

Cabins for conception

This week the University of Alberta committee of World University Service is conducting its annual fund drive. It aims to raise \$3,500 to house students at Chile's University of Concepcion who are homeless as a result of earthquakes which ravaged the country last year.

Every year, Canada's citizenry is bombarded by appeals from all quarters for support for many worthy and some not-so-worthy causes. Every year Canada's citizenry responds to the appeals of canvassers and consciences by coming through with the bucks nobly.

University students are not exempt from these appeals, any more than they are exempt from any of the basic responsibilities of society. There are some appeals which are tailored specifically to and for the student, however,

and the WUS fund drive is an example of the best of these.

It appeals to the imagination of the student donor by placing his gift directly toward relieving a specific student need in some overseas country.

This year's project is a worthy one, and deserving of all the campus support it can get. Chile as a nation comes nowhere near possessing the standard of living enjoyed in Canada; therefore, \$3,500 in Canadian funds will mean a great deal more in terms of local aid.

A great deal of volunteer work goes into making fund drives successful. This year's committee put enough time and imagination into the drive to organize a fake revolution for a publicity stunt. The WUS fund drive is entirely a student-supported drive. It fails or succeeds depending on how much the individual students contribute.

Junk homecoming?

Homecoming Weekend must stick in the craw of God.

Blizzards, polar air and slush appear to be the only visitors to consistently come home for Homecoming. However, in the final analysis, Homecoming has little to attract even these faithful participants.

Homecoming is one of the high points of the year in United States colleges. The reasons are clear: American college football is as important as professional football; and students are systematically catechized in school spirit and spontaneous cheering. On the other hand, in Alberta the varsity games rank somewhere below professional, junior and high school contests in public appeal; and U of A

students are either too sophisticated or stupid to learn mob hysteria.

Thus, a successful Homecoming Weekend cannot be based merely upon an ordinary football game. But what is left? Outdoor dances and barbecues are foolish gambles in Alberta in late October; students are wasting their time building floats out of chicken wire and bits of colored paper; a rock'n roll dance is held on campus almost every weekend anyway; and the alumni ball is held in the Macdonald Hotel—two miles from the campus.

Clearly, Homecoming Weekend must be evaluated in all its aspects: purpose, activities, time invested by students, and numbers of alumni attracted "home." A Homecoming that brings so few home should be scrapped.

A gypsy camp

The University of Alberta campus architecturally resembles a badly-made patchwork quilt. The hodge podge of ill-designed buildings reminds one of a hastily-erected gypsy camp.

The administration is not to be commended for campus planning during the past 30 years, whatever claims it might make to "growing pains" or "overcrowding." It has snatched bits and pieces of land for needed buildings, sold land for residential areas when funds were short, and in general has built this campus on the basis of pure expediency, instead of basing expansion on a sound overall plan.

The result, to date, is an aesthetic flop. Gothic gargoyles atop the ancient medical building are juxtaposed with the modern (yet crumbling) facade of the engineering building. The ludicrous aspect is that the two buildings are joined. Nearly every building, moreover, shows a wholly different approach in design—except perhaps the Rutherford Library and the administration building.

The basis of aesthetic beauty is unity, set off by occasional variety, not endless variety, like a travelling circus.

In fact, topography of the campus itself is reminiscent of a psychologist's rat maze. Freshmen receive an object lesson in psychological conflict when they arrive on campus each fall and visitors generally are hopelessly lost.

The newer buildings, which do boast a certain uniformity in resembling jail blocks, are as lacking in functional design as they are in beauty. Narrow halls cause hourly traffic jams, the atmosphere of rooms is notably cold, and the structures contain few student facilities (lounges, study areas) except, perhaps, an occasional coffee machine.

An over-all plan was indeed drawn up for the campus in the university's first years, but it was scrapped after the first few buildings were constructed. After that, buildings were put up wherever there was an open space. The green areas on campus have dwindled to almost nil, along with parking space.



"HERE WE GO THROUGH THE PARKING LOT, THE PARKING LOT, THE PARKING LOT - - -"

featurette

FORMIDABLE REVEREND

Gateway sent Feature writer Parsons 200 miles to interview Premier T. C. Douglas, after a speech and press conference by the New Democratic Party leader.

By Dave Parsons

"We believe in the establishment of a new Democracy—the establishment of a government that embodies not only political but also social and economic democracy."

These are the words of Premier Tommy Douglas as he outlined the basic philosophy of the New Democratic party. "Plan our economy so it will move ahead." Not "public ownership" now, but "planning." The old anthem of socialism has a new tune and no-one is better fit to sing it than Tommy Douglas.

After hearing him speak again my conviction that he is the best platform speaker in Canada is doubly strengthened.

Douglas spoke for 45 minutes without notes. His speech was extremely well thought out and well organized. His sharp wit and humorous stories keep the audience constantly refreshed. His style is spontaneous and forceful. Rev. Douglas exhibited the fiery eloquence of the Baptist minister that he once was.

Following his speech, I asked him "Do you believe free enterprise vs. socialism will be the issue of the next election?" "Yes," he replied "though I would not use the Europ-

ean term socialism. I prefer to define it as a planned economy."

"Would you predict the same fate for the Liberal party of Canada as was suffered by the British Liberal party?"

"Tis a consumation to be devoutly wished for" he replied. "I have predicted that the Liberal party will eventually break up because it has no place in the Canadian economy. They believe in Laissez Faire, a doctrine which died many years ago."

Douglas was asked what he thought about the Communist Party supporting the NDP. He pointed out that in the past the communists have supported either the liberals or conservatives. He added "The Communist party is a flea; it hops on anything to get a free ride. And like the flea, it is bothersome and hard to get rid of."

As for the entrance of Red China into the UN, Douglas feels this is necessary. "We haven't any choice but to give recognition to one-third of the world's population" he said. However, unlike Pearson, he is unwilling to give Red China a permanent Security Council seat.

During the interview, Premier Douglas was friendly and charming. He chatted and told stories—some of which one would never expect to hear from a Baptist minister.

Added to his personal charm are the oratorical powers of a demagogue. Prime Minister Diefenbaker is going to face a more formidable opponent in his own back yard than anywhere else in Canada.

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