

# CIA and "activists"

They are doing the same thing as they criticized the students' council for doing when we withdrew from CUS—they are deserting the organization without attempting to reform it from within. The only difference is that U of A's students' council and delegation to the CUS Congress made concerted efforts to reform CUS before taking the final drastic step. But the CIA, as I said above, has never even approached the students' council.

While I'm at it, I would like to comment on Brian Campbell's recent article in Casserole entitled "And they should go-go elsewhere", since it was that article which prompted me to write these comments. In his article, Mr. Campbell makes sweeping generalizations about student leaders which I wish to dispute. In a journal of comment such as Casserole, Campbell has the right to expound his personal views, but readers have the right to know whether his views are based on fact or opinion.

Campbell's thesis seems to be "student leaders are immature and incapable of tackling the job before them. They are incompetent, egocentric, self-righteous excuses". He goes on to assert the U of A delegation to the CUS Congress misled the students' council.

He says "if something is not done soon, the university is going to destroy itself like a mad scientist's machine". He predicts "students and students' unions will have to

make a concerted effort to avoid another Berkeley here and all across the country".

These comments must have been made merely to stimulate thought—surely Campbell did not expect us to believe them. Some of his

**The arrogance of the CIA in establishing itself as the alternative to student government, as the only group who cares about "politicizing" the campus, is paralleled by its intention to act as a "conscience for council."**

catchy statements are downright humorous, such as the assertion that "everyone knows students' union leaders don't make mistakes—Branny Schepanovich, himself, has implied as much". After Schepanovich's repeated comments that students should be humble, that they should not consider themselves to be an elite within society, that student leaders should not be so arrogant as to presume to tell everyone how to run this society and this nation, that student government is often a farce . . . I find Campbell's comments ludicrous.

He exhorts his readers to "Go to council and watch the arrogance. Watch the smart remarks which cut down other councillors. See

the petty hatreds and the cliques. See the union paralyze itself". How dramatic! But surely Campbell is making these statements for effect and manufacturing them out of his active imagination. He has not attended a full council meeting since last summer, though he pops in and out regularly.

I know of no petty hatreds within the council. And any smart remarks are merely attempts at humour which give spots of relief to the four or five hour meetings—they are not meant in malice.

Not only does Campbell attack U of A student leaders, but all Canadian student leaders. Even the white-haired CUS boys take their lashes. Surely all student leaders are not irrelevant and incompetent—after all, they are elected by the students themselves.

I am neither part of the new left nor the new right—I consider those to be meaningless distinctions. Neither am I the CIA's kind of "activist", but I am an active student, and I have a very deep concern about the university community.

If we as students acknowledge that there are problems within the university and within the student government, we should work together to improve the situation. But the CIA should not attempt to tar the students' executive and council with the cliched epithet of "bureaucrats" when we are providing the leadership and initiative which we were elected to give.

If members of the CIA wish to make a contribution to the university as well, in a constructive rather than a destructive way, I suggest that this small group of

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students attempt to find a role more useful and more challenging than that of a "conscience for council": I suggest that they too get down to some serious work. We would welcome their contributions.

But the attitude of the CIA is only one of the attitudes which concerns me at the moment. It is part of a larger tendency which has manifested itself in the politics of student government this year. While we students dispute among ourselves about who has power and who is exercising it responsibly, we are neglecting some of the issues which should be concerning us.

As Prof. R. O. Berdahl has observed, "divide people into the 'we' and the 'they', and the resultant sense of moral commitment to a concept of absolute is highly exhilarating. But, if it creates intolerance of other people, a too facile habit of labelling others as

scoundrels, then it will create difficulties in the dialogue and induce a premature tendency to resort to direct action. This, in turn, will engender hostile reactions in the opposition, until the showdown will have to be a naked power confrontation".

As Mr. Bruce Peel, the chief librarian, said jokingly at the Nov. 28 council meeting, it's better to see the students fighting among themselves than fighting with us in the library. What he said in jest is very applicable to the present situation. In-fighting among students takes up so much time that it prevents effective action in some other areas.

If a group of students cannot work together for common purposes, cannot sit down and discuss reasonably the differences which arise among them, cannot make compromises and act in the best interests of the students as a whole and the university as a community, then it is a sad commentary on the future leadership we can anticipate in the community when these student leaders become leaders of our society and of our nation.

Dissent is healthy, and politicking is necessary even in student government, but let's not get carried away. Student government has more important things to do than engage in controversy and power plays. As a Warspite philosopher once said, "Let's put our shoulder to the wheel and stop stirring up the mud".

## Old-time Casserole libelous - - as usual

Humour in the early Gateway was quick to manifest itself in various columns.

Among the early columns was one called "The Gatewail". It appeared on October 31, 1916 with the following comment from the editor.

"The editor accepts no responsibility for opinion of the correspondents as expressed in these columns. Correspondents wishing to use a pen name must also sign their proper names for the information of the Editor, Faculty and Chief of the Police. Be brief."

Out of this and other columns there eventually grew the most notorious and li-

*In the good old days of Gateway the original Casserole started the color problem in campus journalism. Today they've degraded the old glories with derogatory tags like "yellow" and "biased." Here is the history of Casserole's first 22 years in the days when your father was telling dirty jokes. The article, by Claus Wirsig, is reprinted from the February 19, 1953, Gateway.*

belous as well as the most widely read feature The Gateway ever presented to its readers.

Reference here is made to "The Casserole."

Starting quietly on October 13, 1921, with the following editorial comment it did not bow out again until February 1943.

"Kindly be advised that we take no responsibility for the bemildewed humor of this column. We accept it as it comes, ask a blessing on it, and pray that it may be digested."

It was not long before the column appeared regularly beside the editorial section. Its infamy, too, was rapidly established.

Evergreen and Gold, 1922, read; "Several offers of libel suits by offended students, were presented to The Gateway during the session. Comments on moustachious, pretty pink knees, high-

spirited, solos from gurgling throats, bad debts, and awful women were some of the favorite objects of the wrath of fair youths and blushing maids.

"However, the office withstood the assaults of mighty words; and much hash is expected to accumulate in Casserole during the summer."

The jokes are typical Early Park Hotel Bar-room Floor Humor.

"Shirley MacDonald suggests that the 'commit' in the seventh commandment be changed to read admit."

(There is no address listed, and anyway Miss MacDonald is probably someone's mother by now.)

So it was no secret that Casserole was the first thing every reader turned to when the old Gateway came out, and Casserole wasn't blind to the fact.

Once, in 1926, the column told its readers:

**"NOW YOU CAN READ THE FRONT PAGE."**

Another time he wrote: "What's the use of writing any more. You'd only laugh at it."

There were diversions from the main theme at various times. At intervals the editors of the column sought to relieve the plight of the lovelorn and they even went so far as to offer free lessons in the "gracious art of making love."

There's no record of the success, or otherwise, of this venture.

A special section referred to as "Dithory Dox" came out with some rare gems of advice before it was abandoned.

During the early years Casserole editors remained anonymous. One of them put it this way:

Like radio announcers, editors of this much-read column are anonymous -- a necessary precaution for:

"If editors of Casserole were known to all students,

We'd have to write (we're sure of this) With greater care and prudence."

In later years, however, the powers that be decreed that these editors could no longer hide behind the cloak of anonymity. This was designed to curb the column's irresponsibility in its expression and coverage. Here are two definitions given at different times.

"How d'you like my dog, Casserole?"



Joey, aged eight, was seeking information from Jimmy, aged ten.

"What's a flapper?" Joey asked.  
"A flapper," replied Jimmy learnedly, "is a girl who dresses like a Girl Scout when she ain't."

A modern small boy went to school for the first time. He came home and was questioned as to his experience. "Nothing much happened," he said. "There was a woman there who wanted to know how to spell cat, and I told her."

He: "If you keep looking at me that way I'm going to kiss you."  
She: "Well, I can't keep this expression long."

The Carrs already had a very large family when the arrival of another little Carr was announced. "My goodness," exclaimed one of the long-suffering neighbors. "It is certainly to be hoped that this is the caboose."

**A Polished Diplomat**  
"Did you see anything that particularly struck your fancy when you were looking around the furniture shops today?" asked the young husband of his bride on her return from a tour of furniture inspection.  
"Yes," she replied, "I saw something exceedingly pretty in looking-glasses."  
"I have no doubt you did," he observed, "if you looked into them." And the halo of a calm, sweet peace rests upon that home.

Once more we are in luck. Next Saturday afternoon we will be able to once again see our pleasing co-ed hockey team hugging the professors down at the rink. Let's all go gang, and witness the amusing spectacle.

Pat stopped to read a sign in front of Max Goldstein's place:  
"Ladies' Ready-to-Wear Clothing."  
"Shure, and it's about time, mused Pat, as he walked on."

A stranger addressed the farmer's boy across the fence.  
"Young man, your corn looks kind o' yellow."  
"Yes, that's the kind we planted."  
"Don't look as if you would get more than half a crop."  
"Don't expect to. The landlord gets the other half."

**THE OLD CASSEROLE**

"Some hound! But why Casserole?"

"That's easy. He's a little bit of everything."

(Today it would read differently. Perhaps this way:

"How d'you like my dog, Casserole?"

"Some hound . . . etc?"

"That's easy, because they want him to call off his dog.")

No doubt better plans have come to naught.

One of the greater mysteries of Casserole remains the meaning of the name.

"No Freshie, Casserole is not the name of a lady's garment. It comes from cassa, the French for broken, and role, meaning character or reputation. Hence a place where reputations are shattered."

And this is how Casserole ended its first 23-years of publication.

In place of the usual heading with its slogan "If yer know of a better 'Ole, go to it" the annual Engineer's Edition of The Gateway on Jan. 29, 1943, came out with "The Better 'Ole" with "If yer knows of a Casser 'Ole go to it" as its slogan.

They announced that there would be no Casserole that issue and continued "instead, there will be a few jokes."

In their usual way the engineers then proceeded to show what they classified as jokes.

Before the issue went to press they had gathered material for the smuttiest newspaper ever to come from this campus.

Unfortunately, no one interfered with the publication.

Indignation was voiced on all sides and it appeared certain The Gateway would be banned. However, through careful manoeuvring the editors managed to throw Casserole and not The Gateway to the Board of Governors.

The Feb. 19 issue carried a column edged in black and entitled "In Memoriam."

Casserole editor, Charlie Glebe's closing comments were:

"We regret that with the passing of the Casserole goes a link with the past history of the university. But we feel this is all to the good. It is not worth the time and efforts of The Gateway staff to put out a paper if the only part the students read is Casserole."

"R.I.P."—Hah.