

# Varsity Voices

## Students raise cry over residence food and atrocious new fees; Dekker replies; to Adam, an epistle

### Residence Food

To The Editor:

Today, January 21, 1964, our salad consisted of lettuce, radishes, onions and an indescribable inch-long bug. Completely whole, it lay nestled in a lettuce leaf. If it had not been for its reddish brown rich color it would have been an occupant of my stomach instead of the salad. Needless to say that was the end of my meal.

Last night a silverfish was found in the water at supper, and previously a finger nail was found in another salad. This is not too appetizing, to say the least. And for this collection of animate and inanimate bodies we pay \$80 a month.

These are by no means the first complaints The Gateway has received pertaining to the food in the residences this year. Something must be done! Please???

A Sick Pembinita and Three Supporters

EDITOR'S NOTE: Since writing this letter you have no doubt read the editorial "Retrograde Decision" in the last Gateway. In addition, you will note the editorial and news coverage in this edition as regards new residence fees.

The forementioned, plus the active student support and the fact that Students' Council will soon become active in the fight against the preposterous new fees, are part of the movement to get justice. We believe the residence food situation will be directly considered in this connection.

### Socred Policy

To The Editor:

For those who have made a practice of watching the provincial political scene there has been a longstanding suspicion that the present party in power was perhaps a little mentally unbalanced, but outwardly harmless. The exact nature of the disorder, however, escaped definition until very recently when it became possible to diagnose one aspect as an acute case of schizophrenia.

As a protector of free enterprise and "our way of life" Mr. Manning has had few peers. Indeed he has found it entirely within his abilities to fend off dynamic French nationalism from within, creeping socialism from within, and immorality from the south. However at some critical point in the past his administration fell prey to the enemy and found itself after twenty-five years of magnificent immobility on the issue, subsidizing student housing on this campus. Mr. Hinman, the provincial treasurer, proved to be the weak link.

It is not difficult to presume that some number of days after the fateful decision was made, Mr. Hinman repented (as only one of his politica could). Indeed we can imagine the lights of his office burning late into the night as he fought the basic "Left vs. Right conflict" trying to reconcile government intervention in a basic industry—housing.

Then, conceived of ideological despair, a brilliant solution was born. . . . Subsidize the independent landlords through a tariff on the government sector—the new residences. By raising the rates of the university's housing by 20 per cent, sufficient incentive would be given for students to take private accommodation. With the much increased university rates the private landlords can raise their own rents by as much as \$25 and still be able to provide better accommodation at lower prices.

The university on the other

hand has two equally lucrative choices. The first is to assure itself of a steady supply of renters by forcing all first year students to live in residence. The second is to rely on the already chronic shortage of housing in this area to again force the student into residence. The one solution takes the form of an ideologically acceptable regressive tax, the other relies on the free competitive system. There are no flaws in the correctness of his reasoning, indeed it could hardly have been better if it were sane.

Bill Salter  
Arts 2

### A Bit Skeptical

To The Editor:

I was delighted to hear your views on residence rate increases as voiced in the latest issue of The Gateway. As a member of last spring's "riot gang," I can appreciate the value of a good riot (we have to use the word "riot" in order to avoid identification with that "immature," "detrimental" group of City Hall "demonstrators").

However, I think we should consider a more vigorous public relations campaign this year. How about the Reader's Digest? Maybe we could get the Fire Department as well as the City Police this time. (They have more tires). A complete pipe band would also be very nice. Think of the public reaction to a group of brave little boys and girls "raising hell" in response to a "gross injustice." The Board of Governors could hardly do anything but "alter its retrograde decision" in the face of such opposition. (They didn't listen last year, but that was just a little disturbance.)

I know from personal experience that there will be no shortage of freshmen, along with a few senior "role models" who will fervently support such an urgent cause. Of course it is urgent. . . . staggering under the burden of impossible debt. . . . geniuses defecting to UBC. Besides, who needs all the "luxuries" they're offering in the new complex? We like our present accommodations. The food is delicious, and we don't even have to make our own beds.

If all efforts fail, we can always retreat to a basement suite.

Yours truly,  
Duane H. Massing  
Art 2

P.S. With apologies to Adam Campbell, "The higher a monkey climbs. . . ."

### Letter of Future

To The Editor:

I am a first year student at this university and have begun my course by making a foolishly costly mistake. I have been living in the new residence for about two months now and am thoroughly disgusted. I have signed a contract to pay \$720 for about seven months, or about \$100 a month. For this, I get a skimpy meal in a beautiful building and a small room in which to sleep. The room is also good for studying provided my neighbors are of a similar mind.

There is rarely anyone to clean this room and after a week it gets pretty dirty. You must lug towels and soap for great distances to wash in the morning and when you go to bed at night there is no snack. I have talked to some of my friends who "unfortunately" did not get into residence. For about \$75 a month they get all the

basic requirements plus the little conveniences that make up a nice pad.

I am now in this mess and am in it for reasons which I believe are not my fault. I am from Hicksville and get most of my information in writing from the university. I was told that it is a good idea for first year students to stay in residence and that the rates were the same as elsewhere. I knew full well that room and board in Hicksville comes about \$65-\$70 a month but figured: big city—big prices. Anyway this is what the university said, so it is what I accepted.

So I sent in my application and committed myself to stay the year—after all, if it will cost the same elsewhere, why not? I am not hard up financially, but if I am going to spend \$100, I expect \$100 worth of goods and services from those whom I trust. This is not to say that I would trust anybody to do anything, but if you don't trust the university Administration's information, you can't very well trust anyone, and that is highly inconvenient.

What surprised me most of all is that in all the fuss about the fees last January, no one made any real attempt to warn the real victims—the potential frosh. Good heavens, all this would have taken is an ambitious group to mimeograph a few letters and send one of them to our weekly paper. If this letter explained the proposed rates and services of the new residences and how they compare with those of the surrounding district, I may have thought the writer was a crank, but might have taken the trouble to come into Edmonton to investigate.

And, brother, would I thank that man now!

Yours truly,  
Tommy Tenderfoot

Should we save T.T. all this trouble?—Aw, what the hell, it won't do us any good, and anyway we'd better get studying for exams.

Yours truly,  
Wayne Dower, Arts 1  
Robert Freeman, Eng 3

### Residence Fees

To The Editor:

Campus residence fees are indeed getting out of hand.

For two single rooms in the new residences the combined cost for each month would be \$192. For just \$8 more a month my husband and I (we are both students) have a main floor suite, (—living room, study, bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, porch, garage) pay utilities, pay for all our university and personal expenses, our entertainment, clothes, food—in fact we live on this \$200!

Pity the poor students who must pay the price of residences for the conveniences of library and recreation facilities (we live closer to the Education Building than will residence students!).

For your own sakes, students, and for next year's frosh—stand up and shout—loud and clear.

"Meducation"

### Dekker Replies

To The Editor:

The two letters in The Gateway of Jan. 24 point out the need for some clarification regarding the "Student Humanist Society." Unfortunately, some very inaccurate quotes seem to have caused considerable confusion.

The heading "Club for Humans

Formed" seems to bother Mr. Royick. Well, as it was but a facetious piece of journalistic art created by The Gateway editors, your remarks on its are quite pointless. Your "Redwash," Mr. Royick, smells like cheap "cloak and dagger" romance and would be amusing if it was not so discouraging that a university student cannot come up with more meaningful criticism.

There are however some serious misquotes to be straightened out. (1) I have been quoted that this newly formed society will "try to show that there are alternatives to the ideas of Christianity." This should obviously be "Humanism is an alternative." One of the many ideed, Mr. Royick; we are quite aware of that.

(2) It is not the object of the SHS "to show that man is alone in the universe," as I was quoted. The philosophy of Humanism is based on the conclusion that man is alone and must solve his own problems. That we therefore should "dispose of metaphysics" is another unfortunate misquote. During the interview I had merely said that metaphysical concepts should not interfere with our relations towards other people as this usually leads to intolerance and bigotry.

Referring to the letter of "A Skeptic" I must remark that we are quite aware of the fact that Humanism is not new. It is new though to many students at U of A (surprisingly enough) so that we have found it necessary to reschedule our lecture program to include "The History of Humanism" on Jan. 29.

Further, we do not claim to be original, neither do we try to "present old wine in new bottles." (What a way to spoil the wine.) We have formed the SHS because it fills a need. Humanism is an important mainstream in philosophical thought, historical as well as contemporary and certainly should be represented on a university. (Even in Alberta!) Any student who has come to the honorable conclusion that religion is for the birds and that a god is at best a charming fairytale figure and more often a monster from a horror movie we should have done away with a long time ago, should have the opportunity to become acquainted with this philosophy. If it fits him, fine; if not, at least we won't burn him.

Marius Dekker

EDITOR'S NOTE: There is some question as to whether you were misquoted. Next time we will give the reporter a tape recorder.

### Epistle To Adam

To The Editor:

I must condone you, Adam Campbell, and the short, sour comments you so ineffably make. My congratulations are for your inept ability to provoke thought among your many faithful followers. But your sheep are being led down the valley of the shadow of death if they believe your eloquence. Most followers of "the faith" ground their understanding in truth and actual fact. Unfortunately Adam, concerned as you are, you do not know what the truth is, because it is not on your slate of studies.

For example, take the recent story of the primitive religion. In your zest for an understanding of the ignorance in religion, (a big club in the hands of loud speakers), you failed to read the account honestly. The tribes were not called SNAITSIRHC, but were actually the SETLAERSI. SESOM, truly a wise chief, never saw the town of HTERAZAN. The cathedral of holiness, Mt. IANIS, was not volcanic. This

corruption possibly originated from that momentous film, "STNEMDNAMMOC NET EHT," which portrayed a scene on the mountain which spewed flame, crackled thunder, etc. etc. Perhaps you saw the film. I think I'll end my dissertation on untruths before I mortify someone.

Now you may think it petty of me to write, criticizing a few of the facts in your story; for obviously you had a deeper meaning than just distorting the events in history. But I am not petty in being critical of your incorrect underlying philosophy. It seems to me that you are deeply concerned about finding a philosophy of life, but apparently you have not found it yet, nor did Dr. Jacob's anthropological address help the fruitless search. You've been groping primarily for man's weaknesses, and surely you'll find them. Abraham Lincoln once said, "If you look for the bad in man, surely you will find it." A more fruitful search can be encountered where man finds strength and happiness. But you have chosen the path of weakness and despair, and you have found it—and what have you got—nothing. In your articles you sound very profound, very wise, and all knowing. But I know that you know that you don't know. You also know that I know that you want to know. It's the old story of what-so-ever-things are true—Quaecumque vera.

Some seekers of the truth look long and seriously, others very little, and still others talk of much wisdom, but are afraid to examine this same wisdom for fear of it being found. You fall into the latter category, and have the unfortunate fate of owning the UNadjustable crutch—ignorance.

Harold MacMillan recently stated that in his experience, criticism was never inhibited by ignorance. You're wise in many things, Adam, but concerning Christianity, your lack of knowledge is glowing. You've missed the point. So far not one of your articles have ever dealt with even basic Christianity. Like an angry young boy you've been striking at the weaknesses of every man (including yours and mine) and calling them the weaknesses of Christianity. Frankly, in the eyes of PI, you've failed.

I've not written this letter to you merely to disturb you and stoke the furnace that burns out that heated little column, Short and Sour. It has been, I hope, the truth that will provoke you into honest searching, and an earnest appraisal of Christianity. You see, we are not large and fierce, nor are we extremely primitive; for it is man's basic evil nature which holds this honored stronghold. Actually we are very few in number, strong but meek, and the least of the primitive.

Faithfully yours,  
Murray E. Allen

### Dekker Wrong

To The Editor:

May I direct comment through your office to Mr. Marius Dekker, Chairman of the Student Humanist Society.

He is quoted on page two of the January issue as follows: "Since the larger religious clubs on campus receive grants which we pay through our fees, we would like to see . . ."

This is not so. No religious organization receives any assistance from Students' Union Funds. The By-Laws require that any allocation must be "of some benefit to students generally." (page 18.)

Yours sincerely,  
Douglas C. McTavish  
Secretary-Treasurer