

The Gateway

Member of the Canadian University Press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—Well, gang, our six favorite editors came back from Victoria Sunday night after five of them went into the charter flight business out of necessity. But these faithful staffers were on hand to greet them back at the office: Janet Sims, Ralph Melnychuk, Lorraine Allison, Marg Penn, Elan Galper, Allan Hustad, Bill Beard, Bev Ross, Nick Riebeck, Jackie Foord, The Flash, Ed Marchand, Andy Rodger, Dave Dahl, Gloria Skuba, Sheila Ballard, Eugene Brody, Carol Mackenzie, Neil Driscoll, Brian Credico and yours truly, The Gateway charter flight secretary, Harvey Thomgirt.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1965

just the first step

Today is National Student Day.

This "day of awareness" is part of a long-range plan by the Canadian Union of Students to achieve universal accessibility to higher education.

It is part of a plan to eliminate all social and economic barriers to post-secondary education. To this end, CUS has recommended a program including the study of the economic implications of free education, a study of summer employment opportunities and student earning power, the improvement of existing student aid schemes and the maximum utilization of both public and private sectors of university finances.

The program also includes a study of the social reasons why students possessing the ability to continue their education do not do so, community conferences on education, comparative socio-economic studies of rural and urban communities, and increased student participation in social welfare programs and other areas of social concern. In short, it is a program that will help us realize the full educational potential of Canadian youth.

With adequate student participation, this day can form a solid base for the success of the whole plan. But the fact that the plan is a long-range one, a plan for the next twenty years, has been overlooked on this campus.

Students have not been told National Student Day is just the first step in this plan. They have been led to believe all they have to do to achieve universal accessibility, to arouse total public sympathy for their cause, is to march today.

Council members who talk of arousing them to a fever pitch for this day alone, or who say that they have done their part and their responsibilities are now finished, contribute to the mistaken belief that the fight is now over. Students' council, for its part, has made few provisions to carry the education or action program beyond today.

The importance of the concept of universal accessibility is so great, the consequences of misinformation or inaction so serious, that council should act immediately to ensure the whole program is carried out diligently.

no malignancy here

Perhaps the approach of Hal-lowe'en has prompted Students' Council to once again raise the grim spectre of the professional administrator.

The professional administrator, as conceived by some council members, is a malignant being given to forcing his evil decisions on an unwilling student body. According to these same prophets of doom, we are right now in danger of being subverted into giving these creatures the extra power they seek.

Indeed. The professional administrator is an employee of the Students' Union, giving needed advice when called upon and performing tasks which are beyond the interest or ability of students. He is an in-tearal part of student government, but not by any standard the final judge of what shall and shall not be.

Professional administrators are harmful to the interests of students and student government when they take over tasks that are the proper

concern of students only. The idea of a professional "administrator-editor" for the university newspaper, of professional committee chairmen, of professional club presidents is repugnant, not because of any "control" factor, but because it denies students the opportunity to gain experience in these areas.

Another danger of professional encroachment is the cost. Hired help is wonderful, but not everyone can afford a maid. We hope that student executives will ensure that money going out in salaries is not being budgeted at the expense of student activity programs. Otherwise, new expenditures may have to be met by an increase in student fees, which would be bitter irony in light of the recent free-education campaigns and free education programs.

Students' Council should exercise its vigilance in these areas, rather than cling obsessively to vague principles of autonomy and independence. The Students' Union, now a corporation, is and ever will be autonomous and independent, no matter whom we employ to run it.



On The Horns of a Dilemma

town and gown

by don sellar

October 28, 1963. Downtown Edmonton was the scene of an ugly confrontation between town and gown, as some thirty university students and professors picketed city hall.

They were protesting William Hawrelak's presence in the mayor's chair. Their placards carried slogans such as "Hawrelak Must Go" and "The More Money The Less Virtue."

Their protest, intended to be orderly and silent, was met by a crowd of more than 1,000 normally sane Edmontonians, who spat, jeered, cursed, tore up posters and perfunctorily threw them into the street.

"Our protest is a moral one—it's definitely not political." This was the message, but it wasn't heard.

After arriving at city hall that night, the demonstrators formally informed police of their arrival, and pointed out marshals. Police warned them that obstruction of sidewalk traffic would be forbidden.

Displaying placards denouncing Hawrelak as "morally incompetent" to serve as mayor of Edmonton and a "disgrace" to his city, the pickets began to march silently in single file around the fountain in front of city hall.

The marchers succeeded in making one circuit of the pool before they were greeted by jeers, angry threats and waves of profanity tossed at them by a shoving, milling mob.

On the second circuit, the two groups closed in on one another, and a tense silence followed.

Then came a flurry of pushing and shoving.

Though 20 city policemen were on hand to keep order, placards were wrenched from the pickets' hands and tossed to the night wind.

No arrests were made that night, but violence was never far away from the crowd. An Edmonton Journal reporter had his notes wrenched from his hands and torn to shreds.

One man, flanked on either side by policemen, was punched in the face. Eggs and rocks flew through the air.

The crowd shouted: "Go home, you university punks, go home."

"Hitler! Mussolini! Communists! Fascists! Go back to the Congo!" they shouted at the demonstrators.

Police reinforcements were called in. Tear gas and a paddy wagon waited nearby. The demonstrators broke rank, retreated on to the west lawn at city hall and sought protection of 50 city policemen.

It was a strange, horrifying night—one not easily forgotten.

October 27, 1965. Two years less a day after the night nearly all Edmonton has tried to forget, and U of A students are again crossing the North Saskatchewan River—this time for a different reason.

Today they are asking the citizens of Edmonton and governments at all levels to help support the concept of universal accessibility to post-secondary education, and to become aware of the importance of education.

In launching their long-term action program, students are trying to show they care about the development of society, and they do not dwell in an ivory tower protected from society by a wall of books.

We hope this message will be heard.