

The Gateway

Member of the Canadian University Press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE:—Our Managing Editor has a secret and only these staffers who were here for Monday night's press night know what it is. . . . Eugene Brody, Al Scarth, Marcia Reed, Gerald Polack, Lorraine Allison, Lawrie Hignell, Lorraine Minich, Ralph Melnychuk, Bill Beard, Isabelle Foord, Bev Gietz, Shirley Newman, Marg Penn, Marion Conybeare, Richard Vivone, Sheila Ballard, and yours truly, Harvey Thomgirt.

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a time to talk

In the noble tradition of the Great American Dream, there are no more people at the University of Alberta.

There are only four series of dehumanized IBM numbers — commonly referred to in non-mathematical lingo as undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty and administration. Every year these groups become further and further apart, and every year the agonizing cries of lack of campus communication become louder and louder.

The saddest of these divisions is that between professor and student. Some professors make a particular effort to become acquainted with their students, and they are to be commended for this. As far as many of the others are concerned, however, there might just as well be a tape recorder at the front of the lecture hall, for the only function they perform is an auditory presentation of data.

A student's expressed thoughts are not expected to be on the same professional calibre as those of his professor, who is an alleged expert in his field of interest. However, as two human beings both interested in the pursuit of truth, the student and professor have many points of mutual interest to discuss. Students can often present fresh, though perhaps naive and undeveloped views.

The halls of this hallowed institution have seen many provocative debates which are of immense benefit to the students, and, from the evoca-

tive and often emotional participation of the professor, would appear to be at least worthy of his energy. These occur mostly in small classes where seminar conditions exist.

But small classes are becoming scarcer and scarcer on this campus, and the large classroom situation makes significant student-professor dialogue almost impossible except in the rare case of the professor with a genius for fulminating large-scale argument and discussion in his classroom.

One means of furthering this dialogue would be to facilitate the intermingling of students and professors outside the classroom situation. We suggest one means of doing this would be a number of common lounges, where the student and his professor could meet socially as two human beings and not as two different types of six-digit IBM numbers.

Several professors make a special attempt to meet their students socially. Significantly, their classes are usually very stimulating—from the point of view of the discussion, if not from the brilliance of the lecture.

Excellent faculty-student communication is one of the main characteristics of a first-rate university. What is our enlightened administration doing to further this ideal?

The plans for the new Henry Marshall Tory Building call for **three separate lounges**—one for faculty members, one for graduate students, and one for undergraduate students.

the great canadian debate

Canada: satellite or sovereign?

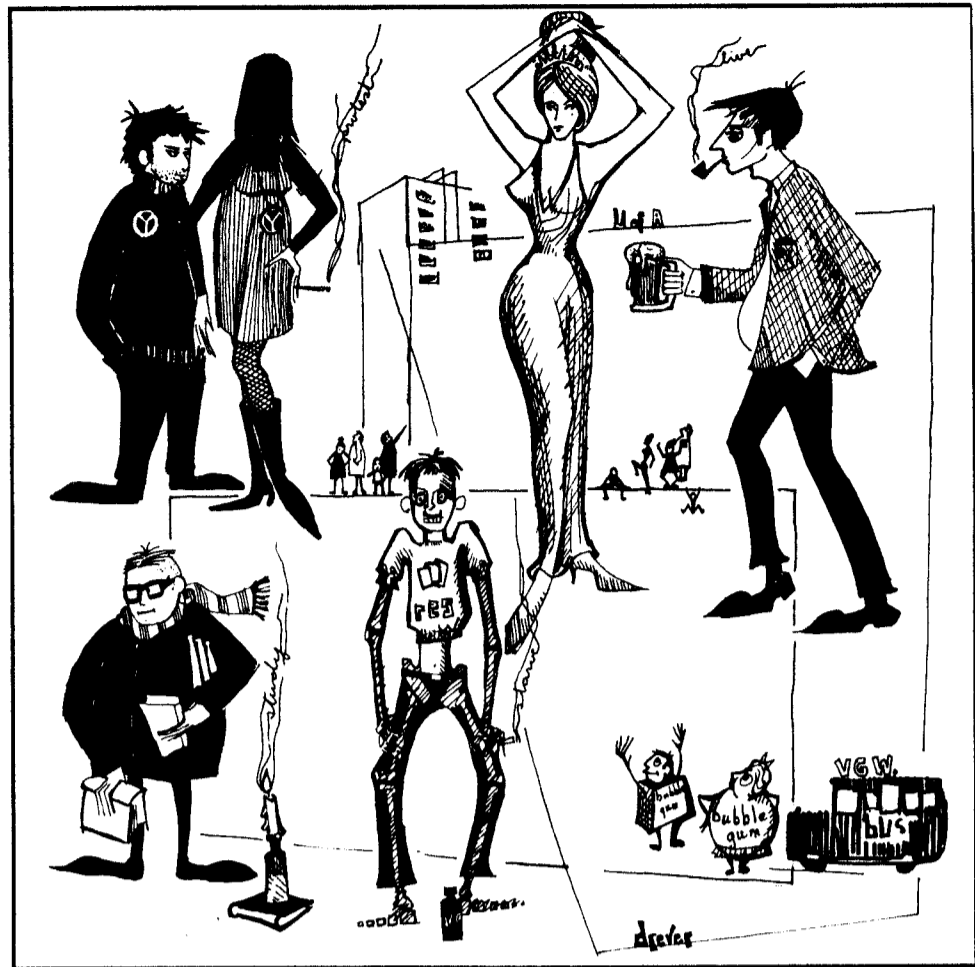
Saturday's teach-in on this subject promises to be a stimulating journey into Canada's destiny, a trip which is currently being made on several university campuses across Canada. Students are flocking in ever-increasing numbers to either the continentalist or nationalist side of the argument.

Continentalists claim that North America would be a more viable economic unit than Canada can ever be alone, and that no Canadian would spend one Hershey Bar a week to save Canada. Their argument for a North American union is based on the possibility of closer economic ties. They say Canadians are being taxed for patriotism, that the country's industries are too diversified to produce enough product units to be economically feasible. In brief, they are saying that tariffs are only an incentive to inefficiency.

Nationalists are crying: "Don't throw Canada into the melting pot and blend it with the Great Society. This group believes that Canada must maintain her independence—not only to act as a friendly check against American policies, but also to preserve the Canadian culture, which they say is a combination of the best in American and British heritage. Their arguments for Canada staying as a distinct nation for a large part are built upon a foundation of heartfelt patriotism, and on this country's traditions.

The great debate is hardly beginning, but it is safe to say the platforms from which young Canadians are shouting their views these days could some day father our destiny which somehow isn't.

May we shout our ill-conceived, uncut ideas about Canada until elders glean from them this unspoken future.



what will the bubble-gummers look for? what will they see?

a council reporter's uncensored diary

by lorraine minich

Students' council meetings in the last month have been the worst representation of student government that I can imagine.

I have been watching this esteemed group in "action" for the past four months. (7 p.m. Mondays in Dinwoodie Lounge—everyone is welcome to attend). While there never was too much action, the meetings of the past month have been little more than pathetic farces.

One of the most notable examples of student indifference raised its ugly head three weeks ago, when a lively debate raged in council chambers for two hours. The participants—Branny Schepanovich and Provost Ryan. And what were our venerable councillors doing? Sitting on their honorable posteriors, passing notes, and running to the pop machine while two non-councillors dominated the meeting.

Students' council members divide themselves naturally into three categories: 1. Those who don't come; 2. Those who come and do nothing; 3. Those who come and participate. Approximately half of the councillors fit into category 1; the other half share the remaining categories.

If students' union general manager Marv Swenson weren't so busy with other duties, I'd suggest he be made truant officer for wayward councillors. The fact that apathetic councillors are the cause for half the students on campus not being represented doesn't seem to concern anyone. Council representation is a responsibility; where are the people who have been elected to these positions?

Not much more useful than those who do not come are the irresponsible one-quarter who fill council chairs and prove "handy" when it's time to vote. Without their presence, there couldn't be a quorum, and the minutes of the last meeting would never be passed.

Although these pseudo-legislators contribute little, if anything, to discussion, they can be relied on to raise their hands at least a few inches from the table and be counted as either en-

thusiastically (or worse yet, unani- mously) in support of, or flatly and decidedly in opposition to the motions which govern the workings of the union.

Aside from the union vice-president and the Wauneita president, our female councillors say an average of three words each per meeting. True, silent females are supposed to be mysterious, echanting, and sexy, but their contribution to student government is questionable.

So that leaves us a handful of activists—a handful of people who are aware, in varying degrees, of a student movement. And I sincerely congratulate them.

I don't know if anything Patrick Kenniff told council last Tuesday night hit any of the councillors, but it should have. He said a student government can either lead a campus or reflect it. I think it should lead. Too many of our councillors have the inane "things are good just like they are—why change?" attitude. These are the rah-rah campus kids who take literally the words of the Varsity Song, "Green and gold, quaecumque vera, guide us through each coming era." I would say it's the duty of the councillors to guide and not to be guided. It is this reflecting attitude that we get from people like one of our rah-rah councillors whose chief concern seems to be the fact that he doesn't like all the Fine Arts in The Gateway.

Richard Price is a leader; he is genuinely concerned with the student movement. And so are a few other council members. It is the comments of these few that gives council meetings some depth and purpose.

I think the matter of "to lead or to reflect" should be in the minds of every U of A student at election time and constantly in the minds of councillors.

One more thing: why not go to a Council meeting once?—they really aren't completely uninteresting. The house ec representative wears a different outfit each week, and the arts rep smokes a most fragrant blend of pipe tobacco—when he's there.