

Exchange Criticized

To The Editor:

On Sept. 28th, I left three books with the Varsity Book Exchange. I was given three receipts reading: "Varsity Book Exchange. Operated as a service by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (VCF) deducts a 15 per cent handling charge. Proceeds go to student work overseas. Author —. Price (fixed by me). Note: All books or money not claimed by noon on Saturday, Oct. 3 become the property of the Varsity Book Exchange. Bring this stub with you." I did not read the receipt. The blanks were filled in by a VCF member. He said nothing to draw my attention to the "note."

On Sept. 30 I was upset by a family occurrence which fully occupied me until Sunday, Oct. 4, when I had an opportunity to examine the receipts and read them for the first time. The next day, Monday, Oct. 5, I telephoned the president of the VCF, Mr. J. Gordon Burch, and explained the situation to him. However he was adamant. He said his organization was run on business principles, that it was a service to the students, that no exceptions could be made in any circumstances, and that in any event they did not keep the money themselves but send it to students overseas.

My comments on his position are as follows:

1. Being businesslike is not the same as being rigid in dealings with customers. If most real businesses behaved in this manner they would soon find themselves without customers. Perhaps that is what ought to happen to the VCF Book Exchange.

2. The Book Exchange unquestionably provides a service to students. But does the fact that an organization provides a general service to students justify its doing a disservice to specific students? Surely service of this kind is worthy of the Pharisees. It is not worthy of official recognition and support by the university administration and the Students' Union. The Student Handbook says that a club registering at the Students' Union Office "accepts its share of responsibility for protecting the property and good name of the university. In return it receives certain privileges including the rights to call itself a University of Alberta Club, to ask for a place in the year's schedule of events, to apply for rooms and other facilities on the campus, to advertise in The Gateway and to be listed in the Handbook." As far as I am concerned the VCF does not protect the good name of the university, and ought to be denied the rights referred to.

3. Can no exceptions be made in any circumstances—illness or accident, death in the family? I do not claim financial need, but others may well need the money. Arbitrariness is a strange companion of those who profess fellowship.

4. However worthy the cause, I dislike being compelled to contribute to any charity. I dislike autocracy, I particularly dislike it when it is associated with religion.

I am aware that to prolong the service provided would require further volunteer effort. However in the past the books left unsold have been kept in storage and the place of storage has been opened, with someone in attendance, at certain specified times after the initial week. This surely cannot demand a heavy increased sacrifice of time.

6. The arguments stated above are general. In my own case I

did not see the "Note", nor was it drawn to my attention. I leave to the lawyers the intriguing problem as to whether the VCF in such circumstances can keep my money—or my books.

Monopoly, like an established church, carries within itself the seeds of decay. I urge students next year to paragonize the competition which I hope will arise.

The above was written on Oct. 6. On Oct. 7 I was in the Education building and by chance noticed that the VCF was selling "Used Books" at 1/3 to 1/2 off new prices. I found piles and piles of books, most with receipt-stubs in them—the books of other students obviously affected by the VCF policy. I had been told that the VCF policy was due to the difficulty of asking volunteer workers to go on working—yet there they were. I had been told that the accounts were closed—yet business was wide open.

This annoyed me so much more that I phoned Francis Saville, President of the Students' Union. He was shocked at what I told him, and within an hour he phoned back to advise me that the VCF had been told it must give students a further chance to redeem their books or pick up their money. Mr. Saville is to be commended for his swift action.

Although the immediate injustice appears to have been solved, I send this letter to insure there will be no repetition of the attitude I have described.

Yours faithfully,
Joyce McDonald.

Stevite Forever

To The Editor:

I feel so enlightened. Not until I read the letter condemning our "Campus Backward" did I realize that we do indeed lack "the forward look." We are just not in the swing of progress "the annual result of advancing years." Alas, too many of us are just people.

Perhaps I missed the point of the letter. Frankly, I think the letter's author missed a few points too; or else got lost in his "soap-opera enthusiasm."

I take special offense to the attack on the initiation of St. Steve's frosh. Of course, having been one of that "ignorant, insolent lot," I may not be capable of so unbiased an analysis. I can, however, assure you that the purpose of the initiation at St. Stephen's College is not to show the rest of the campus how original a costume we can conceive; nor how progressive we are; nor how insecure upperclassmen are; nor how bewildered frosh are. Rather, it represents a sincere effort on the part of the seniors of the college to meet the incoming boys; to help them meet members of our fairer sex; and to shape that St. Steve's spirit so that our college will continue to be a place to live, rather than just a place to stay.

After frosh week, our first year fellows know each other and the older boys in a way which, I believe, no other group on campus can rival. The task of living together, socially and scholastically unfolds with an atmosphere of friendly unity and ease that has built a name for our college.

I would not have missed my frosh week. Now I can say that I am a Stevite, and say it with honesty and pride. Not even those living in Steve's without having been frosh here, can mean it in the same way the "ignorant, insolent, St. Steve's frosh," can mean it.

I am all for progress. But I feel

Were you a victim of VCF, are you a Stevite forever, do you think The Gateway splits hairs, were you shocked by Dr. Vant's lectures? If so, you weren't the only one. How do we know -- our letter writers tell us so!

as we each progress as individuals we should expect to take the whole campus along with us. Let us not deny the frosh the right to be freshmen, nor the second year students to be second year. It seems ridiculous to be overwhelmed with sick nausea because of some corny "feeling of seething, smoldering, bitterness and hopelessness in the pit of one's stomach." Unless one wants that we all go over the bridge (as evidence of maturity). The individuals at St. Stephen's College are no exception—they change and mature; but most of us do not want the spirit to change. That is why our unique initiation continues.

A Stevite forever,
Dale Drever.
Arts 2,

Gateway Hair-Splitting

To The Editor:

In reference to your hair-splitting editorial of Oct. 9 regarding dress in Lister Hall, I wish to point out the following.

In that the cafeteria is intended primarily to serve residence students it is very much the business of the student government of the residences to supervise the facilities.

No one is obligated to eat at Lister Hall, and any student whose "only clean pants are blue jeans" is unlikely to chose the scanty, expensive fare offered there.

Further, I question the effectiveness of placing Students' Council members on the House Committees — ignoring the basic idiocy of the suggestion. It is unlikely that the fraternity-dominated Council will be at all interested in the business of residence government unless a Council member is personally affronted by residence rules as was the case in the present issue!

The editorial in question is a poor substitute for the serious, well-informed attacks of last year's Gateway.

Lest I be accused of having a negative attitude or supporting the administration, allow me to point out a situation more worthy of your wrath—the parking situation.

The 'K' lot west of the new residences is restricted to residence parking. It will hold 210 vehicles, yet the authorities have seen fit to allow less than one quarter of this space to be occupied. More than 150 stalls, complete with mercury vapor lighting at night, stand empty. Why?

The 'Residence Guest Lot' southeast of the new men's residence will hold about 150 cars, yet it too is restricted, and at present serves approximately 10 cars per day. Why?

Why does a great portion of the Jubilee Auditorium lot stand empty each day?

The answers explaining these questions are of considerably greater significance to the student body than the issues you have thus far chosen. I implore you to stop quibbling over petty issues and start fighting for more important reforms.

Yours truly,
Falstaff.

Freshette Shocked

To The Editor:

Last Saturday I picked up a copy of The Gateway and was surprised and, indeed, shocked to find an almost direct commentary of Doctor Vant's Lectures on page one. It seems strange that freshettes should be separated to hear the live, and very lively, lectures when the whole campus can read virtually the verbatim report in The Gateway.

Being a freshette, I had the pleasure of hearing Doctor Vant. But frankly, my face was bright red upon reading about the lectures in our campus newspaper.

I am in the habit of taking a Gateway home to my parents every weekend. Last weekend this practice was discontinued.

Sincerely,
A Freshette.

Editor's Note: It was very thoughtful of you not to take a Gateway home last weekend. We wouldn't want your parents to become "corrupted."

Huskies Defended

To the Editor:

Alex Hardy's column in The Gateway of Oct. 6 is the most outspoken, unprovoked piece of bitter writing I have ever read. What was his purpose in writing this satirical article? Has he got an "axe to grind" against the Huskies? Even though my home is in Regina I am a loyal "Bear Booster," but after reading Mr. Hardy's merciless attack on Saskatchewan's losing team, I hope the Huskies pound Alberta this Saturday. His column was not only humorless, it was, in view of the coming visit by the Huskies, in very bad taste. An article like this does nothing to promote interest or excitement for the approaching game, and only succeeds in creating resentment in anyone who has any affiliation with Saskatchewan whatsoever.

And as to Mr. Hardy's statement "the whole province is a loser," may I remind our "informed sports columnist" of a night not too long ago when the Regina Roughriders "eked out a narrow" 54-8 "decision" over the Edmonton Eskimos. I would suggest that Mr. Hardy change the name of his column from Sports Chatter to "Sports Gibberish." Why don't you cut the humor Alex and present some down-to-earth sports material.

Don Newsome,
Lister Hall.

Hazing Defended

To The Editor:

In response to "Campus Backward" (Oct. 6), I would like to straighten the arts 2 scholar who studies (and subtly describes) rotten flesh in his spare time. Being a St. Steve's Frosh I feel qualified to do this, and to present the views of most first year students, and probably all those in St. Joseph's. I have discussed the initiation week with numerous fellow Stevites and we have come to the conclusion that, although the first few days were near Hell, we were not stewing in boredom, as many freshmen were. (I might add that we helped a lot of freshettes out of their boredom, also.)

Although the first few days were a bit painful, I am sure most St. Steve's Frosh, (away from home for the first time), will agree that that first hectic week helped eliminate their confusion and fears. Because of the frequent visits to the Nurses' Residence, etc., we became thoroughly familiar with the campus within the first few days. We know the addresses of half the Freshettes on campus and as far as I'm concerned that strict senior domination has proven very fruitful.

Also, I believe his view (that the "fat member" of the Raftsmen was a repulsive fool) is unfounded and certainly need not be expressed. It is my opinion that any person of such a bulky stature, that can make fun of his own large physique and clumsiness before a large audi-

ence, would probably win an award for the easiest person to get along with. It is obvious that the audience loved him, and that his temperament probably ranks with that of Albert Schweitzer. (A propos, I am of a stature exactly opposite to that of the "fat" member of the trio and pay for it constantly.)

In closing I would like to say that any person that can describe such a sickening simile (comparing U of A campus to that—UGH—calf) is probably "backward" himself and certainly cynical. If he remembers St. Steve's Frosh since '59 it has taken him five years to get into arts 2. Such speedy advancement is a sound foundation for his campus views. (Excuse me if I'm wrong.)

Yours truly,
Hugh Mitchell.

Editor's Note: You're excused.

Ridiculous Nonsense

To The Editor:

I have just been reading the Oct. 2 issue of The Gateway and have noted with some amusement your exhortation to "Young Radicals." I state "with some amusement" because much of my feeling was akin to that which must be felt by one of our numerous "Kampus Pa---Trolls" when he sees me try to enter the "forbidden to Day Students" bookstore.

Really, now! I know that you have just started to, ahem, edit this paper, but need you go to such ego-boasting lengths as the self-deprecatory back-slapping this article shows?

I remember the series of ridiculously nonsensical articles that were printed on the teacher training systems on this continent. You neglected to tell all these young radicals, or juvenile delinquents (it amounts to the same thing in the eyes of society, does it not?), that you were exhorting, or should I say, haranguing, that the greater majority of our so-called failures were based on the American system, which then did not really concern us here in Canada.

Surely, you, Mr. Editor, must know that there are few, if any failures in the Canadian system, particularly in the Albertan method of teacher training. After all, you reached the hallowed sanctuary of the University of Alberta, Edmonton, did you not? Or did you do it all on your own initiative?

As for the claims you make, re: said articles, nothing could be funnier. "Damaging, provocative, stirring" they were not; I can give you a 99 44/100ths per cent guarantee that the office of The Gateway, indeed, the whole SUB would have been taken by storm by rank upon rank (2,258, to be exact) of indignant, swarming teacher trainees. Anyone who read those articles, rather mis-written pieces of garbage, would realize that they did not honestly require an answer. Educators, professionals to the end, seldom demean themselves to such levels, except, perhaps, to labour under a system that pays as little as it does, Mr. Editor.

I must apologize for the high tone of this letter, Mr. Editor. If you cannot understand it, your ignorance is hereby pardoned; I suggest you contact an education student. After all, we are the most liberally educated of any on campus. And stop filling freshman heads with all this nonsense about the stirring quality of last year's editions—they were not all that good, despite the fact that you laboured to produce them.

Tom Landsman,
Ed 4.