

# The Gateway

Member of the Canadian University Press

Winner N. A. M. MacKenzie Trophy 1963-64  
Winner Ottawa Journal Trophy 1963-64

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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: for Tuesday edition—7 p.m. Sunday; for Friday edition—7 p.m. Tuesday; advertising—4:30 p.m. Monday. Circulation 7,000. Office phone—433-1155.

PAGE FOUR

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1964

## A Most Tragic Neglect

In October a professor at this university took steps to secure for the students and the university donations of Canadian paintings up to the value of \$5,000, on condition that the Students' Union and the administration donate \$150 each toward the establishment of a permanent student-owned collection of Canadian art. This week a member of The Gateway editorial staff asked the professor (Robin Matthews of the English department) how the plan was progressing.

We were shocked and disappointed by the reply.

Although the Students' Union had held up its end of the deal, the administration had not. The president had received Mr. Matthews' letter, and instead of committing the university to the small expense required, passed the issue on to the Fine

Arts department, who had done nothing on the matter. The President has not met with Mr. Matthews, nor has he communicated with him since.

How long does the administration think this offer will be outstanding? Mr. Matthews cannot be assured that the promise of the paintings (which include a specially-commissioned portrait of the Queen Mother by internationally-known Vancouver artist Joe Plaskett) will last indefinitely. The administration's slowness (amounting to a complete standstill) in effect means that this opportunity will be lost to the students.

This is a tragic neglect of the university's interests on the part of the administration. But it may not be too late even now. In the interest of art on this campus, it is to be hoped that the administration acts on Mr. Matthews' offer.

## Art And The Administration

At the beginning of this year The Gateway published a letter complaining that an A. Y. Jackson painting belonging to the University was hung in the president's office. It was argued that such a painting should be hung publicly so that all could appreciate it. At that time the

administration said that this would be done.

Five months later this has not been done. The original arguments about the issue still stand. The only change is that interested students have for another half-year been deprived of the appreciation of a fine piece of Canadian art.

## Dave Jenkins Strikes Out

Mr. David Jenkins, president of the Canadian Union of Students, has disapproved of the Liberal government's proposal of a \$10 million fund for interest-free loans to students on constitutional grounds. Although we would not presume to argue with the CUS president over this highly debatable question, we seriously question some of the alternatives that he proposes.

The objective of such a fund was obviously to benefit those in dire financial need who are trying to attend university. Further, such a fund would be directed to the less brilliant members who cannot support themselves by scholarships.

If such help is not to be available to them, what does Mr. Jenkins propose instead? That parents should be allowed to deduct university fees from their income tax.

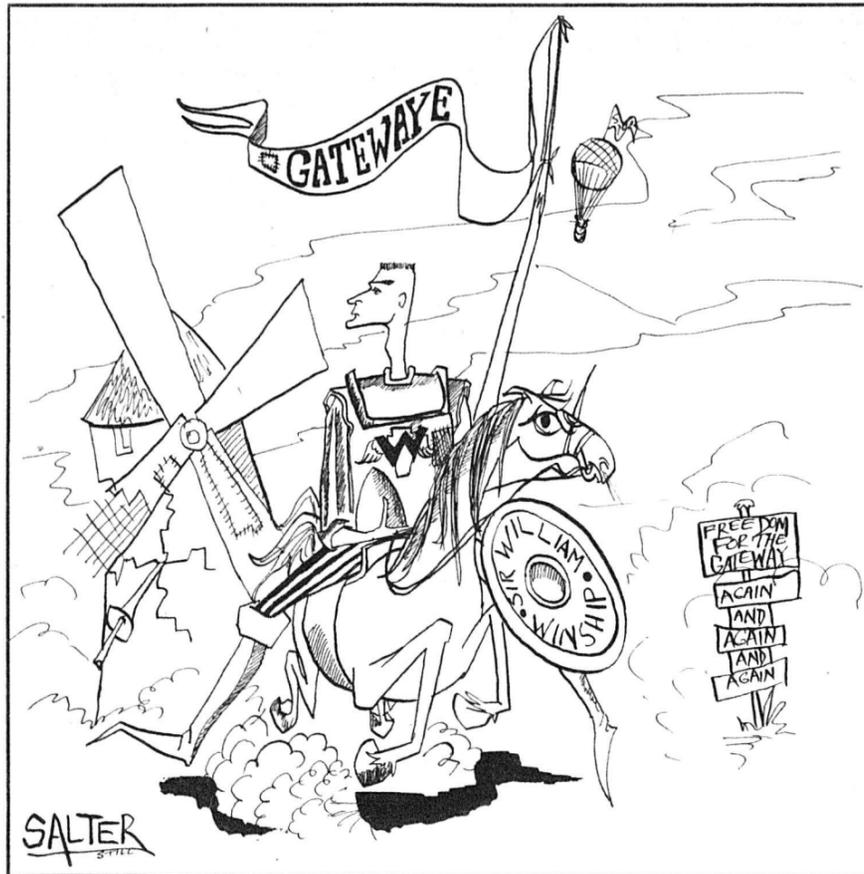
An admirable proposal which will undoubtedly help some students—

but we doubt that it will do much for the original objects of the Liberal government's proposal.

An increase in exemption for students is even less helpful; any student who makes over \$2,000 a year is unlikely to "need" either the loan or the tax concession.

The CUS and Mr. Jenkins, if they are going to pontificate, might do so to better purpose. The proposed alternatives are not alternatives at all but quite different, leaving the original problem unattacked.

For a supposedly representative body, the CUS — specifically Mr. Jenkins — is not providing any constructive alternative, indeed a discreet silence would be of more benefit than the irrelevant proposals offered. If this is all the CUS can suggest, it is perhaps a pity that the threatened disintegration of the last annual meeting was not permitted to become a fact.



"NEXT YEAR'S EDITOR?"

## Spectrum

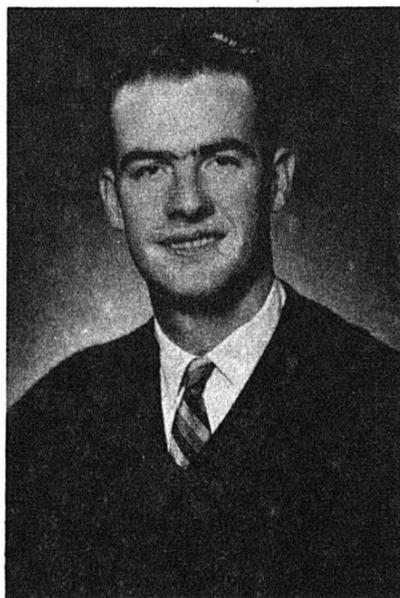
### Former Union President Condemns Gateway Confiscation

*Alex McCalla was president of the Students' Union in 1960-61. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a bachelor's degree in agriculture, then received a master's degree in agricultural economics. Now, he is working towards his Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, where he learned about the recent seizure of The Gateway and associated developments. His letter follows.*

\* \* \*

To The Editor:

I was shocked to read in The Minnesota Daily a reference to the confiscation of a special Gateway edition



ALEX F. McCALLA

because it was critical of administration and provincial government policy. From reading The Edmonton Journal (not always a reliable source) I am led to believe that the initial seizure was perpetuated by the president of the Students' Union.

As one who had some involvement in student affairs while a student at the U of A, I am profoundly disturbed by this action. First, because the seizure of a student newspaper places a restriction in the very place where young minds should be permitted to explore and experiment. If the student body at a university is not permitted to criticize those things that affect them most, then the fundamental concept of freedom of speech is an empty shell. Secondly, it is distasteful to see one's Alma Mater held up as an example of administration and Students' Union censorship of the student press in one of the largest student newspapers in the United States.

Responsibility and good taste are subjective things derived from the trial and error game called experience. University student affairs offer a unique and ideal place for this game to be played. Continued recurrence of events such as this one, which has been the case at Alberta, stifles this invaluable process.

It is time the University of Alberta students and administration started taking mature stands on the fundamental concepts which underpin the university

Yours sincerely,

Alex. F. McCalla  
Minneapolis, Minnesota