

A song of praise

Seldom do Gateway editorials praise.

Rather, they are concerned with pointing out flaws and defects in our little university world—and bringing forward constructive suggestions for change. Such an attitude is justified, as this city already has one editorial page containing syrupy pap, tempered only with feeble swipes at safe topics like communism, sin and drunken drivers.

But The Gateway cannot be precluded from praise. Especially praise directed toward the efficient operation of a complex machine—the students' union.

Too often we fail to appreciate machines that run smoothly. Only when something goes wrong do we take notice.

Four fourteen years Walter A. Dinwoodie has been quietly and effectively conducting the business of our students' union. As the permanent business manager, he must unravel the financial tangles of thirty-two students organizations.

Included in the gruesome list are The Gateway, Students' Council, Evergreen and Gold, and Mixed Chorus. Mr. Dinwoodie is responsible for all purchases and invoicing, and keeps

an eye on the budget of each organization. Further, he is in charge of operating the Students' Union Building and the students' union office.

However, the most significant aspect of Walter Dinwoodie's contribution to this university is the work he does over and above his normal duties.

He is always willing to confer with students and is constantly called away from his work to give advice on the crisis of the day. Campus leaders draw on his experience to guide them in their decision making. Without such advice, too many problems would be attacked on a trial and error basis, with many mistakes and much waste of time the result.

Significantly, Mr. Dinwoodie does not force his opinions and experience on the student executives around him. He will say nothing unless asked.

With a comparatively small staff, Walter Dinwoodie has been able to efficiently look after the affairs of thousands of students over the years. It is a tribute to him that the students' union of the University of Alberta is one of the best administered in Canada or the United States.

University of Alberta high school

The university administration through the years has maintained a tolerant, fatherly attitude toward the student body.

To protect young girls who might otherwise wander around until it started raining, it has decreed that all undergraduate women students in residence shall be home at clearly specified hours.

In fairness, it provides for a certain amount of female fun by permitting the odd late night through use of a controlled pass system.

To maintain law and order on campus and yet to keep things within the family, so to speak, the university maintains its own patrol police. Order is thus enforced with a quaint personal touch and students are spared callous indignities at the hands of less local cops.

These are good aspects of the system. Unfortunately, the tendency towards paternalism sometimes becomes downright stifling. The student body is manipulated like the children in any Alberta high school.

This year, it has been decided that engineers' "queens" will be selected only from upperclasswomen. First year girls will be ineligible. This, apparently, stems from the fact that a few queens have scored pathetic marks in the exams following Queen Week.

First year girls don't know what's happening. Therefore, they treat the engineering queen contest with much excitement and eye-

lash flapping. This is not good, says the University of Alberta High School. First year girls must be denied everlasting fame.

There are many more items. The slogan for the World University Service fund drive was originally to be Cabins for Concepcion, referring to the University of Concepcion. "Tsk, tsk," said Mrs. J. Grant Sparling, dean of women. The slogan mysteriously became Cabins for Chile.

Varsity Varieties is censored annually. The University of Alberta High School wouldn't want its clever little pupils to come up with any "bright sayings" that might offend the wife of the mayor of Gopher Gulch.

The farcical regulation to end all farcical regulations is incorporated into the engineering queen week. Every year one or more of the girls is "kidnapped" by desperate artsmen. The first thing the kidnapers must do is notify the administration of the girl's whereabouts. Each night the girl must telephone the administration, apparently to give the latest bulletin on her chastity, from the "secret" headquarters of the desperados.

Are the students on this campus mature enough to supervise their own activities? Certainly. The machinery already exists in the form of the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Committee. It should be utilized.

Until then, we must admit we attend the University of Alberta High School.



NO, PROFESSOR, I DO NOT THINK DR. JOHNS IS A "DAMN FASCIST DICTATOR"



Students' council failing?

— sycamore

Forum, an innovation this term, is a space in which students may present their views in the form of editorials. Controversial submissions, especially those bordering upon libel, will be given first consideration.

Writers are asked to submit their "editorials" typed double spaced. All submissions must be signed. If anonymity is required, articles must be enclosed in envelopes addressed to the editor-in-chief and marked "confidential."

If the University of Alberta is to emerge from the shroud of mediocrity which presently encompasses it, a large portion of the responsibility must be with students' council. This year's students' council is not meeting its responsibilities.

Every year students' council is made up of approximately 22 members. Five or six are "big movers" and the remainder are "mere voters." The "mere voters" attend every meeting mechanically raising their right arms to signify their assent to motions of which they either have no knowledge or lack the conviction to challenge. The "big movers" are unfortunately students who take themselves far too seriously; their chief attribute being that for one reason or another they are willing to work very, very hard.

Students' council, if it is to prove successful, must fulfil two obligations: first, to the students whom it represents and secondly to itself. If either obligation is met the fulfilment of the other becomes a matter of fact.

What then is this obligation? Each councillor must become what amounts to a compromise between a "big mover" and a "mere voter"; that is he must become a "doer." He must be

willing to come to every council meeting, to come on time and to stay until the meeting is over. He must be willing to serve on committees, but not too willing or else someone else will necessarily become relegated to the role of a "mere voter."

At the head of every successful students' council there must be a successful president.

The president cannot of course be a "mere voter," for his own sake he should be a "doer" and for the sake of his fellow councillors he must not be a "big mover."

Assuming that the councillors from the executive down to the Wauneita president are willing to become "doers," the council will still fail miserably if it is lacking in imagination. It is in this area that this year's students' council has especially distinguished itself, for its most imaginative contribution to campus life has been for its president to consent to have a pie thrown in his face should he lose next month's debate. Assuming that students' council will not involve itself in that realm of fantasy which is the promotion of big name entertainment, in what areas could it apply its imagination? Perhaps the answer does lie in the establishment of a "Scholastic Color Night," or in a series of "10 Great Canadian" speakers; or wholesale expansion of such clubs as the debating society or the political science club; or in closer co-operation with The Gateway in its attempts to further our intellectual campus spirit; or perhaps even in the establishment of a massive physical fitness program open to

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