

Politics or Politeness

Four Russian University students are in the process of touring Canada as part of a USSR-Canada student exchange program. The quartet arrives in Edmonton Monday night.

During their stay here, they will be given what amounts to the run of the city. With Alberta students as their guides, they will visit their choice of industrial, academic or agricultural sites in the Edmonton district. Only in four brief engagements, including a general meeting with students Tuesday night, will they be bound to any itinerary.

This freedom is commendable. The Russian students will be here as guests, and they should have extended to them the freedom and other courtesies normally given guests.

Unfortunately, there has been among the student-faculty committee planning the tour, and there doubtless will be among students in the street, a tendency to regard the Russians not as touring guests but as political personalities.

The fact that they represent a country philosophically and politically opposite to our own should in no way restrict their activity or make more hostile our reception. If political

difference is to exert any influence, it should force us to take interest in the Russians and host them graciously.

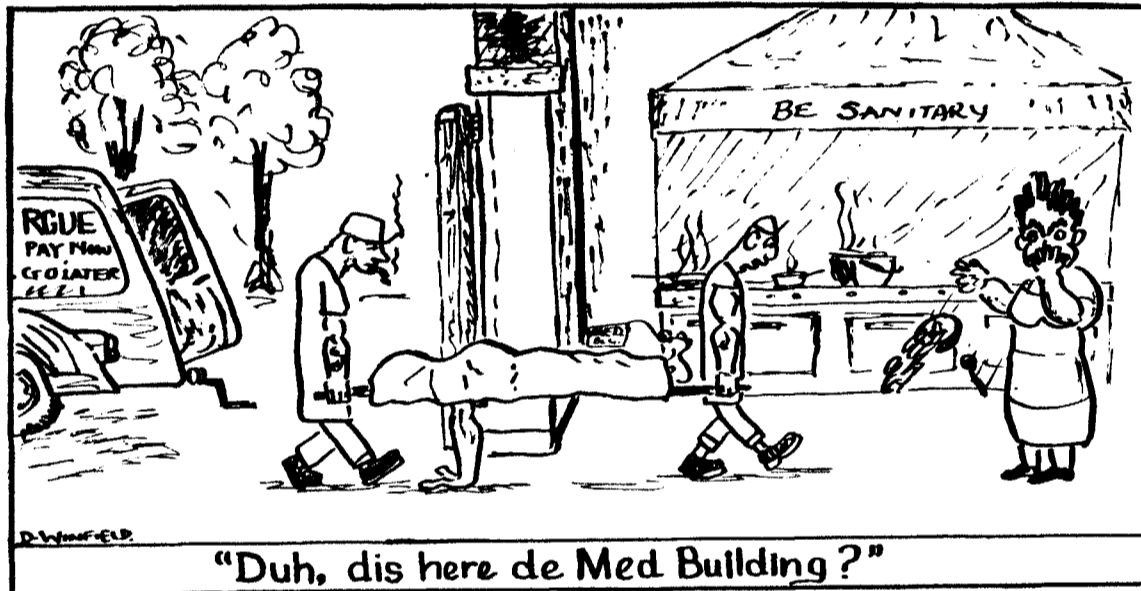
There are on campus many students who claim that disharmony in the world stems from a lack of understanding among peoples. They suggest that governments seeking peace should follow policies designed to create a mutual understanding.

This exchange program brings to the student level the challenges and opportunities normally reserved for governments and international agencies. By extending hospitality and friendship to next week's Russian visitors we can perhaps contribute to that essential understanding among nations.

That, at any rate, should be the approach we take to these guests from the USSR.

Squeak

We finally figured out just what the new math and physics building really is. It's a mouse trap. And apparently most of the mice in town are beating a path to its doors and are now infesting the second and third floors.



"Duh, dis here de Med Building?"

The Cabinet or The Courts

"... And there you shall hang by your neck until dead. May God have mercy on your soul."

Tuesday Robert Raymond Cook paid the supreme price for the murder of his father. Once more the question of capital punishment is brought sharply into focus.

Perhaps the most significant thing is that Cook was executed at all. Of the forty-odd murderers who have been convicted since the present Cabinet took office, approximately 80 per cent have had their death sentences commuted to life imprisonment.

The Cabinet has unlimited authority to extend mercy, and in recent months has been using this authority to its fullest extent to conform to present public opinion on exercising the death penalty. However, there is no evidence that the majority of Canadian people are in favor of establishing the Cabinet as a permanent judicial tribunal.

A compromise is desirable.

Murders can be classified into two broad groupings: premeditated, and unpremeditated. It is for the former type only that the death penalty should be retained. Although many persons will quote statistics to the contrary, it is inconceivable that the risk of meeting one's Maker could fail to deter at least a number of potential murderers. It is in saving these lives that capital punishment finds its justification.

To those that point out the danger that innocent people may be punished if the death penalty is maintained, it is submitted that the

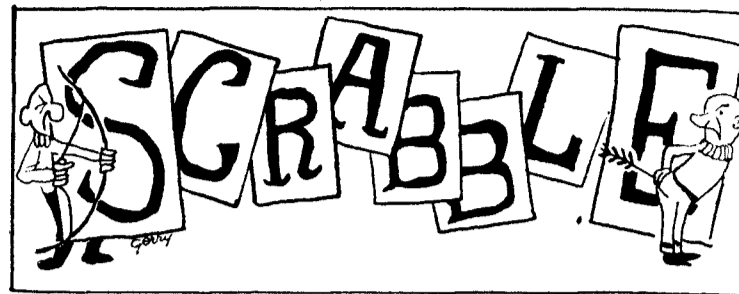
force of this danger is of a lesser magnitude than the benefit society will derive from its deterrent effect.

On the other hand, there can be no practical reason whatsoever for executing those convicted of unpremeditated murders. These are crimes of passion which are inherent in mankind. There is no element of deterrence whatsoever because these murders are committed in the heat of the moment, and the killer fails to think at all of the consequences.

In 1957, the British House of Commons, in a "free" vote, passed a bill which Canada would do well to adopt. It abolished the death penalty for "ordinary" murders, but retained it for special cases such as killing during robberies, while escaping from lawful custody, or while resisting arrest; murders committed with firearms or explosives; and second murders.

Although minor changes in this plan may be desirable, on the whole, it beneficially separates those who are compulsively dangerous to society from those who have suffered a temporary loss of control.

The job then of the cabinet is to cease making arbitrary decisions of its own, and instead, introduce legislation to bring into effect the distinctions outlined above. In actuality, it has been making these distinctions itself in the commutations allowed so far. Now it must turn the job over to the courts, not only in the interests of uniformity but also to keep the administration of justice free from political overtones.



Frat Rats Dept.: Every year the Inter-Fraternity Council (last outpost of democracy) and the Panhellenic Society (like Waunceita with the vitamins removed) sponsor a dance called the Club-Something-or-Other. Better they should call it the Club Foot. Every year, the dance becomes a 900 lb. monkey on the back of some poor unfortunate slob who is railroaded into being the director of the event.

In the past, Club Foot has been a pseudo-sophisticated bag of boredom which everybody went to so they could be seen. This year, as the idea was to wear masks and costumes and therefore be unrecognizable, nobody went, and missed out on what might have been the best dance of the year. Those few who attended certainly appeared to be enjoying themselves. The band was excellent; the decorations were lavish and striking; the Jubilaires put on their usual high standard of entertainment; even the acoustics in that wretched rink were a little better. Too bad nobody was there to enjoy it. It seems to me that if fraternity people cannot support their own dance, then maybe they shouldn't be

allowed to sponsor any dances in the future!

Overhead in the Library Smoking Room, den of vice, etc.: "Such wonderful uniformity of design in the new Math-Physics Building. Every floor looks like the basement."

Ladies First Dept.: Household Economics types have written me all kinds of nasty letters, stressing dismemberment, flogging, imprisonment and other unprintables. What's that old bit about a woman scorned? I'm all broken up, like. Oh, well, that's what happens when we fearless fighters for truth try to present an unbiased viewpoint. They criticized Ezra Pound, too.



Fry Mah Pones

Deah Mistuh Editor:

In the Novembuh fust issue of yoh papuh, by way of provin' whut trash it really is, some Yankee numbskull, in referrin' to that fine organisation of Suthern Gentlemen, the Ku Klux Klan, wrote it as "Klu". An refuh you and yoh entire staff to any good dictionary wheah you will find it unduh "Ku". If this wus Dixie, sun, the puhson ree-sponsible would be publicly hoss-whipped.

Ah ree-main yoh humble suvant, Suh.

(Signed) Jefferson Davis Robert E. P. Lee (Arts 1)

Success At Last

To The Editor:

Apparently the writer of Scrabble was merely trying to annoy someone in his discussion of House Ec. building. If so, he can label his column a success.

He is obviously uninformed about the things he boldly criticizes in his column, but he is not alone. There are many of his kind, completely ignorant of the highly respected and responsible positions held by professional home economists.

The school of household economics produces dieticians, district home economists, specialized teachers, home service directors, and a basis for post-graduate work in nutritional research and many other highly specialized fields.

Mr. Evans seems to think that all of us choose our professions for personal gain.

But home economists go beyond this. Their influence for better standards is continually being felt even outside the bounds of their professional duties.

It is only reasonable that students training for such responsible and influential positions have adequate space and equipment to assure highest possible standards. The corner we are now bulging out of was built

for temporary use 25 years ago. As well as having inadequate laboratory space and equipment, the classroom space is just too small to squeeze in the ever-increasing enrollment in this, the best faculty on campus.

I guess Chris Evans isn't in favor of younger marriages. It's fortunate really. Or perhaps it's an escape mechanism!!! We will admit that House Ec promotes better marriages, but not necessarily younger ones.

And as for us being unmarried—each man to his own taste. By the way, Chris, we have a course that indirectly involves good taste. Why don't you take it next year?

Louise and Martha.

Hello Again

To The Editor:

It is about time we ran off a few of the dissenters and chronic complainers that are messing up this campus. I am referring, of course, to those people who slouch in plush little chairs and write "cute" letters about members of The Gateway staff.

It is about time that these people realized less noise and more effort would have a better effect. Kenton is dead; Clemens Feldmeyer is trying. I hate to sound prejudiced but if I ever meet Mrs. Feldmeyer's little boy I may get a sudden urge to "to him" in the ear with an electric drill.

And about "clouding the issue," only a person of his mentality would think his behavior could be reflective of the faculty of engineering. It is understood that from every large body a few "queers" are bound to emerge.

If "Clemens dear" is so damned fond of HIS opinion, I suggest he keep it to himself and flash it only on rare occasions (like once every twelve years).

An Old Friend

P.S.

Chris Evans IS a crank. Thank God for a few individuals.

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