

The Gateway

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—Day One of our five-day experiment in terror began Thursday, when these hardy souls turned up for work: Ralph Melynychuk, Lorraine Allison, Marion Conybeare and Ekkehard Kottke, as well as numerous editors and yours truly, Harvey Thomgirt.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 1966

the computer wins again

Christmas examinations are largely over for another year, but many University of Alberta students will find them difficult to forget—difficult to forget because of the efficient bunglings of a computer which organizes their examination schedules.

Many students will trudge back to classrooms during the next week to pick up examination papers which represent nothing other than wasted time. No one profits when students are forced to write as many as three examinations in a single day.

The professor who spends hours and hours marking examination papers is certainly not going to profit much when he reads papers written by bleary-eyed students who were simply too tired to produce a good effort—too tired partly because they were asked to study for three rigorous examinations scheduled for a single day, and partly because no student can possibly be fresh for the third set of examination booklets he has had to face in six hours.

The examination schedule in use this year was efficient because more than 35,000 examination papers were written in slightly more than one week. But an electric chair is efficient too.

Instead of bragging about the large number of examinations scheduled for such a

short period of time, administration officials should begin investigating ways in which this ludicrous situation can be improved.

After all, the purpose of having midterm examinations is not to flunk a certain percentage of students; but rather to give the university's customers an opportunity to find out how they are doing in their courses and to tell professors how much their "customers" are getting out of lectures.

Perhaps the present midterm examinations could be spread over two weeks, so that students might have a better chance to beat the computer. At present, the week before midterms is regarded by many professors as an opportunity to cancel their classes. Thus the week is wasted by all those who choose not to study. And we suspect the list of persons who fit into this category is larger than many would care to admit.

Why not begin examinations January 3, and hold them during the first two weeks of the New Year. If this were done, "last-night crammers" and steady workers would all be accommodated; and nobody would have to face the spectre of three appointments with destiny in a single day.

The only other available alternative is probably impossible: build a small touch of mercy into the stainless steel soul of a certain university computer.

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The Gateway welcomes letters on topics of student interest. Correspondents are asked to be brief, otherwise their letter will be subject to abridgement. And correspondents, in replying to one another, should keep to the issues under discussion and abstain from personal attacks. All letters to the editor must bear the name of the writer. No pseudonyms will be published.

letter

To The Editor:

Your issue of December 15, 1965, carried a news item under the headline "DIE censures Provost Ryan" dealing with the view of the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board that all students are subject to its jurisdiction.

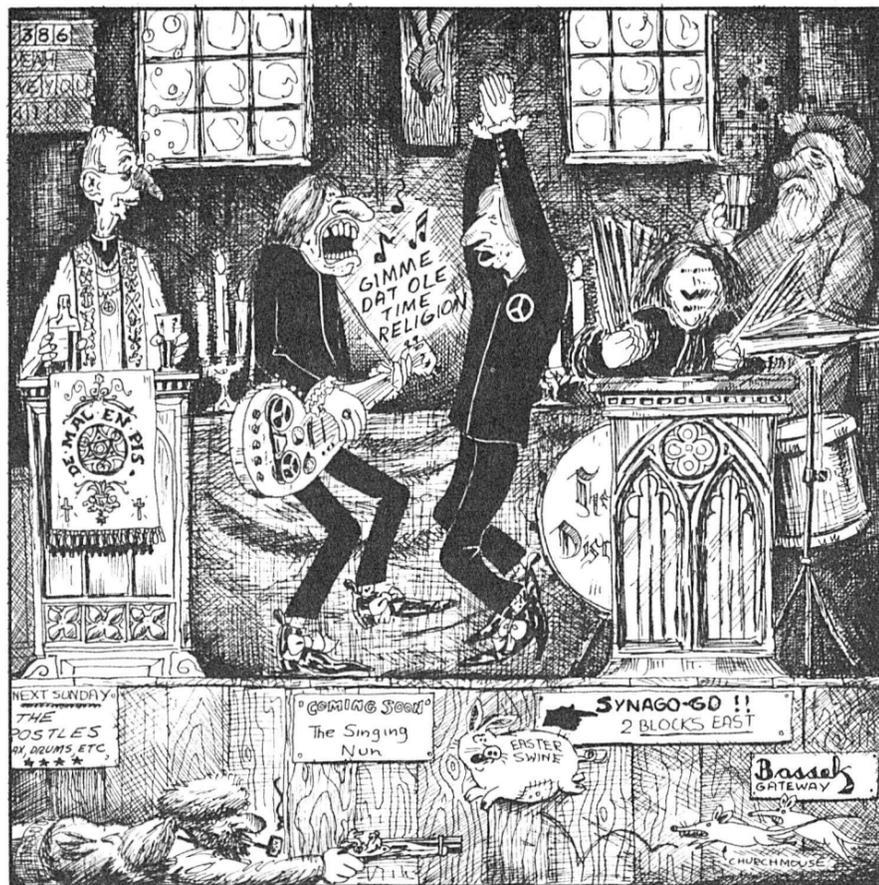
Since this calls into question the competence of an officer of the university with long standing experience in student affairs, and since the provost is unquestionably correct in his judgment of the case under discussion, I thought I should attempt to set the matter straight for the record.

The chain of responsibility for discipline in residence halls on this campus is lengthy but clear. It originates in the University Act which provides (Section 25 (1)(p)) that the Board of Governors shall "make such regulations as to the Board seem fit for the management, government, and control of the residences and dining halls . . .". The Act (Section 34 (1)(h)) empowers the Senate to "make provision for enabling the students of the University . . . to appoint a representative committee of themselves to be chosen in such a manner as shall be approved by the Senate" and (i) "to give to the committee referred to in clause (h) such powers of government with respect to the conduct of the students it represents as to the Senate seem fit". (It should be noted here that this representative committee—the Students' Council—was never given authority to exercise control over the residences or the conduct of students in residences). Finally, the Act gives to the Deans' Council (Section 65 (d)) power "to exercise disciplinary juris-

diction . . . with respect to the students in attendance at the University, or to delegate its disciplinary authority in any particular case or by any general regulation to any council, person, or body of persons". So much for the legislation on student discipline.

Down through the years, the Board of Governors has taken a number of steps to provide for the exercise of disciplinary powers in the residences. The first step, taken in 1912, was to set up a house committee under the chairmanship of the president of the university and to delegate to this committee the board's disciplinary jurisdiction with respect to students in residence. This committee was even given the right to hear appeals by students on disciplinary action taken by the students' union "should the interests of the residence be involved or appear to be involved". In 1914 the office of the provost was created "to exercise general supervision over the conduct and welfare of the students, especially with regard to the students in residence". At the same time the provost was made chairman of the house committee, replacing the president.

Since those early days the powers and responsibilities of the provost have been maintained and at the present time he is the secretary of the Deans' Council, chairman of the Committee on Student Affairs, and of the General Residence Committee. He is the chief executive officer of the university with respect to all student affairs by virtue of the powers assigned to his office by the Board of Governors and by virtue of his position on the



many churches go modern to get the people back

communication crisis (part one)

by don sellar

This thin, four-page newspaper is a symbol of a university which is further behind than most of its administrators would care to admit in providing essential services to the academic community.

Campus planning officials readily admit they are three years behind in fulfilling the rapidly growing needs of an academic community which has now swollen to more than 12,000 students, faculty members and administrators. With the institution's unpredictable growth has also come compartmentalization and specialization, both of which are creating frightening problems of impersonalization.

The computer age, in all its startling glory, has arrived at the University of Alberta.

But back to my symbol. The Gateway,

like many other organizations and clubs on this campus, has failed to keep pace with the university's expansion. It has failed to think ahead to the day in the not-too-distant future when this campus will require a specialized daily newspaper.

The indicators of an expansion need have been around for several years. There has been heavy criticism, for example, of the Edmonton Journal for its "failure" to carry more university news. The Gateway too has been tagged with the same sooty name, except our critics have also charged a lack of editorial responsibility.

Our critics should re-examine the charges they are levelling, because a closer look at our campus's communication system would reveal a number of interesting and pertinent facts:

1. The Edmonton Journal carries more column inches of university news and sport than does the university's own student newspaper.

2. The Gateway is the only university publication which is distributed to all members of the academic community, even though it was originally intended to be a student-financed, student-produced project (and still is).

3. Even though The Gateway is publishing more pages this year than ever before, it is still too small an operation to carry on the kind of dialogue which the editors would like to encourage and which its letter writers seem willing to contribute to.

4. McGill University, which is roughly the same size as our own, has had a daily newspaper for years; and while that newspaper is publishing in Canada's largest city, there is no reason to believe matters of academic interest around Edmonton could not support a daily Gateway.

5. The Gateway staff, though too small at present to produce a daily newspaper, is a group of young journalists who are eager to further any expansion plans, even though there is little, if any financial inducement for them to do so.

6. Future expansion plans for The Gateway may be curtailed for a simple, but frustrating reason: the new print shop building, will be ready for occupancy in August of this year, but THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THE PRINT SHOP WILL HAVE ANY OF THE NEW EQUIPMENT THIS NEWSPAPER REQUIRES NEXT FALL. The reason? A tight university budget which cannot be stretched by \$200,000 at a time when the university is quietly absorbing building costs which have sky-rocketed beyond all expectations.

(The writer will further discuss this problem in another column later this week.)

Deans' Council and as chairman of the two committees mentioned above.

Information on all these matters has been published annually in the University Calendar (see pp. 33 and 34 of the 1965-66 calendar) and in the residence handbook.

To come down to the present issue, the provost acted quite properly and within his authority when he pointed out that the "elected official of the Lister Hall residence government" was not subject to the authority of the DIE Board and should not answer its request to appear before it on a charge arising out of the performance of his duties in Lister Hall Residence. Since the DIE Board challenged this authority, the matter was referred to the Deans' Council at its meeting of December 15, 1965, with the result that the council approved the following resolution:

"that this Council approve the action of the Provost with respect to the jurisdiction of the House Committee in connection with discipline in the residences, and further that this Council confirm the principle that discipline in the residences is a matter for the House Committee, and that the House Committee is responsible to the Deans' Council and they are not under the jurisdiction of the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement Board of the Students' Union".

I think it important that this whole matter be given publicity in your paper, since it is a subject of serious interest and concern to all members of the university community.

Walter H. Johns,
President.