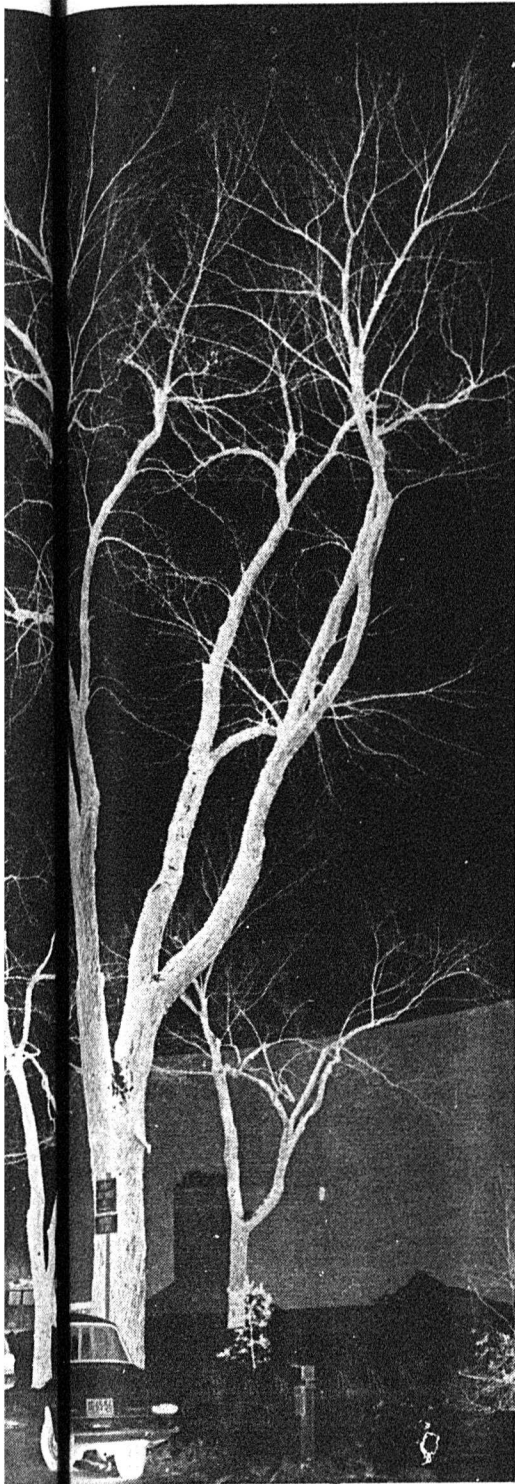
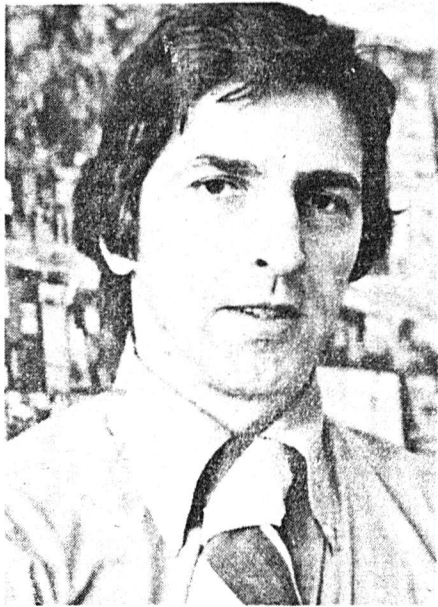


RETORTS



ect of... with an umbrella of twigs."
 nt from... He is also adamantly opposed to the
 ed upon... construction of the North Garneau area.
 e or fe... dispose of these older homes would,
 operty... words, be "anti-cultural".
 Ower... "The cultural heart of this University
 ago o... within the environs of the older
 e wa... buildings and they should be given first
 nty for restoration." dg



Barton Myers

Photos by Donna Guglielmin
 from the Ryersonian

The Editor
 The Gateway
 Students' Union Building
 The University of Alberta
 Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Ms. Jackson,
 In your November 30, 1972, issue of Gateway, you published an article by a group called the Urban Design Group. This article made an attack on the planning of the University of Alberta. Although we welcome constructive criticism, we feel that the Urban Design Group was inaccurate and in fact we have the impression that they are unaware of the Plan and just what it is attempting to do. The following is evidence of our impression:

1. - That the University ignores exterior space. Section 5 of the Long Range Development Plan, June 1969, explains in detail the concept of open space. For detailed development, see the Long Range Landscape Development Plan by Hough, Stansbury, Landscape Architects, now being implemented.

3. - That Alberta is an agricultural or rural campus. This myth and its evident nostalgia are for a simpler world which no longer exists, if it ever did. Again, reference to the attached article, describing the University of Alberta long range plan, will reveal that the plan is based upon the notion that today's reality can be utilized to yield an environment of satisfaction. This goal, it seems to us, is one worthy of effort, rather than attempting to recreate a campus appropriate to different condition than now exist.

4. - That the planners demolished one of Edmonton's finest neighbourhoods. North Garneau was purchased and levelled between 112th and 111th Streets before Diamond and Myers were commissioned to develop the Long Range Development Plan. We gave careful consideration to the North Garneau area, and, in the event that the 109th Street Expressway were constructed, we saw a stadium as the only activity and building that could co-exist with an expressway. However, since the expressway now seems unlikely, we have strongly recommended that no more houses be destroyed and that the remaining houses be renovated and further strengthened with infill housing to make a residential community. The Urban Design Group statement will thus be seen in this regard to be irresponsible, if not malicious.

5. - That the planners deny seasons, that winter calls us outdoors, that winter is not so unpleasant, and that winter is only a few weeks. The Plan provides two basic choices: indoor, naturally-lighted walkways (some designed as winter gardens) for cold, inclement weather or a shorter outdoor walkway system for hardy souls and other seasons. A glass membrane as a division between interior and exterior space affords new relationships to the outdoors that have, heretofore, historically not existed on campus. U.D.G. may favor exclusively outdoor movement between buildings, but they are not the only users of the campus. The objective of the planners has been to provide choices, so that many preferences could be satisfied. There are those whose values differ from U.D.G. The facts on temperature speak for themselves: Edmonton's mean temperature from November to April (the academic year) is below freezing; the mean minimum temperature is below freezing 6 months of the year, below zero for 2 months. That is considered cold by anyone's standards, but the choice of walking indoors or outdoors may be made, and indeed is designed for.

6. - That the campus has no gates. And rightly so, because gates that herald "Entrance" also herald "Keep Out." Gates also imply walls and the Long Range Development Plan envisages a university without walls, open to the community. Gates are symbols of elitism, of medieval enclaves. Besides, how ludicrous to put a gate on an institution the size of a small city. Who would use it?

7. - That outsiders are imposing ideas on Albertans. Any investigation into the process of the development of the PPlan, how decisions are made at Alberta, and how things get done, would certainly prove this to be patently untrue. The planners are an Alberta firm with an office in Edmonton and a partner who is a native born Albertan. Notwithstanding this, the process of planning has been one of extensive consultation, and of advice and consent by the many constituent parts of the University.



Jack Diamond

Your paper does a great service in providing pages as forum for debate of community issues. You would provide, in our opinion, a very great service to the University by accurately publishing just what the Long Range Plan is all about. Enclosed are two articles by the Globe and Mail reporters that both provide concise reports on the Plan and HUB, which your readers might enjoy. We would also be delighted at any time to talk to you at Gateway and also the Urban Design Group. We believe that inaccurate reportage harms the Gateway's credibility and is a disservice to its readers. We would be pleased to meet with the members of the U.D.G., if they would reveal their identities.

Thank you for your consideration of our points of view.
 Barton Myers, Jack Diamond and Rick

Wilkin
 Planners

from the Globe and Mail,
 17 February 1972

The University of Alberta is the first in Canada to allow the development of a full range of commercial services on campus. The policy change was made to permit the Students Union to build its own \$6-million climate-controlled neighbourhood, one of the first of its kind in any university. It consists of a glass-roofed pedestrian arcade lined with shops and five stories of student apartments. A service road for vehicles is being built under the pedestrian street, which is designed to like into other buildings and at least one more housing arcade.

The men who devised the university's long-range development plan and designed the Students Union housing, A.J. Diamond and Barton Myers, Architects and Planners, of Toronto, in association with R.L. Wilkin of Edmonton, say the Students Union arcade may be the longest in the world at 950 feet.

Rightly or wrongly, the University of Alberta has committed itself to becoming a specialized neighbourhood within the city of Edmonton. Whether it has something to contribute to the improvement and functional well-being of the wider community will be assessed as its own new life-style takes form within vaulted and weatherproofed halls.

Editor's note: Being infinitely polite, I thank the Diamond and the Myers for sharing their views on the Urban Design Group's article with our readers. I reject the claim, however, that the article was misleading or that our readers were done a disservice by being exposed to a point of view which differs from the official campus planner's orthodoxy. The Gateway's credibility will never be endangered by providing an open forum for the discussion of issues of concern to the university community.

Terri Jackson

