

# The Gateway

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1964

## Fight For Justice

A maturely - organized student demonstration, following a front page editorial, has set the pace for the fight against the unjustified increase in fees for the new university residences. Students must maintain a serious approach in the campaign.

The purpose of the demonstration was mainly to get a hearing—and to get necessary publicity. It was an attempt not to harass the administration, but rather to bring to light student requests and needs.

Since the campaign for justice will get larger and larger, it is necessary to guide most of the action to where lies most of the responsibility for the injustice: the provincial government.

There have been no new university residences built for about four decades, and this university has not even a ten per cent residence population. Indeed, this is indicative of Alberta government policy on student housing.

The government-dictated policy suffers from a failure to consider the ability of students to pay the increased fees. This is especially disturbing in view of recently released figures on the province's oil and gas profits.

Alberta's revenue from the oil and gas industry rose to a record high in the calendar year 1963, amounting to 139.5 million dollars. This was 20 million dollars higher than the figure for 1962—and it surpassed all previous records by five million dollars.

It would appear that the Alberta government has at least some money to spare which could help the able but financially poor student to come to university and have decent accommodation.

Yet the government policy here is a negative one. The university bursar, Mr. J. M. Whidden, tells us the Board of Governors

*established the rates in an effort to make the buildings pay their way. The provincial government does not wish to subsidize student residences.*

Undoubtedly certain members of the university administration sympathize with the plight of the students; we must realize that they are bound by the fact that policy is dictated from above. In fact, the government uses certain officials and groups as scapegoats for the imposition of Social Credit policy.

But the government has its mouthpieces—true underlings—in some ad-

ministrative officials, and part of the campaign must be directed in this direction.

The university housing officer, Mr. George Tauzer, is in full support of high residence fees. He throws at us the vain and groundless argument that landowners in Garneau are subsidizing students who find it cheaper living there than in the residences.

Mr. Tauzer should do some homework—as well as soul searching—and make himself more aware of the facts. Housing in Garneau, as elsewhere in Edmonton, is competitive, and homeowners are certainly not suffering because of the present rates they charge to students.

The logical step for landlords in regard to residence fee increases is to raise their profits by taking advantage of the drastic 20 per cent increase. Here we quote the president of the Students' Union, Mr. Wes Cragg:

*Landlords I've talked to have said they'll grade their fees according to the residence fee increase. I think the cost of living for out-of-town students will go up \$100 next year.*

The campaign for a return to just rates must therefore be complete and effective.

- Publicity for the issue will certainly be embarrassing to the provincial government, who are to blame for the retrograde policy as regards university residences. The publicity drive must be heavy and timely to fully expose a policy which tends towards establishing the university as a preserve for the rich.

- Students' Council and other committees must take up the quarrel quickly and press for student rights.

- There must be—and will be—surprise moves in the campaign which must be kept secret for strategic purposes.

- If all else fails, the students have at hand the ultimate and most drastic weapon: boycott.

Already students here are of a mind to ignore the new residences at \$96 a month for single rooms and \$90 for doubles.

Once parents of next year's freshmen are well-informed by province-wide publicity of the atrociously high rates, they will be encouraged to have their sons and daughters board elsewhere.

Mr. Tauzer and the provincial treasurer, Mr. Hinman, could then face off at opposite ends of the residences and listen to their embarrassing echoes resound through the empty chambers.



"ANY CAKE EATERS IN THE CROWD?"

## Spectrum

### Frat Bash Reviewed

By a Fraternity Member

We fraternity members enjoy a rather privileged position on this campus. Generally, the university administration has adopted a "hands off" policy with regard to our housing and social activities. This is excellent—the less control, the better conditions are for all involved. However, I can't help but wonder if we realize, as fraternity members, just what excellent privileges we do enjoy. Further, I can't help but wonder how we have retained our position through the years in view of the limited value we have been to this university.

To my mind, matters are now getting out of control. Recently, a party was held for all fraternities. It was a great success—most people got quite intoxicated—but, here is the problem. If one fraternity alone has a party, then it isn't too bad (from the point of view of the whole fraternity system) if it is raided because only one segment of a larger group is involved. However, when all are involved, then it could be quite a different story. I can see the headlines now — "POLICE RAID FRATERNITY BRAWL," etc. I think you get the idea.

Such irreparable damage could have been done to the fraternity system—and, what did we as a group achieve? Greater unity? It isn't evident. My analysis is that the major after-effects were headaches, bruises, and, in some cases stitches.

What I would most respectfully submit as a topic for conversation at the next meeting of IFC is the following:

What can we do to enhance the fraternity image? Here are a few suggestions: quit boasting that we control student government, because these are individual accomplishments, not group accomplishments.

Quit boasting about our high academic standings—you won't convince anyone that fraternity life encourages academic excellence. Quit boasting about being campus spirit boosters—fraternities don't cause spirit—if anything, they are a divisive influence.

Rather, why don't you discuss some of the following: the establishment of an IFC scholarship fund, the promotion of charitable projects, or the promotion on a campus wide basis of any project which could conceivably help to improve the image of the Greek system.

I can hear it now—why bother? Who is complaining—other than you—turncoat? Well, few are complaining (publicly, at least), but don't you think we should plan for the day when someone realizes that we are doing nothing? Surely you can see that activities (or lack of them) which show a "don't give a damn" attitude expose us to possible criticism from all sides. Let's nip it before it starts—and get serious about our future.

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### Looking Back through The Gateway

October 3, 1931

"One day this week, students objected to Communist spokesmen spreading propaganda . . . it amused them to throw eggs at the speakers—as most of us have yearned to do, undoubtedly. The speakers and their friends objected, as well they might, and the student hecklers were forced to flee . . . we hope they will be dealt with in a manner which will serve as a warning to themselves and to others."