. It contained this passage:

"In past years when the Field Day took the form of a competition within the student body, prizes were donated by various organizations and industries connected with agriculture. This had the advantage of bringing the students and various organizations together.

Visitors' Day is an opportunity to keep citizens of Alberta informed about what the Faculty of Agriculture is doing in return for public support. It has been estimated that the entire cost of the Faculty of Agriculture—indeed the cost of the whole University of Alberta—has been repaid several times by the work of graduates in Agriculture."

1,500 people visited the campus that year.

In 1952 Visitors' Day went campus wide. Having achieved such a high degree of success the two years previous, the following questions were asked with the intention of assuring a successful future within the Faculty of Agriculture.

• Should the Agriculture Visitors' Day be combined with other faculties?

• Should the visitors guide themselves providing signs and maps of the tour be set up?

• Should the Visitors' Day be held yearly or would this result in decreases in crowds?

• Should areas such as Lethbridge and Brooks be invited to attend the Visitors' Day providing accommodation be made? In these areas, commercial firms would sponsor a bus and send a group to the University of Alberta.

Students were urged to invite their parents for the weekend.

Visitors' Day was again a big success and acknowledged as such by the new Varsity Guest Weekend campus committee. Due to some failings on the campus wide scale, this committee suggested that in future years organization and management committees should have the same set up as the "Ag Club" Visitors' Day committee. Also, it was agreed that in succeeding years the "Ag Club" displays would be a part of Varsity Guest Weekend, rather than on a

competitive basis.

It can be stated that in general the period of development of Varsity Guest Weekend from Field Day through Visitors' Day terminated in this year. Now, Varsity Guest Weekend is a highly successful campus event. It can claim considerable credit for the fact that instead of decreasing as it was in 1952, university registration is now soaring.

In the Faculty of Agriculture there have been, since 1952, many proposals for improvement and expansion. Students should be sent out to High Schools to speak in the interest of encouraging students to enroll in Agriculture at the University of Alberta was the suggestion made in 1953. In 1954 the "one theme concept" was again emphasized. It was agreed that in previous years there were too many displays and consequently they wouldn't be seen. Also, each phase of the work done in Agriculture was presented as a separate entity which it really is not. Varsity Guest Weekend went off the campus in 1956 when an "Ag" display was placed in the window of Woodwards. Also that year, Vermilion School of Agriculture and Olds School of Agriculture basketball teams were invited to Edmonton.

The success of Varsity Guest Weekend can be attributed to the consideration and instigation of proposals such as these. This historical outline gives some idea of the wide variety of forms the day took whether it be called Field Day, Visitors' Day or Varsity Guest Weekend. Through discussion, action, revision, and success the many Agriculture classes since 1947 have created a weekend vital to the University.