

GATEWAY features

English Subs Have Pubs Canadians Probably Not Ready

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Major R. C. W. Hooper is a father with 5,000 sons. As Adviser to Men Students he has to be. He's a man who's "been around"—as is attested by this interview with Larry Krywaniuk. He's seen the college scene in a lot of countries. His experience could be drawn upon on this campus, to the benefit of everyone. We're not that perfect.

Every SUB has a pub. In England, that is.

Major R. C. W. Hooper, in his tour of seven English universities last summer, found that students' union buildings all had pubs. There, the student may have a pint of cider or beer to wash down his sandwich or pork pie, or perhaps just relax between classes.

This has been a very controversial issue here on the Edmonton campus and there were various groups pushing either for or against. The issue perhaps was one of "are we ready for it or not?"

ATTITUDE DIFFERENT

"The attitude toward the student is much different there," he said, "and nobody ever abuses the privilege." The students spend their lunch hours there conversing about the same topics as we do in our coffee shops. "One can get coffee there too, if you like English coffee," he added.

"Here," he said, "it is hard to say. The students are not trained to the same extent—general acceptance of beer is everyday life there."

"It might settle down to that here once we get used to the idea, and abuse would cease. This is far preferable to the Friday and Saturday gathering at the local pub," he added.

In England, it is usually just a few beers—much more relaxed with the attitude of acceptance.

These findings were the result of a holiday in Europe which also led Major Hooper and his wife on a tour of the universities.

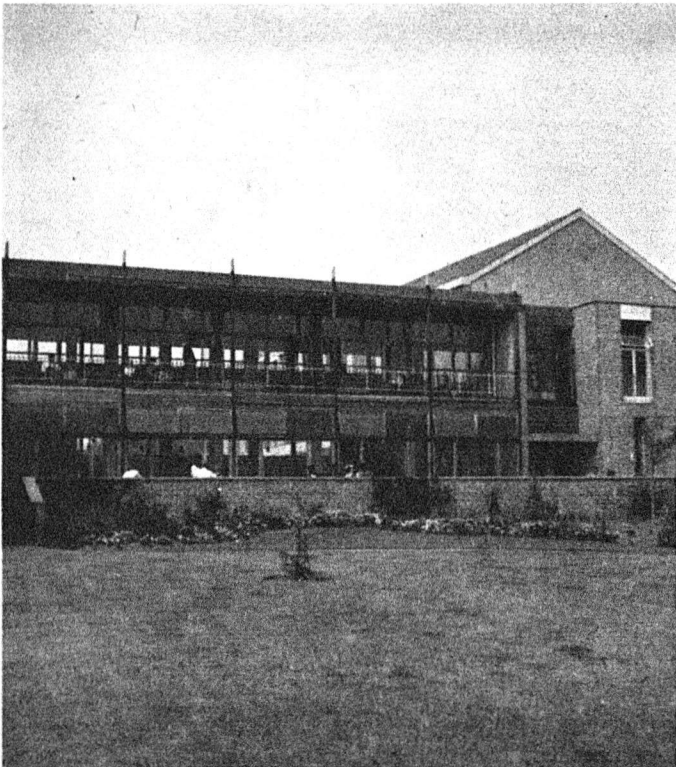
The University of Alberta heard of his plans through the Department of Extension, and suggested that he might look over some of the universities there and perhaps pick up some information on student activities, government and residences.

LONDON STARTING POINT

Major Hooper started his tour from London and first went to Bristol, where he found a growing, unhomogeneous campus, scattered throughout the somewhat hilly and disorganized city.

Here he met the President and Lady President of the Students' Union who guided him through their "present ancient SUB, their already started new SUB, and their beautiful residences."

At his next stop, Birmingham, Major Hooper found what he described as an original red brick university centre, with a brand new SUB and a growing campus. The campus is centered by the old red brick structures which gradually change to more and more modern structures as one moves radially outward.



EXETER STUDENTS' UNION

Right at the perimeter, and situated in park-like surroundings, are beautiful new residences.

Travelling on, he came to Keele University, inhabited by 900 completely residential students. An interesting feature of their new SUB is the rough unfinished concrete interior. "It becomes very attractive when you get used to it," commented Major Hooper.

UNIVERSITY OF KEELE

The U of Keele is situated on the original Sneyd Estate, and the original mansion is used as a faculty common room and residence. The university is close to Manchester, but is slightly too separated in Major Hooper's opinion.

His three week tour, organized by the British Consul, also took him to Nottingham, Cambridge, Exeter, and London Universities. These universities all are growing and have problems that are similar to ours, he said.

When asked about the age of students, Major Hooper ventured that it was about the same as here, "but they have better attitudes towards their studies. There is so much competition that they pretty well have to cut the mustard once they are in."

Once they win a place they tend to become "professional" students, attending until they receive a doctorate or are forced to leave. Their interests are different, tending to be more serious. Debating, for example, is one of the main interests, he added.

Major Hooper met a number of students individually while in England. Two, for example, were the President and Lady President of the students' union at Birmingham. Both had been to Canada on summer jobs.

CANADA CLUBS REPRESENTED

Most universities had a Canada Club which arranged for charter flights, mostly to Eastern Canada. Some of these clubs were organized by former Canadian faculty members.

"Most of the students were interested but it was hard to tell whether the interest was genuine or they were just being polite," said Major Hooper. "One of the students was looking through our handbook when she burst into gales of laughter," he added. It seems that our university song is much too serious—something that would never "go" over there. One university song was something about their "old man" being a fireman on a railroad line.

In general, Major Hooper found that universities all have large (non-coeducational) residences, programs of expansion, and that there are no fraternities.

BUSSES AND BICYCLES

Students live a bus (or bicycle) ride away or on campus. There are very few cars on campus and almost no parking (except for bicycles.) Playing fields and stadiums are usually separated from the campus, but are used frequently since most students are very sports-minded.

Nearly all foreign students have lodgings and offices found for them. They are given addresses of a number of landladies and they check the rooms individually to find if they are satisfactory.

"They have most of the same problems that we have, and life generally is quite similar," Major Hooper said.

HINDU FUNERALS TO JEWISH LAUNDRIES

"My job as Adviser to Men Students is a very interesting one," says Major R. C. W. Hooper. "It has taken me from Hindu funerals to Jewish laundry and everything in between," he added.

In explanation, he added that several years ago a Hindu student had passed away and he had to arrange for and attend the funeral. On the other hand, the Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity had rented out their house to a ball team which left it in a mess, laundry and all. Major Hooper had to, of course, arrange for restitution.

His main area of concern is the extra-curricular phase of student organization and student life, as well as the welfare of foreign students. One of his main problems here is lost passports. He is also the editor of the Student Handbook and Student Council Committee's advisor along with Mrs. J. Grant Sparling, Dean of Women.

Major Hooper also attends all major campus functions and assists in the continuity of student life and in fraternities. In addition, he is the Secretary of the Committee on Student Affairs, advisor on student problems and he must approve the budget and changes in the Student Constitution.

OFFICE GREW INTO EXISTENCE

His office came about as a result of the growth of the university. The added duties of extra-curricular activities became too much for the provost to handle. Although extra-curricular activities still fall under the jurisdiction of the provost, the details have been passed on to the Adviser to Men Students in conjunction with the Dean of Women.

Between the years 1952-57, Major Hooper, as resi-



PEMBROKE COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

dent officer of COTC, developed a good knowledge of campus functions and personalities (staff and students).

In 1959 when, just two years after Major Hooper's retirement from 28 years of army life, the president asked him to take this position he replied that he would be "only too delighted" to accept.

GROWTH AND EXPANSION

With the growth in the number of foreign students, their welfare was added to his responsibility along with the Graduate Students' Association.

"The job is extremely pleasant as it brings me in contact with many Canadian and Foreign students," commented Major Hooper.

"The main thing in advising any organization, I believe, is the policy of least government is the best government. I just keep an eye opened and offer assistance when things go off the rails," he said.

Major Hooper has an arrangement with the police whereby if students get into custody, he is notified. He then tries to locate parents and offer assistance.

"One of my problems is trying to raise \$250 on a Sunday to bail some poor fellow out. They usually justify my faith," he said. "Most of the fellows could raise the bail if they could find someone they know," he added.

MAJOR HOOPER'S NAME ENOUGH

The Attorney-General's Department has now given him the authority to release students from custody on his personal recognisance. There is no need for bail.

"The police usually call at four or five in the morning. In one case, the police had eight engineers in the tank for drinking and putting a Volkswagen on the sidewalk, and they were wondering what to do," he said.

"Engineering week is the low point in my year. Only after that can I breathe a sigh of relief—anything can happen then," commented Major Hooper.

"At that time of year, whooping it up is necessary—pressure is built up—but it can lead to serious consequences," he said seriously.

PARKING VIOLATIONS

Parking malfeasance are the most common, he says, with the standard excuse "I was late for class and . . ." "There are, however, two or three chronic nuisances who park anywhere without consideration," added Major Hooper. Most, though, seem to be due to ignorance or misunderstanding, he reiterated.

"The reason for fines is not to make money but to establish good parking habits," he said. Parking offences can lead anywhere from fines to removal of parking privileges and withholding of marks.

"There have been dozens of people phoning long distance and wondering why the marks have been withheld. Failure to pay parking fines was the reason," he said.

"One of my adventures," he said, "is being at the mercy of the publicity people. I go through physical hardships and I'm even auctioned off at raffle," he added jovially.

"It is a very pleasant job—I like students and it follows that I like my job," he said.