

The Gateway

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PAGE FOUR

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER, 24, 1964

The War Against Edge

Various government officials have taken upon themselves the right to publicly condemn the publication "Edge".

Social Credit MLA and Edmonton alderman Mrs. Ethel Wilson has termed "Edge" "a horrid magazine" of "sacreligious filth and trash." Mrs. Wilson admits to reading but one of three "Edge" publications to date.

Another Socred MLA has banned it from his magazine rack while conceding he has never seen the publication.

Hon. A. J. Hooke, provincial minister of public affairs, has inferred "Edge" represents "the trash that has been invading the field of higher education." He has been reduced to the most blind of all criticism in a democracy, its editors should "go back to the countries from which they came."

Viewed in the context from which they arise, these attacks can only be considered irresponsible, unfounded and without warrant.

Meanwhile, a number of recognized experts consider the magazine to possess considerable literary art value. For example, the Toronto Board of Education Library has placed "Edge" on its shelves and the magazine was endorsed by the "Educational Courier," an official publication of the board of Ontario teachers.

University officials, professors and students alike are frequently accused of failing to uphold U of A's image.

It appears, as in the case of "Edge," a number of government officials think nothing of further reducing that image, when it is politically and popularly expedient to do so, by appealing to the indignation of an unknowing public.

Freedom Of The Human Mind?

An institution alive to its goal and aware of its strength will not deal meanly with the individual; it will not be alarmed and race for cover when a professor is outspoken, or indiscreet, or even unscholarly; and it will not as an institution accept a servile role in society, for, in so doing, it would destroy the freedom of the human mind that is both the condition and outcome of its existence.— Claude Bissell, President, University of Toronto.

With these words the president of the University of Toronto damns the University of Alberta, its faculty, and its president.

The University of Alberta has grown extremely fast; it has added buildings, staff, and students. Somewhere in the process it has lost sight of what a university ought to be. Somewhere in the process it has lost the respect of the citizens of Edmonton and Alberta, if one is to judge by the attitudes expressed by citizens, our cabinet ministers, and the press.

The image the University of Alberta projects is not a good one. And

it is not the fault of the Mathews, the Lupuls, the Beissels. It is the fault of the remaining hundreds of faculty members and Dr. Johns who stand by and say nothing, while their colleagues are attacked by an uninformed public, an unsympathetic and indifferent press, and a hostile government. Or worse, who run for cover, intimidated by ill-considered criticism.

Dr. Johns, as spokesman for this university, has failed to improve its "image." When faced with an outspoken professor he either retreats or retracts. At no time has he defended the dissenter's right to dissent.

As a result it is no wonder the general public easily believes the unfounded criticisms so often leveled at the braver souls among the faculty by amazingly ignorant and intolerant critics.

It is past time this university assumed an active and responsible role in the affairs of the community at large. U of A's "image" will not be repaired by passivity.

For Shame! For Shame!

In an attempt to foster a better image for themselves the engineering students on this campus have shown a greater interest this year in World University Service.

So great was the interest they built a wall, manned it with others of their ilk, and demanded contributions for WUS before allowing passage through the wall.

Few will doubt the worth of World University Service. Few will question the intentions or enthusiasms of the engineers. Nevertheless, the fact remains: the wall was a disgrace both to the engineers who built it and the WUS Committee who approved the

idea in principle.

Have the engineers had so little practice dealing with people that they have to resort to brute force to achieve their goals? Have they not learned that ends do not necessarily justify means? Before the engineers pat themselves on the back they'd better consider the implications of these questions.

Judging by the complaints received by Major Hooper, The Gateway, and the Students Union, whatever goodwill WUS has generated in past weeks was dissipated by the ill-conceived actions of the overly-zealous engineers.



GUEST "CARTOON" BY BAYER + SELLAR



The Font of Knowledge, once-proud source
Of pure and crystal waters,
Is now a bleak and barren, bone-dry basin,
Its precious flow dammed up by scarlet ribbands
Of administrative bent,
Its waters to trickle uselessly away on bare and rocky ground.
Where once the beardless youth
Partook of its salutary draught,
Wild revelers of a grim and bushy mien
Do make of its chaste offering a mockery,
As they in bacchanal do drink
The waters of a stronger spring.
Its verdant glen, once the scene
Of feasting, and celebration,
Is now overgrown with thorns and nettles,
The unwary English professor to beguile;
Its product, once so pure, is now muddied
By the unclean touch of crass and servile channels,
Corrupted in the service of hewers of wood and drawers of water,
Who rush to its brim, and as quickly rush away.
That mighty torrent, which once brought low the might of empire,
Is now but a feeble trickle,
A tributary feeding the shallow streams of Commerce and Education,
Its bright scintillations obscured by a pall of cloudy dullness,
Which hides and sours the pure clean taste of the waters of learning.
O heavens! that man could so degrade this source,
Which once the thirst of nations slaked,
That it become no more than the drippings of an unclean and stagnant pool,
Forever murky and impure.

Lack of Interest

The University of British Columbia produces two yearbooks, one for graduates, one depicting "campus life." It produces 3,500 copies. Its population is almost twice U of A's. Last year it failed to sell 1,000 copies. Is there any reason to believe the same lack of interest in a yearbook exists here?

Letters

Letters should be addressed to The Editor, The Gateway, University of Alberta. The Gateway will publish letters under a pseudonym, but in all cases writers must sign their own names and include an address or telephone number.

The Papermakers

STAFF THIS WEEK—Irene McRae, Jim MacLaren, Sue Hill, Emilio Falguero, Brenda Walls, Helene Chomiak, Malcolm Fast, Linda Strand, Bryan Campbell, Harvey Thombgirt, John Loewen, Rick Assigner, Al Bromling, The Skulker, Ralph Melynychuk, Richard Lof, Ellen Jastrebski, Les McLeod, Carole Kaye, Dennis Dacyshyn, and Regina.
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