

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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EDITORIAL—Doug Bell, Frank Harvath, Gordon Auck, Cartoonists—Dale Drever, Peter Bassek; Editorial Board—Bill Miller, Ralph Melnychuk, Helene Chomiak, Brian Campbell.

STAFF THIS ISSUE—The following stiff but hearty souls turned up to groan and smile sweetly at the camera: Wayne (wordly) Burns, Bernie Goedhart (wearing her latest creation), Elaine (SUBberr) Verbicky, Ron (God knows how many) Yakimchuk, John Thompson (always Inside), John (smiley) Green, Marion (inn) Conybeare, (conceited) Bob Jacobsen, Grant Sharp (newest sportster), Don Moren (best substituter ever), picturistic Terry Donnelly, Perry (host) Afaganis, and yours truly, Harvey Thomgirt.

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centennial phonies

Everyone wants to get in on the act. Everything is centennial. Centennial hockey. Centennial bowling. Centennial sales. Centennial bingo. Centennial this. Centennial that.

Everyone wants to use that centennial tag on their annual project, if only to get money out of the centennial commission, or out of false pride they get from believing they are making a significant contribution to Canada's celebration of one hundred years of confederation.

Projects held every year are now centennial projects. This is disgraceful, and such projects should be ignored by anyone who thinks anything of the centennial.

True centennial projects are those which are being held for the first and probably last time in honor of the centennial—projects which are not called official centennial projects just because they occur during 1967, but are called centennial projects because they exist solely as a centennial event, to bring people to-

gether to celebrate Canada's birthday and to try to find the meaning of this crazy country of ours.

In order to make these projects mean something, we must eliminate these false, phony centennial projects, the ones held annually for the past 47 years, which have no special significance in 1967 other than being annual affairs, and which use the centennial name to gain greater patronage.

Boycott these hypocritical projects. And patronize true centennial projects, projects that involve the development of the individuals concerned, to make this country a greater entity through understanding and co-operation.

These annual social events are irrelevant to the meaning of the centennial and have no right to carry the word centennial in their advertising. The only right they do have is to exist on their own merit.

Make the centennial year mean something more than a way to get money for some insignificant group.

Make it mean Canada.

neanderthal council

Canadian Union of Students president Doug Ward has condemned students' councils across the country for abdicating their responsibilities.

He said he was fed up with the "neanderthal priorities" of the average students' council which place drama and dances above social change.

"Students councils are acting as if the issues of most vital importance to students were yearbooks, dances, model parliaments and the budget of the outing club."

Councils must devote time to these rather dreary details of running a government, but they should devote the majority of their time improving the university for the benefit of their constituents.

Contrary to popular belief, the

"two-bit" items on the council agenda, the items which make council function more or less as a service station, are not significant.

Councils should investigate teaching methods, counselling services, and anything else which would help students survive the degree factory.

We agree with Doug Ward that students' councils who spend their time on these items are irrelevant.

And they will continue to be irrelevant until they start tackling the problems of students—not parking problems, not food services problems, not library problems, not bookstore problems—but problems which determine a student's attitude towards this confusing, upsetting and demoralizing souped-up high school.

It's time for council to turn on, tune in and drop the non-essentials—there's work to be done.



—reprinted from the sheet
come on rick, lots of guys flunked math, and they aren't ashamed!

ralph melnychuk the perils of participation

Wake up everyone! It's drop-out time again.

An epidemic of dropoutitis usually hits U of A around the end of the first term, but this year the disease is considerably more widespread than usual.

It is not surprising that the students' union should suffer a wave of resignations in such an epidemic. But the decision of several active union workers to withdraw from university has caused raised eyebrows and stifled gasps among many of the perpetual inmates of SUB.

The two big shockers were Dave Comba, science rep and senior living-in member, and Richard Vivone, The Gateway's sports editor. And at this date it is impossible to tally the losses in dropped courses and resigned positions.

The present turmoil leads me to question the philosophy of extra-curricular activities.

Extra-curricular activities should be just that—extra. However, there is a disturbing tendency around the union these days to accept the principle that any relatively senior union position automatically entails a slow-up in the holder's academic career, often in terms of a totally lost year or considerable portion thereof.

This is indicated by last year's students' council's decision to pay salaries to the students' union president and the editor-in-chief of The Gateway.

The salaries, although small, are seen as in some way compensating for the loss of a year's studies. Financially, of course, this reasoning does not hold water.

But the personal experience gained

in holding these positions is invaluable, I'm told.

I have my doubts. I can think of more personally rewarding ways to spend a year (in CUSO, for instance) than as students' union president or Gateway editor.

But these are status positions, and I can see circumstances which would make them rather lucrative to many people.

What really bothers me are the smaller positions which don't carry much status but still involve a considerable amount of work.

I average 30 to 35 hours a week on the relatively insignificant job of Gateway managing editor, and this is a bare minimum. To produce the results I would be satisfied with would require at least a normal work week without the distracting "outside pressure" of studies.

Why so much work?

The villain is obviously the quasi-professionalism now demanded by student politicians and journalists. Striving for excellence is commendable, but problems arise in organizations which possess almost total annual staff turn-overs.

In union organizations, there is usually enough staff carry-over from year to year to develop this quasi-professionalism. But at times temporary staff shortages can force senior officials to carry a work load much heavier than normally necessary.

I do not wish to suggest union officials should go on strike for a lighter work load.

But I would like to ask if, given our primary status as students, we can afford to adopt professional standards and goals in essentially supplemental or "extra" activities.