

The Gateway

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—The loyal souls who came to celebrate my birthday were: Ralph Melnychuk, Linda Strand, Maureen Love, Lois Berry, Geoff Michaels, Pearl Christensen, Adriana Albi, Ron McMahon, David Dahl, Andy Radger, Marcia Reed, Branny Schepanovich, Ginger Bradley, Gloria Skuba, Lee Morrison, Captain Marvel, Marion Conybeare, Richard Price, Marg Penn, Alan Gardner, Professor Jon, Sheila Ballard, Ed Marchund, Howard Meger, Marilyn Fix.

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a lesson in government

A total of four Students' Council meetings have been declared invalid by the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement board.

This ruling, startling though it may seem, does not in any way suggest Students' Council acted in bad faith during the summer months, when councillors carried out a reasonably heavy workload amid difficult circumstances.

Students' Union president Richard Price himself has admitted there should have been a thorough study made of any and all by-laws relating to council voting procedures, before the summer meetings were held. It seems councillors made an informal agreement among themselves to give alternate representatives voting powers which simply cannot be delegated.

This carelessness could have created serious problems for motions passed during the four "invalid" meetings. For all we know, it still may.

Council must now reconsider all the motions passed at these ill-fated meetings. Although none of the legislative measures affected by the DIE ruling can be considered crucial in nature, their presence on a future Students' Council agenda paper

should be ample warning to council that such errors cannot be tolerated in government—at any level.

Moreover, Council must continually be on guard against omissions of responsibility which come more and more easily with the ever-increasing power and resources held by students.

As a sidelight to the case at hand, Gordon Meurin, law representative on council and the man who initiated the DIE action, now can feel justly proud of having altered councillors to a possible loophole in Students' Union by-laws.

Also, his complaint, laid in good faith and brought before the board, should be a model which other councillors might emulate when they feel rules have been broken.

Students' Council is intended to be a body meeting openly in parliamentary fashion, not a poorly-fashioned lax body of irresponsibles which would employ *in camera* debates and "Court-of-the-Star-Chamber" tactics to flaunt the time-honored rules of parliamentary procedure.

May Council abstain from such regrettable tactics and methods in the future.

choosing the full life

Man is a social animal. A person's social contacts form an important part of his life. The people we meet and know make us the kind of persons we are.

At this university, making social contacts, forming friendships that are more than just "Hi" and "Good-bye", is difficult. There are really too many people—classes are too large, facilities too crowded.

To be sure, in all the crowd there are bound to be some whom you will get to know. But too often, persons begin to cling to their straws of friendship and stop growing outwards.

Those who do not adjust, leave. Happiness is a major factor in human life, and those who do not find it here because of various obstacles put in their way by poor social relations, will find it harder and harder to make their way through university.

We suggest that campus fraternities are one means of overcoming this social disorganization.

The purpose of fraternities and their objective worth are not our concern. We do know, however, that for their members they provide a satisfying relationship, one which is sometimes a true brotherhood be-

tween members.

Fraternities encourage their members to develop academically, socially, and personally. Many fraternities have achieved high academic standards. Fraternities and their members are active in all spheres of student life, from campus politics to fund drives.

There is, of course, another side of the coin. Fraternities can become social crutches for social cripples, who become lost forever in a mad swirl of parties, and are lost to the university.

Some fraternities have discriminatory membership policies, something which we think to have no place on this campus.

Some fraternities become over-social, and we cannot condone their excesses. An over-emphasis on alcohol and its consumption has already led to police action against some fraternities, and we cannot help but point to the object lesson therein.

Persons thinking of joining fraternities should consider carefully their good points and drawbacks. Then it is up to them to choose how best to arrange a life at university which will be as full and satisfying as possible.



"And teach-ins are more fun, too!"

with foot in mouth

By Bruce Ferrier

Conversation is a lost art, and the trouble is, nobody seems to be interested in finding it again.

In the old days it was easy. God talking to the Israelites, President Johnson at a press conference, Dr. Johns meeting a freshman—these situations present no problem.

But now the "in" method is dialogue. We all run things up the flagpole to see if anyone salutes, swish them through the Maytag to see if they come out clean, and then, if we're not out of breath, reach a "concensus."

This method is fine because it works. Reputable sources at the United Nations tell us that more peacekeeping is done in the Delegate's Bar than in the General Assembly.

This new-fangled version of the group around the checkerboard at the general store, the "teach-in", looks like a big comer too.

Someday the teach-in may come to completely replace the standard "panel" or "forum" campus clubs level in. There will be more dialogues than you can shake a microphone at. The heating plant can be disassembled. We can run the lights with windmills. A golden age for Smith Brothers' Cough Drops.

But peculiar things happen outside these etherial realms. Back in the classroom, we have "discussions" as defined by one professor, "Either you ask questions and I answer, or I ask questions and you answer."

This same phenomenon, which I call the "gag effect" (and not very funny either), is seen in all student conversations.

At first things seem to be going nicely. "Hi! How are you?" "Not bad, how are you?" "O.K."

Now you're in trouble. The ghastly consequences of saying

"How are you" again prevent that out, and the conversation so far has all the literary and artistic appeal of "Ugh! White man speak with forked tongue."

So you try a question. "On your way to class?" Like as not, the other person will calmly remark, "No, I'm standing here talking to you."

The most famous exchange of this sort took place between a society matron and a famous old man of the arts. "And how do you find yourself these mornings," the matron asked. "Oh, I just throw back the bedcovers and there I am," T.F. O.M.O.T.A. replied.

The only alternative to a question is a bald statement of some fact that you hope will be of consuming interest to your nemesis. "The hemolysis mechanism of erythrocytes is in dispute right now," might be the glib phrase that comes to your mind.

However, this is not the only way of making conversation. A friend of mine could carry on a discussion with the Sphinx. His trick is that he can talk for hours without saying anything.

If they ask about the international situation, he says how it's sure nice weather we're having, and goes on to the football scores.

Of course, he comes from High River, and that helps. Did you know that in High River they have the most water towers per capita of any city in Alberta? Get him to tell you about his social teacher. She's got a hump on her back from hauling stones up the Pyramids.

Not everyone is from High River, though. If everything fails, as it probably will, don't get defeated. The same sort of thing has been happening throughout recorded history. As Anthony said to Cleopatra, "Madame, I did not come here to talk."