

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—There was an old woman who lived in a shoe and she had so many children she had nothing to do so she came to The Gateway office to do something. But we couldn't find anything for her to do so she departed and left a sweet note behind which we took to our hearts. The note said "like hell you need me." And she continued "I have not the time, patience, or ability to do reporting, but I thought I would spend a little time typing for you." So now we have to type ourselves. Those of us that did are Dum-Dum Glen Cheriton, Leona Gom, W. W. P. Burns who is a visitor and most welcome all the time because he can do things without being told exactly what to do, Marvin Bjornstad, Randy Jankowski, Ken Bailey, Joe Czajkowski, Judy Griffiths, Laurie Kostek, Bob Conarre, Perry Afaganis, another Gateway alumni, Brian MacDonald, Dan Carroll, and yours truly, Harvey Thomgirt who always has something to do.

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If the reps withdraw . . . ?

There is some question whether the Board of Governors or the General Faculty Council has more control in the university. The Universities Act gives no clear definition to this and thus the answer is left to debate.

But at the Friday meeting of the Joint Committee on Student Relationships, students got the answer. During the first and last meeting of this group, Provost A. A. Ryan, who is a fairly important man around here, said the General Faculty Council "has the power." He didn't say much more on this subject but students got the message.

If GFC really is "the power" and this is a university governed democratically, then the majority of souls here should have some say in the decisions made which concern them. The majority of which we speak is the student.

President Walter Johns, at the meeting, said democracy concerns "the representative aspect."

There appears to be something wrong. General Faculty Council has about 60 or so members, all of whom have a vote. Students have three representatives on it. Figure it out. The students have about one vote in 20 which is not realistic if representative or any other form of democracy is practiced.

Now General Faculty Council is up against the wall again and the results of this action could be very significant in future developments on this campus.

Marilyn Pilkington, who is one of the student representatives on General Faculty Council, says that if meetings remain closed, the representatives to GFC may consider withdrawing.

This is one of the boldest steps ever taken by students at this university. But they really haven't much to lose. The students are represented on the Board of Governors but they don't have a vote so nothing is lost there. Toronto, Manitoba and several other schools have turned down at least as much—probably more.

Students have the three GFC seats to lose. But the student vote is so small, little would be effected.

The possible withdrawal of the student reps would set the university back ten years. They would have to start all over again and it will not be so easy this time. Students will demand more and more because they are a growing group and they want to have some say in the governing of themselves.

And it stems from the stubbornness of GFC who, through their chairman, say their efficiency would be affected.

Those football crowds

Attendance at university football games has been, to say the least, fantastic. In two games, there have been more than 10,000 fans at the games—more than the Bears attracted in five home games last year.

Nobody can say exactly why this is so. Two national champions last year is surely one reason. Two easy football wins in the east this fall is another.

Whatever it is, we hope it doesn't stop now. Sports is not a primary thing in life. It has its place and that is usually to entertain.

Students should get their full entertainment value from their varsity teams. God knows we pay enough to the University Athletic Board. Its nice to know students are taking some of it back—for the benefit of all.



First, try power — then try more power

By BRIAN CAMPBELL

SDU has been making a lot of noise lately, and this is a change for the better. But SDU troubles me because they have no solid plan for dealing with the problems of the university. Their answer to any question about university government is "power," and if that doesn't work their answer is "more power."

The SDU has proposed what amounts to a series of structural changes and little else. I think the sad truth about SDU is that they do not have the solutions for the problems around here any more than Dr. Johns has, or Marilyn Pilkington has, or even I have. The trouble with university government is that everybody pretends they have the answers.

It's a bluff, and I call.

What about the problems of student dislocation, adjustment, mental illness, suicide—call it what you will? SDU can not even define it or talk about it intelligently. They have not done their homework. A. B. J. Hough of student counselling at least knows what the problems are and Dr. Johns would direct you to Mr. Hough if you asked him about it. I wonder if Marilyn has set up a committee to deal with this yet?

Meanwhile the campus packs 'em in—a few thousand more every year. Do you know if you pack too many rats in too small a cage they crack-up and die? Maybe next year there will be a serious attempt to design a university with people in mind.

And how about the parking mess? I am sick and tired of parking almost 20 minutes away from my nearest class.

And what about residence accommodations? Before another barracks goes up

we need a little social engineering to find out what the requirements of decent living are at university.

What sort of physical facilities do we need? How do physical facilities determine social environment and the way people think?

The University of Alberta is not alone in not facing up to these problems. The federal, provincial, and local governments and the school boards all ignore them. The whole problem with planning at the university is that the greatest of all research institutions has failed to research itself. Nobody knows the variables of classroom performance at the university. Nobody knows anything about the dynamics of the student-teacher relationship. And this is important, because Carl Rogers, a well-known and respected psychologist, suggests that the current stumbling set-up is a reasonable parallel to the way parents of schizophrenic children treat their youngsters. The question is how do we solve the problem.

First, if we are going to investigate the university, we are going to have to investigate the students' minds.

If you want to find out how a new teaching situation worked you can set an exam, or you can talk to the students, send in the sociologists and psychologists, and put students on the final evaluation committee. The latter is preferable, because good planning demands student involvement. And student involvement is SDU's strong point, but what kind of changes can they make with no information? University government has been flying by the seat of its pants too long, and the cloth is getting thin.