

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—When the mist of heated debates about CUS had cleared from the air of Gateway, we discovered the missing snakeskin of one Harvey G. Thomgirt. Consoling the weeping lump of Mrs. Harv. G. with a cookbook ad addressed to her, we send a plea to the campus. Whether pro anti, would the cruel person who took our Harv please return him to the Gateway? Tonight, after defending policy in Dinwoodie, we even had a visit from Gerry Lampert, an anti-CUS from Carleton (we can't be all bad), who visited Judy Samoil, Cathy Morris, (who feels she doesn't belong), Gina Acampora (chief of the beef), Dan Carroll (he's laid around), Andy von Busse (v for small vigor), Phil Lenko (who still can't figure us out), Steve Makris, George Drohmoirecki, Joe Czajkowski, Bev Yacey, (the campus sports), Bob Anderson, Catriona Sinclair, Crowne Royle (he won't royle you), Ken Bailey, Brian MacDonald (whose done a lot of CUSsing), Joe McAnally, Marv (returned to the fold) Bjornstad, Elaine Verbicky and Ellen Nygaard.

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PAGE FOUR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1969

Three councillors respond to Greg Berry's resignation

The Editor,

We wish to point out several factors which we think would be of interest to the student body concerning the recent resignation of Greg Berry and the accusations he has made against students' council.

It would appear that Mr. Berry's resignation is being built up to make him look like a hero, and since only one side of the story has thus far been presented in *The Gateway*, we feel it is necessary for us to comment on the credibility of Mr. Berry's allegations against the council.

Mr. Berry has charged that students' council is irrelevant. Well, let's take a look at what he considers to be relevant to students. We have found in a review of students' council minutes that in the course of 22 students' council meetings, Mr. Berry has presented only seven substantive motions out of over 300 items of business the council has considered.

Let's look at the "relevance" of his motions, just in case he makes up in quality what he lacks in quantity. His first motion, raised at the May 14 meeting, was that council members should vote themselves blazers and crests—to be paid for by the students' union—in order that councillors would be recognized on campus. The other "irrelevant" councillors did not feel that this was an appropriate use of student funds.

His next two motions consisted of a proposed revision of the honoraria and allowances by-law and a routine salary decision.

The next motion was one regarding student conduct which incorporated the intent and wording of suggestions Marilyn Pilkington placed before the council.

The above motions were all proposed during the summer period when Mr. Berry had a perfect attendance record at meetings.

Since September, however, he has missed four of 12 council meetings, including the important budget meeting and the weekend seminar held by the council.

In the fall Mr. Berry became involved with another campus organization and it was useful to have their viewpoint expressed on council. However, Mr. Berry lost sight of the fact that he was supposed to be representing Education students, and instead he took direction from other persons in the gallery with whom he consulted constantly during council meetings. It is amusing to read Mr. Berry's comments that he thinks other councillors have been "manipulated" by Marilyn Pilkington when he was so obviously a puppet itself.

At the Sept. 23 meeting, Mr. Berry proposed a motion about student discipline that failed for lack of a seconder.

At the Nov. 4 meeting, Mr. Berry presented his sixth motion "that the meeting be completely open with all people having an equal vote". This would have had the effect of giving all members of the gallery equal speaking and voting rights with the elected members of students' council. The motion was out of order according to the constitution and by-laws.

The last motion Mr. Berry presented to council was that the candidates being considered to replace Dr. Johns as president of the university be required to conduct a campaign on the campus and be elected by a popular vote of students and faculty, as well as be subject to votes of confidence after the election.

For many good reasons—which will be put forward in another article the vast majority of the council members voted against "Mr. Berry's" motion after discussing it thoroughly from midnight to 1:30 a.m.

Contrary to Mr. Berry's allegation that council "even refuses to consider such work", all sides of the question were examined and several persons in the gallery were invited to express their views at some length, as Peter Boothroyd has already acknowledged in one of his columns. The motion was democratically discussed and democratically defeated because it was felt that it was neither in the interests of the student body nor of the university as a whole.

Since Mr. Berry did not agree with the decision, he called it irrelevant, etc., and left the council chambers, followed by the entire SDU delegation.

This is not the first time Mr. Berry has walked out of council when he disagreed with a decision, and rather than being "shaken" as *The Gateway* stated, most councillors were somewhat amused and a little disappointed by his behavior.

You may remember that this is not the first time Mr. Berry has made the front page of *The Gateway*. The other time was when he accused the council of "manipulation". It should be noted that he never made these charges in council—he brought them up only at an SDU rally. At that time his accusation was the headline story—as was his resignation.

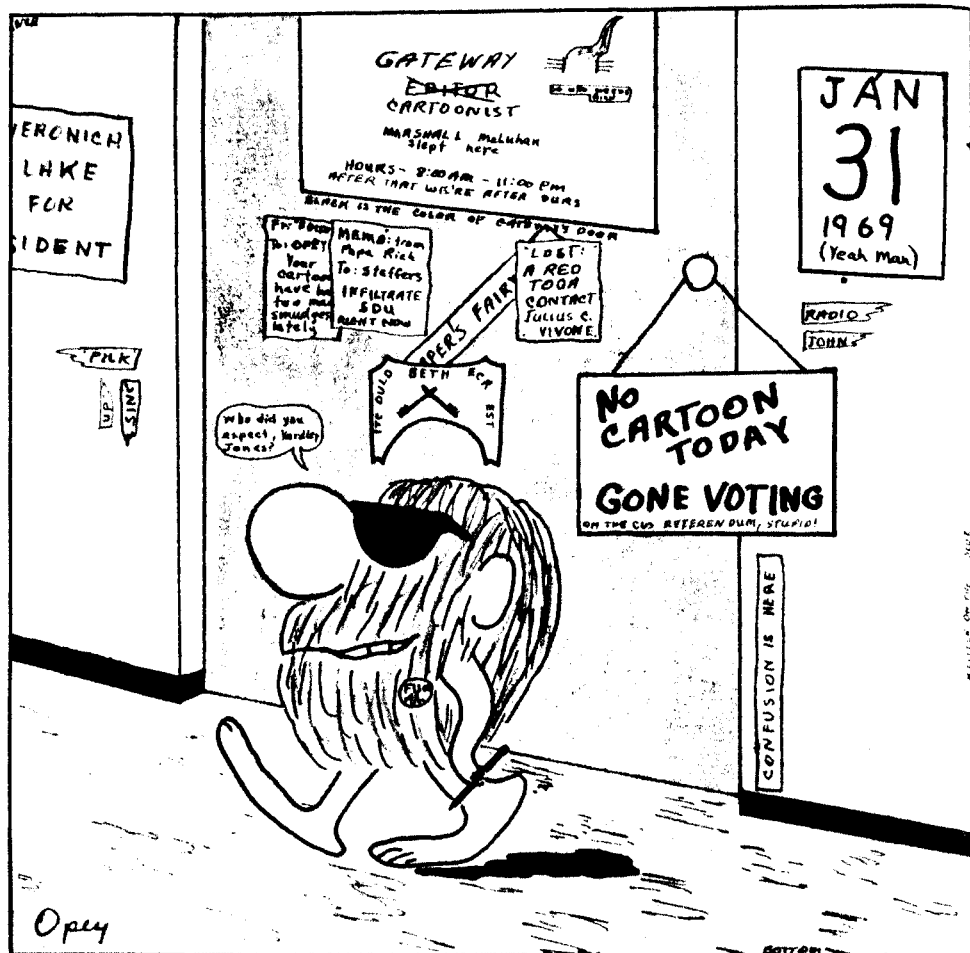
It is possible that Mr. Berry's publicity-seeking is connected with the fact that he has let it be known to many people that he intends to run for an Executive position in the approaching Students' Union elections.

To Mr. Berry's credit it should be pointed out that he has contributed to the work of the Library Liaison Committee and has performed well as advertising manager of *The Gateway*. However, we submit that Mr. Berry's accusations against council are without foundation, and he is not, and was not, during his term on students' council, representative of Education students.

The front-page build-up Mr. Berry is getting from *The Gateway* is in no way indicative of a constructive contribution to the university. It is unfortunate that the people who work hard and get things done get little publicity. It is unfortunate that Mr. Berry thinks he can build himself up by attempting to tear other people down.

We regret that it was necessary to state the above facts about Mr. Berry's performance in and attitude towards students' council, but we felt its necessary to place his allegations within a more realistic perspective.

Mike Edwards, treasurer
Paul Tremlett, commerce rep
Dennis Fitzgerald, sci rep



Editorial

We don't even know if marijuana is truly harmful

Kids can buy it in schoolyards, in restaurants, on the streets. They smoke it openly as if to defy objectors. They say it gives them a big kick—puts them where the reality of it all really is.

Call it what you will—Mary Jane, pot, grass, marijuana or marihuana. It's all the same. It has been described as a threat to society; to the very existence of a society; and, abundant users sometimes say, is a sure antidote to today's stressful living.

With the possible exception of sex, it has raised more prejudices, objections and eyebrows than any other word in the perpetual conflict between the young and old, conservative and liberal, adjusted and alienated.

Its defenders argue that it is not as dangerous as either alcohol or tobacco. Its opponents say it can lead to more addictive drugs, is a potent additive to crime and violence and may cause either permanent or long-range personality changes.

The layman should not be ashamed that his knowledge of that which he may be partaking is limited. Because even the experts, professors, and researchers, are stumped. It has even been suggested that what we may not know about marijuana may be far more important than what we do know.

A recent statement (scientific, we may add) on the uses and abuses of marijuana released by the Addiction Research Foundation says there "is no comparative valid information" on the relationship between dependence and chronic use of marijuana, or "not sufficient well-documented evidence" on the relation between marijuana use and

use of other drugs.

Several replies to a Gateway article authored by the American Medical Association have borne out the inaccuracies and ill-research of marijuana documents released by a committee of that body.

There are laws against its use but people with a habit rarely rely on the law for advice. Laws against its use, possession, trafficking and importation are regularly flaunted. Sometimes police fail to detect a person smoking pot even if confronted.

Lawmakers, on the provincial and federal level are not quite sure what to make of the situation. There are too many glib answers, too many contradictions, too many questions. If there is serious doubt whether marijuana is dangerous, why are severe laws (life for trafficking, 15 years for second offenders) in vogue?

Why should penalties to first, second and third time offenders be stiffened if no one is quite sure whether or not the drug is dangerous and harmful to the individual and society?

The sensible course to follow is honest, relevant information from all walks of research.

We know now, because of research, there is relevancy to the claim that alcohol has tremendous effects on people. Not so for marijuana. What we should be doing is encouraging young people to examine every scrap of available evidence (which should be increasing each day) before taking to marijuana.

Marijuana should be put to the testing table, under the microscope, not to justify its legality, but to get the facts.