

Varsity Voices

Gateway Defended

To The Editor:

Surely there must have been an error under the signature of Mr. Wells' letter in your last issue. You must have meant Grade 4 instead of Arts 4. Could a fourth year university student really be responsible for such literary incompetence.

Such comments as, "If I want crap like . . . I can look in the toilet," detract from the whole purpose of his letter—that of giving a reasonable criticism of The Gateway. In fact, they seem to suggest that Mr. Wells is suffering from some sort of fixation in the grand Freudian manner—anal perhaps.

Between his bursts of irrelevant profanity Mr. Wells states that the policy of a university newspaper is to be controversial.

We maintain that controversy for the sake of being controversial is rather shallow and that the policy of a university newspaper is to be intelligent. Being intelligent, however, does not exclude being controversial or radical. We maintain that radicalism based on reason is a far more stable approach than radicalism based on the sentiments which seem to appeal to Mr. Wells.

Mr. Wells makes a plea to exclude all the news that is "not pertinent" to the campus. In this we agree with him but we seem to differ in what we consider to be pertinent. Mr. Wells takes a very narrow view and we, in supporting Gateway policy, take a wider view of what is pertinent.

Certainly there is room for improvement in your paper, but we feel that the paper has improved over previous years.

Your editorial policy reflects a degree of serious thought about meaningful issues and refuses to be radical for the sake of being radical. We are better informed of council's activities than ever before; likewise the activities in other universities are better reported. We read with pleasure of Jon Whyte's Horrorlack—it seemed to put the whole issue in a proper perspective.

In conclusion we wish to pledge our support to The Gateway in its present policy. We feel that on the whole the paper is better balanced and does not seem to be so concerned with trivialities. As to Mr. Wells, we suggest that he go back to drawing pictures until he has something worth saying and until he develops an intelligent manner of expressing himself.

Don Munro
Bruce Ryan

Morality Issue

To The Editor:

Public morality is vital to democracy. Democracy is vital to a free society. Civilized human beings are vital to a free society. Life is vital to civilized human beings. Life is vital, unless it is futile.

I want to congratulate the university members and students in Edmonton who raised the question of public morality with regards to practical politics. Their action places this problem as a challenge to all thinking and freedom loving Canadians. If democracy is to be cherished and strengthened, the public conscience must be stirred and the public must be drawn out of its political ignorance and apathy. Many politicians will be watching.

An important aspect of this involvement is the courage and apparent maturity of the university people involved. The public image of the university is too often either one of a factory, pro-

ducing professionals much as any trade school produces, tradesmen, or one of a secluded ivory tower for intellectuals withdrawn from the mainstreams of society. Therefore, it is this kind of action, albeit and regrettably late, that helps create a different and perhaps quite important a link between the university and the public.

Not that we should dismiss the responsibility of the individual in our society from asserting oneself and striving to improve the status quo. But, we cannot expect that our politicians will necessarily insist in, defend, or guide the public in such matters as that of public morality. Nor can we rely and rest on the example of the business community which has not met the challenge anymore than has the legal fraternity.

We should, therefore, look to the universities, primarily, for a climate and atmosphere of freedom to probe into the facts of our society, to determine and suggest what might be desirable. The universities should be more concerned with the humanities and in this capacity could become the best catalyst to effect changes in thought and action.

The stand taken by those of you in Edmonton is to be heartily applauded. You have enhanced the stature of the university. You have stirred the conscience of the public. You have raised the vital question of public morality. You have suggested that for a freedom loving people to exist as a democratic society, we should accept as leaders only those who are worthy of the honor and trust to represent us.

Sincerely,
Don Chetner
Calgary

If Fidel Were . . .

To The Editor:

If Fidel Castro were your penpal, what would you write him regarding Police Chief Anthony's remarks in Edmonton's other great paper? Might they be along this line?

Dear Fidel,

For some time now, I have suspected that you are a "true lover of democracy," in disguise. It is unfortunate that you were forced to use rather undemocratic means to obtain your ends in the past—but this need never happen again. Cuba can have democracy—just like Canada.

The system is really quite simple. There are three essential elements:

1. a law similar to section 64 (1) of the Criminal Code of Canada;
2. a Chief of Police who will interpret such a law favorably;
3. a mob that will become "provoked to disturb the peace tumultuously."

When someone opposes you, your mob becomes provoked, and your enemies can be arrested—democratically. It could be handy, couldn't it.

There is, of course, one problem. It may be difficult to find a Cuban mob that would become provoked enough by peaceful opposition—say, non-violent picketing—to justify, the application of such a law. If this should be the case, I suppose you might be able to get imports from somewhere—for a price.

I hope you find this suggestion useful in creating a Cuban democracy, like that enjoyed by us in Canada.

As Ever,
A Well Wisher

Sincere Thanks

To The Editor:

This is a letter of sincere thanks to all those students who helped in any way to make the second annual U of A Blitz Day Canvass a success.

Success?—Emphatically, yes! It was very satisfying last Friday noon to report to the United Community Fund that our returns to that point were \$8,900, or 186 per cent of the quota which the Fund had set for us. The UCF as a whole stood at only 84 per cent of target, and had to extend their city-wide campaign an extra week.

Most of all, congratulations to the canvassers themselves, who along with their able team captains and area captains numbered close to 1,300. The efforts made, sometimes in the face of disappointment, deserve much credit. Special thanks to the campus organizations who turned out an impressive number of teams from among their members, notably Newman Club, education, nurses, and Wauneita corps.

Finally, we are grateful for the valuable publicity and coverage provided by Promotions Committee, U of A Radio, Gateway, and Photo Directorate.

Again, our campus has distinguished itself; we can all be proud.

Sincerely,
BLITZ DAY COMMITTEE

Socialist

To The Editor:

For years now, we have been hearing the comment made that education students are a lot of clods, undriven by ambition and unenlightened by idealism—a bunch of mediocre careerists.

I couldn't agree more—and let me tell you why.

Your attempts to prod the finer minds of the faculty out of inaction by the publishing of reviews of Koerner's revolutionary book, *The Miseducation of American Teachers*, were admirable.

And the absence of faculty response—not counting Dean Coutt's articulate letter of defense—was indicative of just the kind of thing of which I speak.

Not a single education student undertook to reply to the implications of mediocrity upon his profession. Presumably, not a single one cared enough. Not a single student, pondering the mission of his profession, undertook to defend that mission or that profession.

This is a severe indictment; it adds up to saying that education students are a rather spineless bunch, devoid of idealism, principles, or even pride.

For too many years we've made the mistake of saying ed students "acted dull." Only now are we coming to realize that they don't act dull—they are dull.

I am, as ever,
Socialist

Asking For Trouble

To The Editor:

I think something should be done about the polished granite stairs in the Students' Union Building. They are far too slippery. Numerous times I have nearly fallen on my posterior, and undoubtedly this has been the experience of many. In winter, the situation is extremely dangerous.

The pay-off came when I saw a woman of about forty years of age slip and thump down a full

flight of steps on her back. If something isn't done about this soon, someone is going to hurt himself badly, and the university will probably have a law suit to contend with.

J. S. Lowe
Science III

Almost Joined

I had been sure while I was rushing that fraternities were

nothing more than a group of clean-cut kids. Imagine my surprise at finding in the editorial columns of your paper a statement to the effect that even in Canada these organizations practice discrimination. When I checked with the brotherhoods that were rushing me they verified the fact though they had not seen fit to mention it to me before. I did not join. Thank you. Brotherless



Recently a new manuscript of Hamlet came to my attention. E. W. Hamlet, not the prince we knew him, but a controller of the Royal Funds, in this scene speaks to a retinue of professors he has hired:

Think the thought, I tell you, as I pronounced it to you, stickingly on my tongue; but if you mouth it, as many of your students do, I had as lief Pete Jamieson spoke my thoughts. Nor do not wave the book too much with your hand, thus, but use all gently; for in the very torrent, tempest, and, as I may say, the whirlwind of thinking, you must acquire and beget a platitude that may have smoothness.

O, it offends me to the soul to hear a robustious mortar boarded fellow tear an argument to tatters, to very rags, to split the ears of the citizens of our province, who for the most part are capable of nothing but inexplicable dumb-shows and voting. Pray you, avoid it.

Be not too tame neither, but let your own discretion be your tutor. Suit the action to the word, the word to the action; with his special observance, that you o'erstep not the limits of my thought and modesty of nature. For anything so overdone is from the purpose of thinking.

Now this overdone, or come tardy off, though it make the unskillful think, cannot but make the conservative grieve; the censure of the which one must, in your pocketbook, o'erweigh a whole populace of others.

And let those who play your intellectuals speak no more than is set down for them; for these be of them that will themselves think to set on some quantity of barren citizens, yea voters, to think to, (though in the mean time some necessary question of my actions be not to be considered.) That's villainous, and shows a most pitiful ambition in the prof that uses it.

Richard McDowall's Musings



"The greatest difficulty that a man meets within life is generally that which faces him at the very outset: the question of deciding upon an occupation.

"It means the wasting or the saving of a life. A life spent in an occupation out of harmony with one's natural bent can never be quite happy or genuinely faithful even in the most fortunate circumstances; while a life of congenial labor, unsubjected to any exceeding pressure, is really the supreme happiness.

"Each man has been gifted by nature with some special inclination, more or less marked, which points him to his life pursuit. Unhappily this original and individual bent is very often not sufficiently urgent, not imperious enough in its call, to induce the young man to throw himself confidently upon it, trusting to its genuineness.

"He yields to the dictation, or persuasion, or examples of others, or else blindly enters upon the first offered field of activity without considering whether it corresponds in any degree with that irrepresible vision in his own mind.

"It is well for a man not to be idle, and to lay hold of any honorable pursuit rather than be so; but he should never allow himself to consider any occupation permanent but the one that is naturally his.

"Each life is a force intended by nature to be exerted upon some particular line. If it is set to work on any other its usefulness is dissipated, often totally annulled. Such a life is in abeyance, and its possessor may be truly said not to have lived.

"A great responsibility in this matter rests upon parents, who frequently have it in their power to educate and make clear the way for their children's special talents.

"We know how often they are blind enough to do the very reverse, not only neglecting to render any assistance to this natural inclination, but even endeavoring to guide or force the minds of their children into such paths as appear desirable or honorable to them.

"Such parents are responsible for a fair proportion of the mental or moral ruin we see about us."