

# The Gateway

Member of the Canadian University Press

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**STAFF THIS ISSUE**—There is more than one engineer-loving staffer around here, and they both say fuzzy sweaters that leave stuff on men's blazers are in for the girls. Keeners on Sunday for this paper were Bill Beard, Jackie Foord, Nick Riebeck, Bev Gietz, Peter Montgomery, Shirley Neumann, Sheila Ballard, Andy Rodger, Geddes Wilson, Richard Vivone, Marion Conybeare, Neil Driscoll, Fraser Smith, Bob Smith, Jim MacLaren, Lorraine Minich, Lorraine Allison, Marcia Reed, Suzette Lipnicki, Al Scarth, Marilyn Fix, The Shadow, and yours truly, the friendly Gateway boa constrictor, Harvey Thomgirt.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1965

## let's live with reality

The Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism was in Edmonton Tuesday to hear briefs on Canada's celebrated problem. They listened to one submission from the pen of our former Canadian Union of Students chairman, David Estrin, in which Mr. Estrin suggested he believes that English-speaking Canada "has the most reforming to do if Canada was to stay together . . ." The brief in question also is critical of press coverage given to an incident in which Laval University students rejected an offer from Alberta students to hold a Western Canada Week in Quebec City this winter.

Mr. Estrin suggests that more ill-will was stirred up in Canada by national press coverage of Laval's rude refusal "than a host of French Canada Weeks and high school student exchange programs could ever hope to bridge."

What utter nonsense. Mr. Estrin should have know better than to fall victim to the emotionalism and isolationism which today haunt the minds of reviving Quebecers. His inordinate fear of newspaper stories dealing with friction between English and French Canada is the kind of fear which could succeed in turning Canada into a pressure cooker instead of a melting pot.

## a good job—so far

What is a students' union?

This question has been kicked around for so long it is a wonder the poor battered thing can still function. Ever since the first unions were formed, mostly for the protection of students from irate landlords, peripatetic professors, and fellow students, there have been theorists anxious to formulate yet another definition of the union and its purposes.

Out of all this discussion has come what we see as the three basic functions of a university students' union:

1. Securing for its members collectively things which they as individuals would not ordinarily enjoy.

2. Organizing student activities of all kinds, so that individuals can extract full enjoyment and stimulation from their university career.

3. Representing student interests and securing the best treatment for students collectively and individually, in their dealings with the university administration and society. This is a role receiving more emphasis recently: the students' union militant has campaigned on fee issues, uni-

First of all, Mr. Estrin should take a good look around him. He would see that English Canadians ARE trying to attune themselves to Quebec's wants and needs. The English press is doing an excellent job of telling them of the cultural birth of Quebec. Even Mr. Estrin admits this.

Moreover, English Canadians are trying to create dialogue with their French counterparts. What better example of this is there than the Laval incident, where M. Roger Sarault, students' union president at Laval University, was guilty of snubbing all English-speaking Canada when he refused to speak in English to Alberta students who were eager to foster meaningful dialogue. It was certainly neither "unorthodox" nor "ludicrous" as Mr. Estrin has suggested, for Alberta students to ask Quebec students to take part in an ambitious cultural exchange project. Any attempt at social intercourse between the nation's two largest groups is surely worthwhile, and not unorthodox or ludicrous.

It is time for persons like Mr. Estrin to recognize the existence of THAT Quebec attitude. If we forever shun reality, we will never learn to live with it.

versal education, and better teaching.

Now, the question to consider here is, has our students' union fulfilled its obligations in these areas? Is it doing the job?

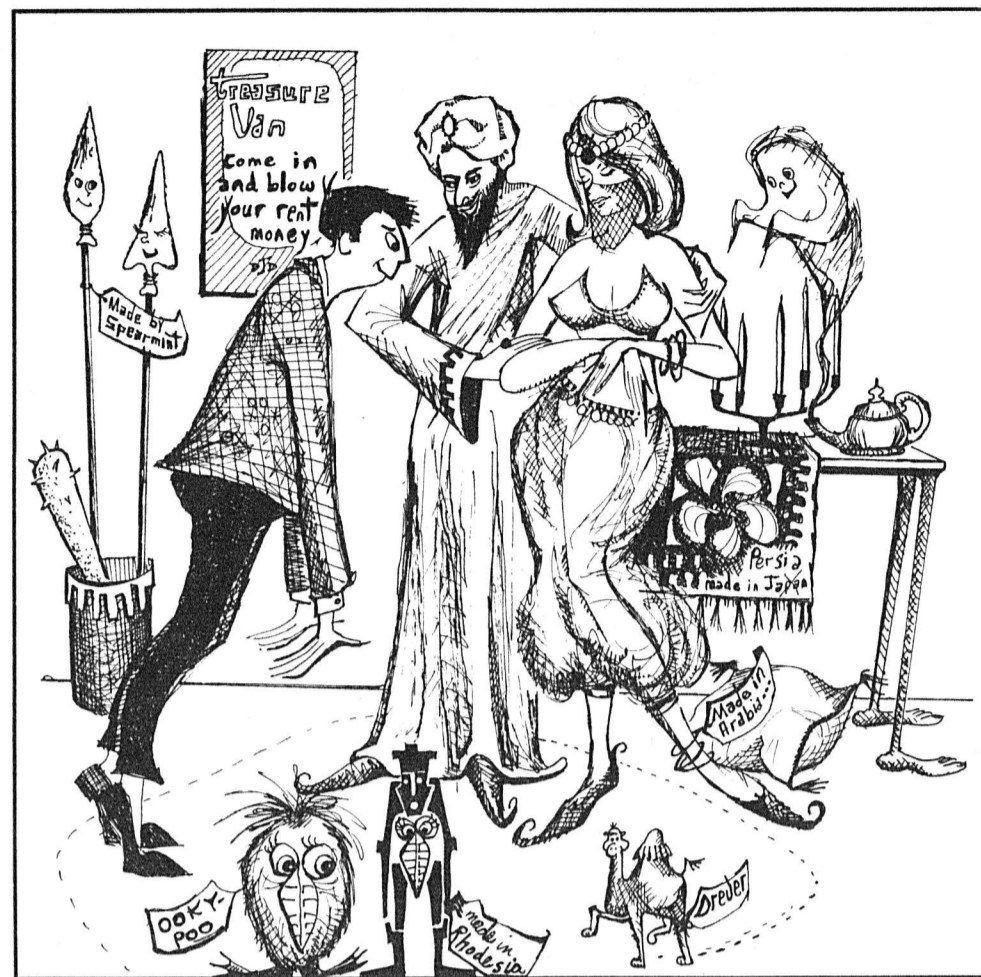
The answer is an unequivocal "yes."

This newspaper has from time to time since the beginning of the term suggested various things requiring the attention of the students' union. We note that, in every instance, action has been taken towards making the changes that will make this a better university.

The union has moved to improve service to students (bulletin boards, improved telephone directory), organize new activities, Student Cinema, Culture 500, Marching Band), and defend student interests (briefs on teaching, course evaluation presented to the Committee on Student Affairs).

In some cases, action consisted of appointing a committee or undertaking a study—these have yet to bear fruit.

But all in all, a very good record—so far.



"if you're from residence, forget it kid!"

## rare book room

by doug walker

The oldest book in the University of Alberta libraries? It is a collection of the philosophical and theological writings of Dionysius edited by Ficini and published in 1492.

It is part of the rare book and archive collection housed in the basement of the Cameron Library. The collection, made up of approximately four thousand volumes plus many important manuscripts and the complete university archives, is housed in a special area where light, temperature and humidity can all be controlled. To qualify for the collection, a book does not necessarily have to be unusually old. It is its rare nature that is important. Generally speaking, books published before 1800, in Eastern Canada before 1840, or in Western Canada before 1890, and books too fragile or valuable to be in the open stacks are kept in the rare book room.

For example, last summer the university acquired a collection of the early editions of John Bunyan plus contemporary works relating to him which is one of the three finest in North America. It also has an excellent collection of the writings of D. H. Lawrence.

The rare book collection is divided into two main areas, the general section containing works principally in the humanities and the social sciences, and the Canadiana section which includes any writings important because of their relationship to this country. The nucleus of this section is the Rutherford Collection donated by the late Dr. Rutherford, first premier of Alberta.

Strangely enough, however, few of the books in the collection were

donated to the university. Most material is obtained as a consequence of specific requests for research material by different departments. This material is often rare and costly, and must be kept in a closed stack area. Thus most use of the material is made by students or faculty members doing research in a certain area.

The manuscript collection most notably includes the Pearce papers, the Rutherford papers and correspondence, and the Alberta Folklore and Local History Collection.

The official university archives includes all official university publications such as calendars and exams, plus student, club, and alumni publications. All this material is collected and stored in conjunction with the rare books.

The rare book collection is under the direction of a special librarian trained in rare book work. Two university committees, one on archival material and one on the collection itself, provide policy guidance.

Because of the fragile or valuable nature of the collection, the stacks are not open to browsing. Any student may use the material, but he must either be looking for a specific book listed in the card catalogue, or be referred there by the reference department. This helps to maintain the condition of the collection. Aside from this closed stack policy, however, the use of these books is the same as for any other in the library. According to the librarian in charge, more people would use the resources of this collection if they knew more about its contents and its availability.