

## Spark in the dark

Where are our scholars? Who has hidden away our creative writers?

Within the bosom, or the back pocket, of this student body—albeit in the remotest of recesses—surely, somewhere, there are more than 15 who have something to say.

Fifteen wrote in the MacEachran Essay Contest last Saturday. Fifteen—out of 7,000 plus.

There has been plenty of publicity; no-one should complain that "I didn't know." Three hours writing time will not break anyone's back. The range of topics is wide enough to include fence-straddlers and the lunatic fringes. While it is interesting to observe that in 1934 the first prize was \$100, and in 1961 it is \$80, still, the prize money is more than a mere token.

Why then, don't our writers come running? One might be tempted to infer that the essay form is in decline. But in fact the MacEachran contest never has drawn more than 20-odd aspirants, even in days when that \$100 prize bought much more than it would today. In the words of a Philosophical Society past-presi-

dent:

"The original idea—to encourage literary standards and creative thinking—has never worked out satisfactorily. The contest has never really fulfilled our hope for stimulating keen competition."

Despite disappointment in terms of numbers, there is every indication that the contest will continue. Apparently quality is satisfactory; the few who come out can write. And there is every reason for us to encourage continuance of the project, on the theory that even a small spark in the dark is more light than no spark at all.

The test which this sort of contest makes is a real one: first, how much has one observed, and meditated thereon; second, can one express the same? Are we then, afraid to be tested? Or are we simply disinterested? Those time-honored and rather trite indictments of our collective mentality level—are they hereby proven true? Are we, in fact, mere apathetic automatons; success-sated slobs . . . ?

Or shall we note the rise in interest—13 writers in 1961, 15 in 1962—and herein find consolation?

## War on bread and jam

University of Alberta declares War on Want—well, at least the Student Christian Movement hopes it will. The idea is a once-a-week lunch on bread and jam; and send the saving to the starving. But most students will proceed through their lunch-times blithely unaware.

People become discouraged—if not totally immune—hearing this sort of thing. It's not just that we are busy; more, it is that the idea doesn't strike home with us because we are insulated, by comfort, from some of the basic and rather brutal realities of life. War on Want wants to cut through the isolation and touch a bare nerve—to get an impulse moving.

Starvation remains remote to you and me. Angola, Bolivia, China: what more are these than names? The hungry in our own city for that matter: they too are across a wide ocean.

It is a good thing that we are comfortable. But it is not an entirely good thing that we are so comfortable as to be oblivious to suffering.

War on Want, judging from the success of similar ventures in the past, is unlikely to raise much money. But there is another—and perhaps more significant—end in view. War on Want proposes to raise not only dollars but also public consciousness. It will contribute to awareness, and one day, perhaps, will come a breakthrough.

## Gateway's oldest staffer . . .

The man who has printed The Gateway for 40 years, Peter Biollo, retires at the end of this month.

Asked if he would like to do it again, Mr. Biollo replied, "wouldn't mind it at all."

Despite the fact that the university has "grown tremendously" over the past four decades, the print shop has not shown "that much change," according to Mr. Biollo. It is definitely "not up-to-date." The newest press, a small one, is 14 years old while the press on which The Gateway is printed has been used as long as Mr. Biollo has been there, but with no retirement yet in sight.

Mr. Biollo, aside from keeping the presses in top shape, was married and raised 10 children during the last 40 years. He has served under all of the university presidents except Rutherford.

According to the print shop foreman, Alf Hartwig, a person with Mr. Biollo's experience will be difficult to replace. "He will no doubt be missed."

Gateway editor had high praise for Mr. Biollo. He said in the annual national college competitions, printing quality is considered by the judges. "The Gateway's printing has always been rated among the best—even though the other newspapers were printed in gleaming big shops on new presses. The difference was conscientious Mr. Biollo."



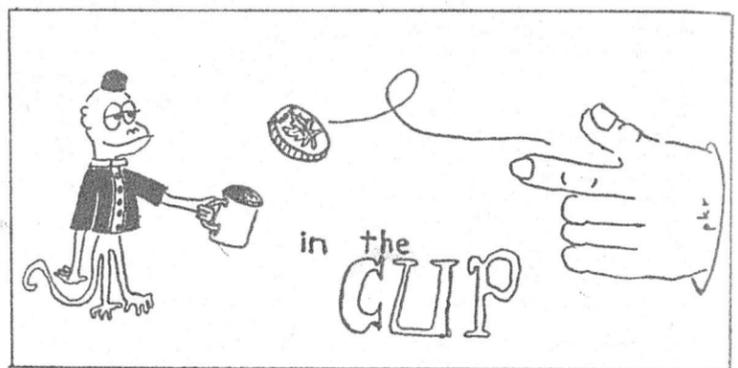
PETER BIOLLO

—Photo by Wm. C. Stenton

. . . to retire



. . . Boy! This is one engineer queen kidnapping that Mrs. Sparling will never find out about!!! Yuk! Yuk!



by Penny Meisner

Acute lethargy was the diagnosis of the ailment currently being suffered at Dalhousie. The symptoms, as listed by the Dalhousie Gazette, were a strange absence of both nominations for and interest in the forthcoming students' council elections. Presiding physicians recommended a greater interest be shown than was shown last year. It can get worse?

Fun and games still seem to have great priority over other things. In fact the whoop-it-up men have invaded even exam results. From the Dalhousie Gazette: Now is the time for all good men to . . . . RUN!"

### THINGS TO DO

Cards are the thing. McMaster, through pressure of a student petition, has rescinded a motion to disallow card playing. No doubt a move of righteous indignation. The oppressed shall arise.

Meanwhile McGill is laying plans for an intercollegiate bridge tournament. Togetherness is the best.

Swinging sounds to dine by is the order of the day at Regina College, with a daily noon jazz concert by a campus group.

Manitobans are going wild over a book of cartoons called "Eggbert" (by J. Gunther). It is a delightful expose of pre-natal adventure.

Fun is costly as McGill students are finding out. The minor misdemeanors of a few overly-enthusiastic football fans cost their students' council \$1,200. Apparently, damage to the three buses used to

transport McGill fans to and from Queen's was \$470. Damage to the special train—\$700. But then there were only seven policemen on the train. No comment necessary.

### BUSY BOYS IN BLUE

Engineers at McMaster offered the prize of a dream date. Included was a chauffeur driven car, a complete dinner for two, a corsage and tickets to the Plumbers' Ball. It was won by a fourth year B.Sc. student.

Kidnapped! The plaster mannequin mascot of the Silhouette staff at McMaster disappeared. Engineers are reported to have a hand in the matter.

### TERSE AND TRUE DEPT.

From Dalhousie Gazette a cartoon showing two little men facing each other with drawn bows and arrows. The caption reads "The tighter I draw the string the safer I feel." More small change next week.

## Locke the cash down south

The Associate Editor and incumbent Editor-in-Chief of the UAC Gauntlet, Corbet Locke, has written a letter to Dr. Walter H. Johns protesting the decision to demolish houses in the Garneau area. He declares that the \$6,000,000 would be better used in building facilities on the southern campus.

Three points made were: 1. the higher educational needs of Southern Alberta are at least as great as those of Northern Alberta; 2. providing full university facilities on both campuses would result in costly duplication at this stage of development; 3. UAC requires funds being allocated for the alleviation of crowding on the built-up Edmonton campus, while on the UAC campus almost all facilities have yet to be built. This was emphasized by the

statement "—with three buildings on a 300-acre campus, UAC is anything but cramped for space."

Locke feels that every cent spent on higher education should be spent with due concern for long range education needs of the province as a whole, and the campuses should be developed as "independently vital but complementary."

This decision is said to be a slap in the face for those who "in good faith believe that the Board of Governors will give UAC adequate consideration." Evidently this precedence "reeks of chauvinistic small-minded pettiness," and has aroused bitterness among UAC students and the citizens of Calgary as well as the ire of the Calgary School Board.