

The Gateway

Member of the Canadian University Press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE:—Well, gang, this may be the last time your ol' friend and Gateway mascot Regina Rat writes up Staff This Issue. I've got a bad eye, but I managed to see Janet Simms, Mary Shedy, Geoff Michaels, Peter Enns, Sheila Ballard and Jim Rennie in the office at Tuesday press night, besides those guys up in the Happy Hunting Grounds. Yours truly, Regina Rat.

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On Freshman

This past week, the shoes of 2,500 freshmen tramped the length and breadth of campus, as they accustomed themselves to life in an academic community.

The persons who are wearing those shoes may think they now belong in this community of scholars, but if they do, they are sadly mistaken.

For among them are the husband-hunters, card-players, and social drinkers.

When this year's crop of freshmen store away their "frosh" buttons as mementoes to show proudly to their children and grandchildren, they do not become accepted residents of this university community.

Many of them, it is true, actually live within the campus boundaries or within walking distance of buildings where scores of academic searches for truth are underway. Unfortunately, this physical contact does not justify the spiritual and mental one.

Folk singers and football games do not a university make. They contribute to an overall atmosphere, but they do not justify our being called a university.

Among other things, a university is a place where the ideals of learn-

ing are nurtured amid hundreds of thousands of books.

Today, freshmen were introduced formally to this element of the university, when they had their first opportunity to listen to professors.

As the year progresses, we hope the newcomers take that opportunity to listen, and then do more than sit meekly at the back of lecture halls. We trust they will speak out, and challenge the abilities and imaginations of those who must face them two or three times a week.

Students must issue challenges to, and ask questions of, their professors, if they are ever to learn. When there is no stimulating dialogue in a lecture room, heads nod, empty seats propagate themselves and learning ceases.

The onus is on our students to produce the dialogue, instead of sitting back and waiting for professors to stimulate it.

And so, as this Freshman Introduction Week ends in a flurry of classes, books and assignments, we trust that learning can begin again.

Now freshmen can begin their attempt to join an academic community by applying themselves diligently to the work which surely lies ahead.

A Step Ahead

The most recent campus map indicates a rectangular area earmarked for a new university print shop.

We are also told the provincial government's spending estimates for the current fiscal year contain \$150,000 for a building to rise on that site.

With these two indicators, it seems fairly safe to say the university is planning to expand its printing facilities — but by how much we do not know.

It is hoped the university has recognized the need for printing facilities which some day might justify the name "University of Alberta Press," just as printing facilities at the world's greatest universities have created names such as the University of Chicago Press.

Our present outmoded print shop, located behind the engineering building, can accommodate only a small fraction of the printing jobs it is offered.

Last winter, the "University of Alberta Press" produced only one best-seller, and a dubious one at that. The book was a treatise on poultry diseases.

The print shop's overcrowded facilities also managed to produce the university calendar, assorted signs,

posters, The Gateway and university examinations.

With the exception of that last job, deadlines were seldom met, despite almost heroic efforts by print shop employees.

Our two linotype operators managed to stay only three days ahead of a rising tide of final examinations from literally hundreds of courses taught at this university.

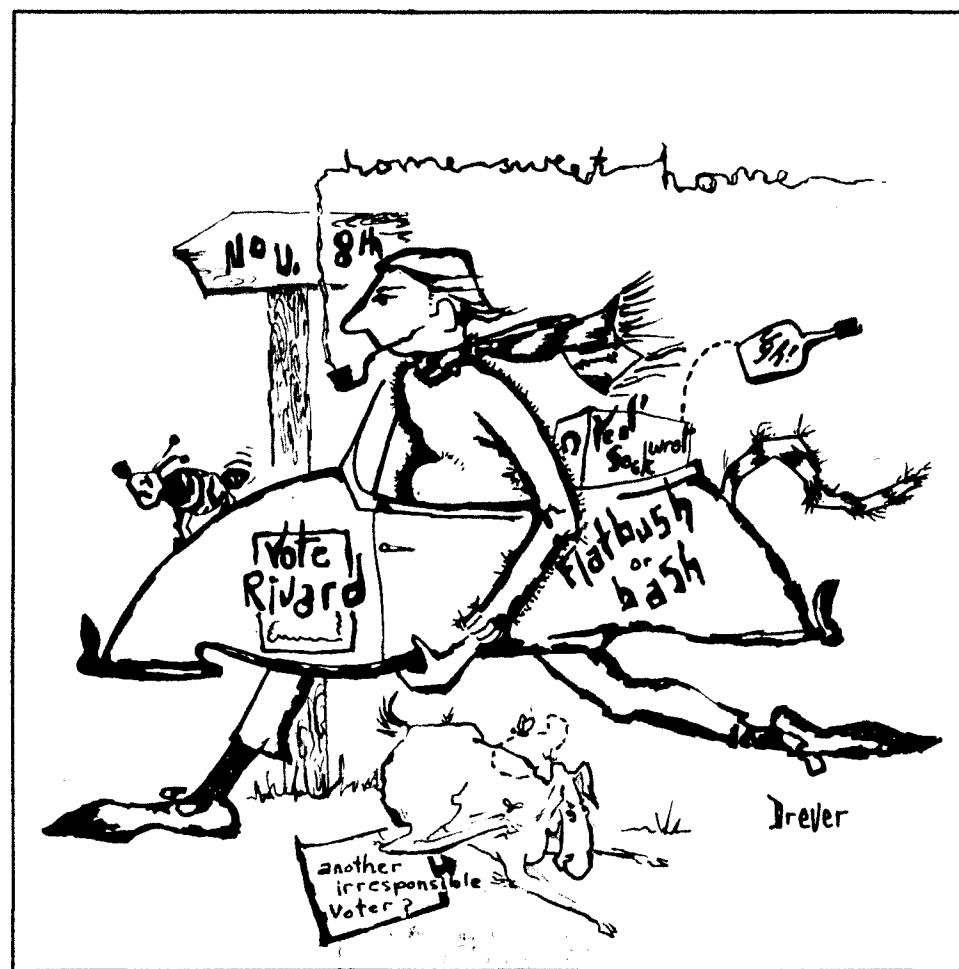
Today, our university book store proudly displays books written by U of A employees. However, how many of these books were printed by the "University of Alberta Press?" Precious few.

Within five years, The Gateway will be a daily newspaper printed according to press deadlines every bit as strict as those of professional dailies.

Within five years, more and more faculty members will be producing books.

There will be more posters, signs and final examinations, as the university continues to expand.

In short, U of A's reputation as an institution of higher learning could be enhanced by the provision of facilities to print the material which will plainly advertise that fact.



Ride To Vote

The Louisiest Rag

By Doug Walker

As a Gateway staff writer for the last several years, I must admit I have never been too disturbed by complaints regarding this newspaper, as they filter into the office.

This, of course, should not be taken to mean The Gateway is above criticism; but simply, that the nature of the attacks most often renders them, not it, impotent.

Too many persons equate The Gateway with a daily newspaper, and judge it by those standards. This is a falsely-held judgment, because a university newspaper does not have the aims, content or philosophy, not to mention the paid staff of a daily newspaper.

The Gateway's Editor-in-Chief is now in the process of defining his policy for the year, and it will, I am sure, be oriented more toward an academic community than toward the general public.

Errors in writing, editing and make-up can for the present be attributed to inexperience. But even when these areas improve, they should not be the principle subjects of criticism directed at the paper.

It is the content of a newspaper which is the heart of that newspaper.

As for those who say The Gateway is "the louisiest rag I ever saw," they are actually saying nothing. For these are the persons who are conspicuous by their absence from the office at times when they could be doing something to correct the situation.

A survey done for The Gateway by a graduating Commerce class last spring has revealed a number of inane comments about this publication, such as: "It is difficult to decide whether it is a newspaper or toilet paper," and "It is not following the university motto 'whatsoever

things are true" and it should." Such comments certainly did not aid us in finding out what this campus wants in its newspapers, even if some of them were well meant.

Frequently, U of A students have told us we concentrate too much on subjects such as sex, giving them a far higher priority in news columns than they should receive. However, most of these complaints, when asked to identify stories which displeased them, cannot do so. When specific examples are not given in cases such as these, there is not much we can do about them.

Other critics say the newspaper should be more critical of governmental and administrative activities and academic offerings at this university. They also suggest it should act as a student spokesman. When these persons are willing to make these criticisms constructive ones by naming alternatives to existing forces and conditions, we are willing to listen.

Come into our editorial offices and speak with an editorial board member, if you have such criticism. It is the kind of criticism we need.

It is much easier to get to the base of the problem at hand by this method. Much more can come out of such a discussion than can from a letter, even though we welcome written comment.

I have tried to give our critics some guidelines, targets to shoot at. When you are specific we can extend individual cases into general principles to be followed all the time. When you are constructive, we can function as an extension of student opinion.

Above all, be frequent.

You may even wind up writing an editorial column such as this.