

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—Someone pulled the plug on our bathtub and if we ever find the sonofabitch, we're going to bill him for 40 gallons of gin—after we distill his hide. Rumors now circulating have it that David Leadbeater is running for editor and the editor is running from David Leadbeater so's he can't get his nomination in on time. And that's the news brought to you by Dan the AMX tanked Jamieson, er, tank, Ron Ternoway, Donna Brown, Barry Nicholson, Judy Samoil, Irene Harvie, Erich Seemann, Ken Hutchinson, Ron Yakimchuk, Bob Blair, Bob Schmidt, and the greatest costume of all (disguised as Cleopatra's asp), Harvey, give us a G, give us a T, Thomgirt.

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Vote tomorrow

by Al Scarth

U of A students vote tomorrow in four referenda to voice their opinions about lowering the voting and drinking ages to 18, legalizing marijuana and abolishing tenure.

First and foremost, students should take the opportunity to express themselves on these questions.

And secondly, as regards the questions themselves, anyone who has not already done so, can garner the most important pros and cons concerning the respective questions from the columns of The Gateway's Page Forum Fives of past weeks.

The answer to "Should the drinking and voting ages be lowered to 18?" is an obvious "yes."

Suffice it to say there is no earthly reason that the majority of the university population should not be able to take a drink together if they so wish.

A goodly portion of that population is under 21 and the discrimination against those students who have not yet attained the magical age is patently obvious. Nor should students over 21 be forced to say to one of their unmagical companions: "Sorry you can't go to the bar with us on Fridays, but we could get in trouble too and our consciences would force us to leave with you."

Considering the voting age, perhaps there was a time when only a tiny monied and privileged class was able to take advantage of the amount of education necessary to make them reasonably intelligent poll goers.

While higher education is still reserved mainly for the upper and middle classes, now most people over 18 years of age can make perfectly reasonable evaluations of questions and candidates. Therefore, they should be able to express their wishes.

Marijuana and its legalization has become a very clouded issue because of its underserved reputation as the "killer weed" but the actual considerations surrounding the question are simple.

Marijuana is no more harmful than alcohol, nor is it as physically addictive or impairing.

As a sign carried in a protest last year by the former head of the political science department here, Dr. Christian Bay, proclaimed: "Prohibition did not work, so why try it again."

Vote "yes" for its legalization.

And without a doubt, tenure is an outmoded means for insuring academic freedom. Even the cottage at the lake has its cobwebs cleaned out occasionally. A university should take the same prerogative.

As the fairest means to that end, this university should establish without delay an independent board of contract judges, elected from the university at large to hear evidence and on the basis of that evidence make an unbiased judgment of each professor's contract.

The system, even if put into effect now, would remove tenure decisions from the unhealthy realm of department personality and political squabbles they now inhabit.

There must be a way to get rid of an incompetent professor.

A professor should have a contact and the terms of its renewal should be judged by such a university-wide board.

If the university is so certain that it needs a "disciplinary board" then there seems to be no reason it should not have an "academic competence board" with teaching ability as one of its first priorities.

Vote "yes" to abolish tenure and to establish renewable contracts.

Simplistic nonsense in Gateway: Let the true university man emerge

There can be little doubt that reforms are needed in higher education, and I am personally delighted to see that the heretofore unfocused "revolutionary" energy of the academic community is beginning to zero in on *academic matters* rather than scattering its shots at random. But I think the university community needs to evolve mechanisms for extended involvement in the fundamental issues—for example, dialogues between students and professors, the official appointment (e.g. by GFC) of "big issues" committees, and other formal and informal means of exchanging ideas which can lead to action.

Commentary naive

I say this because of all the simplistic nonsense which is being printed in The Gateway (no criticism of the editorial staff intended—they're just doing their job, printing what is available, etc.), and which goes unchallenged for a variety of reasons, a major one being the lack of a continuing dialogue between opposing representatives of the academic community. Much of the commentary on the hiring and firing of academic staff, for example, is fantastically naive and unin-

formed. And all the talk about the importance of teaching, with which most of us would agree, omits the crucial issue of how to evaluate teachers. Something can be done about such assessments, but the problems of reliability and validity are enormous, and the machinery for effective implementation of teacher evaluation is an equally big job.

No advanced degrees

Above all, we'll not resolve any of these complex issues by simplistic solutions, such as simply doing away with the Ph.D. (which was recommended in a recent issue of *Casserole*). If such a move really would solve the problems of higher education it would certainly be easy to implement. And we could then take the obvious subsequent step of eliminating *all* advanced degrees, such as the MD, the JD, etc. This step would surely call for the elimination of the master's degree, and of course it has been obvious for

some time that the bachelor's degree has become quite diluted during the last two or three decades. And such dilution is magnified tenfold in the case of the high school diploma.

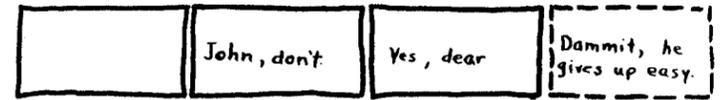
"True" university man

The important thing is that we let the "true" university man (Should he be required to produce a high school diploma?) "emerge" out of this better system—the outstanding teacher (We'll just know him when we see him, regardless of his previous education), and the great researcher (He'll not publish, of course, as the uncovering of new knowledge and its transmission to potentially critical colleagues is simply a waste of time. The important thing is that he'll have his insights on his data, and that's what really matters, regardless of how he got them or how well they hold up.)

Joseph R. Royce
Center for Advanced Study
in Theoretical Psychology

Dialog

by Opey



Psychologists are bad predictors--- Apologies to unused volunteers

They say that 'It is better to be criticized than ignored' but a letter about myself and the research group of students working for me (The Howarth Group for Personality Research) in The Gateway, Friday, Jan. 30, 1970, leads me to have some doubts.

We announced beforehand—in handbills posted up all over the campus (and thank you, here, to the students from my Psych. 383 class who helped out) that we wanted 600 students, and *would test in groups of 200*. Now, the previous time we did this, before

Christmas, about 100 people turned up. This time, lo and behold, TLB-1 was full and overflowing. Perhaps the reader will conclude from this that psychologists are bad predictors of human behavior. Exactly, that is why we are doing research, to improve this sad state of affairs, if humanly possible.

Another little snag was that we have to make up envelopes containing about 45 different tests per subject. We found ourselves short in one test which meant that we had only 171 complete sets,

plus a few spares for the usual emergencies (incomplete tests, blank sheets or badly duplicated sheets).

We should have made it clear that because these are very new, hopefully advanced, tests each test has its own details for instruction and that because of this we can only test one (large) group on any one day.

Nevertheless we should, I feel, publicly apologize to those who turned up and did not get in. We hereby invite those people to forgive us our organizational shortcomings and guarantee that we will have both sets of tests and places for 300 people in TLB-1 on February 28 (Saturday).

Apologies on behalf of the Howarth Group for Personality Research.

T. Deurloo
J. Browne
N. Skinner
D. Wardell
E. Howarth



Tomorrow
is
Referenda
Day