

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—Well, the office is finally starting to fill up with some new faces, although these helpful souls could sure stand some company: Carol Debnam (Gateway's star q.b.), Steve Rybak, Marion Conybeare (special assistant to the managing editor), Chuck Lyall, Hiroto Saka, Peter Johnston, Peter Enns (finally got a haircut), Ekkehard Kottke, Don Holmes, Teri Turner, W. W. P. (Wayne) Burns, Jack Groff, Gordon Auck, Sharilyn Ingram, Caterina Edwards, Brian Perry, and yours truly Harvey Thomgirt.

The Gateway is published semi-weekly by the students' union of the University of Alberta. The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for all material published herein. Final copy deadline: for Wednesday edition—7 p.m. Sunday, advertising—noon Thursday prior, short shorts—5 p.m. Friday; for Friday edition—7 p.m. Tuesday, advertising—noon Monday prior; short shorts—5 p.m. Tuesday. Casserole advertising—noon Thursday, previous week. Advertising Manager: Peter Amerongen. Office Phone—433-115. Circulation—9,300. Authorized as second-class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash. Postage paid at Edmonton.

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1966

the ivory tower

The Henry Marshall Tory building is an abortion.

It is narrow corridors surrounding a maze of strangely numbered rooms.

It is a small entrance through which thousands of students are expected to pass.

It is U-shaped halls which lead to nowhere.

It is a building where the only passages to the lecture rooms are through the basement or an outside tunnel.

It is a building with most of the classrooms and laboratory facilities on the first three floors and in the basement.

It has no elevator service to the basement or the second floor.

It is windowless classrooms which

may be unbearable until a chilled-water air-conditioning plant comes into operation next year.

It is a fire-alarm system which may be activated by the heat from un-conditioned rooms.

It is a lecture theatre with sloping walls which makes it impossible to use regular sized blackboards.

It is students and professors missing classes because they are lost.

It is a building with no directional signs.

It is an example of the low quality of university architecture.

It is not a tribute to the first president of this university, Henry Marshall Tory.

Perhaps the building should be renamed to do just honour to our present university administrators.

all hail the machine

After once again going through the horrifying process of registering at this hallowed institute, we once again wonder whether or not something could be done to simplify registration procedures.

This year the CNR will begin to computerize its reservations system. Air Canada has used computers for some time.

U of A registration is now semi-computerized, but we wonder if it could possibly be totally computerized.

If students could fill out a work-

ing time-table, could not this be punched, and the machine immediately turn out the required class-cards or a rejection of the timetable with a possible alternative?

Since we are doomed to become slaves of bureaucracy and the computer anyway, we might just as well go whole hog and have the machine work out the gory details which are just messed up by the human element involved.

In other words, let's try to take the anarchy out of registration week and let the machine do all the worry-

freshman week

Frosh beanies, coffee tickets, carnivals, bear hops, coffeehouses—all things which a sophisticated freshman would not enjoy.

But all these things, and many more besides, were enjoyed by the more than three thousand frosh who arrived on campus last week.

They were also enjoyed by large numbers of students returning to campus.

Quite a difference from the so-called sophisticated atmosphere of last year's Freshman Introduction Week.

The 'make friends now, hit the

books later' approach taken by Bob Rosen and his FIW committee was for the most part responsible for the most enthusiastic introduction to the university in recent years.

The originality in producing the coffeehouse, which brought many frosh into the students' union building, when most would have been content to never enter the building, is to be specially commended.

Mr. Rosen is deserving of praise for the long, arduous hours he put into this project, and future FIW directors should take note of the success Mr. Rosen and his committee had with their approach.



"hi dear! we thought you'd be lonely your first week at university"

in praise of apathy

by helene chomiak

In a few weeks students' council will probably start on its favourite topic—student apathy.

Apathy is defined as the refusal of students to take part in activities organized for them by the benevolent students' union.

Councillors will explain to council meetings in mournful tones how their outstanding projects were ruined by student neglect.

These projects will no doubt include photographs for the yearbook, university football, and later other athletic games, various council committees, the many Wauneita functions, with the possible exception of the Dr. Vant lectures and the formal, the council leadership seminar (yes, leaders are charged with apathy too) and the greatest sin of all, students' council meetings.

Yet obviously students do not spend all their time bending over books and diligently preparing lessons for the next class.

Somehow they appear at dances, seem to find innumerable hours to spend at coffee, have the odd moment to go drinking, and do not altogether neglect sex.

Students have also been known to appear at fraternity houses, SUPA meetings, law club forums, student debates, protest meetings, Gateway press nights, and Varsity Varieties.

So it appears that students have many interests outside of classes. These interests also seem to be rather widespread.

With one or two exceptions, these activities have been organized outside the students' union.

Unfortunately, council leaders do not seem happy with student's choice of spare time fun for they spend coun-

cil money elsewhere. Equally unfortunately, students do not seem too enthused about council's choice of extracurricular activities.

So the students' council goes its own merry way spending \$27.50 for each student on things he doesn't give a damn about.

Or so the student's response to council activities seems to indicate.

Of course, there has to be some justification for this situation. The favourite scapegoat is The Gateway.

"Project X did not obtain sufficient coverage in The Gateway," some councillor will report to a council meeting.

This probably means that a front-page story wasn't written about the event and that The Gateway editor did not spend at least two editorials to comment on it.

Now with lack of proper publicity anything will fail, council says, so it is not our fault that "X" number of dollars went for something attended only by a few students.

But as council spends this money on its events, it is unable to meet the requests of organizations who manage to get a response from students.

So council should make an effort to find what students are interested in and cater to these interests.

Council precedent on CUS shows us that students' unions should not be leaders in students events, but rather should reflect student opinion.

So council should start spending its budget on free coffee and beer for students; lowering student fees; subsidizing protest marches, SUPA, and fraternities and possibly providing meeting places for lovers.

This is after all what the students want. Attendance will be no problem.