

The Gateway

Member of the Canadian University Press
Winner N. A. M. MacKenzie Trophy 1963-64
Winner Ottawa Journal Trophy 1963-64

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1964

Can Students Be Trusted?

Students on this campus are not to be trusted.

At least, the numerous administrative controls now in force would seem to suggest that.

For example:

(1) Book fines—This year the libraries on campus found it necessary to institute fines for overdue books. By some magic formula 25 cents a day was arrived at as a suitable penalty for offending borrowers.

(2) Checkpoints—To protect the Cameron Library's limited (for a university this size) supply of books a checkpoint manned by full-time employees was set up last year. The theory being that students must be protected from themselves, for many through neglect or design failed to sign out books.

(3) "Censorship"—A nasty word, with foul implications, though somewhat appropriate to the practice of classifying some books at Cameron Library as not fit for general consumption; and thereby, placing them in some obscure area of the library where only the most "sincere" and well-intended can find them.

(4) Snowfences—How many times have you tripped over these ingenious inconveniences? Every autumn snowfences appear almost overnight as a grim reminder that winter lies close at hand. The principle being that the shortest distance between two points may not be in the best interests of the grass on this campus.

(5) Pay Telephones—Almost unnoticed, unless you too were caught without a dime, pay telephones have replaced previous "free" phones on campus. Officials cite abuse as the reason. The Students' Union Building remains the only building offering free service.

(6) Dormitory Hours—The prac-

tice of enforcing curfews on our innocent female residents still remains. The theory being that if you control the women you thereby control the men. Pembina Hall is this year conducting an interesting experiment—no curfews. It is an encouraging sign.

(7) Dormitory Visiting—In short, there is none—between members of the opposite sex, of course. There are no indications that the administration will try an experiment with limited visiting privileges either.

(8) Alcohol—A perennial complaint, but there is no movement on the part of the administration to seek a change in present regulations.

The evidence is clear. The administration doesn't trust students. And for what reason?

The answer, it seems, is obvious. There is no honor among university students—they cannot, indeed, be trusted. Many students abuse one or all of the eight cases mentioned above.

They refuse to return books to the library on time, thus inconveniencing many students and adding to the administrative problems of the library. They have a habit of borrowing permanently most of the more "controversial" books. They ignore sidewalks. They make long distance calls on university numbers. And it seems reasonable to assume they would abuse visiting privileges and concessions regarding alcohol and dormitory hours.

Must we plead guilty? In our hearts do we know they (the administrators) are right? What have students done to encourage trust?

Let's ask ourselves these questions, and answer them honestly; and perhaps, in time, the administration will cease to think of student affairs as "wild life management."

Campus Parking -- A Big Joke?

University officials are not solving the U of A parking problem.

They admit that they are having difficulty "keeping even" with increasing student demands for parking space while new buildings replace old parking areas.

They admit that parking structures are inevitable and suggest that students should use more public transport facilities to ease the problem.

Are they trying to solve the problem though?

An attempt is being made to provide low-cost gravelled and paved parking lots.

Also, an outside consultant is being "considered" for a formal study of campus traffic problems.

Meanwhile, university officials discuss parking structures as "inevitable", but fail to formulate any immediate parking solutions.

Typical of the administration's confused approach to campus park-

ing is the "K" Lot behind the new residences. Lit by mercury-vapor, this lot is to be used for general parking. Daytime parking, that is.

There is even the suggestion that the lights were installed there by mistake. Surely this is not an example of low-cost, temporary parking lots.

Also typical of the administration's attitude is Major R. C. W. Hooper's suggestion that the City of Edmonton should treat university traffic as a civic problem.

We do not agree. The parking issue is a university problem which cannot be solved by buck-passing.

We suggest that the administration face its problem squarely by hiring a professional consultant to untangle the knots which amateur parking "experts" have created.

And we suggest that this be done NOW—before the "big joke" is a sixty-storey parking structure.



"YOU CAN FIND THESE BOOKS IF YOU KNOW WHERE TO LOOK"

Under The Gavel

by Les McLeod

There comes a time in the life of any columnist, when due to circumstances largely beyond his control, he is by the force of necessity doomed to using that most abhorred of devices—the potpourri. In other words: here are sundry views on Monday's Council meeting.

Dealing with a motion calling for council support of a request that the federal government apply economic sanctions against South Africa, one councillor pronounced the topic "unimportant and trivial." This kind of narrow outlook seems markedly out of place on a body composed of mature, concerned and supposedly well-informed students.

The question of lobbying for more government support for married students was discussed. Eric Hayne, commerce rep, was particularly enthusiastic about doing something about the problem. I couldn't agree more; but perhaps the reason for little action in the past is that most married students are grads, and they take notoriously little interest in council or the union.

Rumors are that something will be done about this soon. I sincerely hope that "something" is not the formation of a separate grad council. This would split student opinion, activities, revenue, and power—an unfortunate situation.

Consideration was given to the formation of a large committee on union organizational structure, and

programming in the new building. This will be the next huge project (as the Planning Commission itself fades) and I wish more people realized the magnitude of the change in our concept of a union that will have to take place in the next two years.

The "man with the axe", Treasurer Richard Price may be having a "special sale" soon—the finance commission under-estimated revenues to the tune of \$6,500: \$1,200 bit the dust Monday.

For studying the nature and workings of a government at close range I can recommend nothing better for the beginner than the Students' Union. It is really a miniature government with its own executive, legislative and judicial branches, as well as checks, balances and power problems.

Monday night's poser was: is the Executive responsible to the electorate directly or must it act as instructed by Council? My interpretation (from the Union constitution) is that Council acts as both the legislative and executive body and that the Executive per se can only act by delegation from Council as a whole. If You're confused, it can be ruled on by the Disciplinary Interpretation and Enforcement Committee, the Union's judicial arm. If this is appealed we have our own "UN" in the Committee on Student Affairs, the final arbiter below the Board of Governors.

The Papermakers

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The Gateway is published twice weekly by the Students' Union of the University of Alberta. Opinions expressed by columnists are not necessarily those of the editors. The editor-in-chief is responsible for all material published herein. Final Copy Deadline: for Tuesday edition—7 p.m. Sunday, advertising—4:30 p.m. Thursday; for Friday edition—7 p.m. Tuesday, advertising—4:30 p.m. Monday. Advertising Manager, Bev Bayer. Circulation 7,500. Office phone—433-1155.