

Lowboy Saw A Wheel

"I see X got on the Promotions (or some other) committee. Humph! Must be bucking for the presidency!"

Too often these words are heard about campus, accompanied by a derogatory sneer. It would seem that anyone who participates actively in several student organizations is doing so solely to become a "big wheel".

The latter theory is obviously ridiculous. Public service, on any level, is a bed of thorns, not of roses. The glory in it, if there be any at all, is small return for the constant responsibility, the exhausting work, the lost sleep, and the ever-present complaints, for the public seldom shows gratitude to its leaders.

Fortunately for the ungrateful public, leaders continue to come forth. They fill the posts that must be filled, and do the work that must be done. Some of them, it is true, do have visions of grandeur—dreams in which their efforts are applauded—but this illusion never lasts long. Yet they remain. They take on more responsibility. They recognize the need

and they fill it. We at the University of Alberta should be thankful that there is among us a handful of students who look after the interests and well-being of the rest.

But the student body at the University of Alberta seems no more aware of this debt of gratitude than does the most illiterate segment of any public. They are not merely apathetic. They degrade the whole idea of public service by deriding the servant's motives. Envy of the person with a title, combined with unwillingness to co-operate in student efforts (and so deserve a title of one's own), produces the "we despise wheels" club.

Bucking for the presidency, indeed! If the charge is true, the man in question has more than a desire for fame. He possesses the ability and the dedication to persevere in serving the public good. His capacity for hard work is exercised to the full, in spite of limited co-operation, which always discourages a lesser man.

Bucking for the presidency! Let's hope he is. If every student at the University of Alberta did just that, the responsibility for so many would not fall on so few. And we would hear no more inane prattling about the limitless paradise supposedly enjoyed by "big wheels".

The Residence Proposal

Almost every candidate for student office in the last half decade has solemnly promised to turn his efforts to the quest for more residences. Residences have been that kind of an issue on this campus.

And the efforts of almost every successful candidate have been turned, with the quest remaining unfulfilled. Residences have been that kind of a problem.

A week ago Friday, the University of Alberta's Board of Governors came to unofficial agreement about how the problem will begin to be solved. All but formal sanction has been given to a \$7,500,000 program to build six men's residences, starting in the late spring of this year. That formal sanction, which must come from both the Board and the Alberta government, which pays most of the shot, is expected soon after the annual budget comes down in the Alberta legislature.

The new residence project—which will put 1,500 male students in modern, single rooms—is large. In the light of a student population which is likely to double in the next five years, the project is probably not large enough.

But it is a beginning, and it is recognized as just a beginning by the committee submitting the residence recommendations to the Board of Governors. Other residence plans—which, while undocumented, are considered of immediate concern—will probably see two more men's residences built, and a start made on co-ed accommodation.

Complete details about the new residences will not likely be released until the program is officially approved. However, what information is available indicates that the new University of Alberta residences will be the best that conditions here permit.

Abandoning the idea of long-halled residences and putting students in small units will probably allow better study conditions, and might re-introduce the group comradeship which has largely disappeared from Alberta residence life. This will add considerable strength to the argument calling for a year in residence as an introduction to a University career.

The buildings themselves will be tall, and sturdy. Architecturally, they will be attractive, and will complement developments on campus and the government auditorium, to whose west they will stand.

After extensive study, the University of Alberta is beginning a solution to a residence problem which four decades bred. Though its details are unknown, the general program seems commendable.

Panties And Pettiness

A group of fraternity men let some urge get the better of them Friday night, and swooped down on unguarded panties of the U of A Nurses' residence.

There is rumour that these students, one of whom is in medicine and another due to graduate in commerce, face expulsion. As hanging is the penalty for murder and treason, expulsion is the University of Alberta's method of dealing with panty bandits.

We suggest that these students not be expelled. They should be severely reprimanded, and perhaps fined, because those who break coded laws must be punished. But expulsion is carrying that punishment a little too far.

Expulsion is the most lethal weapon a University commands. By its exercise, a University can dynamite men's plans, and destroy men's lives. We do not consider a wild scheme, struck upon in the heat of a drinking bout, to be sufficient grounds for destroying lives.

If these students are expelled, they will not be receiving punishment for gross immorality, or for sabotaging the morals of a campus. But that it breaks one of the petty little golden rules of this particular campus, panty raiding is as innocuous as painting signs on a fence. It is no more tempting to morality than a low cut dress, and breeds no more disrespect for law than speeding through a school zone.



A Free Student Press - Obstacles In The East

Ottawa—(CUP)—The Students' Council at the University of Ottawa came close to censuring one of the student editors for his part in the passing of the Charter of the Student Press in Canada at the annual Canadian University Press conference held in Quebec, December 28-30.

Michel Beaubien, associate-editor of La Rotonde, faced a charge of censure because he had demanded, and vigorously participated in, the creation of the charter which deals with the freedom of the student press.

Council member Pierre Joannisse claimed M. Beaubien did not speak for the Council.

M. Beaubien told delegates to the CUP conference that such a charter was essential because of "certain influences that obliged French member papers to adopt certain attitudes for fear of reprisals."

He also stressed the belief that the Canadian student press should be free from all external pressures, financial or otherwise.

Following the proposal of the motion, M. Beaubien defended his action, stating that the facts were true, and that "the main purpose of the speech was the adoption of a student press charter by which the member newspapers of the Canadian University Press would sound a collective voice against these types of interferences."

Council President Andre Ouellet pointed out to the Council that it would be unwise to add to the publicity that the University of Ottawa has already gained by its past actions against La Rotonde.

M. Joannisse withdrew his motion. Council then passed a motion stating that it considered M. Beaubien's statements as personal opinions, which did not reflect those of the Council.

Montreal—(CUP)—The Students' Executive Council of McGill University last night approved, "in principle", the Charter of the Student Press in Canada, but balked at incorporating a guarantee of press freedom into its constitution.

This was the first such action taken by a Students' Council following the adoption by the Canadian University Press of the charter at last December's conference.

The charter states CUP's belief in:—freedom of expression, as an essential aspect of the student press;—responsibility of the press;—freedom from all forms of external interference, including student government, and University authorities, and;—in the autonomy of the student press, and the freedom to develop so it might continue its role in the academic community.

However, when an attempt was made to insert even a limited guarantee of press freedom in the students' society constitution, the Council defeated the move overwhelmingly.

The Council was considering a revised constitution for the students' society which must be approved by a general meeting of the student body, and by the University authorities.

The clause presently governing the student newspaper, The McGill Daily, reads as follows:

"The Students' Executive Council shall be responsible for the management, and the control of The McGill Daily through the editor-in-chief."

The proposed change would have added, "In the editorial columns, The McGill Daily shall be free to express whatever opinion it holds save that no editorial shall treat of a religious question in a partisan way, attack any political party per se, or express or imply any but a neutral attitude in discussing any student election."

EDITOR'S APOLOGY — to candidate Marie Shampier whose name our back page mis-spells; and to notice-readers, whose Board our back page pushed out.

THE GATEWAY

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