

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—SDU has infiltrated our paper. God help us. There were two of them. They were Andy Busse, who assured us he doesn't read Karl Marx, and Joe McNally who does. Others were Wayne Burns, who reads Peanuts, Ellen Nygaard, who studies "Games People Play", Ken Bailey who just sits around and looks pretty after having moved, Dan Carroll who is teaching the art of layout to Cathy Morris (another new staffer), Brian MacDonald, who plays little games by himself, Bill Pashak who washed his head and "just can't do a thing with it", Dale Rogers (mole) who bears no resemblance to Roy Evans, Bob Anderson, who thinks hockey is a pucking good game, Randy Jankowski, who refused to play any games with Brian, Judy Samoil who could only spare five minutes, Gail Evasiuk, who stayed overnight at a party but does not feel guilty because she helped with the dishes, and, of course, me, Harvey G. Thomgirt who just returned from Chicago after doing a story on Santa Claus for Canada Goose. P.S. Joe Czajkowski and Elaine Verbicky who couldn't come on time.

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1969

Dr. Johns — students never did get to know him

By BRIAN CAMPBELL

Three years ago when I was the "administration" reporter for this paper, I interviewed Dr. Johns. I forgot the exact subject of that interview—it had something to do with university financing or some other dry topic—but when we finished the formal game of question and answer ("And what about ...?" "Well, we're working on that.") he went on to talk about the university in general.

It was dull, grey, deep fall afternoon and his office in the third floor of the old administration building, despite its impressive furnishings, reflected the prospects of a cold winter that forced themselves in through the window.

As the conversation drifted away into a discussion of the university-in-general, I started fumbling for cigarettes and failing to find them sat there trying to make sculptures with my hands and wondering what to do.

I mean, I was impressed. We still were impressed with university presidents in those days. I remember I didn't even think of raiding the cigar box. But to return to the conversation, Dr. Johns was talking about classics and students and his days as Dean of the Faculty of Arts and he seemed a little sad.

The university had grown around him, he said, and now it was large and complex and he was locked at the center of it. When he used to be Dean of Arts he went through each set of exam marks personally to see who was doing better and who was doing worse. Hang-ups, he said, weren't new. When someone was falling apart he tried to handle it personally. He liked to call up students and find out

what was wrong. He saw few students in his presidential suite.

He missed the classics, he missed the classroom, he missed the students.

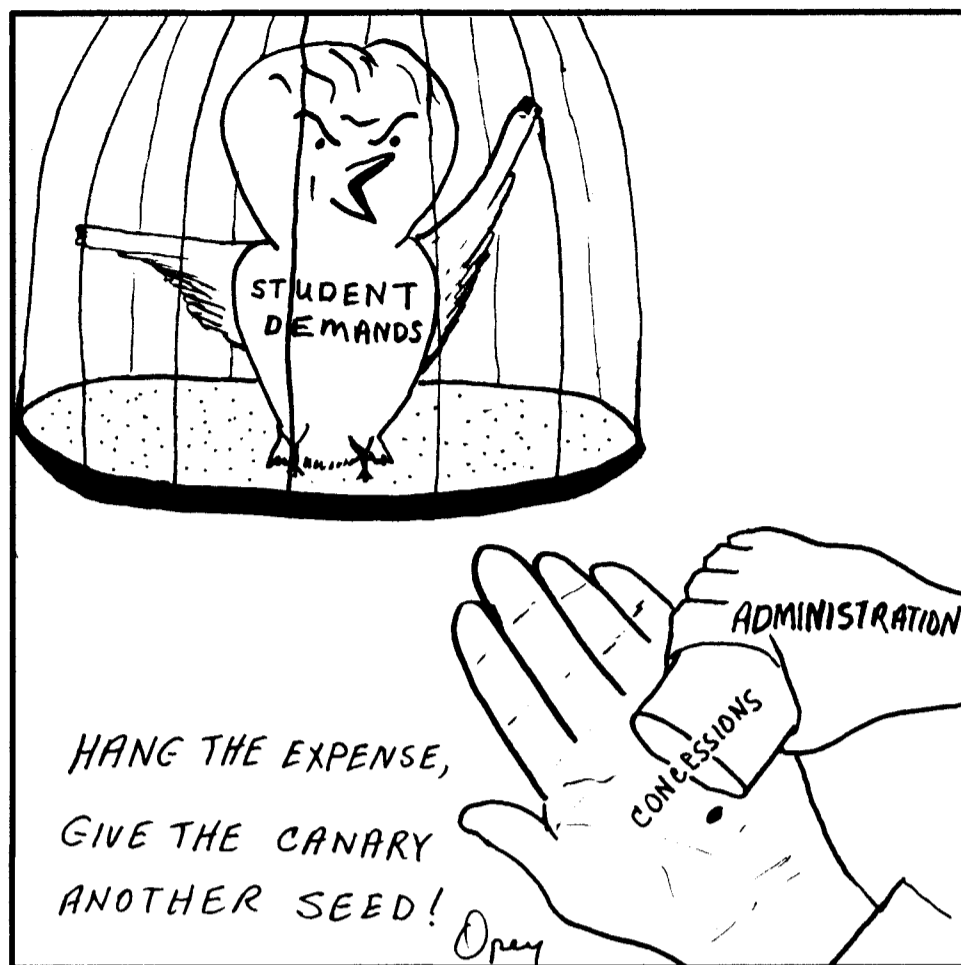
Dr. Johns became president after the resignation of Dr. Andrew Stewart and talking to him you got the feeling he didn't really want the job. But since he became president the university has seen the (supply five superlatives from Roget) expansion of its history. I wondered what being the head of a vast bureaucracy of the sort the University of Alberta has produced had done to the man.

Dr. Johns is going back to the classroom, and it isn't surprising.

Now we have to think about replacing the man and we have to think about avoiding the same trap after we get him. The president of a university, regardless of the number of administrative committees, regardless of the number of Chamber of Commerce dinners he has to address, regardless of size, and regardless of the articulateness of the students' union president, must meet and talk with the students.

When the new academic and administrative star rises in the East, we are going to have to make sure he doesn't set, rather rapidly, behind a pile of paper work. At the very least the new president should go over to the SUB cafeteria on the same day at the same time once a week, sit down at an empty table, and talk with anyone who wants to talk.

We never really talked to Dr. Johns and that is the tragedy of his presidency and probably has caused serious misunderstandings between him and the students in a few years. He did a good job, but we never knew who he was.



Two different views of a campus newspaper

By RICH VIVONE

A student living in Lister Hall was overheard one day complaining about the contents of an issue of The Gateway. He harangued his partner for several minutes until a person asked him to voice his objections through either a letter or an article to The Gateway.

The speaker was also told that if he did not like the news policy followed by The Gateway, he could join the staff and attempt to change it from within.

"Oh no," the objector said, "I'm not going to work for a commie editor."

That is point one.

Several days ago, one of our advertising salesmen cornered me in my office and told a tale of a local businessman who cancelled his Gateway advertising because "he didn't want to support the kind of thing the Gateway was doing."

"Why don't you phone the editor and tell him what you object to," the ad man said.

"If he's interested he'll phone me," the customer said.

When I called him, the businessman confirmed that he was not in agreement with the editorial policy of The Gateway. He said the writing was slanted and that The Gateway "seemed more involved in tearing everything down". He claimed that by purchasing advertising space, he was supporting the newspaper.

"And I definitely won't support a newspaper that promotes anarchy", he said.

That's point two.

There are one-page leaflets being passed about on campus and they are entitled Middle Ground. These leaflets are the epitome of gutlessness because the writer conveniently forgets to sign his/her name.

The leaflets specialize in attacks

on the SDU (Students for a Democratic University) to the extent that "the objective of the activist student group and its faculty leaders is explicit: the radicals are to control the university".

The same leaflet (Middle Ground No. 2) also blatantly states "we have had time to think over statements in various of the SDU handbills and articles in the SDU-controlled campus newspaper".

That's point three.

At the western regional conference of Canadian University Press, in which all student newspapers from Manitoba to Victoria meet, The Gateway was labelled several times in debates as a "fascist newspaper". No precise reasons were given for this but it was firm in the mind of a number of newspapers that The Gateway just wasn't in sympathy with the struggle and the cause of the radical element which control The Carillon at the Regina campus of the University of Saskatchewan and The Peak at Simon Fraser.

That's point four.

At the national conference of Canadian University Press held in Toronto Dec. 17-21, I was telling my managing editor Ron Yakimchuk that it appeared, from conversation with other editors, that The Gateway appears to have lost its fascist reputation. I said that no one had even mentioned the word to me and, in the same breath, asked him if he knew the reason for the sudden shift.

Ron had attended many of the conference discussions while I was covering the Waterloo Lutheran University congress on national student unionism held Dec. 28-30.

"They just aren't saying it to your face," he said.

That's point five.

Point six is this—who do you believe?