

# The Gateway

Member of the Canadian University Press

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**STAFF THIS ISSUE:**—We're having a party Saturday night at Carole's place, and these kind souls are invited: Patricia Hughes, Marion Conybeare, Andy Rodger, Jon Whyte, Marcia Reed, W. S. Salter, Harvey Thombgirt (BYOB), Janet Sims, Lois Berry, and Marg Penn.

The Gateway is published twice weekly by the students' union of the University of Alberta. Opinions expressed by columnists are not necessarily those of the editors. The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for all material published herein. Final Copy Deadline (including Short Short items): for Wednesday edition—7 p.m. Sunday, advertising—4:30 p.m. Thursday, for Friday edition—7 p.m. Tuesday, advertising—4:30 p.m. Monday. Advertising Manager: Alex Hardy. Circulation: 8,000. Office phone—433-1155.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1965

## Malthusian Principles

Automobiles, like lemmings and people, seem to obey Malthusian principles, and multiply until the limit of their food supply is reached.

When this happens on campus, the "parking problem" again manifests itself, which it does every year with dreary regularity.

There were 5,200 cars on campus last year, and now a seemingly-uncountable number clog all nine campus lots and overflow into the neighboring streets.

Street-parking in the Garneau district is made into a game of catch-as-catch-can by the two-hour parking limits. Other off-campus parking seems to be beyond the athletic limits of the student body.

Staff members get first call on reserved on-campus parking, then graduate students. Even though the staff is beginning to feel the pinch, most parking complaints now come from undergraduates who have to walk too far from their cars to classes.

Persons have begun to scream for some answers, any answer to the "parking problem."

But finding parking spaces for students is not one of the basic purposes of the university. This is one

case where the principle of "universal accessibility to post-secondary education" does not apply.

However, it might be expedient to find some sort of temporary solution to what appears to be an unsolvable problem.

As campus enrolment goes up, the number of cars brought to campus will increase to the point that traffic jams and parking problems might become more than just minor inconveniences.

We hope the administration will use the transportation survey card filled out during registration to keep a close ear to the ground to stave off imminent disaster.

Since ground level parking can expand only so far without serious outcries from district residents, perhaps serious consideration should be given to multi-level parking. The idea is not new, as other universities have opened parkades in desperation moves to stave off the effects of their automobile population explosion.

As a last resort, some persons now driving cars might start taking the bus or walking to campus, although the likelihood of that passeth all understanding.

## Just Cause?

The "beatnik" student is fast disappearing from the modern campus scene. His bitter, hardened form is gradually being replaced by one which thrives on social involvement and awareness.

This gradual evolution has been characterized by the stormy civil rights movement in the United States, and by the blossoming "national" movement in Quebec.

In Alberta, the philosophy of social conscience is still treasured by those students who have been fortunate enough to hold positions in student government and by independents who have directed their own inquiries beyond our province's borders.

Hopefully, the involved student is attempting to be a responsible one. Unfortunately, many students fail to exhibit their responsibility in two essential ways:

First, by failing to accept the respect, rights and privileges due them as adult citizens, and

Second, by refusing to uphold the obligations which come with these responsibilities.

The student's presence at university prepares him for his later role in society.

This period of his life includes far more than the amassing of a body

of knowledge or technical skill. It includes a social education, development of a philosophy of life which will serve as a basis for later actions, and formulation of a "creative spirit" which will enable later evaluations of society and its goals.

The period also involves the development of an awareness of obligations and privileges involved in citizenship. This participation in society has given rise to student activism, and specifically, to National Student Day, October 27.

In the Edmonton and Alberta context, however, public reaction to the academic community is at best an indifferent tolerance—at worst, open hostility.

For this reason, local plans for National Student Day must be handled with utmost care. Such activity can be a valuable example of student participation in community affairs. It can also spell disaster for the student's image in this province.

But if they are successful, public sympathy and support will swing toward a new cause.

Responsible actions on this national "day of awareness" will go far in convincing the public this cause is just.



U of A Grandstand?

## Managing The News

By Don Sellar

Last week, I attempted to outline this newspaper's operations and policies for the coming year. From this beginning, I had hoped to move on to a new subject, but this is now impossible.

In that first column, I said: "When you talk to The Gateway, do not bother to say that something is 'off the record.' Nothing a newspaperman is told can be off the record."

But already, on at least two occasions during the past week, these comments have been ignored.

In the first instance, a Gateway reporter wrote a story on this university's role in the proposed National Student Day, October 27, using material readily obtained from students' union officials. The story in question was handed in Sunday night, edited and assigned a high priority for Wednesday's issue.

But an attempt was made later that same night to prevent that story from being published this week. A students' council executive member approached me, and asked that the story be "delayed" temporarily.

I was told this story might prejudice Edmonton civic officials against students' union plans for a downtown manifestation, or teach-in on National Student Day. The city's approval of such a plan is still being sought.

Needless to say, the story appeared where it ought to have appeared Wednesday—at the top of Page One. This newspaper does not subscribe to the theories of "news management" common in many quarters. Our reporters should feel an obligation to use all the information available to them.

On Monday night, certain information was given students' council

—information which appears elsewhere in today's Gateway. The speaker who gave council this material said it "should not leave the room." But seated in one corner of the council chamber was a Gateway staff writer, covering the meeting.

All students' council meetings are open to any member of the students' union, "... but any meeting or part thereof may be closed to all except students' council members on passage of a motion to that effect." So say the students' union by-laws.

At the moment in question, the meeting was an open one—open to both the press and the public, had the public bothered to attend.

It is simply not possible for a reporter to "forget" what he or she learned at a public meeting. I thought this point was made abundantly clear during my previous discussion of this newspaper's policies.

Perhaps the absence of spectators at recent students' council meetings has lulled council into a false state of security about its operations.

Our students' union president, at this same meeting, had welcomed more spectators to come and debate their ideas with council.

I would join Mr. Price in this wish, but I must also point out that this newspaper is obliged to cover council meetings, whether or not there are "outsiders" present.

This newspaper is not a "house organ" of students' council or of the students' union to the extent that it ever has to ignore a newspaperman's ethics.

Our budget, as I pointed out to you last week, comes from your pockets, not from those of the provincial government, the administration, or even the students' union.