

# Letters To The Editor

## OLD NEWS

To The Editor:

It appears my remarks of the 25th have evoked some thought and discussion. Viewing the comments, I was faced with two alternatives: either remain silent and allow much misrepresentation of my case to stand unanswered, or attempt to explain and justify what I did say. I will embark upon the latter.

First my apologies, asking all to bear in mind that I am not doing so either to salve a chastened conscience or to placate my opposition. For having called exchange students "seedy" and "fellow travellers" I apologize. I recognize that both these adjectives were neither fair nor appropriate. The same applies to what I said about Miss Tsutsarova. The criticisms of these facets that Mr. Neill and the "Seedy Exchange Student" presented were both objective and fair, and I acknowledge them as such.

In my defense I will first object to the letter of Mr. Weber. His remarks concerning the faculty of Arts and Science are both rude and illogical. First I would remind him that it is hardly fair to condemn an entire faculty on the basis of the actions of one student. Secondly, I would remind him that the Arts and Science faculty is the faculty devoted to the "finer things", so what

basis does he have for his attitude?

When I condemned Miss Tsutsarova's attitude toward Christianity as being "superficial and materialistic," I was trying to show that she had no real grasp of our belief that Christianity has values and teachings which no secular group, be it a Young Communist Youth League or whatever else, can duplicate. I would remind all that the function of Christianity is not, as "Alla" implied, "entertainment". Anyone who would maintain that Christianity is meant to be a "recreation" does not have the slightest comprehension of the true meaning of religion.

Secondly I must object to the remarks of Mr. Christopher Dudley Evans. For those of his many readers who would wish to see him in person, he is not at all hard to recognize. Simply look for a figure clad in rusty armour and mounted upon a magnificent white charger; once you have spotted the figure, the rest will be easy. He will undoubtedly be tilting some Campus Windmill with his pen. In his inimitably pompous and arrogant manner he describes my mind as "petty, narrow, and stupid." Mind you, if anyone is in a position to act as a judge it is he. I think you will agree that a man who can devote entire columns to dissertations on

"Sweaty, smelly feet at Campus dances" is a man with a mind uncluttered with "Petty, narrow" things!

To close, let me say this: I am glad of the end results in many ways. I am glad that what I had to say, mistaken as it may have been, did awaken some from their lethargy. I am glad that my remarks brought to the surface some of the sentiments concerning exchange students and our Western outlook. I am not going to apologize to anyone for honestly upholding my principles. The end, namely a refreshing awakening of thought, justified the means which I employed to achieve it. I only wish that such remarks were not continually necessary in order to dispell the voice of "creeping apathy."

John Barr

## LETTERBOX

Dr. M. L. Van Vliet,  
President, Western Canadian  
Inter-collegiate Athletic Union,  
Physical Education Department,  
University of Alberta,  
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Dr. Van Vliet:

As you are no doubt aware the University of Manitoba Students' Union has been concerned with establishing an inter-collegiate football team on our campus. I should like to take this opportunity of informing you that the matter will be discussed at our Council Meeting on January 11th, at which time I will

be able to inform you of our decision.

It was the feeling of my Council, however, that at this time a letter should be addressed to the Western Canadian Inter-collegiate Athletic Union expressing our thoughts upon the changes implemented in your constitution last year, concerning the compulsory participation in certain sports. I am sending this letter now before we have reached a definite conclusion upon our participation in football, so that the opinions expressed are not linked to our final decision.

The University of Manitoba Students' Union Council wishes to deplore in the very strongest terms permissible your actions taken in this regard. They can only be taken as an attempt to "pressure" our University into participation in a particular athletic activity. You should be aware, Sir, that each city has its own particular problems in regard to particular sports. For example, it would seem virtually impossible for the University of Manitoba to field a football team until there is a second adequate stadium available for our use in the city. The student fee at the University of Manitoba has been increased this year a substantial sum for the financing of other general student activities, we must think very seriously before we consider raising it a similar extent to finance a single sport. For these, and many other reasons you should realize that our decision to participate in football cannot be made hastily nor because of outside forces.

Let me assure the WCIAU that my Council in no wise intends to allow itself to be pressured into participation in football through your threat of preventing us from participating in all other inter-collegiate athletic activities. This decision was made at your meeting, Sir, it was out of the hands of the student body, where it might have received a fairer hearing, and it was voted against by the Manitoba delegates. We cannot feel ourselves bound by this decision, considering it a foolish and hastily made one.

In conclusion, may I only say this. If Manitoba should decide to participate in inter-collegiate football, it will be a decision made in the best interests of the students of this Uni-

versity and not based upon threats made by individuals of other centres. If Manitoba should decide not to participate in football, we can only express our regret at the untoward constitutional changes made in the WCIAU, and express Manitoba's willingness to negotiate in future years for the establishment of a new Western Canadian athletic union, when the present WCIAU ceases to function with only three members in all of its activities and not just in football.

Yours sincerely,  
Roy MacKenzie  
UMSU President

## "PIPS"

To The Editor:

Who cares whether certain "pip-squeak" faculties such as law and medicine accept the faculty of education on this campus or not? I would like to remind the writer of that editorial that numbers are the only decisive measure of strength accepted under our democratic system; however, on this campus that is only remembered whenever there are elections, blood drives, and money collections.

The faculty of education merely serves to fill an economic need and I shudder to think of the time when four years of University training will be required to qualify a teacher to "instruct grade 1 calculus". Thus I believe that the one and two year training programs are absolutely needed or may be certain members of The Gateway staff are willing to fill positions as elementary grade teachers after successfully completing four years of training at a University.

As to the statement that an education building on the north campus will solve half the problem: I have heard much about a provincialistic outlook on this campus from The Gateway; however, your editorial represents an area from 87 Ave. north to Saskatchewan Drive and from 112 St. three or four blocks west—beyond that the horizon must be quite cloudy or foggy.

May I suggest that it can now be explained why nurses last year had to complain about poor coverage of their activities. This most attractive of all buildings on campus (as any

"He has a brilliant future behind him"

He just dropped in for a chat. I hadn't seen him since we were undergraduates. He had everything then: a bright, quick mind, drive, imagination... big plans. He graduated with top honours in our class...

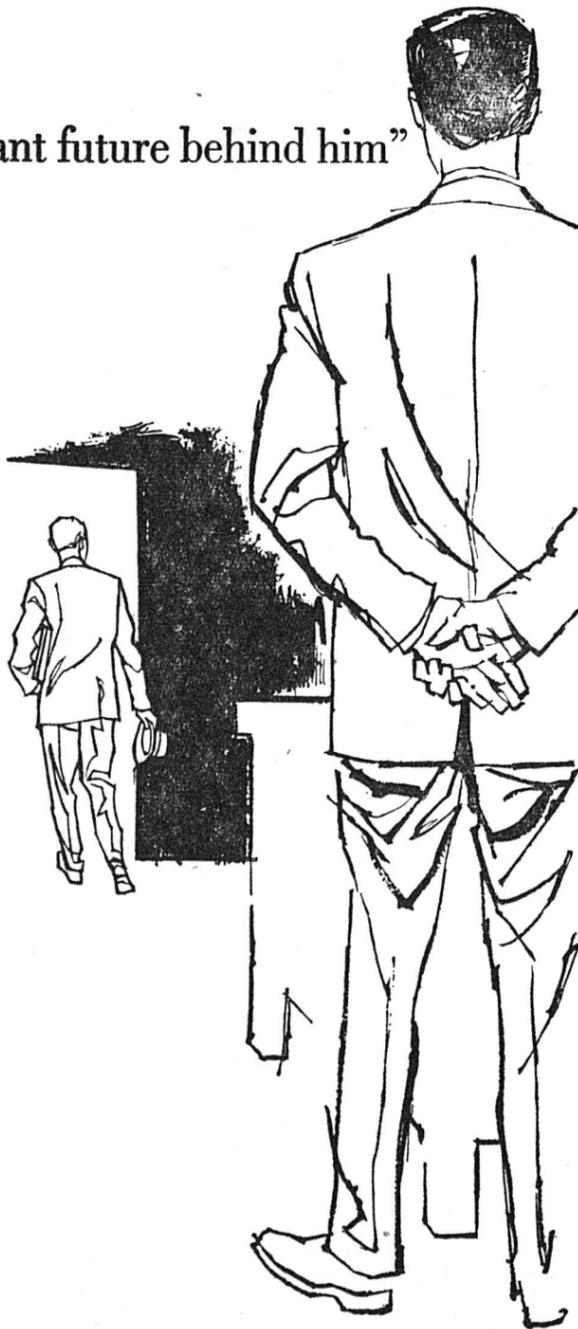
But when he talked to me, he seemed dried up. No sparkle, no nothing—as though that parchment was his certificate of having learned everything there was to be learned. I asked about his job—and then I knew: It's steady, but it's dull.

It made me think. Perhaps I'm just lucky, but aluminum is different. There's no end to what you can do with it. I haven't been with Alcan too long, but half the things they're doing with aluminum now weren't even on the drawing board when I started. If you'll pardon the cliché: It's the metal of the future, all right.

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