

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—Staff was pretty light around this place this time. We need more staffers. Come up to the office (room 209) in SUB and see us. We'll give you a job to do, and then you'll be on the team. It's really great. Come on over and give it a try. Staffers for this paper included Butch Treleven, Elaine Verbicky, Don Moren, Bernie Goedhart, Chuck Lyall, Wayne Burns, Wayne Johnson, and yours truly, Harvey Thomgirt.

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building crisis

The development and implementation of an adequate construction program is obviously one of the most important tasks facing the University of Alberta.

U of A's enrolment has almost doubled in the last five years. According to the current forecast, enrolment will eventually level off at between 18,000 and 21,000 students. Expansion of academic and research programs has occurred at a corresponding rate.

Such rapid expansion has created great administrative problems. It is really not surprising that there is currently a lack of space on campus. But although the administration has formerly missed the boat in assessing U of A's physical needs, it appears they are honestly trying to guarantee that all future needs will be provided for. The university's long-range building program is impressive.

But will this program be implemented?

Unfortunately, the provincial department of public works oversees campus construction. And this department seems to be doing its best to frustrate the university's plans.

The government's refusal last summer to accept the tenders for the new biological sciences complex must have been a severe blow to those university officials who worked so hard on the building. The government's move is baffling, to say the least.

Numerous construction officials have stated that the tenders were reasonable, and that delays would cost the university at least as much as the projected savings resulting from cutting certain features from the building.

The silence of officials on the topic of the new student residence makes us wonder if this building is also in trouble.

And the reluctance of officials to comment on construction problems in general leads us to conclude there is serious friction between the provincial government and the university.

Our administration certainly cannot be praised for its past efforts in the field of planning.

Let us hope they will not be stymied in their current attempt to redeem themselves by backward government officials.

we must be careful

The federal government's offer to pay half the operating costs of higher education and total costs of adult job training, must be commended.

Prime Minister Pearson's sweeping new deal for universities, technical institutes, training centres, community colleges and technical and vocational high schools, announced Sunday at the opening of the federal-provincial conference on higher education finances, will take more than \$360 million out of the federal government's coffers next year.

The increase in aid to education will come as a relief to most provincial governments, who, until now, paid for almost all operating expenses of universities and other forms of higher education, with the exception of technical institutes.

Former federal aid to universities was \$5 per head of provincial popu-

lation, which was increased last January from \$2.

Provincial governments, though, may try to decrease their aid proportionally to universities and other institutes of post-secondary education which they finance. This would be a catastrophe.

When institutes of post-secondary education are trying to expand to accommodate a larger percentage of students, they need all the money they can get. And a move on the part of a provincial government to decrease its financial aid, on the grounds that the federal government has increased its aid, would stifle the growth of these institutes.

We must make sure that no provincial government attempts to ease up in its aid to post-secondary educational institutes, if we want these institutes to be able to accommodate all students who have the academic ability to attend.



"if you don't want to pull us all the way, we'd rather walk"

helene chomiak

student alienation and student government

U of A is growing and students are becoming alienated from the mainstream of campus affairs. We are represented to the administration by six figure numbers. What do we mean to the student administrators on students' council?

The answer must be deduced from the action of councillors. They have shown to be quite capable administrators—a building like the new SUB and a balanced budget dealing with a third of a million dollars is no mean task for a group of students.

The members of the student executive are working hard at their jobs and their dedication can only be commended. But the scope of their jobs is much too limited.

They are ignoring issues such as the concept of multi-versity, student fees, student loans, professor-teacher relationships, teaching methods, course content and other matters of vital concern to the student body.

They must be accused of treating students impersonally for they do not find what issues concern us, but rather act efficiently in matters they define as their duty.

Student government on this campus must redefine its goals and begin acting with matters which concern individual students or it will be bypassed. We see examples of this when segments of the student population such as graduate students and the changed Pro-CUS rejects council because it does not meet their needs.

The growth of splinter groups such as these seeking to become mass movements involving large segments of the university population can be compared to the growth of CCF and Social Credit parties during the de-

pression. The existing parties did not meet the needs of the Canadian population.

But the existing parties responded to the challenge of the new groups and the needs of the depression and remained the dominant Canadian parties.

Similarly, students' council must listen to the ideas of the new groups springing up on campus and develop a new philosophy of student action if it hopes to regain the support of the campus population.

Thus it is unfortunate U of A is no longer a member of the Canadian Union of Students for this is a source of many badly needed ideas on student government.

Mr. Schepanovich may congratulate himself by saying the campus supported his position on CUS because only 644 students come to the general meeting. But before Mr. Schepanovich pats his back too heavily, he must realize this is about ten times the number of students who participate on students' council and council committees during the year.

This large support was obtained because members of the Pro-CUS committee were willing to talk to students and get them involved in current issues. Council does not do this. It acts in a near vacuum and relies mainly on The Gateway to spread ideas.

So Mr. Schepanovich and the other student councillors must make a serious attempt to return to the mainstream of student life or student government will lose the source of its legitimacy.

Council will find its function is replaced by other groups and the general student body will only benefit.