

# THE GATEWAY

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## Varsity Guest Weekend Edition

Editor ..... Bev Woznow

## VGW AND THE UNIVERSITY

Quaecumque vera—whatsoever things are true—our university motto.

Annually during Varsity Guest Weekend our campus invites its community to gather a true picture of their university.

To this end, special student committees arrange guided tours, club and faculty displays and cultural performances. These features exhibit the range of, and opportunity in, both our campus facilities and campus life.

Some of the displays and particularly the guest lectures however are prepared to perform another function—to challenge and motivate those visitors who are potential university students.

For both these reasons, VGW asks guests not to merely observe this weekend, but to also probe and learn.

We want them to familiarize themselves with the physical campus, investigate its curricular and extracurricular opportunities and enjoy its social and cultural activities; but we hope they view all they experience as being part of university atmosphere. And we also hope that when they review the weekend they reconsider the university essence—studying—and when they reconsider university studying they comprehend it not in terms of slide rules, literature texts or test tubes — nor degrees — but in terms of whatsoever things are true.

## CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY: RECIPROCAL RESPONSIBILITY?

We are often told that there is—or ought to be—a reciprocal responsibility between university and community. Unfortunately, this concept lends itself to shallow thinking which would put creativity in a straight-jacket.

In fact, universities should be free of responsibility toward the community. That is, they should be free of the limitations which the common usage of the term implies. They should be freed from the "responsibility" of turning out—in wholesale batches—the stereotyped college grad: wholesome, clean scrubbed, moderately ambitious, moderately competent, socialized, respectable.

We do not imply that universities should be irresponsible. They must be conscious of a large responsibility toward something called truth—toward "humanity" if you prefer—toward honesty, or inquiry. Labels are not the concern here; the important thing is that our vision be universal in scope, not limited to the local and the immediate.

The university is criticized as a retreat from reality, a refuge for dreamers and misfits, a forum for idealists and crackpots.

We wish the accusation were more true. Our actual trouble is quite the opposite; our university is geared too tightly to the socio-economic complex within which it operates; it becomes but another load-bearing axle of the 20th century train, when it ought to be the engineer up front.

The "artificial environment" argument is used to discourage theorizing and ivory towerism.

It is a spurious argument. Man-made environment, specialized environment, is not *per se* artificial environment. Mind and its speculative activity are no less "natural" than muscle and its practical activity.

Our critics find it hard to realize that dreamers and experimentors will by no means abandon humanity and human needs, for these

precisely their greatest concern.

This then is our real responsibility: to resist demands for organization men and technician-robots, rather to give you sceptics and creators; to counter community insistence on the status quo; to ignore our timid "public image" experts; to criticize, if necessary to antagonize, vested interests; to butcher sacred cows which have become too old and too feeble.

We intend that students take time to sit deep and look at life in some perspective, time to attempt some over-all and long term analysis, to re-phrase the same crucial queries—psychological, political, moral—that thoughtful men have asked through the centuries.

These are our responsibilities to ourselves, as men and women.

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Is there a community responsibility toward the university? Yes there is. It consists of this: to support inquiry, to insist on quality, but to let the student find his own direction.

Governments and private sources both must refrain from putting conditions of mediocrity on grants for building projects, scholarships, research.

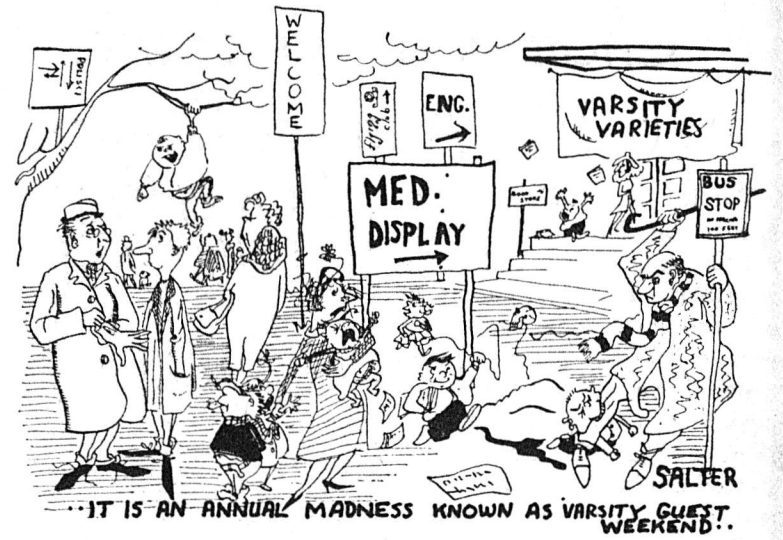
Professors must feel secure in their positions even when you disagree with their public statements.

Finances should be available to students of proven ability, for living expenses as well as tuition.

Parents ought to take the pressures for success and prestige off their grown-up-children.

At the maximum, community responsibility toward the university includes: 1. generous financial support; 2. active interest in our projects, ranging from isotopes to affectivity; 3. concern for our freedom, social and intellectual; 4. demand for wise leadership.

At the minimum—at rock bottom—you must refrain from cumbering the university with conformist clamps.

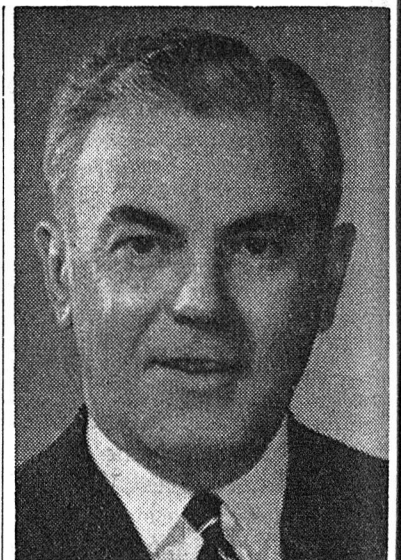


## Presidents' Welcome Weekend Visitors

I am particularly pleased this year to welcome visitors from high schools in northern Alberta to the Edmonton campus of the University of Alberta for our annual Varsity Guest Weekend, because never before in our history has it been more important for students to make the difficult decision to invest in a university education or to seek employment immediately after completing high school.

While unemployment grows among those with limited education and training the shortage of highly educated specialists becomes greater. We need mathematicians, physicists, economists, social workers, librarians, and competent people in many areas of business, industry, government, and in the universities themselves. You are the people who will fill these needs in the coming years.

We have a great deal to show you on our campus this year and I know the students in every faculty, school, and department have worked hard to



Dr. Walter H. Johns

provide displays that are interesting and challenging.

We wish you a pleasant and instructive visit and hope to enrol many of you as students here next fall.

Walter H. Johns  
President

I take great pleasure in welcoming you to the University of Alberta. May your visit be both enjoyable and profitable.

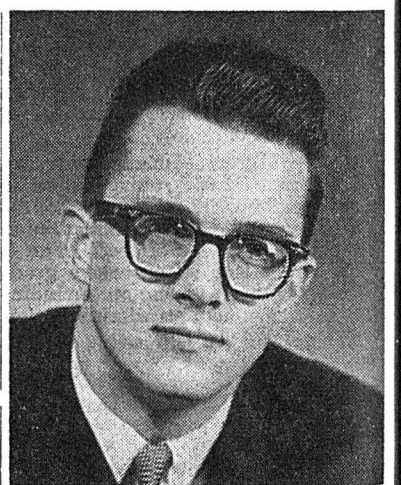
I have two major thoughts in mind as I extend this welcome:

First, according to the Canadian Universities Foundation, only 7.5 per cent of the people of Canada attend an institution of higher learning. The comparable figure is 15 per cent in the Soviet Union.

Such statistics are not merely deplorable. They are frightening. They are shameful.

Varsity Guest Weekend is by no means the answer. But it is part of the answer. The more citizens, parents and children who make themselves acquainted with the universities of this nation, the better. VGW is particularly directed at high school students, especially those who have the potential to attend university but have so far not been impressed with the excitement and magnitude of university instructions.

The second major reason for



Dave Jenkins

this welcome is much warmer. I ask you to examine with pride the fifth largest university in Canada. It is a dynamic university, with new buildings and new ideas appearing at every turn. It is your university.

Dave Jenkins,  
law 3,  
President,  
The Students' Union