

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—The following loyal workers exceeded their production quota under the capable supervision of Ho Chi Minh and despite the restaging of the Boer War in my office: Marion Conybeare, Bernie Goedhart, Butch Treleaven, Sharilyn Ingram (dating editor), John Green, the real John Thompson, Elaine Verbeck, Father James McLaren, Teri Turner, Charlie Lyall, Albert Krywolt, Caterina Edwards, Terry Donnelly, Ekkehard Kottke, Wayne Wilfred Patrick Burns, Esq., and yours truly, Harvey Thomgirt.

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communication anyone?

It seems ridiculous that when the Union Generale des Etudiants du Quebec decided to withdraw their support from the \$291,000 centennial festival to be held here next March, they did not bother to inform the project's director.

That UGEQ had withdrawn from Second Century Week and had asked for a share of the federal centennial commission's \$80,000 grant to the project was known by campus newspapers from Halifax to Victoria before the cultural, athletic and academic festival's director, Dave Estrin, heard of the decision. "Why do I always have to learn these things through the press?" he complained.

Why does he?

Why cannot UGEQ have the courtesy of sending Mr. Estrin carbon copies of letters to the centennial commission, and why could not UGEQ send Mr. Estrin a letter informing him of its decision not to participate in the project—even if

UGEQ insisted on writing the letter in French?

UGEQ has oft complained of the lack of communication existing between the French-speaking student population and the rest of the country's students, but what have they done to eradicate this lack?

Nothing.

If UGEQ began to answer letters, this would be a start. After learning how to answer letters, it could learn how to write letters to persons outside the bounds of the illogical built up by this lack of communication UGEQ seems to encourage. When this technique is perfected, UGEQ could learn how to use carbon paper and how to send copies of letters to relevant parties, rather than keep these parties in ignorance.

The sooner UGEQ begins to communicate with other bodies and the sooner UGEQ lowers its barriers of stubborn indifference, the sooner will there be co-operation and fellowship among this country's student community.

the future?

We wish to congratulate U of A president Dr. Walter H. Johns on his recent election to the presidency of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

Dr. Johns has a record of glorious achievement here. As a professor, a dean of arts, and in the president's office, he has worked diligently to make this university a better institution.

But we are concerned that Dr. Johns may be overworked. U of A has come a long way in the past few years. We are now in the midst of a large expansion program which will require strong leadership from the president's office during the next few years. Also, the reorganization of the university required by the new Universities Act will require diligent supervision.

Dr. Johns suffered a mild heart attack last summer, and although we are glad this was not serious, it is a sad reminder that Dr. Johns will not always be with us.

It is of prime importance that a successor be groomed to the diffi-

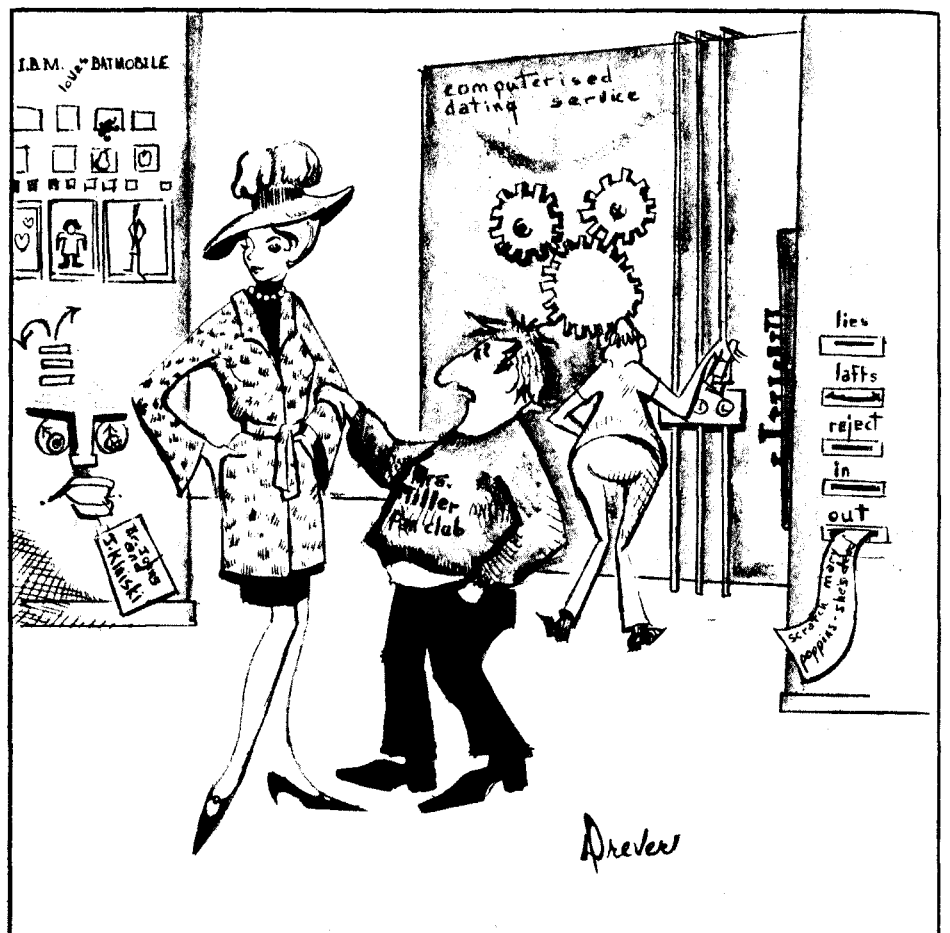
cult task of filling Dr. John's shoes, so that the change of presidents, whenever it becomes necessary, will occur smoothly and with no detrimental effects on the ambitious programs Dr. Johns has initiated.

Last week, Dr. John B. Macdonald, president of the University of British Columbia, resigned his position. Dr. Macdonald's career as UBC president, although short, is certainly one to be envied. He is one of the most dynamic and admired university presidents in Canada.

Rumors have indicated the winds of change may be blowing through U of A's administration building in the near future. The creation of new positions in the president's office, and possible change of personnel in other positions will substantially alter the administrative hierarchy.

Perhaps this would be an ideal time to inject some new blood into our administration.

We suggest this university attempt to obtain the services of Dr. Macdonald. He is one of the best, and surely the best is not too good for U of A.



"but we must be compatible . . . the machine said you were my 'best' date in edmonton"

helene chomiak

students and teachers arise! the university must change

A comment often made about democratic countries is that citizens get the type of government they deserve. In no case is this as true as at the university. The academic community is ruled by an arbitrary administration from which there is no appeal, unless it be to higher administrative bodies.

The university is supposed to be a community of scholars—a place where students and professors think together to achieve the greatest possible knowledge.

Instead, it is increasingly becoming a place where professors talk at—rather than to—huge classes and students learn to be stenographers, quickly writing down lecture material without paying attention to what is being said.

The university-educated man is supposed to be one with influence in the community. Why do university people not try to influence their nearest community and make the campus a place of learning?

Why do students and professors accept legislation from campus administrators creating large classes claiming these are the most efficient methods of programming thousands of students to a university degree?

It may be said there are not enough professors for small intimate study groups. But there would be if the class system was changed. There is really no need for a lecturer to meet three times a week with his class, if they do not have time to read the required material between classes.

Instead, lectures should be held once a week with a third of the class and have a detailed discussion over the course matter. Between these weekly meetings, students should meet

in small groups and discuss the material themselves.

Possibly this method would not work for faculties like science and medicine where laboratory work is needed. The lecture method is inadequate in these faculties too for last year a group of 25 honors medicine students at Harvard asked the administration for permission to skip lectures and study on their own. The problem with this is much can be learned through discussion, and individuals working alone may have too narrow a concept of the required work.

Examinations should also be abolished or only held when a certain portion of the course is completed, not at arbitrarily scheduled intervals.

Papers too could undergo a change. Students should be required, where possible, to do original research, rather than a rehash of the works of several authors.

Change will not come easily. Students on this campus have shown they will protest over matters dear to their hearts such as street lights for residence, but the protest is generally on trivial matters. Residence students for example could have protested with a greater purpose if they had marched against regimentation in the residences.

Students have also co-operated with professors to demonstrate on issues like Viet Nam and Mr. Hawrelak. However, the issues have always been removed from the direct interests of the university community.

Campus academics should unite and attempt to change the arbitrary government over them. Only when the thinkers are in control of the university community will this again become a place of learning.