

the president writes

my thanks

To The Editor:

I should appreciate having the privilege of expressing through the letter column of **The Gateway** my thanks and appreciation to the hundreds of students who have participated in Varsity Guest Weekend 1966.

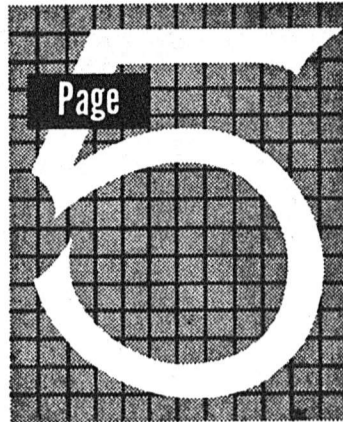
The object of this project is to acquaint high school students throughout Northern Alberta with the physical campus of the University and with the kind of activity that is carried on here. This latter objective is not easily achieved, but the programme organized for 1966 comes closer to this objective than any we have so far seen.

From the many comments I have heard from visitors it would appear that the very substantial effort put into this project by such a large number of members of the student body has been fully justified.

Walter H. Johns
University President



DR. W. H. JOHNS
... expresses thanks



nb

there goes the happy moron,
he doesn't give a damn:
i wish i were a moron,
my god!
perhaps i am.

niall brennan

distorted physics

maintain the curve illusion

Highlights of the evolution of "fiction to facts" of the "curve" ball farce.

The U.S., Canada—and also Japan—face the inevitability of recognizing that tens of thousands of alerted science-teachers no longer can be deceived by textbooks perverting physics to seemingly prove that a baseball can be PITCHED to curve.

The "curve" ball is, in reality, a combination of complex factors involving the gravitational curve, and a fabulously-exploited optical il-

lusion. Being a mere fantasy of vision—it is non-existent physically—it, consequently, has increasingly explosive potentialities when foisted on alerted teachers and students as genuine. (Demonstrations by justly angry students are likely.)

The time is passing when physics textbooks can be used to buttress and promote Organized Baseball's long-established campaign of indoctrinating the public into believing the "curve" ball is a spectacular and factual feat of O.B. stars.

The technique of concealment of

the all-important optical illusion factor (because of its tell-tale nature), twisting and juggling others, will no longer get by informed editors of educational publications, science-teachers and students interested in this matter. The truth is that the Bernoullian principle—often referred to as the Magnus Force—conclusively proves that it is impossible to PITCH a regulation baseball to CAUSE it to curve as O.B. claims.

One of the leading, and presumably the costliest, books on physics ever published, follows a strangely devious and equivocating pattern in promoting the O.B. side of the "curve" ball case. This elaborate volume announces that its publication was aided by grants from three of American's most widely-known and famous foundations. In discussing the Bernoulli effect, it says: "There have been many arguments about the matter but the "curving" of a spinning baseball has been measured. However, prejudice from a pitcher's reputation may make a player or spectator see more curves than are there.

"With a lighter ball spinning fast—e.g. a cut tennis ball—real curves are easily seen."

Why should a noted physics treatise to be found in universities, colleges, public libraries and homes throughout North America, find it necessary to make a statement which must be internationally-considered as an attack on my ball-flight research findings? Should that attack be judged in the same light in which the foundations-assisted author compares a mere "spinning" baseball with a "fast-spinning" CUT tennis ball?

He omitted mention that a DRIVEN tennis ball may have a spinning-velocity five, or more, times as fast as a baseball can be spun when THROWN. Why the concealment of such vitally important facts from the reader?

Likewise he must have known the fact of there being an optical illusion of curve, but this too was hushed. Why the strange silence? Could it be that, otherwise, alert readers would at once have spotted the gigantic farce in "curve" counterfeiting in which an optical illusion is palmed off as the Bernoulli effect? The curves—for a given spin-direction—being in opposite directions, proponents get themselves ludicrously trapped into arguing that the pitch curves away in opposite directions . . . like the old classic of the horseman galloping off in all directions.

Our Toronto-published physics textbooks, of course, follow the U.S. pattern of promoting the O.B. "curve" ball case. (Obviously there can be no geographical boundaries to any form of pseudo-science).

This means that our Canadian science-teachers are in the same predicament as their fellow educators across America. All, apparently, are expected to be "patsies" carrying the burden of distorting physics to further enrich O.B. barons; fat salaries for O.B. pitching stars and convince sponsors that the glorified athletic feats of the Koufaxes and the Mudcat Grants aren't measured by a fake yardstick unfair to all other sports.

letters

spoiled child?

To The Editor:

As a student of this University, I find many of the statements made by Richard Price and other student leaders irresponsible, insubordinate, and utterly ridiculous. The President of the Students' Union is currently crowing over the success of the Students' Union campaign to keep fees from rising. This is nonsense. Fees remained unchanged because of increased Federal and Provincial Grants—and President Johns specifically said so in his announcement on the subject. Perhaps Mr. Price is acting as he is in this and other matters, such as student representation on the B. of G., because he truly believes that students should run this University. I think he is acting like a spoiled child. Richard Price can found the University of Richard Price and award a B.R.P. if he so desires, but I would sooner attend the U. of A.

I suggest that the students of our University elect a very different sort of SU president for 1966-67: someone who is responsible and who understands that students attend University to learn, not to run the place.

Kim McCalla
sci 1

problem—the visitors

To The Editor:

I was working a physiology department display in the Med Building over VGW, when several teenagers came up and the following conversation ensued:

"Where are the pickled babies?"
"Why, I don't know. I don't think there are any on display this year."

"Gee, that's all we came to see." There has been a lot of debate, among faculty as well as students, about the value and purpose of VGW. Jon Whyte in one of his brilliantly negative essays suggested that everyone stay home.

What Jon Whyte and other critics have done is pull down the image of VGW to the point where we do have a problem, not with the weekend, but with the visitors.

I was in Tuck Shop late Saturday, when a fellow came in to get some cigarettes. The saleslady wouldn't sell him any because he was too young. "Got any bubblegum?" he asked.

It is a regrettable but in my opinion an inevitable phenomenon,

this deluge of loud-mouthed, stringy-haired, bubble-gum chewing pickled baby fanciers.

Rather than catering to this crowd with three-ring circus-type displays, like Commerce's Rodeo epic, we should be striving to show the public just what goes on in classrooms, in labs. In most cases this should be enough to keep the undesirables away in droves—this even happens to some students.

We should have more of what Bill Thorsell successfully introduced to this year's VGW: fine arts features, academics, teach-ins (though this year's was sort of a flop). If this can be done, a conversion of VGW's less desirable elements into decent, interested persons will surely occur.

Bruce Ferrier
arts 3

valuable lesson

To The Editor:

With reference to the editorial entitled 'Responsibility Roosts,' in *The Gateway*, of Feb. 16: We cannot take issue with the statement that the party was not completely prepared to form the government. We must, however, challenge the statement that the solidarity of Engineering Students is jeopardizing the present Model Parliament, and future ones. Student politics is not, as claimed by the irresponsible editorial mentioned, in danger of extinction through a lack of serious student participation. Your next statement pledging your belief in the sincerity of the members of the NESP is in direct contradiction to the other statements regarding the irresponsibility of all concerned. The policy of NESP, as stated both in our campaigning, and in statements made to the press after our election, was to revitalize campus politics, through demonstrating to the campus the gross lack of interest in this matter. It is obvious, or at least it should be, that the addition of some 600 votes, some five per cent of the voters on campus, taking power away from all the other voters on campus, is a direct proof of the apathy that exists on this campus with respect to Model Parliament. Our election to power has demonstrated this to the satisfaction of all the other parties, I believe, though possibly not to the Editor.

The defeat of the government was not detrimental to the Model Parliament institution, and by our own

admission, the proceedings up to the time of defeat, were certainly not an indication of any ability to carry on a strong government. This, however, does not detract from the fact that power was placed in our hands, and that if the necessary preparation had been made, we could have carried on a very strong and successful government.

That this can be a valuable lesson to the other parties involved, is an undisputable fact. They must, as you point out, revitalize themselves. We challenge, therefore, the other parties, and the various news media, to promote this revitalization, and thereby increase student participation, and further state that we shall carry on a vigorous campaign next year, with sufficient preparation, in the hopes of obtaining a MAJORITY in Model Parliament, and if this is done, will rest our point, having proven to all that the responsibility roosts not with us, but with the voters.

J. M. Fraser
eng 2

offer of help

Mr. Colwyn Williamson,
Dept. of Philosophy,
University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Professor Williamson:

I am a former student of yours in Social Philosophy 352 last year. Presently I am studying Divinity in Toronto and I was forwarded a copy of "The Gateway," discussing the denial of your tenure of professorship from the University of Alberta. I was very sorry to hear of this decision, for I feel that you were contributing valuably needed thought to the people of Alberta. I feel that your teaching ability, and the method of presentation of the subject material were both of very high quality. I am afraid I cannot understand the reason for your dismissal though. If it were on grounds of trying to prod the Social Credit government, then I feel the government of that fair province has even deteriorated further since I left the province.

Even though you and I may disagree on points of religion, and forms of government, I believe that you should not be disallowed your right to teach as you see fit. It is of the essence of an university education, that all realms of thought should be open for discussion and criticism. I thank you personally

for the help you gave me, and I wish you continued success in your endeavours as a teacher of very high quality.

If this letter will be of use to you in having the above decision changed; I would feel free to stand behind you in your quest of intellectual advancement for the students of Alberta.

Thank you for your help to myself. Continued success in your future endeavours.

Yours sincerely,
Dennis G. Frayne, B.A.

gratefully received

Dear Mr. Frayne:

Thank you very much for your kind letter and your offer to help. I have forwarded your letter to *The Gateway*. There has already been a great deal of student protest about the matter; but I am afraid that no one in authority seems to give a damn about student opinion.

My very best wishes,
Colwyn Williamson

madhouse of mud and snow

To The Editor:

With another V.G.W. mercifully over, maybe those of us who work in the "madhouse made of mud and snow" might do some hard thinking about it all, and whether it really fulfills any useful purpose.

Having been around the School of Rehabilitation Medicine for three years now, and having been out to give talks to Schools during Career Weeks, I'm not sure that either of these are the best method of telling the teenagers what to expect: both seem to be a half-hearted affair, because a lot of effort is spread too thinly on the ground.

Isn't it time we tried something different—a better V.G.W. every two or three years, or a really good exhibition in the Jubilee Auditorium or the Sportex building? If the time, talent (and money) that is expended on V.G.W. and the Career Weeks could somehow be pooled, couldn't we come up with something really good?

And if the public wants to see the University, how about opening the buildings, as suggested, during the Summer or Fall, when the place really looks its best—and don't clutter it up with sideshows.

Miss Esme Dardier
lecturer in physiotherapy