

The Gateway

Member of the Canadian University Press

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FRIDAY, JANUARY, 10, 1964

University Government Reform

The University Act is up for revision, and one of the much-needed reforms in university government will have to do with the board of governors.

The University of Alberta Academic Staff Association is pressing for implementation of its Collier Report, which recommends sweeping changes. The Social Credit government in this province must give close attention to the report, for in it the case for reform is well stated.

U of A's board of governors has the authority to make policy decisions without consulting faculty opinion. This, we believe, gives rise to the main issue—centering around the fact that university policy is hierarchically controlled by the Alberta cabinet.

Members of the academic staff have no influence in the appointment of either the governors or the chief administrative officers of the university.

A brief examination of the board of governors proves the validity of these assertions.

The board itself is appointed by the Social Credit government. There are three exceptions to this rule—the three ex officio members of the board.

It is obvious, too, that there is too much influence from the civil ser-

vice. The chairman of the board of governors, for example, is a high-ranking official on the Workmen's Compensation Board. Experience in areas other than Alberta shows that civil servants are often too sensitive to government feelings to make good decisions concerning the university.

Mr. A. O. Aalborg, Alberta's minister of education, has told us personally that it is entirely possible that the chairman of the board keeps the viewpoint of the government and the viewpoint of the university in mind at all times. To our mind, the former controls the latter.

The Calgary campus comes into focus here. Although this may be officially denied, authoritative sources indicate the Alberta government is anxious to replace UAC Principal Malcolm Taylor with someone amenable to the "interests" of the provincial government. In other words, a man is wanted who will keep the Social Credit "viewpoint" in mind.

These items serve to illustrate the government-dominated situation. It would appear that the basis for reform is well-founded.

When the University Act is revised it must provide for faculty control—and do away with the present system of hierarchical control by the provincial cabinet.

The Purest Minds

The denizens of this university have pure minds.

We do not taint our minds by involving ourselves with "dirty" politics. Political clubs on this campus, which might act as a corrupting influence, are boycotted by the majority of students.

We do not discuss our fields of study with students in other disciplines, for this would prostitute our knowledge and taint our minds with extraneous ideas. Each department exists as a world within itself.

We do not concern ourselves with the confusion of world affairs. But some of us make our voices heard on the subject of moral decay, in politics

and international relations.

Indeed, moral decay is a favorite topic of conversation.

Students at this university do not taint the purity of their ideas by concerning themselves with the facts of our society. For a fact is a fixed and dirty thing, while ideas can be shined up and changed in the time it takes to clink a coffee cup to suit the individual.

We will emerge into the world well-protected, for we do not let anything into our minds which might affect our enraptured vision of the world which swirls around us.

Without doubt, people at this university probably have purer minds than any group in the country.



INTREPID REPORTERS DISCOVER GAPS IN LIBRARY SECURITY

After Midnight

Our university's "paper makers" have made their mark in Canadian student journalism this year.

The Gateway, a newspaper without a features editor as such, won the features trophy for the best features out of some 29 members of the Canadian University Press.

Amusing, yes. Under the surface, though, it was not at all odd. Rather it was a glass of champagne for each member of The Gateway staff.

Our winning of the features trophy and the editorial cartoons trophy—along with the fact that we were in second spot for two more trophies and in third spot for yet another—is indicative of the team effort that characterizes The Gateway this publishing year.

It is also significant to point out that no other member paper was a winner or runner-up in five out of a possible six competitions.

As editor, it is my privilege to say that it could not have been done without an excellent team effort—and every Gateway staffer counted. My thanks to each and every one of them.

* * *

A few observations made at the CUP conference itself:

• Western university newspapers have surpassed the east in student journalism, as professional judging showed. For example, The Ubyssy and The Gateway made far better showings than papers at three institutions in Canada where journalism is taught. (I am referring to the University of Western Ontario in London, Carleton University in Ot-

tawa, and Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto.)

• The Ubyssy (University of British Columbia) and The Martlett (University of Victoria) hosted the best working conference I have attended.

• There was a great amount of hard work done at the conference in Vancouver and Victoria. Credit is due Sid Black, national CUP president, for stressing the "work" aspect of the conference and for excellent preparation of conference working papers.

• Noteworthy and commendable were the percentages of women in delegations from The Ubyssy and The Manitoban. The Gateway, conscientious and persevering, sent five clean-living males.

Branny Schepanovich

Looking Back through The Gateway

January 14, 1954

"A decision on whether or not lectures will be cancelled at 11:30 Friday, Jan 22, in order that all the student body may hear George Drew speak on the campus will be reached by the dean's council . . .

"Students' Council passed a recommendation asking that the Dean's council consider cancelling lectures in order to let everyone hear the leader of Her Majesty's Opposition.

"Mr. Drew's speech, it is indicated, will be non-political in its theme. The controversy over cancelling lectures for a political speaker has thus been resolved."