

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—The following souls enjoyed a few giggles at the managing editor's futile attempts at cartooning: Dennis Lomas, Butch Treleaven, Bernie (Boom Boom) Goodhart, W. W. P. (water works program) Burns, Maureen Gunn, Teri Turner, John Thompson, Charlie Lyall (weapon supplier), Ken Hutchinson, Jack Groff, Henry Kwok, Don Moren, Errol Barsky, Don Holmes, Brian Olafson, Ekkhard Kottke, Terry Donnelly, John Green, Al Scarth (no scarf), Marion Conybeare, Dave Mappin, and yours truly Harvey Thorgirt.

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those christmas exams

Students at the University of Calgary are voting in a referendum to set the date of Christmas exams.

One of the periods under consideration is Dec. 12 to 16. We, too, should consider this possibility.

Mid-term exams are supposed to end the first term of work. The greatest benefits are gained if they are held immediately as classes end for studying for exams is supposed to be a review and the best review can be made when the course material is still fresh in the mind.

Holding exams after the Christmas holidays leaves a time lag between the time the material is learned and the time it is used. Learning studies have shown the amount of material retained varies inversely with the length of time between the learning period and the test.

The longer you wait, the less you remember. Therefore it is harder to write exams after a break than

immediately after classes end.

Another consequence of holding exams after the Christmas holidays is that it is easy to become convinced that the necessary work can be done during the vacation.

Unfortunately it is impossible to catch up on two month's work in two weeks even if one works diligently during this period.

But it is hard to work during the tempting round of Christmas parties when exams seem so far away. Consequently little work is done.

But the holidays are not even a period of rest. Even if no work is done, a guilty conscience does not let us relax.

So another holiday must be held after the exams for us to unwind and more time is lost.

Therefore the date for exams should be moved to Dec. 12 to 16. Then we could have a Merry Christmas and a happy exam period.

to gain support

Most children learn to cross the street in grade one or two without their mommys holding their hands. Residence children have still not learned to do so.

It is true that 87th Avenue is a busy thoroughfare on which cars speed to and from Groat Road and it is possible drivers might not be too sympathetic when they have to stop for students crossing the road in several different places.

Drivers might also spare few pains for students running carelessly across the street when they are late for classes.

But the Lister Hall students might have legitimate complaints or it would have been hard to galvanize so many of them to action.

Granting the point that lights are needed at the intersection, it is doubtful if residence students are using the best tactics to achieve their ends.

Surely disconnecting the distributor in a woman's car, or lifting the front end of a Volkswagen will not

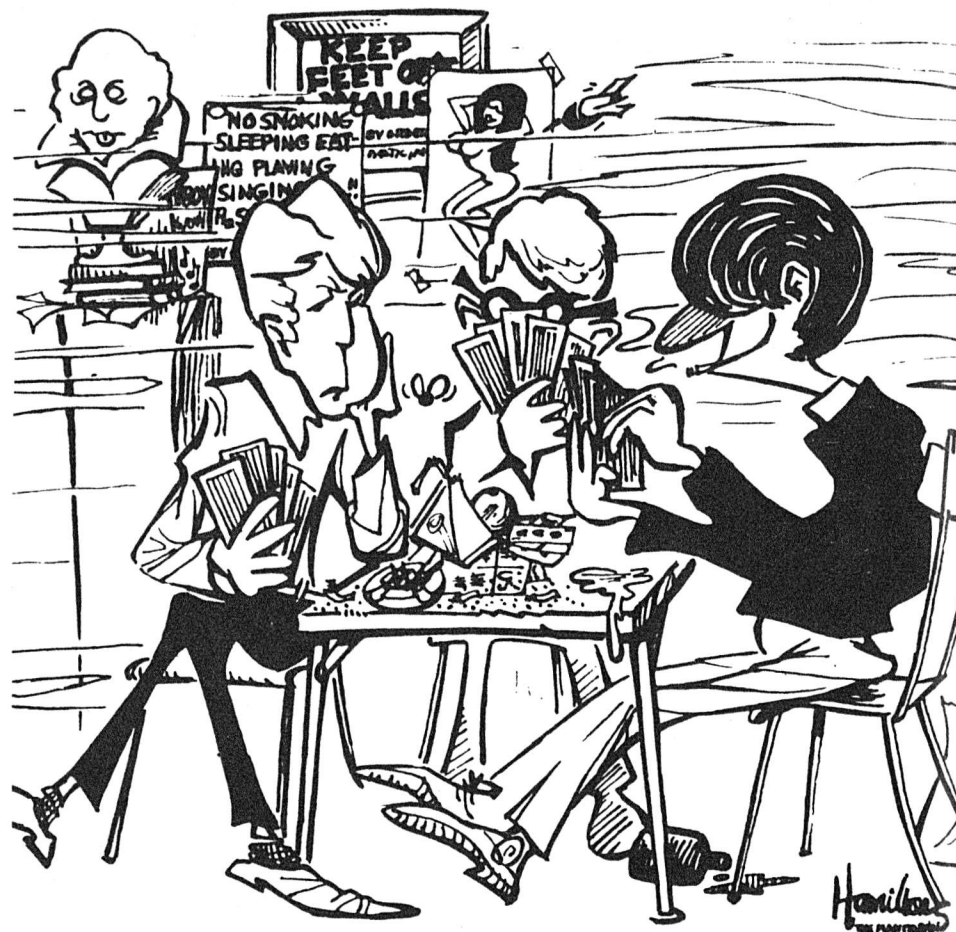
gain Lister Hall support from the general public.

Public support is needed, for traffic lights are not a campus matter and Edmontonians or their representatives at City Hall must be convinced lights are needed at this corner.

Lister Hall students could probably get more favourable results by asking students' council or the residence committee to take this case again to the city's traffic engineers and if this fails again, to take the matter before city council.

And while the debate goes on, they could ask the city police or the campus patrol to control traffic on the Avenue during rush hours.

If this fails, traffic patrols like those used by school children, could guide the bewildered ones across the street. Perhaps the fire department might even come and distribute coloring books with lessons in street crossing to the university children. Maybe now they will learn.



the canadian student is a member of society who is intensively engaged in the pursuit of knowledge and truth—cus

—the manitoban

ralph melnychuk a defence of cynicism

According to the mysterious "they" who always have something to say about everything, a cynic is a contemptuous, sarcastic and fault-finding person.

"They" also tell us a cynic is a man "who knows the price of everything and the value of nothing."

Both definitions, however, are grossly unfair to cynics.

Cynicism is a dying art. This is easily seen by the lack of opportunities for professional cynics. In days gone by, a cynic could become anything from a social prophet to a religious reformer.

Nowadays, the only positions open to the master cynic are Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition and editor of a campus newspaper. Until last spring, the cynic could also become a moderator of the television program, "This Hour Has Seven Days", but the powers that be have since ordained the demise of this avenue of expression.

Let's face it. We are living in the dark ages of cynical rhetoric. We can only hope amateurs will carry on the noble traditions of this once-great profession until society once again recognizes the intrinsic merits of cynicism.

But amateur cynics are also a dying breed. The decline results from the fundamental mores and attitudes of the American Way of Life. The cynic needs something or someone to be cynical about, and everybody knows American society (and its various Canadian and European counterparts) is perfect.

But all is not lost. Some minor vestiges of imperfection still reside at U of A. Only time will tell whether these are remnants of previous imperfections which will soon vanish, or are heralds of a new era in which mankind will again have failings which can be the targets of perverted and mentally degenerate cynics.

We can perhaps look forward to that day in the distant future when U of A will be reverently referred to as the preserver of the sacred (not Sacred) traditions of the Sick Society.

For the young student starting out in the field of cynicism, there are a few pitfalls which must be avoided. The first is the erroneous assumption that the appearance of outward perfection which rests on this hallowed institution reflects its true character.

After diligent searching, the young cynic may think he has found something to complain about, but he must beware. Such sources as The Edmonton Journal have pointed out that certain facets of university life recently under heavy criticism, e.g. the Henry Marshall Tory Building, are really perfect. Since The Journal is part of the great Social Credit/American way of life, it follows necessarily that it is right (in more ways than one). Thus, the following myths must be carefully avoided by the budding cynic:

- There are flaws in the Henry Marshall Tory Building.
 - The temperature in some buildings is too warm for comfort.
 - Students' union officials occasionally intimidate other student officials.
 - There is a parking problem at U of A.
 - Some professors could be more effective if they learned how to teach.
- The next problem facing the young cynic is the common illusion that critics of "the establishment" are eliminated. Nonsense! Why, any professor labelled as a social critic has been given a long term contract with this university in appreciation for his efforts. Nobody has been denied tenure or harassed into leaving, as you may mistakenly think.
- So arise, young cynic. Onward and upward to a better Alberta.