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VGW SPECIAL EDITION

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The Editor is responsible for all material published herein.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1964

Professorial Misfits . . .

The Varsity Guest Weekend practice of holding open public lectures certainly has much to recommend it, but from the students' point of view it leaves much to be desired.

The fact of the matter is this: anyone from off-campus—any non-student, that is—who sees the university lecture-room only in the public lectures offered during VGW is going to get a very distorted picture of professors and lectures.

The lectures the public sees during VGW are *not* typical university lectures, not by any means.

They are, rather, elaborately-staged imitations of what one really finds, most of the time, in the classrooms of this university.

We know. We are the ones who go to the lectures during the rest of the year, when the censorious eyes of the public are *not* in evidence. And we wish to assure you that all lecturers are by no means as articulate and erudite as are VGW lecturers—not any more than are regular classes as well-attended as VGW "classes."

There are professors on this university who haven't the first clue as to how to give a decent lecture. There are professors—let us be brutally frank—whose place is doing research in the laboratory, or the library; it is *not* in the classroom. There are muddled professors. There are professors with ill-organized courses. There are unduly irreverent professors, men puffed up with a sense of their own vain brilliance, devoid of humility for tradition, washed clean of roots in the community that employs them.

. . . And Student Goof-offs

If the mass of professors here have nothing to be proud of, what about the mass of students?

We must admit, shamefacedly, that we students hardly boast an enviable record either.

There are outstanding professors. There are outstanding students.

If there are professors with no sense of responsibility to their classes, then there are as many students, proportionately, with no sense of responsibility to their work.

If there are professors who know nothing about *teaching*, then there are a many students who know nothing about *learning*.

There are, literally, hundreds of so-called "students" here who have no right to be called by that name. We mean the Social Climbers. The Professional Radicals. The Marchers. The Husband-Hunters. The Big Men On Campus. The Glad-handing, Back-slapping, pretentious little campus politicians.

To these people, the name "student" is something to be disdainfully

And of course there are the good professors, too—men of vast learning, men of responsibility, men of wisdom who seek to do their duties in the best traditions of scholarship. Yet they are all too rare; too rare on this campus, too rare everywhere.

What can be done about the "misfits"?

No one really seems to have the answer. Few, in fact, seem to care. Certainly the professors are in no hurry, as a group, to see the present situation altered. Too many in their ranks have careers of ordered ease at stake. Students here have few controls—and, knowing what we do about the abuses of student-control in Latin American universities, this is something for which we may be rightly grateful. Yet something, surely, needs to be done.

Perhaps VGW holds the answer. For we have observed that through VGW, an increased awareness of the public's presence seems to pervade the ranks of the academy—along with, perhaps, an increased awareness of the professor's responsibilities to his employer, the taxpayer.

Maybe the VGW idea of "open classes," like Eisenhower's plan of "open skies," has merit after all. Classes open to the public—or at least open to all *students*, regardless of their course registration—might well be classes presided over by professors more alert, and less occasioned to sloth and ill-preparedness.

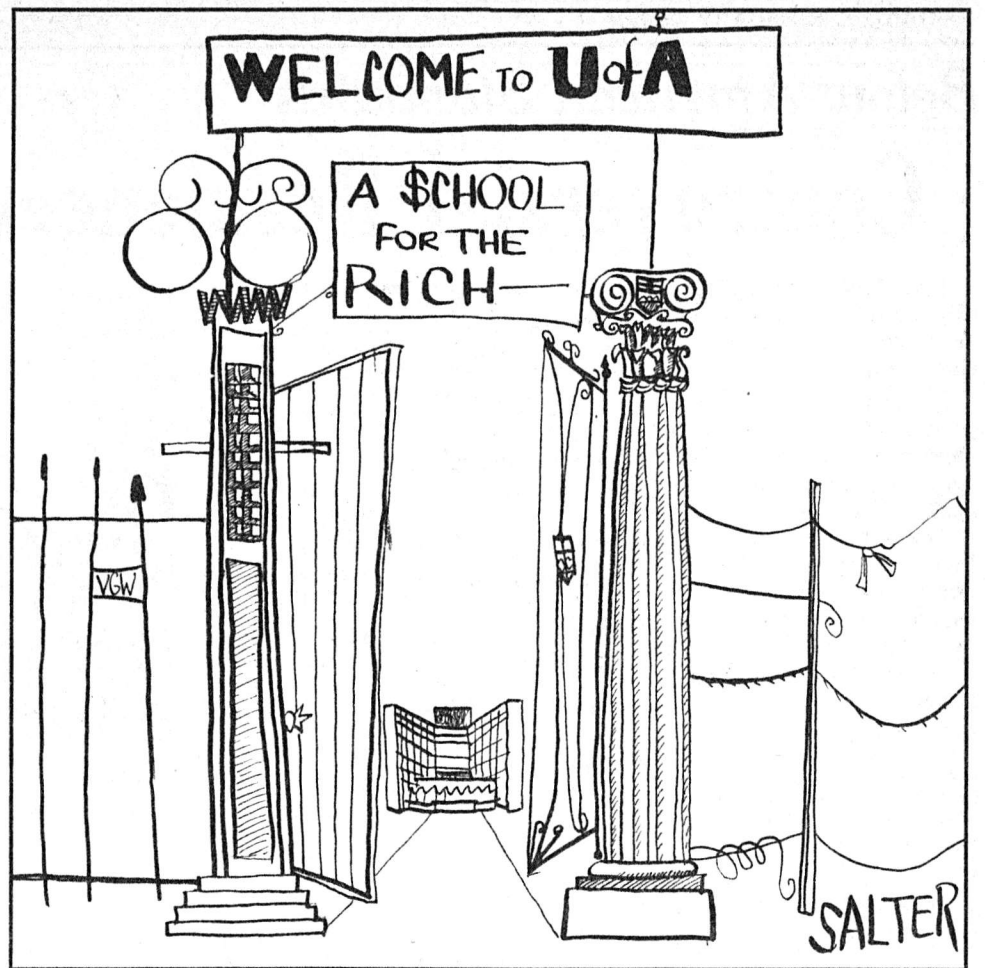
It's not a solution without its difficulties, and it wouldn't begin to solve all the problems of a partly-mediocre academic staff.

But it's a start.

spurned—it is the mark of the social Outs, the rather dreary and colorless lot too bent to gain admission to the social elite. To these people, knowledge can never be as important as status, and the quest for it can never equal the quest for prestige, or prestige-symbols.

There are students—plenty of students, we have suggested—in "need" at the university. We have seen them, living in hovel-like basement suites, paying atrocious rents, cooking on hotplates. And there are those we have not seen—the talented but poor few who could not afford, even in our Age of Affluence, to come to university.

And there are their opposite counterparts, for whom we express no pride or sympathy—the "students" living on their family's padded allowances, driving the expensive cars, belonging to the expensive fraternities, being seen with the expensive women, partying at the most expensive parties. You don't have to look far on this campus to find



President's Message

More Professionals Needed

By DR. WALTER JOHNS
President
University of Alberta

Varsity Guest Weekend on the Edmonton campus of the University of Alberta, like the university itself, has grown rapidly over the past few years.

We hope and expect that in 1964 we may welcome the largest group of visitors in our history.

University education is becoming one of the most important features of life in Canada today because of the increasing complexity of our social, economic, and political organizations. We need more teachers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, social workers, and other professional people than ever before in order to keep pace with the public demand for improved standards of service.

MUST LEARN MORE

Knowledge itself is being accumulated and is being applied to the welfare of mankind at an increasing speed, so that a lawyer or doctor or teacher today needs to learn far more at university than his predecessors of only a few years ago. It is to meet these needs that our registration has gone up so sharply in the past few years and will continue to rise ever more rapidly in the years ahead.

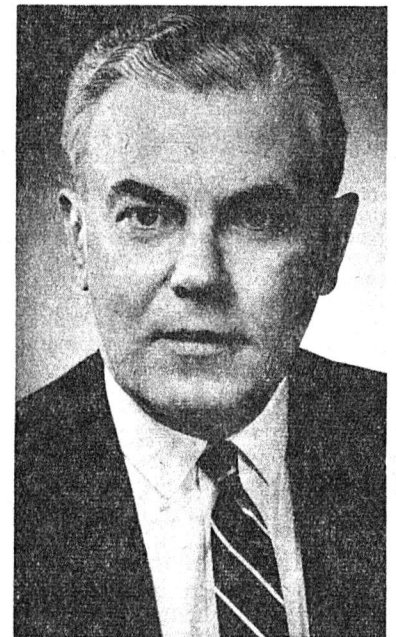
We hope our visitors will have a chance to see something of the work being done by students now on the campus and of the libraries and laboratories in which they work.

Of special interest this year will be the new Education Building on 87th Ave., the new Cameron Library, for senior and graduate students and research, and the food services building, Lister Hall, which will serve the new residences to be opened this summer.

exam cheaters, library book-stealers, half-witted socializers and dull engineers who while away their leisure hours playing bridge in the lounges or pool in the SUB basement.

For them, we apologize.

For them, we have no pat solu-



DR. WALTER JOHNS

PROUD OF RECORD

We are very proud of our university, not only because of its growth in size and of its fine buildings, but even more for its outstanding record in achieving high distinction in a great many areas of study among the universities of this country and of the world.

You will meet on our campus hundreds of students from all over the world who have been attracted here, chiefly for graduate study, by your university's reputation.

We extend a special welcome today to the high school students and their teachers and hope they will agree that this is a good place in which to carry on their studies and to prepare themselves for a life of service to their country and its people.

tions. We can offer up no utopias. Tests of intellect are simple; tests of character—and surely we expect character to emerge from a university education!—are more difficult.

We'd like to see some devised. Then we could start cleaning our own house.