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more letters protesting the proposed rent hike for married student housing. also, letters on the band, engineers, 'nigger', judo coverage, and u of a—the dead campus. we try to print all letters, but please type any submissions you may have for this page. and please keep them as short as possible. we are swamped by pages and pages of campus wisdom (i.e. letters).

# letters

## the wasteland?

After observing the students on this campus for nearly two years, after talking to them about political activism and the meaning of their university experiences, I feel I must speak about what I consider the deplorable atmosphere of non-action on this campus.

Many articles have been written and much discussion has taken place concerning the current "turned-on" generation of college students; and much controversy has been generated by small groups of political activists and student radicals who have questioned the values of the university. Even if they are only a small fraction of the student population, those students who have sounded off have contributed to the stimulation of thinking and to the richness of university experience on campuses around the world.

But when one looks at the University of Alberta students, one is struck by the lack of any articulate minority or involved majority. They could be characterized by their non-action, non-involvement and their totally blasé attitude toward their university experiences and the contributions they could and should be making to their society beyond holding a steady job, paying their taxes, and keeping sober.

In comparison to the large state universities in the United States, or to the Universities of Montreal or Toronto, the students at this university are non-entities; little people who are passive, conceited and selfish.

In many of the so-called "emerging nations" college students, recognizing that they will hold the command posts in society in the next generation, have been at the forefront in building their country.

Over and over again professors have said that a college education means more than passively sitting in lectures. It means being involved and turned-on. And I am arguing that college students can be turned-on in other ways than by curling or the Friday night dance at the fraternity or drugs or sex. A university education should be liberal—meaning liberating, from narrow prejudices and beliefs. And it should be more than simply replacing one set of prejudices by another, certainly it should be more than a narrow technical training.

On all of these counts, University of Alberta students must get a zero. On the one hand, my critics may say that Canada has never shown a constructive nationalism, much less a sense of humanitarianism, so how can one expect her college students to do anything constructive. But on the other hand, one could hope that college students, or at least some small segment of them, would have enough initiative and concern to help create the conditions under which education and men flourish, to demonstrate idealism that would put their elders to shame and to show a common decency and concern for their fellow men.

People from Montreal and Toronto often describe Alberta as a vast wasteland. That is too harsh

a statement, but certainly students at this university have failed to meet the challenges of Canada today and have done little to contribute to the ferment and the passion that is a university.

W. B. Deval  
dept. of sociology

## thanx band

I wish to express special thanks from the Commerce Undergraduate Society and the Commerce Faculty to the Golden Bear Band for appearing at the Commerce Faculty Student hockey game.

The noise, music, and enthusiasm they expressed and displayed were greatly appreciated and added to the enjoyment of the game.

Thank-you, Golden Bear Band.

Michael Dunne  
President  
Commerce Undergraduate Society

## a question of taste

On the evening of the fifth of February, we, curious as to the nature of the engineering faculty, attended the mass rally in TL-11.

The purpose of this little gathering was to present the engineering princesses to the faculty at large. Each princess had some form of entertainment presented on her behalf as promotion by the section of the faculty she represented. The entertainment took the form of skits and kick-lines and was viewed by an audience consisting of a majority of engineers, some of the U of A nurses, there at the special request of the 1st year engineers, and a smattering of curious observers. All in all, perhaps 50 girls were in the audience.

Having attended shows of this nature in other schools and faculties, we expected to see some reasonably raw humour, but with some satiric purpose. We must admit that the engineers certainly outdid all our expectations. Right from the beginning the humour was certainly raw. Try as we might, however, we could not discern the satiric purpose. Very slowly the realization struck us that there was none. In fact, the show was basically a selection of filth presented for the benefit of those who were becoming inebriated. (Witness: the number of whole and broken bottles left on the floor). The extreme bad taste of the presentation was only outdone by the gross bad manners of the audience. We feel an unidentified engineer owes the first

year princess an apology. He directed a somewhat personal and embarrassing remark in her direction.

This type of antics would perhaps be acceptable in all-male company, for example at a stag party, but in mixed company it became a rather disgusting performance.

No matter how vehemently the engineers deny their reputation, if this performance was a manifestation of the type of activity they engage in, this reputation is well deserved.

T. Collins, sci 2  
E. L. Paquin, nu 1  
L. Young, nu 1  
G. Nichols, arts 1

equally as proficient and experienced as myself. I am deeply offended at being called "green" as are my teammates. I would suggest that the sports editor visit the judo gym some night about seven to see if what I have said is not true.

Finally, I must protest the brush-off our club has received in being reported in The Gateway. This tournament, as I have said, was the third, yet it is the first to reach Gateway. In spite of our accomplishments, we receive only a short caption while other sports, specifically hockey, basketball and wrestling receive almost blow-by-blow descriptions of the events. (I have no quarrel with these sports but use them only by way of illustration.)

David Robb  
grad studies

## ah, so!

I feel it is my duty to join the ranks of protestors against the inaccurate and inadequate Gateway reporting.

In the Feb. 2 issue there appeared a picture of a judo fight with a short caption. The caption was not only inadequate but also almost entirely false. It is true we took two championships. Those hitherto anonymous champs are George Dallas, a brown belt, who won the middleweight division and Lorne Hill, a white belt, who took the white belt allweights division. Not mentioned was the fact that four of the other judokus reached the finals or semifinals. That was no mean feat in itself for "green boys".

Now for the inaccuracies. The judo season did not "finally get underway last weekend". Strange as it may seem, we have been practising since October. This was not the first tournament of the season as you imply but the third. Furthermore, those "nine green boys" were not "green" in the sense you imply. There were two brown belts, four green belts, an orange belt, and two "green" white belts. I, myself, am a veteran of approximately 30 tournaments and if I may say so a fairly experienced judoku. I have talked and fought with my fellow teammates. I know that they are

## sin and corruption

Although I do not agree with the tone of the criticism and feel that such sallies are perhaps largely directed at the wrong things and people, I am beginning to understand why there are angry people like Mr. Jerry Farber in Canada.

Do I want to spend an evening out? I can go to the SUB and for a few pennies drink Coca Cola and play with funny money. The little dears! May I bring rattles and toy trains? or simply wear short pants and give the girls a thrill?

I have, of course, the consolation of staying home and reading "Gateway" before it adopts the tone of moral purity and righteousness which some would want it to have. And to those who can offer only more stuffiness to an already stuffy and frustrated world, I say: let there be sin, and plenty of it. If Canadian society has anything to repent for, let it at least know sin before. Redemption can only begin with sin and Luther's 'Pecca for—titer' is as valid as ever today. So sin, sin, dear lady (Editor, are you a lady?) and for Christ's sake, enjoy it.

Michel Queyrane  
grad studies

# michener park — a white elephant?

I read, with interest, the letter from a Michener Park resident, and I agree entirely with what he says. I only wish to add a couple of facts I obtained this past weekend while in Oregon.

At Portland State College most of the student residential complexes are privately owned and the rates charged are most interesting. For practical, unfurnished apartments in high-rise complexes, with all the necessities including carpet and showers, the rates begin at \$80 a month.

For a double-room in the dorms (also privately owned) the rate is a little more than \$100 a month including very good food (I ate there twice!) and rooms double the size of the Lister ones.

I think that it is somewhat ironic that "money-making" (although according to the Portland students not "unscrupulous") commercial landlords can charge approximately the same rates as are proposed here at Alberta and still write off their investment in 20 years and make a profit at the same time.

Possibly it is time that ways, other than raising rents, were employed to clean up a growing state of inconsistencies and dangerous trends in the department of Housing and Food Services.

I sign my name even though by the time this is printed I too will be a Michener Park resident.

G. W. Sinclair  
ed 2

Due to the "impending increase in rents for married student hous-

ing"—described in The Gateway, Friday, February 2, 1968, I find it imperative to write, since this is an issue that directly touches not only me but most, if not all, married students on this campus. I wish to express my concern at the proposed increase, not because I am now a resident but because we have been contemplating a move to these residences.

We presently reside in a two-bedroom unfurnished apartment which rents at almost identically the same rate as the Michener Park suites. However, it should be noted that we have a fully developed shopping center right across the street, a public library, a theatre and restaurant, a recreational park that includes a football field, tennis courts, ice rinks and the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium. Bus service is direct to the downtown area and to the university.

Within the buildings 'though they are not aesthetically appealing'—we receive excellent janitor service and maintenance, window-washing, free use of washer and dryers (at appointed times) utilities (with the exception of light and telephone), garbage removal and decoration (on a regular schedule).

It seems rather odd to me, as it must to other married students, that private enterprise can and does supply to the general public—at a profit—accommodation that has everything, including location, for an amount approximately \$20 less than the University administration is able to supply for married students—at a break-even point.

When this occurs one begins to question whether those in charge of supplying services of this nature to the student body as a whole are really serving the best interests of the students in particular and the university community in general.

It is with regret that I feel I must tender this protest of ONE. I understand, I believe, very well my own position and I have made an effort to understand the other side of the coin. But I really am left wondering about those that propose the increase—Have you really considered the student's position?!

R. Lynn Ogden  
arts 2

In your editorial, "There's No Excuse", you insinuated married students should protest about the proposed hike in rents at Michener Park. Well, we're protesting! We were shocked to read of rents likely to jump \$21.00. And what's more, we feel ill-used.

Our original date of entry was postponed THREE months while they finally got around to more or less finishing the place. Was the wait worth it? We thought so at the time. We would have three years in one place, where rents were reasonable. But we now see that we were allowed to move to Michener Park under FALSE PRETENCES. We can get a place any where for \$130.00 a month, and in a much more convenient location. Never would we have moved here if we had known about the impending rent increase. Never would we have

moved into one place while we waited three months to move here, only to find we would be forced to move again in the summer of 1968 because of the high rent charged.

Last summer we lived in an apartment only three blocks from the center of town. It was new, had an excellent view overlooking a park; had a swimming pool, sauna bath, sun-deck, and entertainment room supplied free for occupants; and each unit had wall to wall broadloom in the living-room, bedroom, and halls. Granted it was located in a smaller city and had only one bedroom. But for all this we paid only \$120 per month. And the manager obviously made a profit. There must be something wrong somewhere with the management of Michener Park.

Certainly the units in Michener Park are comfortable and adequate. But we could have done without the carpet on the stairs and the washer and dryer for every row house unit. Students are more concerned with maintaining reasonable living costs than with living in apparent luxury. We are quite capable of shovelling our own walks, etc. to save \$1.39 per month. Our windows still have paint on them and have obviously never been cleaned. Thus the window cleaning service of 55c per month is a wasted effort.

Please Mr. Bone, reconsider your rents. If you do not, you may find Michener Park has become a white elephant, a complex to live in with no students there.

Linda Paul  
grad studies