

# The Gateway

Member of the Canadian University Press

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**STAFF THIS ISSUE**—Sunday night was very hectic around The Gateway office. First, the telegraph office lost the football story from Toronto. Next, the post office couldn't find the pictures from the game. Then suddenly, out of the blue, the telegraph came, we found the pictures over at Lister Hall and Jim's wife made us some sandwiches and coffee. Keeners on Sunday were Jim MacLaren, Sandra MacLaren (she made the sandwiches), Neil Driscoll, Lorraine Minich, Bill Beard, Jackie Foord, Nick Riebeck, Bev Geitz, Suzette L., Lorraine Allison, Ralph Melnychuk, Sheila Ballard, Gloria Skuba, Monica Ulrich, Jan Sims, The Hulk and yours truly, Harvey Thomgirt.

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1965

## a cultural explosion

Speakers at Convocation Saturday had a lot to say about the blossoming of culture in Alberta, particularly in the enlightened North (Edmonton and district).

Alberta is famous for its cultural contributions, but it is the South and not the North that must take the laurels.

We of the "little Renaissance on the North Saskatchewan" have nothing to match that mountain citadel of culture, the Banff School of Fine Arts.

But if it is only this lack that separates us from cultural prominence, someone ought to consider the possibility of doing something about it.

If it is really the "Gateway to the North," Edmonton should be fighting for things like this to make the North more worthwhile to

enter. The BSFA attracts many conferences, and there is presently no similar conference center anywhere north of the Prairie Bible Institute.

There are drawbacks. Jasper is just as far from Edmonton as Banff, though the seclusion factor may attract students fleeing from Baedekered Banff.

A more serious consideration, and which is probably the reason why we do not enjoy the artistic license of our brothers to the south, is that there may not be enough students or conferences to justify two art centers in the province.

If this is so, we can only hope that culture in Alberta is on the rising part of the exponential curve, and that the "cultural explosion" cited at Convocation will do more than just spatter paint.

## several empty seats

There were several empty desks at Thursday's meeting of the Senate Committee on Student Affairs. We cannot accept excuses from the faculty and student representatives who did not attend this meeting, supposedly one of the year's important meetings involving issues of student government.

Excuses do not help students and faculty members to find new and profitable working acquaintances with one another. Excuses do not encourage working relationships among groups which have the greatest stake in this institution's development.

Faculty members, in the past have not made a habit of attending these meetings; and now students are fast becoming disenchanted with the committee's progress.

The following COSA members did not occupy a seat at Thursday's meeting, even for five minutes:

Dr. W. H. Johns, university president; F. P. Galbraith, LL.D., univer-

sity chancellor; Dr. C. M. Macleod, LL.D., Q.C., chairman, Board of Governors; Dr. Max Wyman, university vice-president; Dr. D. M. Ross, dean of science; Dr. W. C. MacKenzie, dean of medicine; Dr. H. R. MacLean, dean of dentistry; Dr. A. G. McCalla, dean of graduate studies; Dr. Hu Harries, dean of commerce; Dr. M. L. Van Vliet, dean of physical education; Marilyn Cook, president, women's athletics; Wayne Glass, chairman, men's residence house committee; Elsie Blake, chairman, women's residence house committee and among the committee's non-voting members, Joel Stoneham, director of housing and food services.

We are pleased to note that Dr. R. M. Hardy, dean of engineering and Branny Schepanovich, chairman, discipline, interpretation and enforcement board, managed to send other persons to represent them at the meeting.

Other could have done the same.

## we sally forth

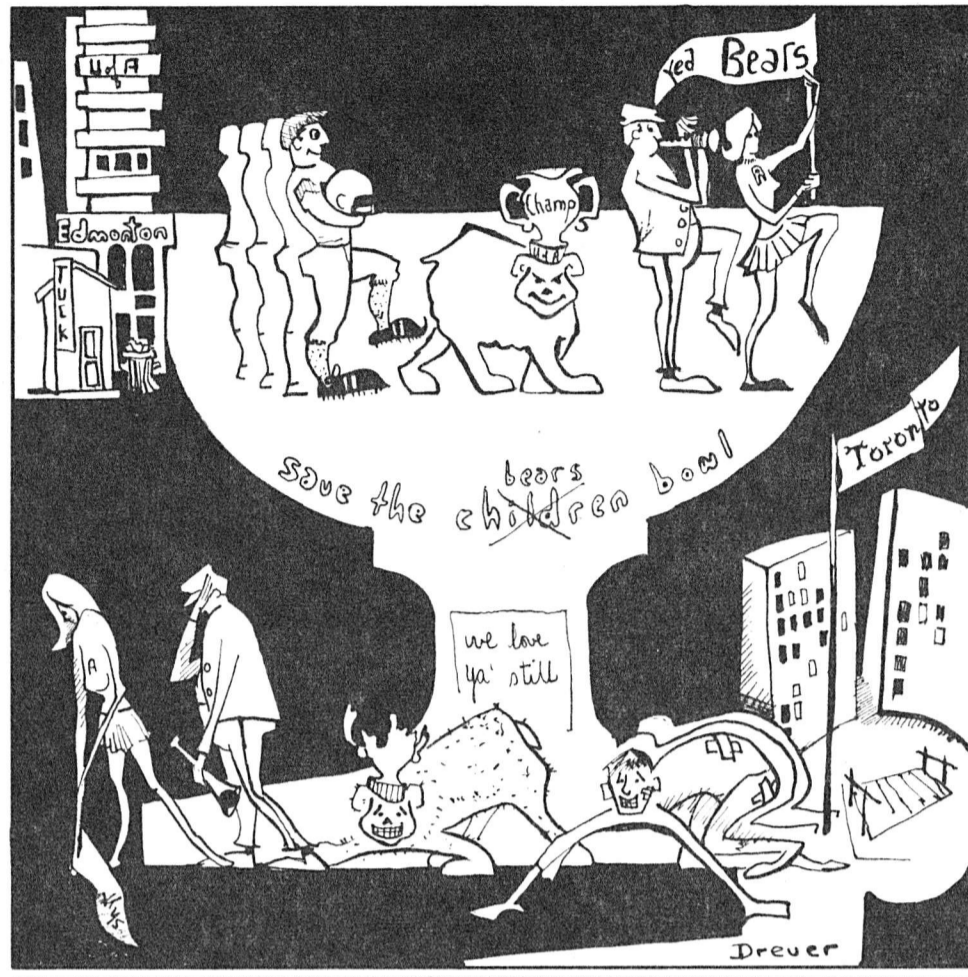
This newspaper has appealed an Alberta Liquor Control Board decision against the placement of liquor advertising among our pages. We are appealing what we consider to be an unjustifiable decision made by an extra-judicial body acting in an arbitrary manner.

We know of no other newspaper in the province which has been discriminated against in this way, and we are concerned about our position as an independent voice in an aca-

democratic community.

The university Board of Governors, directly or indirectly, has expressed an opinion which affects this newspaper's advertising content. ALCB chairman A. D. Elliott has said this opinion is one reason for turning down our liquor advertising application.

If our advertising policies are being influenced by the Board of Governors, how safe are our editorial policies from the same influence?



## winnowing the grain

—by don sellar

An expression of concern crossed the face of Dr. D. E. Smith, dean of arts, when he told the Committee on Student Affairs the other day how much he welcomes student criticism of teaching in his faculty.

The room grew noticeably quieter while deans of other faculties listened to Dr. Smith's description of a recent attempt to evaluate the teaching abilities of 150 lecturers in arts subjects.

It is neither easy nor pleasant to sit down and evaluate a lecturer's worth, suggested Dr. Smith; but the problem is one which bothers many persons who administrate our academic community.

The relative importance of teaching and research skills is extremely difficult to assess, the dean said, and this university is now attempting to place equal weight on the two skills when it hires academic staff.

Then Dr. Smith mentioned the problem which probing fingers of our administrative machinery cannot solve without guidance and direction. He considered the problem of bad teaching.

Student representatives on COSA perked up considerably when he admitted that administrators at this university never hear about "bad teaching" until an "accumulation of horrible events" in a classroom manifest themselves in the dean's office.

Before the administration can take action on student complaints, there must be "several, usually different" ones registered. "It would

be extremely helpful to all concerned," said Dr. Smith, "if more students would come forward and tell us what is bothering them."

Complaints from weak students and from chronic grippers do not receive as much weight as those from good ones, and rightly so.

A good student is justified in complaining about lecturers who are unable to provide him with the vital link which relates outdated textbooks to concepts so new they have not been relegated to print. A good student knows when he is getting nothing out of a certain course, especially when he attends classes regularly and makes an honest attempt to follow suggested readings.

No one is suggesting there are hundreds of classrooms at this university where incompetent lecturers or professors wrapped up in publishing or research projects are failing to instil enthusiasm and interest in their students. But no one can deny there are professors who wander aimlessly through ill-defined courses, their classes becoming progressively emptier and their students increasingly disenchanted.

An expanding university such as this one must face up to the problems caused by poor communication among faculty, students and administrators. When a system as complex as this one develops flaws, they are almost as difficult to trace as they are to solve.

These flaws can be corrected through consultations among the three groups who make up this university, but consultation cannot come soon enough to solve problems in classrooms where this year a "series of horrible events" are now starting to occur—unless students, the hapless victims of these events, relay information about them to administrators such as Dr. D. E. Smith.