

The Gateway

Member of the Canadian University Press

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1965

The Challenge

Student leaders, brimming with enthusiasm for the ideals of social action, are openly calling themselves the founders of a new student movement in Canada.

Many of them have just returned to more than forty campuses across the country from the annual Canadian Union of Students congress, after contributing to a dialogue which most had never experienced before.

The 29th congress differed from other recent congresses in several notable respects.

At this congress, there was no structures commission working around the clock to resolve petty conflicts between English and French-Canadian goals and methods. The absence of French-Canadian universities which last year withdrew from CUS to form their own union, brought a relaxed atmosphere and tone to this year's deliberations.

Delegates and observers at Lennoxville were therefore able to concentrate their efforts upon philosophies and goals, rather than structures. There was spirited, purposeful discussion instead of endless bickering which highlighted so many previous congresses.

From Lennoxville, there have come a number of significant action programs for the coming year, notably in the field of education and student affairs.

Well-intentioned, though largely unsuccessful efforts were made at this congress to establish a new student role in international affairs. Delegates seemed to realize, however, that they are woefully ignorant in this area. They have taken a small step forward here by committing themselves to intensive study programs in international politics for the coming year.

Married Housing Need

The provincial cabinet and university administration have decided to allow married undergraduate students into the low-cost, university-sponsored housing plan. Originally, only graduate students were to have use of the facilities. They will now have first choice in renting them.

The cabinet and administration are to be commended for starting a low-cost married housing scheme, and for reversing their earlier decision to allow only graduate students its use, but they do not go nearly far enough.

There is already a proven need for more than the 200 units planned. There are now 1,500 married students on campus—500 graduate

and 1,000 undergraduate. Recent studies by the Graduate Students' Association indicate graduate students alone will fill available residences. This leaves 1,000 married undergraduates without low-cost residence facilities. In addition, graduate students are usually better off financially than undergraduates, who need the facilities more.

If the two administrations want to provide adequate married housing facilities, they should at least double the number of units planned. If they want to distribute them fairly, they should allocate them in proportion to the number of undergraduate versus the number of graduate students.

Also out of the congress has come what students have called the beginnings of a student charter. The congress declaration on the rights and responsibilities of students, skimpy and incomplete as it may be, will undoubtedly provide future student leaders with fertile ground upon which to nurture more refined ideas.

But with all these accomplishments, there are reservations and qualifications to be noted.

Those same student leaders who created a national rapport in Lennoxville among themselves, now carry a two-fold responsibility back to their campuses across the country.

They must ascertain whether indeed their policies and goals are supported by their individual student populations by first directing their ideas at an apathy-riddled student population.

But even more important than this, they must provide the students whom they represent with information about their "new student movement" so that future goals and programs can germinate in many more minds than are now being employed.

And so, we come to the challenge.

There are 2,500 freshmen entering our university this week. Very few of them are aware of the opportunity they have to serve their fellows and the society which is footing the bill for their education.

Also, there are thousands of other students walking around this campus who either have not, or will not be touched by the fingers of responsibility.

We challenge both our student leaders and our students to begin establishing the rapport which will justify the use of the term "new student movement."

This is the year to begin.



"And I owe it all to my father."

For The Record

By Don Sellar

This column is undoubtedly pretentious and superfluous, but I feel the campus should know something of this newspaper's operations and policies for the coming year.

The Gateway is a volunteer organization composed of students who are trying to describe and interpret every twitch and shudder of a university which this year boasts 10,300 full-time students and a steadily-growing academic staff.

Although senior staffers have had experience working for daily newspapers, the vast majority of our work is done by persons who have never written a line of newspaper copy before.

The young men and women who will be writing their first stories in the next few weeks have yet to discover that a by-line can also be a blame-line.

They have yet to grapple with the problems involved in making a story "right, tight and bright." Libel actions are spectres which have never loomed up in front of them.

When this regrettably small but enthusiastic staff goes out to write about activities on a mushrooming campus, you can rest assured they are acting in good faith.

But this newspaper will make mistakes during the year.

Ignorance and inexperience will take their toll. However, within a matter of days the editors will be embarking their aspiring journalists on a crash program to eliminate unnecessary mistakes. The fundamentals must be learned and bugs ironed out.

Welcome the individual who has identified himself as being from The Gateway. You can help him to produce an accurate story by making him feel at home in an interview.

A Gateway reporter should be willing to allow his final draft to undergo cursory check by the person or persons who he has interviewed, before that story goes into print.

When you talk to The Gateway, do not bother to say that something is "off the record." Nothing a newspaperman is told can be "off the record."

We welcome your suggestions and criticisms—this newspaper is financed largely through your funds. This year our budget is about \$30,000, two-thirds of which comes from your pockets, the rest from advertising.

If our reporters have failed to discover your organization, contact our office and tell us what you think the campus should know. Our telephone number is 433-1155.

Write scathing criticisms of this and any other material you see in The Gateway.

If you hold a radical viewpoint which you feel the campus should be exposed to, write it down in the form of a letter or as a signed editorial and submit it to our office.

But sign your name. Only those who place their name below something they have written will have an opportunity to be published. They have shown courage in their convictions.

We feel this newspaper has the right to locate the news, and the responsibility within the bounds of good taste to publish it and comment upon it . . . even when the facts may be unpleasant or disturbing to some. Or concealed.

But each case will be considered on its own merits, and all materials published in The Gateway this year will usually be assigned a priority by the various editors handling it—not by the editorial board or the Editor-in-Chief.