

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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EDITORIAL—Cartoonists—Alan Shute, Janice MacPhail.

STAFF THIS ISSUE—A few more of those bodies showed up Tuesday night to help drink the coffee and shoot the bull (actually it was more like a cow) and some of them even did some work. We are glad to welcome back to the fold Frank Horvath and the Great White Father (actually he's a little dusty so we'll call him the grey midget) also in attendance for the King and her court (correct) was Ronald Yakimchuk, Kelly Toohey, Judy Samoil, Leona Gom, Marg Bolton, Alex Ingram, Suzanne Brown, Marbijell, Glenn Cheriton, Alvin and Gregory and Hilda Glick and the ever-faithful and ever-present Harvey Thogmirt, yours truly.

The Gateway is published three times a week by the students' union of The University of Alberta. The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for all material published herein. Final copy deadline for Tuesday edition—7 p.m. Sunday, advertising—noon Thursday prior, Short Shorts—5 p.m. Friday; for Thursday edition—7 p.m. Tuesday, advertising—noon Monday prior, Short Shorts—5 p.m. Tuesday; for Friday edition—7 p.m. Wednesday, advertising—noon Tuesday prior, Short Shorts—5 p.m. Wednesday; Casserole advertising—noon Thursday previous week. Advertising manager: Gordon Frazer, 432-4329. Office phones—432-4321, 432-4322. Circulation—10,000.

Authorized as second-class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash. Postage paid at Edmonton. Telex 037-2412.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1967

a mind . . .

At the last meeting of the Alberta Association of Students, U of A students' union president Al Anderson stated he was irrevocably opposed to the concept of "student power".

By student power is apparently meant the control by students of various administrative functions of the university.

Student representation on or to certain administrative councils here has been a hotly debated issue for some time, and should still be a matter of great student concern.

The policy of students' councils in the past has been to seek representation on the General Faculty Council and certain committees of the GFC, plus the right and ability to make representation to and communicate with the Board of Governors. It is the General Faculty Council and its committees which in practice make the policy decisions

which would be of concern to students—thus the concentration of efforts toward this body.

But now that students do have representation on the GFC and some of its relevant committees, there is a grave danger that the whole issue will be laid to rest, and little of significance be further accomplished.

However, student representation must be intelligent and organic. Intelligent representation means our delegates must be well informed. Organic representation, as we see it, means that the student delegates must operate from a sound philosophy of the nature of education and the role of the student in the university community, with a view to developing this role to its utmost legitimate potentialities.

We are not advocating student power, but we believe, as we hope does Mr. Anderson, in student participation and fulfillment.

. . . for the union

Student fulfillment in the university community certainly involves representation on more committees, such as curriculum committees, more powerful representation on other committees, and perhaps more direct access to the Board of Governors.

On this basis, therefore, we suggest the students' union set up, apart from the Academic Relations Committee, some sort of research board which would study such abstract questions as the nature of the university, the nature of a student, the role of a student in a university, the type of education required by society, the type of education actually being given by universities and public school systems, and would collate and critically examine current educational research, especially in such matters as course design and university structure.

Before this notion is shouted down by cries of "impractical", we

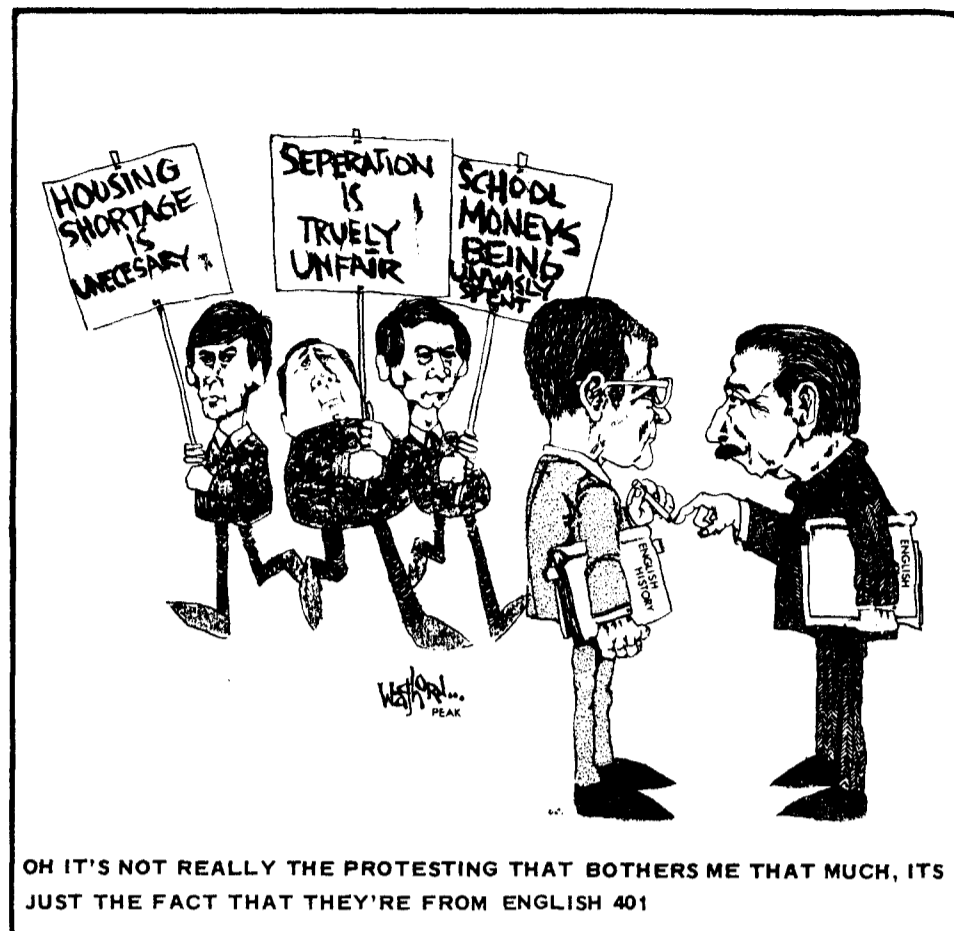
suggest it be carefully considered. Surely in a university of this size place can be made for such an organization, even if a large element of informality must prevail in it.

Last year an informal group of somewhat this nature was set up, but its emphasis was mostly on informal discussion, and while it was no doubt valuable to those who participated in it, the university as a whole seems to have benefitted little.

By providing even a minimally organized structure within which such studies can be undertaken, the students' union would do both itself and the university a valuable service.

For it is not merely by representation that we will make this a better university, but by using our representation to put forward intelligent ideas.

And intelligent ideas come from hard work.



—reprinted from the peak

lorraine minich just for the record

For some reason, each year there comes a time when The Gateway begins to be used as a "house organ" by members of students' council and the general student body.

Recent exchanges of petty beefs by means of letters to the editor have made it necessary to comment.

While we welcome all letters, criticism, and viewpoints, it seems that many people write letters without having sufficient knowledge of the topic they wish to comment on.

We feel this newspaper has the right to locate the news, and the responsibility within the bounds of good taste to publish it and comment upon it—even when the facts may be unpleasant or disturbing to some.

In many cases, complaints received about news coverage are so petty it seems the complainants must have a lot of extra time on their hands to even bother.

And, people who make rash and unfounded statements charging The Gateway with inaccuracies and discriminatory practices not only make fools of themselves; they insult the volunteer staffers, many of whom contribute more time to The Gateway than some student councillors spend working with the students' union.

For the benefit of anyone who has doubts, it should be stated that there has never been any proof that Gateway editorial writers or reporters are more stupid than the average U of A student.

Therefore, when an editorial comment or signed column appears in The Gateway, expressing a certain opinion or supporting a particular view in some issue, it does not mean that the editorial writer or the reporter has not fully understood all angles in the issue.

It means that after analyzing carefully the two sides of an issue, the writer has decided that one side makes more sense, or seems more feasible, or warrants praise or criticism.

We like to believe that we are capable of holding opinions on student government and campus developments and that we have the right to print these opinions in the form of editorials.

And so, if we feel that SUB has undesirable features or that a particular student councillor's ideas warrant criticism, it is our privilege to say so.

It is also your privilege, but too many people this year have abused it.

If you hold a radical viewpoint which you feel the campus should know about, write it down in the form of a letter or a signed editorial and bring it to our office.

And, if you feel you must reply to another letter to the editor, your reply should be directly related to the issue under discussion and free from personal attacks.

Above all: please know what you are talking about.