

# The Gateway

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—If I catch the clubfoot engineer who swiped the sign from my cage, he will require treatment for a bad case of bubonic plague. Not only that, the following people will give him what for: Lawrie Portigal, Etain Shrdlu, Sue Hill, Helene Chomiak, Irene McRae (short shorts editor), Carole P. T. Kaye, Linda Zwicker, Jim Pasmak, John Butler, David Sagert, Harvey Thombgirt, Brian O'Neill, Larry Dulgnan, Ginger Bradley, Al Bromling, Ellwood Purdy, Linda Strand. Signed, Reglina Rat.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1965

## Tribute In Perspective

City alderman Morris Weinlos has suggested U of A's next new building be named in tribute to Sir Winston Churchill. Doubtless Mr. Weinlos is most sincere in expressing deep respect for the great statesman and feels he is acting in the best interests of the university and Albertans in proposing the move. However, sincerity, respect and dedication does not necessarily make the idea a good one.

Canada is a member of the British Commonwealth, and as such felt Churchill's influence as both a war leader and a statesman—to say nothing of countless Canadians at home and overseas during the war who knew his inspiration. Therefore, institutions that have Commonwealth connections would do well to consider establishing fitting memorials to Sir Winston.

But there are some Canadian institutions that do not have primary Commonwealth connections. The University of Alberta is one of them. Whatever the U of A may reflect, as a cultural and educational centre, it basically reflects things Canadian. It

is used to educate Canadians and in so doing expresses the Canadian way of life. A memorial to Churchill in this context would be devoid of significance. And, above all, how could any such tribute be meaningful when this university does not ever see fit to honor great Canadians, like Sir John A. MacDonald, Sir Wilfred Laurier or MacKenzie King?

Sir Winston Churchill deserves respect but it must be expressed with more than just emotion. We need only look to the mockery and discredit a few enterprising individuals have brought to the name of John F. Kennedy as an example of the effects of misguided emotion. If we really wish to honor this man we must use some of the wisdom and discretion he displayed in leading a country and the world against threats of tyranny and suppression.

By all means let us make lasting tributes to the memory of Sir Winston Churchill. But let us keep them in perspective. A building on this campus can lend no glory to his name nor enrich his legend.

## Time For Change

Every year at this time Students' Council approves a list of candidates for Students' Union awards.

Every year at this time bitter complaints are heard about the selections.

Last Monday Council approved the Awards Committee's selections after a marathon meeting.

It is not the purpose of this editorial to criticize the committee's selections. There is little to be gained in second guessing the quality or quantity of this year's winners. However, a quick look at the method whereby these persons were chosen points up an obvious need for reform.

As always, there are some persons on the awards list who do not deserve the awards they received. More important, there are other persons, quite deserving, whose names do not appear. Herein lies the problem. And it is a problem which has plagued student government for years. Witness these comments made in the pages of The Gateway over the past four years:

"Unless the point system as it now stands is drastically changed and improved, the system will find its way in the wastebasket along with the other artificial awards machinery that has been set up periodically over the years. A point system even used with discretion lacks flexibility, an important factor when human beings are being judged."—Feb. 17, 1961

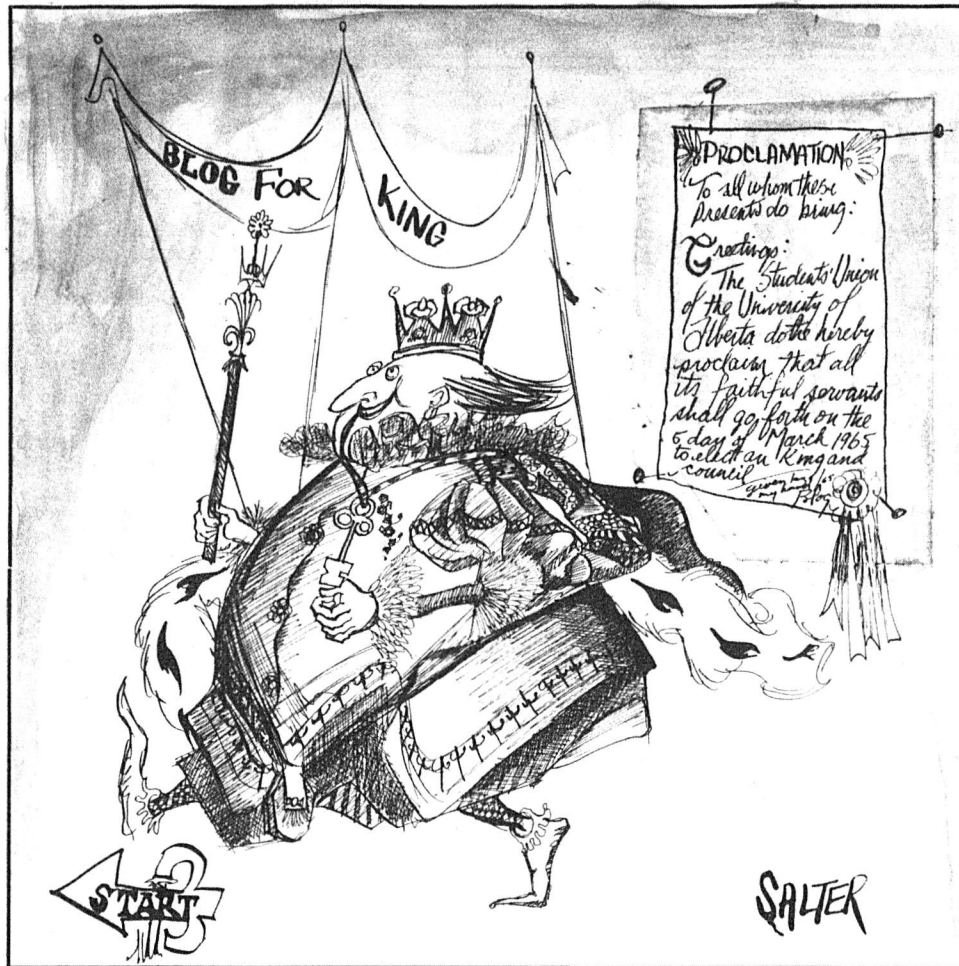
"Outstanding persons should be cited, but even in a university of this

size there are usually only four or five students, in each of athletics and activities, who have done distinguished enough work to deserve a citation. To these eight or ten people, the awards should be given. Picking these people would present no problem. They are obvious enough to even the most disinterested student. This would prevent lobbying for awards, eliminate the non-deserving, and best of all eliminate the seeker, for the task of obtaining such an award would be the task of dedication."—March 17, 1961

"... The awards committee vacillates between a patronizing bunch of fools to a group of honest students trying to accomplish an impossible task—with the definition seemingly corresponding to whether the speaker was graced with an award, or left pinless."—March 16, 1961

"We have no quarrel with awards *per se*. They can be valuable if used with discretion and prompted by spontaneous appreciation. But on this campus the awards system has become a farcical dis-service to the students. It is beyond the need for 'apology'; it should be scrapped. . . . Pins, keys and rings are now handed out on the basis of an application form . . . an award is an empty honor when we must fill out an application for it."—Feb. 1, 1963

There has been little, if any, reform since these comments were made. It is past time. We demand a change be made in the awards structure, and now.



"BLOG WILL RUN AGAIN IN '65"

## Bruce Ferrier How "Varsity" Was '65? Professionalism

Student activities on this campus are being engulfed in a rising wave of "creeping professionalism."

A case in point is this year's version of Varsity Varieties. *How to Succeed in School Without Really Succeeding* turned out to be a first-class production, but only at the expense of several rather essential principles.

First, Varsity Varieties is supposed to be a revue, as its name indicates, drawing on as many student authors as possible. This year, the entire show was scripted and scored by one person, as a play, for a fee. Note: not "honorarium," "fee."

Several other difficulties arose from this. Bill Somers had to do so much work on the thing he nearly had a breakdown, and, while he put as much as any one person could into the script, it turned out to be not much more than a series of production numbers bound together by a plot that had wasted away from anaemia by the end of the second act.

When a series of authors can work on a production, it benefits from the wit and ideas of each. *How to Succeed* was limited to some club-like blows at fraternities, university drinking, and other aspects of pseudo-sophistication. Barry Westgate took a "we are not amused" position on this, perhaps with good reason.

This year, as has been the case in the past, the director of Varsity Varieties was chosen for his professional competence, and honorariumed accordingly. The result was superlative staging, precision choreography, and flawless technical work. The acting was of similar quality.

However, the professional zeal of the director introduced a singular anomaly: the female lead of *How*

*To Succeed In School Without Really Succeeding* is not even a student of this University! Further, I am told that several of the bit parts were filled by students from Scona High School. A friend of mine, a bank clerk, was asked to try out. I wonder just how "varsity" Varsity Varieties was this year.

The Students' Union pays out \$4,000 in honoraria each year. Some is necessary—there are a few jobs that no one will do unless he gets paid for it. But why should students who benefit an immeasurable amount from the training their jobs supply be given pay besides? The keynote of student activities is volunteer service, and the giving of honoraria tends to distort that "giving" principle into one of "getting."

Besides, if we are going to pay some student union workers, why not pay them all? It is obviously unfair to remunerate one person and not another. In this way the Students' Council could hand back most or all of our \$34.50 fees in the form of wages, ending all budgeting worries.

## Notice

Candidates for office in the pending General Election are required to have a picture and platform prepared and delivered to The Gateway office on the third floor of SUB by 7 p.m. Sunday, if they wish it to appear in the special edition planned for Tuesday, March 2.

Platforms for President of the Students' Union must not exceed 300 words. Platforms for the other SU executive offices must not exceed 200 words. Platforms for all other positions should be kept to a 150 word limit.