The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—Those escaping the Wauneita day care centre and fleeing to the Gateway again managed the impossible by putting out an issue. Those breaking forth with the paper were Beth of Belgravia Winteringham, Jim Carteridge (who managed to get his shots off), Eric Hamister, Brain Campbell, Ellen Nygaard, Ronald "Picasso" Dutton, Winston Gereluk (who is staggered by his work-load), Dorothy Constable, Elaine Verboten, Cathy Morris, Ken Hutchinson, the runner of the night, Dick Nimmons, and your friendly scribbler of SUB, Harvey G. Thomgirt.

The Gateway is published tri-weekly by the students' union of the University of Alberta. The editor-inchief is responsible for all material published herein. Final copy deadline for Tuesday edition—6 p.m. Monday, Advertising—noon Thursday prior; for Thursday deition—6 p.m. Wednesday, Advertising noon Monday prior; for Friday edition—6 p.m. Thursday, Advertising—noon Tuesday prior; Casserole—cop ydeadline 6 p.m. Monday, Advertising—noon Friday prior. Short Shorts deadline, 3 p.m. day prior to publication. Advertising manager Percy Wickman, 432-4241. Office phones 432-5168, 432-5178. Circulation—15,000. Circulation manager Brian MacDonald. Printed by The University of Alberta Printing Services

PAGE FOUR

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1969

Editorials

Don't take it personally

Once in a while an editor wants to get personal and he doesn't exactly know how.

That is probably one of the reasons he is an editor. His is supposedly the final "objectively opinionated" word and that is what he is expected to write in this column of the newspaper.

Basically, his remarks are expected to have social significance and are to be presented in such a way that no hint of his personality peeks through. An editorial can be nasty, outspoken, even out to lunch. But personal? No.

Columns are something else again. Readers expect them to be a personal point of view. They are not as tied down by the responsibility of presenting the point of view of the newspaper.

And there is nothing really wrong with that. As far as it goes. It is a necessity that such a point of view be presented in such a manner. What is so unfortunate about it is that it encourages the belief that the concerned personalities are separated from their points of view.

What makes an editorial is in large part what has made the person who writes it. As much as he or she themselves might like to think they are separating themselves from the subject at hand, they are still very much a hodge-podge of the forces and experiences that have shaped them-which makes it very difficult to write from an outsider's point of view.

So you don't even have to finish this particular "editorial" if you expect it to offer some gem of a socially significant comment.

But you can learn something about the way an editorial is written by reading what has gone before and realizing that it is still not written from a personal, first-person point of view.

You're not supposed to say "I" in an editorial; at most, you may utter the royal "We." That is the ultimate in a symbolic perpetuation of a top-down society: to say "We" as if the opinion of the persons on that newspaper were perfectly portrayed in the pearls dripping from the editor's typewriter.

In actuality, the "We" is simply insulation against having to talk to people on a personal level. It's really a fantastic separation when you realize how ludicrous it would be to say over your coffee grounds, "well, this is the way We see it."

As mentioned, you can see we can't get personal in an editorial even when we try.

So to risk a "socially significant comment" just to put one over on all those who took our forewarning(?) to heart, that is exactly what's wrong with so much of what goes on around us-we are afraid to take it personally. Then again, that is a very simple thing to say and therefore perhaps not socially significant. Then again, this is a very simple editorial. Simple things are so beautiful sometimes, if you can recognize them.

Splash!

Council dived into the red ink with vigor in this year's budget.

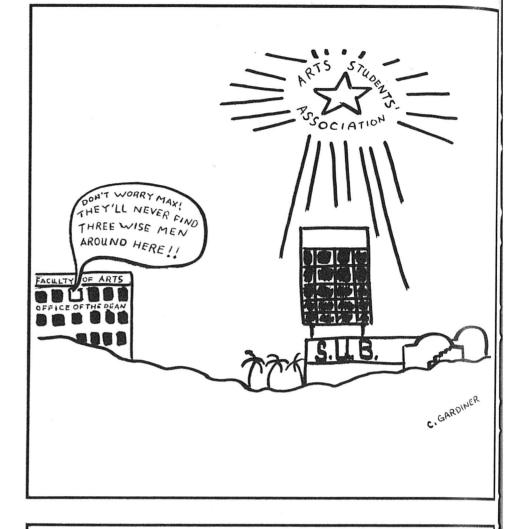
Although the \$5,600 deficit is not as large as the national debt, and can easily be covered by surpluses built up by councils in previous years, it is a red ink ledger which could have been avoided.

Repeated warnings from students' union treasurer Dennis Fitzgerald both in and outside of council chambers failed to inspire council to slow down and consider their expenditures more carefully.

The question, however, is not one purely of red and black ink.

Council has been voting money for educative and politicizing functions since the beginning of the year; thus changing its role, from the one which councils have filled in past years of an almost purely service organization to, in part, that of a politicizing, "educative" body without seeking student support in these new found priorities.

Although these are functions for which the council should be responsible, it should have taken the whole priorities question to the student body in a referendum before taking on the new responsibilities.



A university student's Remembrance Day holiday by Winston Gereluk

By skipping Monday's classes, many students going home for the weekend will not have to return to classes until Wednesday. They will be getting a holiday because some time ago Armistice was declared, and at that time, a day was set aside in remembrance of those soldiers who lost their lives in battle.

Lest we forget, November 11 is set aside as Remembrance Day, and lest university students forget to do their remembering, all university buildings at the U of A will be shut down to give the students a chance to join the rest of the community in a day of mourning.

Only, what shall students remember on

Remembrance Day?
It is clear that there has never really been an Armistice, and that the efforts of the soldiers we are mourning have been in vain. Wars have continued to rage, lives are still being taken, and the earth's face is still being torn up by war as if those soldiers had never died.

In the last seven years, more bomb power has been unleashed on the narrow strip of Viet-Nam than in all of the Second World War. In Biafra, grown people kill, and little children and babies starve to death in a feud over oil interests between two 'peace-loving' na-tions of the last war, Britain and France. And, in the Middle East, lives are still being sacrificed in a war that started in 1948. It's as if World War I, "the war to end all wars," never had been fought and "won"!

Yet, in spite of the fact that Armistice is only a name, people still gather to commemorate those lost in wars-five, ten, and 40 years ago. They stand while "Taps" is played, they watch the representatives of clubs lay wreaths, listen to politicians make speeches, and they pray for peace to a God who from all evidence has never been interested in

Mourning is in order, but mourning is a personal, private affair. It is something that you feel sincerely and honestly, and is certainly not to be confined to one day. Mourning for those who died in war stems from a view that human life is too sacred to be thrown away in senseless struggles, and that international politicking should never again be allowed to run rampant. When it stems from a commitment to human life ,it leads to a desire to preserve life and end all war forever.

If that's what mourning is, I cannot see how it could ever fit into any of the Cenotaph ceremonies that I have been at. There is always too much flag waving, too much marching and regalia, too many sonorous speeches, too many guns, and too many large colorful displays of posters and wreaths. And these have so little to do with my sorrow and horrorthat some time ago there were soldiers crowding into fulsome trenches, or young men laying on a battlefield dying for hours, or babies in Dresden and Hamburg screaming to their death as the cities were being firebombed.

In fact, drums, soldiers, marching, flags, speeches and other such outward shows of patriotism are exactly the type of things which in the past have helped people forget what they detest about the harsh realities of war. They certainly don't help people mourn; instead they make people proud-of what?

All that I am making is a simple plea for an honest remembrance. Let us stop imposing a place, a time, and a ritual for mourning upon those who really do wish to remember and who honestly do grieve. If November 11 is to be retained as Remembrance Day, let's spend it in

a different way.
Instead of exposing them to the present ceremonies, let's show the school children full sound and color films of what actually goes on in a war. Or, let's make it a day for people to gather in public places to take stock of what they are doing, and can do in the future for peace. Let's not have politicians stand on public platforms to deliver quasipolitical speeches. Let's demand that they devote this day to scrutinizing their public policies towards the type of international conditions that lead to war.

And, most important of all, those who wish to mourn the senseless death of loved ones should be allowed to stay in their homes and keep their blinds drawn. Come to think of it, all of us should spend our "holiday" just that way. And while we sit there, let us ponder

the enigma which is man; especially how it is possible for him to become the inhuman beast that he becomes during