

The Gateway

Member of the Canadian University Press

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Anti-Hawrelak Demonstration

Three professors and another employee at this university have pulled off a stunt that gained great publicity for their personal political and moral feelings.

They suggest—through their actions, that 52,000 Edmontonians, exercising their democratic prerogative, had no right to do so. These are the people who voted for William Hawrelak.

The professors are entitled to their opinions. But what will be the effect of their demonstration, which has very little hope of being effective?

It will revive the rancor and bitterness that was so prevalent during the election campaign.

It will prolong the mudslinging, charges and counter-charges which obscured some important issues during an election campaign which—in itself—was a disgrace to our city.

We have decided to establish a society in which the majority, not a so-called "sophisticated elite," decides who shall govern and who has the moral right to do so.

It is true that university professors are entitled to some social prerogatives; but this entails a sense of pub-

lic responsibility as well. It is doubtful whether the city council protest will enhance the public image of professors or the university.

The protestors are honorable men who strongly believe in the position they have taken.

But do they have a right to jeopardize the university's public image?

Do they have a right to act as judge and jury of Mayor Hawrelak, to decide whether or not he has a right to be mayor after being chosen by the majority of the electorate? (It is regrettable that their form of protest did not precede the civic election.)

Is prolonged rancor, bitterness and contention in this city really their moral responsibility?

There may be times when public responsibility must be emphasized by bold direct action. But university professors might be expected to do this without challenging the will of the electorate, without publicly arrogating superior—according to our principles of democracy—moral and political judgement.

It may be that some people who are not university professors are also capable of making moral judgements.

New Telephone Directory

This year's Students' Union Telephone Directory is now being distributed, and it is the earliest that the directory has been out in recent years.

The directory staff and others associated in the book's production are to be congratulated for their relatively fast work. It must be mentioned, though, that their efforts were greatly facilitated by the IBM computer; indeed, the computer reduced the manual work load by more than fifty per cent.

Two excellent features of the new directory are that it includes graduate students' listings and it is less expensive than last year's book.

The new directory has one horrible fault: the print is too small.

This is especially true of the first few pages of listings, where the characters appear to be set in three-point type. The main part of the rest of the directory is not much better—it

is printed in about four-point.

(Here we might note that newspapers never print in type smaller than six-point. For an example, see the fine print in our masthead.)

The consequence is that listings are difficult to read. Anyone who has to make more than a few references to the directory at one time will possibly suffer from eye strain.

Tiny print in the directory is very likely the result of changing the mode of production.

Next year, then, there will be no excuse for listing in fine print.

Stones & Politics

The stoning to death of tyrants in ancient Athens makes one wonder if there is any direct connection between democracy and the rocky terrain of Greece.



After Midnight

The most important editorial policy decisions must be made as the issues arise. This is my main justification for not outlining sooner The Gateway's policy for this year; I feel that our position has been established as the issues to date have arisen.

To be bound in advance on issues which have not yet arisen is to be dogmatic; thus I cannot be specific as regards policy on editorial content.

On the other hand, I could be very specific about policy on physical aspects of this year's Gateway. This will not be necessary, however, since we have already revitalized our news policies, makeup and general format of the paper. We have given The Gateway a new look.

An important point of policy relates to the determination of news values and what goes into The Gateway. A system of priorities is necessary because of space limitations, and this means that certain materials cannot appear in the paper.

The natural result is that certain parties will make their way to the editor's office with complaints of lack of coverage; (at times, the complaints are legitimate). Thus far, I have had considerable experience in this area. It irks me most when the complainant is a whiner.

I would remind the whiners that we are producing a newspaper, not a bulletin board. If the editors feel that some "small" group or event is newsworthy, that it will be of value and interest to the readers, then the group or event will be given coverage. The same applies to a "big" group or event. The system of priorities governs both categories.

Gateway tradition and the Students' Union Constitution commit us to protect the best interests of the

students and the university; to promote the growth of the university—academically, physically and culturally, and to encourage interest and participation in student government and campus activities.

The last point means that we must keep a close watch over Students' Council.

I should say that we are encouraging more expression of opinion in our columns this year. "Spectrum," a special column, will be open to all readers. We also regard letters to the editor as vital to The Gateway.

Branny Schepanovich

Looking Back through The Gateway

September 29, 1953

"A mob of jubilant frosh and fun-seeking hangers-on snaked its way through down-town Edmonton Friday night, tying up traffic for half an hour at the corner of 101 St. and Jasper, . . .

"Estimated . . . to be 2,000 strong, the dancers halted traffic . . . while they sat in a giant circle singing varsity songs . . .

" . . . the line twisted . . . to the Garneau theatre, where it disrupted movie-goers by winding through the theatre."

On Dull Speakers

"Brecht to Lecture at University." The above appeared as a headline in The Edmonton Journal last Saturday. The German playwright Bertolt Brecht died in 1956.

Admittedly, some of the university's speakers in past have been dull—but none have been dead.