

# The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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**STAFF THIS ISSUE**—In order to avoid getting the forum-five editor up-tight this issue I will try to avoid being an expansive garter and keep this thing short. But when you have so many illustrious people wandering around, like Beth Nilsen, who has such magnanimous qualities that I can't even begin to speak of them, let alone list them for you here, Joe Czajkowski, whose name speaks for itself or we'd never get it spelled right, Ellen Nygaard, whose guard is absolutely delightful, Barry Nicholson, who is so good he doesn't even work here, Dorothy Constable, whose mind was boggled, Bob Blair who has 10 point copy with a 6 point head, Winston Gereluk, whose girl luck ran out so he went home to his wife, Sid Stephen, who got sold a bill of drugs, Jim Carter, who doesn't stand a hope in hell of carting her, but he keeps trying, Ginny Bax, whose pleasant disposition, combined with her pleasant position convinces us she is stoned most of the time, Ron Yakimchuk, and, oh my God, the forum-five man just cut his throat, but there's still Gerald Umbach, Heather Colyer, Ron Ternoway, Joe College, Judy Samoil, Sherlock Holmes, Dan Carroll, Dan Jamieson the speller, and your terse, brief and to the point, phallic symbol, Harvey G. for grandiloquent Thomgirt.

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PAGE FOUR FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1970

## Kidnapped!

by Al Scarth

"Help, I've been kidnapped!"

This is becoming the traditional cry of the University of Alberta's candidates for tenure.

And calls demanding ransom are now commonplace at the university's departmental administrative level.

In an attempt to thwart the annual kidnappings, usually conducted by conservative administrators, the candidates are under constant SCM bodyguard in the days preceding the crowning of the perfect professor.

To distinguish the traditional prank from an authentic kidnap, each candidate carries with him a letter from his old high school which is notified immediately of the professor's location by those who spirit him away.

The professor's students are then told his situation, but the details are otherwise kept secret.

The perfect professor will be chosen soon at the university's traditional star chamber night.

### One kidnapped

One of this year's candidates, Ted Kemp, was snatched recently and is still being held for ransom.

Still at large are Richard Frucht, Roger Wade and D. C. Butler. But they had better beware because even the closest guarding may prove futile.

Last year, a candidate, Don Whiteside, was taken from his home when his colleagues joined in the fun. After being informed of the planned kidnap, they invited the kidnappers in for a talk.

Thus they were lying in wait for the unsuspecting candidate when he was escorted home by his bodyguard.

### Gangland war

The annual snatches cause a hilarious uproar in the faculties. In fact, it's beginning to sound like a gangland war . . .

Some comments heard among the students were: "There's a plot to get them all," "We've got them over a barrel," "We're holding off on the ransom," and, "They're gonna have to make a move soon."

One SCM student said "if the professors were swiped, there could probably be a vigilante group formed right away."

Such is the college spirit created by the annual kidnapping and guarding of the professors.

The guards pick the professors up from their homes in the morning, go to classes with them and take them home in the evening.

Everywhere the professors go, they have a shadow man says a student.

"We expect to have somebody try to steal them but we have plans to thwart any attempts."

"Just wait till the administration has its candidates!"

References for this definitive study of the tenure situation can be found on page 18 of Thursday's Edmonton Journal under the headline "Kidnappings' are all part of life for a commerce queen contestant."

# Clarification of position and the merits of a party system

I am writing this letter to help clarify my position on the question of the party system in student politics. According to the quote in Tuesday's paper on page one I am an advocate of personality contests. I assure you that this is not the case although I do believe that our present system of elections serves the needs of the students better than a party system would. Today we have an executive made up of individuals who defeated other individuals because the student body felt they could each fill their respective positions better than their opposition. Although they often represent differing viewpoints we cannot put them down as failures in their capacity as the main administrative body of the students' union. Our problem is that the executive is not responsible enough to the council. At present councillors are not as involved in decision-making as they should be. In future councillors should be assigned greater responsibility in all administrative matters of the union.

It cannot be argued that most student union campaigns are basically personality contests. For this reason an attempt was made at the council meeting on Monday night to reduce the amount of money candidates are allowed to spend on their campaigns. It was hoped that such an action would force them to run a more serious and even practical campaign. However the motions failed and presidential candidates may still spend up to \$250 and others can blow \$200. It is unreasonable to

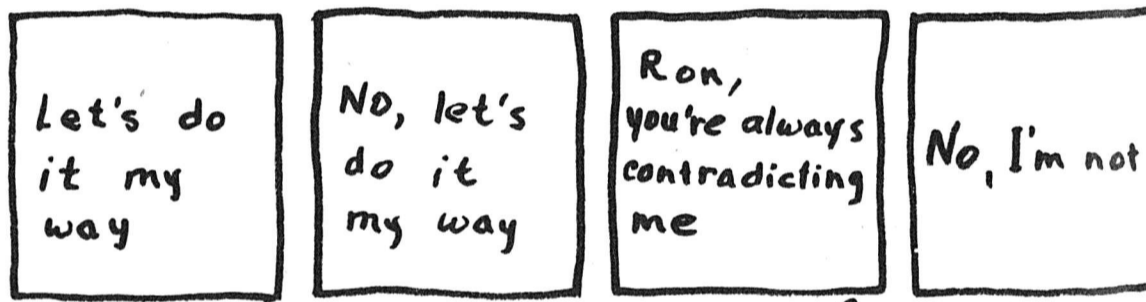
say that if you don't want to spend it you don't have to because no one knows what his opposition is up until campaign week itself. Nor can the candidate be sure of who his opposition is until nominations close and it is too late to make any changes in strategy. It goes without saying that a poor candidate can want to win as badly as a rich one.

However, to get back to the party system, we have to consider the real effect of "slate" elections on student politics. Instead of electing individual executives we would elect a president, along with his own executive. Instead of seven positions to be filled there would in effect be one. If other party systems are examples (and they are far more sophisticated than our own) then we could expect aspiring executives to join that party which they believe gives them the best political future regardless of their private feelings. In the end all parties would tend toward some median which they all feel most acceptable to the student mass and run their campaigns on a personality basis, even as the American auto manufacturers do. Chrysler would never dare introduce a revolutionary new product. They learned long ago that their cars have to look like GM's if they want to sell them. If you want to be more realistic look at the federal parties in Canada. God knows what they believe or represent anymore.

Willie Heslop  
commerce rep

## Dialog

by Opey



Opey

DIALOG by Opey will be a regular feature of Gateway. Watch for it.

## "The mutilated remains"

by Brian Campbell

Casserole Editor '66-'67

A letter by a certain Mr. John T. Marshall appeared in Tuesday's Gateway. In it he makes three criticisms of an article I recently wrote for The Gateway. I have some remarks about those criticisms.

As a student, university student, student-teacher, and finally instructor in English at the University of Alberta, I have had ample opportunity to observe the educational process in operation and the results of that process when the mutilated remains reach university. Because teachers are not competent in their subject areas, and because the resources of our schools are equally inadequate, and because teachers are therefore unable to introduce anywhere above grade five a reasonable facsimile of what some of us call the discovery method, and because teachers are expected to keep order in the classroom, they are forced to use a rather simple-minded method of teaching. They make themselves the source of knowledge. Incidentally, my dear Mr. Marshall, I can supply you with an adequately scientific definition of competence in my subject area and an adequate list of what I consider minimal library materials to allow learning in my area, so drop by anytime. But to return to the main thrust of my reply, every teacher I have seen in our public schools has used his position as a fountain of truth to maintain order. I feel that my ability, having graduated with a B.A. in psychology with minors in sociology and English, gives me an adequate background to observe the social make-up of the classroom. That make-up is authoritarian, and the teacher is the authority figure.

As far as evidence of authoritarianism goes, I

suggest Mr. Marshall read Christian Bay's paper "The Political and Apolitical Student" where he will find a survey of literature testing students on various factors including the Adorno F-scale. It turns out that education students are one of the most conservative and authoritarian groups on campus. If Dr. Bay cannot produce a copy of the paper, I certainly can.

Perhaps when they become teachers a sudden flash of liberalism converts them. I doubt it, Mr. Marshall.

As far as the sexual frustration of the female teacher is concerned, I would be pleased to present no end of comparative evidence, but I am under contract to another publisher, and you'll have to wait for that book to hit the street.

As for Mr. Marshall's third criticism that teachers never respect any opinions their pupils have, I suggest that Mr. Marshall re-read the article. I said that "some authority figures are human, (but) there are others who ruin anything they do."

Then comes the section Mr. John T. Marshall so strongly objects to: "Make sure that nothing is relevant to anything it is doing outside the school. Never respect any opinions it might have." These statements are in the imperative voice Mr. Marshall. They are the unwritten rules of our school system Mr. Marshall. Learn to read Mr. Marshall.

And finally you say that my criticism is destructive. You're right, baby. I tried constructive criticism until I was blue in the face. I wrote at least four articles outlining suggestions for research, and changes in the curriculum content and teaching methods in our school system last year. I spent an entire year's worth of Casseroles trying to find an alternative for the present system. Perhaps you didn't read that either, baby. Well, you're not alone in that, neither did anyone else. You seem to be in education. I hope you do something with it once you get out. Good luck.