

Gateway Letterbox . . . Mostly Canning Kenton Instigators

Interesting, Interesting

To The Editor:
During the recent Student's Council debate on the Kenton fiasco Mr. Campbell made some interesting remarks.
Mr. Campbell expressed the view that the students were at least partly at fault because of their failure to support the venture. Now Stan Kenton was brought to the campus in the belief that the students were interested. This was an error of judgment on the part of the Council. Most of the blame must be assumed by them, since most of the initiative came from them.

To say that the students were at fault implies that they should support the Council in their endeavors. No doubt; but support of a government is, in a democracy, limited to those projects of which the governed body approves. Until the next election, disapproval can be expressed only by objecting to the proposal, and if necessary ignoring the proposal if and when it is realized.

If therefore an elected representative says that the governed body is to blame for the failure of a project that depended on their cooperation, that representative suffers from a misconception. The governed body is not obligated to support its government if it does not wish to. Even if the non-support results in a \$7,500 loss.

The notion that a governed body is obligated to support its government no matter what is a totalitarian notion. Even if the idea was expressed during a debate whose main object was to rid the governmental conscience of the guilt it felt on the loss of several thousand dollars of trust money.

Trying to place the blame on other shoulders may drive a man to extreme actions, especially if the blame is heavy. But the expression of a totalitarian attitude is hardly excused on these grounds.

Wolfe Kirchmeir

No Fan Here

To The Editor:
I address my first gripe to the Scrabbler. It seems Council put up \$1.40 of my money to bring Stan Kenton here. I'm not a jazz fan. Was I supposed to put up another \$3.00 to hear a concert I wouldn't go to for free, so Mr. Kenton's feelings won't be hurt and Council can claim a profit? Certain people have worked like hell to do something for the student, and the student doesn't like it, and ain't that too damn bad? Maybe they'll get disgusted and quit their jobs, and who cares? Half the students on this campus won't even know the difference. If they want to do something for the student they should first ask what the student wants done. It seems to me that the real reason people put time into things like athletics, Students' Council, and The Gateway, is that in some way they get satisfaction out of it. Normally I don't mind, it pleases them and it doesn't hurt me. But holding Homecoming Weekend was their idea, not mine, and the Scrabbler seems to blame me because it flopped. I didn't kill Homecoming Weekend, I let it die, and I will neither mourn nor exult. In plain English: mind your own business, and I'll mind mine, and we'll both be happy.

A somewhat less rancorous word to Kenneth Landry: If Med is an easy course, I shudder to think what sort of doctors we're turning out. Having tried both, I don't think writing essays is much harder than solving science problems. Neither is easy.

Finally, to those who think the Plumbers are getting special treatment: What would be a good motif for a mosaic on the Chem Building—a stained, tattered lab coat, maybe?
Sourpuss

No Fan Here Either

To The Editor:
Many reasons have been given for the failure of Stan Kenton's appearance at U of A, but in our opinion there was only one major reason for the "flopperooe". The students of U of A and the people of Edmonton as a whole are not ardent jazz fans, big name band or not.

We feel quite certain that a representative pool of students taken away back when the "Stan Kenton to U of A" was first born would have shown this quite clearly. We think that the reaction of many people (including us) would have been, "Who is Stan Kenton?"

In the future, no Students' Union funds should be risked on any big name entertainment. Granted, the prospect of a big profit is appealing; but the chance of a bigger loss is too great compared to the financial backing of the Students' Union.

Why not leave professional promotions to the professional promoters? Any students wishing to attend these high class, high price shows can still do so without jeopardizing all the students' money.
R. J. Liddle, Eng. 4
J. B. Branson, Eng. 4

Howl

To The Editor:
Notwithstanding the ululations of Kenneth Landry, I very much agree with your editorial on marks and financial assistance. And I don't share Mr. Landry's faith (blessed naivte!) that a student's devotion will counterbalance the difficulties.

In Arts and Science alone there is plenty of inconsistency. The various courses offer two sorts of subject matter. The more difficult kind requires mainly understanding, the other mainly memorization. Secondly, some courses have mainly essay-type exams, some mainly objective tests. A mark for an essay expresses an expert opinion, a mark for an objective test is simply the percentage of right answers. The psychology department, convinced that a mark has no value except as a comparison, often scales its tests, so that a mark becomes a direct, quantitative comparison with the performance of other students who also took the test.

The highest attainable mark on an objective test is 100 per cent. For an essay it is approximately 93 per cent. And these facts, though of direct consequence only to partakers of nectar and ambrosia, do have reverberations among us lower echelons.

It seems rather likely to me that a subject that combines material to be memorized with objective tests, is a lighter course than one that combines material mainly to be understood with essay-type exams.

Now let's hope the Administration

deigns to listen to hoi hippoi and does something about it.

Jean Du Marais
Arts II

Helping Hand or Handout

To The Editor:
It is heartening to know that WUS has launched a big campaign to aid the educational improvements in the Indian Universities. This shows that the Canadian branch of the WUS and the students who so vigorously support it are concerned about their fellow students in other countries. I am sure that the Government of India and the student bodies wholeheartedly appreciate and welcome this generous help. It gives great encouragement to the hardworking people who are trying their best to attain sound footing in every respect and stand on their own.

It should be recognized however, that regardless of their internal problems they have their pride. They like to be helped but NOT looked down upon. "Bucks for Bombay" sounds more like pitiful charity than a friendly helping hand. Do you give a dollar out of pity or because you really care for a friend? Some of my friends may classify it as charity but, if I am not mistaken, it is supposed to be a helping hand for the betterment of fellow students on the Indian Universities. I will suggest to the WUS campaign committee that they choose more appropriate slogans in the future for such worthy causes.

Santokh S. Basi

Poor Ken

To The Editor:
Methinks I hear yon braeing of an ass, alias Ken Campbell!

The Stan Kenton concerts were a flop, that's certain. But the reason for this is not so certain. Seems to me it would be much easier for 24 Council members to be wrong than 5,000 students.

How noble of Mr. Campbell to stand alone during a Council vote over the Kenton fiasco. How noble of him to remark:
"Let's go down fighting . . ."
But how much nobler if he kept his mouth shut, and pointed that big grimy finger of his right twixt his shortsighted eyes!

Edward Boldt

He's Great, He's Great!

To The Editor:
When Mr. Chris Evans, the "Scrabbler", read the University of Alberta in Calgary publication "The Gauntlet", he obviously overlooked page three, column one.

I quote:
"Small minds discuss persons
Average minds discuss events.
Great minds discuss ideas."
A fitting platitude.

Kurt Rees
Clyde W. Tucker
Barry Worsfold

ED. NOTE: So he's great.

"International House"

To The Editor:
I must congratulate you for the introvert criticism you have very courageously not censored in almost all regular features of The Gateway in the issue dated October 14, 1960.

I think the lack of enthusiasm of the U of A students clad in corduroy suits and other-wise on the home-

coming weekend, in attending the game, WAA's dance, and the ice-cold frigidity noticed on the rink at the Annual Alumni Ball are only a few interlocking pieces of the whole jigsaw puzzle. Few more pieces could be found scattered in the same issue in the "Glass House" and "Scrabble" and the news report on the Seminar panel discussion.

The additional criticism raised therein about the "FLOP" needs little to be said about. I just wonder if the SU authorities expected each one of the 6,000 or so stony U of A students to be interested in Jazz, when the \$10,000 warranty deal was made.

The point I am trying to make is that, this provincialism, this lack of interest, indifference, and lack of enthusiasm and spirit is probably not apparent to an "All-Albertan" freshman who has never had the opportunity to look beyond the boundaries of his little world. And even after coming to the University level, there is no such an outlet made available to him. All he knows is to fill the library stacks, labs and such.

It is the leaders of the student body who should direct the Frosh crowd to the various interests and not engage the Student's Union in unnecessary activities.

As a foreign student, new to Canada, this lack of friendliness, indifference and "provincialism" of the U of A campus is felt with an additional pang of pain.

Certainly something must be done to that end. One suggestion could be made and that is there is a need for an "International House" established on the campus (like which exists on almost all big campuses who have a large foreign student population), where the U of A student could meet the "foreigners"; perhaps some will be interested in new horizons opened by such contacts.

Mohan Vadekar

Sniff

Darlig, I do hate to cublade, but really, this has got to sdop. If you will notice, all the girls od the cabus are sbortig naddy liddle ping ad whide kleedexes. Jusd for the record I thought I'd led you dow why, No hair-dryers ad the swibbig pool, thad's why. Id's nod bad when you cad sid id the locker roob and led your hair go straid in warb peace ad quied, but whed you have do rub frob class to class with wed hair, thad's the libid. I'b through with this Phys. Ed garbage uttil hair dryers are idstalled.

Carol

P.S. This ledder is best read by holdig the dose. You'll receive the sabe sedation we ged, with our hair id liddle icicles ad our doses id liddle hadkerchieves.

Why? Why? Why?

To The Editor:
Why did Kenton flop? Does Student Council expect the student who doesn't like the Kenton brand of music to pay \$2 (or twice that with a date) to hear it? When we elected the present council last spring, did any of them mention bringing Stan Kenton to Edmonton? Knowing the attitude of Alberta students toward such things, why did the council risk a \$10,000 guarantee? It would seem that since the Student's Council was elected by we, the students, that they

should try to bring us what we want, not what they think we should want. The General Bullmoose attitude of "What's good for me is good for the whole country" may be fine in the comic strips, but it doesn't hold true in student government.

Grant Nielsen

ED. NOTE: Nearly every presidential candidate for the last three years has had a big-name-entertainment plank in his platform.

Dept. of American Affairs

Milord Editor:
I perceive by the several disquisitions presented by the Populare Presse (present company excluded) that there be a referendum forthcoming in Americka. These involv-ed, Milord, are two worthy gentlemen, a proper Bostonian who wants to give away the tropick isle of Quemoye, and an improper Californian who wants to keep it for a resort, I believe.

May I venture that they also are interested in the Moscovite Dominions, their kennel club in the outer ether, a scientifick cynosure Milord. "We could well have had a dogge in orbit five years ago," propoundeth Jack, "but Dick would not go." Respectfully,

S. Pepys, II

\$7,500 Shoulders

To The Editor:
With all due respect to the learned commerce rep, the culpability resulting from the Kenton debacle must rest squarely on the shoulders of council and NOT on the students. The empty seats in the rink are the results of a patently unwarranted assumption on the part of council viz. that the students are obligated to act pursuant to the wishes of council with regard to what entertainment they must partake of. It is indeed a mystery as to what basis was used for the reasoning that 40 per cent of the student body would put aside conflicting interests and attend to an entertainer known as a JAZZ artist. We have no quarrel with the merits of jazz itself, but we do query the analysis that almost half of the student body sufficiently appreciates jazz to pay two to three dollars to hear it in a tin can. The prime prerequisite of any successful government venture is that the undertaking pursue lines of common agreement and interest.

The Kenton capers lacked this criterion. Council in an entertainment venture does not smack sufficiently of a "patriotic cause" to stir the student body to abide blindly by its decisions—correct or ill-founded.

Vociferous Veale is passionately lamenting the fact that "big name entertainment" may never be brought in by Council again. Indeed this is a sorry state of affairs . . . it would mean only 47 instead of 48 big names in Edmonton next year. All the students ask is that council concern itself with matters pertaining to the governing, not entertaining, of the student body.

Re: Campbell's statement: . . . "we should get it out of these students this year by cutting back the budgets of all clubs. It's the students fault . . ." I'm sure most of the students feel like the Phillistines—they have been hit by the jawbone of an ass.

Tom Maccagno
Ron Neuman

SCRATCH SASKATCH!

ATTENTION BOB RATKE: Free soap for washing the uniforms if we beat 'em

EZEE DUZIT LAUNDROMAT