

The Gateway

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—Have you voted yet today? If not, get to the nearest poll and vote. Hard-working staffers for this paper were Rose Mah Toy, Marg Penn, Lorraine Allison, Lorraine Minich, Eugene Brody, Andy Rodger, Ekkehard Kottke, Don Moren, Richard Vivone, Marion Conybeare, Ralph Melnychuk, Jim MacLaren, John Westmore, Plastic Man and yours truly, Harvey Thomgirt.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 1966

Mr. LaPierre pays a visit

We feel we must apologize to Mr. Laurier LaPierre, moderator of This Hour Has Seven Days, for our backwardness in this neck of the woods. You see, Mr. LaPierre, we're just not accustomed to the ways of Eastern folk, who are able to climb off an airplane on a Friday night, launch a flaming tirade against the Western Way and then scurry back to the productive East two days later.

We also have great difficulty perceiving the problems which Mr. LaPierre noticed the moment he climbed down the ramp of one of those great big jet airliners and looked around him.

First of all, the elegant Easterner quipped something to the effect that the University of Alberta is "a frightening university." This cute turn of phrase undoubtedly has some deep, inner meaning which has escaped those of us who must live in the backward West.

Of course, when Mr. LaPierre's penetrating remark is coupled with the following explanation, it takes on a new meaning. Also deep. Also inner. "There is an anxiety here that is unproductive; an atmosphere very close to fear. I would not come to this university even if especially asked to do so. The government does not really believe in higher education; in Alberta it is more important to believe than to know."

Well.

Presumably, Mr. LaPierre has in his possession some facts which are not readily apparent to those of us who live in this anxiety-ridden, unproductive province, or more specifically, to those of us who attend this anxiety-ridden, unproductive university.

But, of course we are being backward and overly suspicious, as all Westerners are wont to do when our more refined Eastern-type cousins trouble themselves enough to study our problems by making a 48-hour trip and expounding a mythology which is so old it has turned to dust.

Wake up, Mr. LaPierre.

Look around you before you start condemning a provincial government which recently increased university grants to the tune of \$31 million. Reconcile this type of government generosity with your own words: "The government does not really believe in higher education."

Look at Alberta's growth and expansion. Calgary and Edmonton are now growing faster per capita respectively than are any other cities in Canada, according to some figures which came out of the reliable East recently.

Look at the unproductivity demonstrated by students planning their own \$6 million union building, or by the Faculty of Medicine, now gaining an international reputation in a triviality such as open-heart research.

Look at our university's performance in intercollegiate athletics, a performance not yet blessed with the Eastern touch of athletic scholarships. Look at our electron accelerator, our computing centre, our potassium argon dating research centre, and then to the future.

Yes, Mr. LaPierre, look to our future. That aspect of our university is the one which is rising or is yet to rise above our campus: the 14-storey Henry Marshall Tory social sciences building, the planned biological sciences building (the cost of which is expected to exceed \$20 million), the planned engineering complex and the proposed new law building.

But don't spend too much time looking at all of these things, Mr. LaPierre, because you Easterners are not blessed with much time.

Dr. Grant Davy, former head of political science and a man who last spring said goodbye to the province which so restricted his academic freedom, is coming back to lecture here.

He is coming back West from McMaster University, the Eastern institution he thought he would enjoy so much. We of the West may be backward and obtuse, but we are not impolite or forgetful, Mr. LaPierre.

You too are welcome in our anxiety-ridden, unproductive land. You and your television cameras.



"don't you just love going to the races?"

backstairs gossip

by doug walker

The number of rumors that pass through a campus newspaper office in the course of a year's publication is literally astounding. There will be big rumors and little rumors, funny and infuriating rumors, credible rumors, and rumors that absolutely defy belief. They may take the form of questions that no one, absolutely no one, will comment upon. They may be questions that no one would even dare ask in public. They may possibly originate in the fertile mind of some otherwise perfectly innocent junior reporter. One thing, however, is certain. They have infinite variety.

But whatever the topic, whoever the target, these rumors are invariably good conversation pieces, if, of course, you're inclined toward that sort of thing. This, I suppose, is the real justification for their existence.

So now, direct from the hotbed of campus politics, and from the proverbially reliable sources, The Gateway is proud to present its spring edition of Gossip '66.

For instance, is it true that the Henry Marshall Tory building, now semi-completed on the north rim of the campus, is already too small for the load it is expected to carry? And what about reports that it will cost more than twice as much as originally planned? Fantastically high costs, twenty million dollars instead of the planned twelve, may also hit the new biological sciences complex.

An application for a liquor licence by the mess in the Armed Forces building could result in the first legal liquor on campus. Is this the first step to a long awaited pub in SUB? And incidentally, why can Tuck Shop sell beer mugs with the university crest on them? This doesn't strike one as the sort of off-campus advertising the university needs.

The Cameron Library and the new Calgary Court House, both modern concrete and steel structures, both have wooden window frames. These must require considerable care and maintenance in comparison to other parts of the buildings.

An intriguing report from the Legislature at the first of this year indicates an election to be held this spring would be called on the second day of the session. This obviously didn't happen, but don't give up hope yet. And while we're on the Legislature, a professor at this university says that while the legislative library has copies of every Reader's Digest ever printed, copies of Congressional debates are unfortunately missing.

A film crew from the television program This Hour Has Seven Days was here for three weeks earlier this year doing a piece on the Airport Hotel situation. This could even appear next week on the CBC network.

According to university Provost, A. A. Ryan, a group of senior students abused their residence privileges by smuggling a full keg of beer into the residence for a party.

An offer by the Molson's Company of brewing fame to build a stadium for the varsity grid was evidently turned down by university authorities. The stadium was to have had the name Molson associated with it. A similar offer by a private business concern to build a commercial parkade for university use was likewise turned down.

No one, absolutely no one, will ever say anything really concrete about suicide where university students are concerned.

What happened to the Board of Governor's report on rent structures in the new university residences at U of A? Calgary Liberal MLA Bill Dickie was endeavoring to locate such a report before the opening of the Legislature, but no word of it has as yet been heard.

Well, so much for the scandal mongering. Even the most non-discriminating reader will notice there are no direct statements among the rumors. This is reported to follow directly a technique pioneered by Edmonton's other newspaper. In the meantime, if you have any juicy little tidbits of information, please drop them into The Gateway office. And may the ones presented here be discussed over your next cup of coffee.