

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

editor-in-chief - - - Rich Vivone

managing

editor Ronald Yakimchuk

casserole

editor Marjorie Bell

news editor Miriam McClellan

sports editor Bill Kankewitt

photo editor Al Yackulic

STAFF THIS ISSUE—Due to lack of student support, I, Harvey G. (God it feels funny) Thomgirt did it myself this issue. However, as I was busy borrowing tubes from radio, the following wrote staff this issue: Bobbie (Robert) Anderson, who's always FOSing around, Bev Yacey, the only sporting girl around, Bob Schmidt, fumbly fingers, Dale Rogers, Joe (Joseph) Czajkowski, no relation to Mary, Terry Pettit, Miss Ellen Mygaard, Kenneth J. (just been happy once this week) Bailey, Andrew von Busse, Catriona (who didn't come, but wanted her name included) Sinclair, Daniel Carroll, Judith Samoil, Kathy Morris, and Randy Jankowski.

P.S. Radio is a spoil sport.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1969

Editorial

Why we will endorse student government candidate

It has not been the custom or the practice of The Gateway or other student newspapers in Canada to offer students and other readers guidance on candidates contesting student union positions. This year, we will change. The Gateway will endeavour to offer its readers guidance on candidates and issues which affect the lives of students. And the recommendations will come on this page—no other.

As a politically independent newspaper, The Gateway prefers to judge aspiring office-seekers as individuals rather than as spokesmen for a particular ideology.

In top student government matters we look for leadership, courage and perhaps a bit of vision to make the university and student government more relevant to the student body. They and all candidates for council must, of course, stand the test of ability and energy.

In issues, we look for a solution that in the long run will have a vital influence on the betterment of the student. We look at the issues behind the issues and attempt to shed some of the vocal fog that hangs over the essentials of any issue. Because we are in close contact with people involved in issues, we feel it is our duty to offer an opinion to our readers.

The final decision on all endorsements is the responsibility of the editor of The Gateway and he relies on the advice of senior editors, reporters and what he sees in everyday contact with the majority of the people involved in the elections and the issues.

In preparing to make our choice, we begin a series of size-up sessions of major candidates before the official nominating deadlines. We have had almost daily contact with the people most often mentioned for the office of president of the students' union. The same goes for various other positions on the executive of the students' union.

The tendency for a high office candidate to be a council member the previous year makes the task much easier.

In supporting a particular candidate, we will talk to all candidates, examine their platforms, watch their performance in debates and open meetings and hold meetings within our office to discuss what we have seen. Of course, we will examine the record of those who have been previously exposed to student union activities. In many cases, examination of the record will make our endorsement of a particular candidate or lack of it almost a routine matter.

Finally, a word to those readers who sometimes argue that newspapers should not try to influence elections—an argument often inspired because our selections differ from theirs.

Part of the responsibility of the free press—and The Gateway is free from any pressure from our financiers, the students' council—is to act as a curb and a check on student government and its affiliates on behalf of the student. And only through the polling place can the citizenry itself best exert its influence on government. We pass along our findings on the stewardship of men in student government because it is our duty.

But we can do no more than advise the student. The final act comes in that moment of truth in the secrecy of the polling booth.

We will take an editorial stand in at least the following areas of involvement:

- the Canadian Union of Students referendum held on Jan. 31 at which time students will be asked if the students' union should join the national organization.

- support students running for president, vice-president, treasurer, co-ordinator, secretary and president of men's athletics—all are decided on a campus-wide vote.



“What goes on in any one department is the concern of...”

The time has come to at least THINK!

By AND VON BUSSE

Ignorance is the mainstay of the students of this university and the bedfellow of ignorance is apathy, the cause of this.

If students are being screwed by the administration, students' council or any other organization on campus, they have only to blame themselves for not knowing or bothering to find out why the decisions were made and what could have been done about them before they were made.

Let us just take the example of the panel debate on Monday concerning the Canadian Union of Students.

This is one of the major campuses in Canada with an enrolment of approximately 15,000, yet a debate on an issue which affects each and every one of us draws only 150 people. It seems to me that whenever I attend a meeting on some important issue on campus that it is these same 150 people who show up.

What is wrong?

How can we claim to be intelligent, decision-making capable individuals when only one per cent of us has any desire to know, (and even less really do know) what really is going on on campus.

How can we, by any stretch of the imagination go out in the world and make decisions concerning others when we are not even willing and (at the present) capable of, making decisions concerning ourselves?

I have always been led to believe that the major reason for the existence of a university is not preparation for a future job, not an institute where one just goes to get his degree and cer-

tainly not just a great place for great keg parties and squirrely girls, but rather a place where one gets (in every sense of the word) an education.

This not only requires attendance in classes, but also a little self-initiative to attend council meetings and raise questions; attend forums and raise questions; and seeing your profs outside of lecture hours and raise questions again.

I wonder how many students have yet to discover that their profs are real living people (and not zombies) and that they can be approached. I wonder how many students have tried—or how many just don't give a damn?

And maybe they just deserve to be screwed.

When one considers the high interest shown in student union elections where 16 per cent of arts students turn out in the arts rep by-election and he is elected by four votes, and where our student union president is “elected” by acclamation, one can wonder and say that council is truly of a most unrepresentative nature. We then have a person, not elected, drawing a salary of more than \$3,000 a year, making “representative” statements for the students at this university.

And people don't give a damn!

What can we do?

It is my hope that through some miraculous occurrence, enough people will get off their asses and participate in their FULL education. Maybe we can then start reforming the university atmosphere we are now being subjected to.

Maybe.