

# Gateway features

# SOCIOLOGY

With over eighty organizations on this campus, it is difficult for the individual student to be aware of the majority of their activities. One of the forthcoming events is the publication of the second issue of VARIABLES, a social science journal produced on this campus.

VARIABLES was inaugurated as the official publication of the Sociology Club of both Edmonton and Calgary campuses last year. To date, one issue has been published. Another of bigger and better proportions will make its appearance on Varsity Guest Weekend, February 23. Alan Powell, graduate sociology student, whose planning is largely responsible for the existence of VARIABLES, and who edited the first edition, is again editor, assisted by Rondo Wood, also a graduate sociology student.

Although VARIABLES is a young magazine, plans for its future are ambitious, aiming at nation-wide circulation within a few years. Canada at present has no such scholarly publication to provide a means of communication between all academic departments in the social sciences.

The breadth of material of sociological interest allows a publication like VARIABLES to present information from many related fields. Only recently have departments in all the various social science fields been set up in Canadian universities. These are on the whole quite small, and communication channels between the Canadian departments are as yet at a

## MATURE AIMS

minimum. It is hoped that as VARIABLES develops into a mature magazine, it will provide information that will guide, initiate, and coordinate student research across Canada. In addition, VARIABLES aims to provide a reliable and scholarly source of information on specifically Canadian social problems and topics within the broad scope of the social science disciplines.

The University of Alberta is the logical place to offer some solution to this communicational need. With fourteen professors and fifteen graduate students at present, it is the largest Department of Sociology in Canada.



The major difficulty in publishing VARIABLES has been to reconcile the local focus of news content (our main clients are U of A students) with the national appeal VARIABLES hopes eventually to secure.

The selection of articles that the forthcoming issue of VARIABLES includes, has resolved this difficulty in an interesting manner. Featured are articles ranging in scope from "Social Class Among University of Alberta Freshmen in Calgary," "A Critique of Positivism," and an analysis of "Drinking Habits of U of A Students," to "The Indians Along the Alaskan Highway."

Another consideration entertained by the editorial board was the degree of scholarship which would be most acceptable to VARIABLES readers. Within the covers of this and future editions are abstracts of masters theses, papers by undergraduate students, faculty members and interested people outside campus.

Much of the success of such a publication will depend upon the variety and reliability of sources upon which VARIABLES can draw for material. To establish a major source for the fu-

## CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED

ture, all Canadian universities have been invited to submit contributions for this and subsequent issues.

In an effort to recruit student contributions from U of A campus, the Sociology Club sponsored a contest for undergraduate students, offering book-voucher prizes for the best papers submitted. A group of independent faculty members will judge the contest. To encourage development of this potential group of contributors, such a contest may become annual. Publication of the winning papers provides an excellent opportunity for new writers to make their debut in the world of professional outlets.

Readers who remember the first issue of VARIABLES will probably recall the near-illegibility of some of the type. Unfortunate as this was, it was the inevitable result of inexperience and a shoe-string budget. The experience of editing one issue, and financial aid from the Students' Union promises a magazine of much better type, quality, and readability. The imminent issue of VARIABLES will offer three times as much material as was included in last year's issue.

The coming issue of the magazine will be available at the University Book Store, or at Hurtig's Book Store, down-town during Varsity Guest Weekend. In the first half of the following week, February 25-28, VARIABLES will be on sale in all Sociology classes, in SUB, Education, and Hot Cafeteria, and in SUB rotunda.

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It is the hope of the VARIABLES editorial board that persons interested in the social sciences will support U of A's student contribution to the field. The student staff of VARIABLES feels confident that readers will find both interesting and informative the articles about Canadian man in his society.

