

Not much to choose from

Andrew Watts wants to be SU President. Floyd Hodgins isn't sure how to go about beating Watts but is getting tips from certain SU hacks who hold an Anybody But Watts attitude.

Watts, you might recall, caused a bit of a kerfuffle last year when he decided to run for office while still the Gateway editor. He won over Don Millar, now a CFS Alberta rep, by 176 votes.

A few weeks after his victory, Watts quit his job at Gateway, claiming he had underestimated the time needed to prepare for the VP External position.

Gateway's election coverage was skimpy when it came to the Watts - Gateway connection.

It was a link in the SU election chain that was far removed from most voters. There are many other tales that could be best described as SU election gossip. Year after year, student politics seem to thrive on personality clashes, petty squabbles, and playpen power struggles.

Nolan Astley, the SU President in 1980-81, had a slogan: "Balanced leadership for a new direction in the 80's." Astley and a few others, whose names are now SU history (Farkas, Haws) proved it was possible for the SU Executive to serve students, and not be self-serving bureaucrats.

But as the game of student politics goes, the transition of executives is abrupt, those once holding power are quickly forgotten, and those critical of the winners are promptly put on a blacklist.

And those wearing the buttons, putting up the posters, and campaigning for the eventual winners get to dabble in the fishbowl world of the SU another year.

While we had clear choices last year, with good candidates contesting all five executive positions (Therrien Slate vs. Greenhill Team), this is really a poor election since we don't have a field of qualified candidates to choose from. Those who would be able to the job are mostly on one slate - the Watts' Slate, of course. And while it may be fashionable to bash the Watts Slate, the five candidates they have running, save one position, are perhaps the most competent. Donna Kassian, who we still have to hear much from, is the only serious alternative to Watts Slate's VP Academic Candidate June Chipman.

If there is some advice I can offer voters, it's this. Keep a close eye on the pamphlets and policies of the SU campaigners, but don't try too hard to understand them. I doubt if the newcomers - Ens, Chipman, Koch, Alpern and Kassian - know what makes the SU tick either.

Brent Jang

When will Trudeau resign?

The wait for Prime Minister Trudeau's resignation is becoming an increasingly bizarre political episode.

The Trudeau retirement watch is reminiscent of the final months of Spain's Francisco Franco - we know he is close to the end, but somehow he keeps hanging on.

One can imagine Senator Keith Davey or Liberal strategist Jim Coutts tiptoeing around like Franco's flunkies whispering "is he gone yet?"

There is considerable dissatisfaction, even resentment with Trudeau's continued leadership. Besides, the Prime Minister's personality quirks now anger rather than amuse many Canadians.

It seems everyone wants Trudeau to retire. There is endless speculation about when, but the question does not trouble the PM, if it ever occurs to him.

Trudeau continues his peace escapades, oblivious to the growing chorus calling for his resignation.

Liberal party reports are released saying the party is in disarray and changes must be made, but public party officials, like President Iona Campagnola, will only state that the Liberal Party, unlike the Tories, will not stab its leaders in the back.

When questioned about his future, Trudeau muses about how "complex" his destiny is - too complex, apparently, to give anybody any idea about it.

It is an indication of the place Trudeau holds in this country that his own party is afraid, perhaps even helpless. They can not dump him.

Trudeau transcends both the Liberal Party and politics in Canada. He occupies a unique political realm all his own - one where he alone will decide his destiny - at least until the next election.

And while Trudeau assesses his plans, the numerous Liberal non-candidates are testing the water.

Rumoured interested in the job are Cabinet Ministers Mark Macguigan, Jean Chretien, and John Munro, among others.

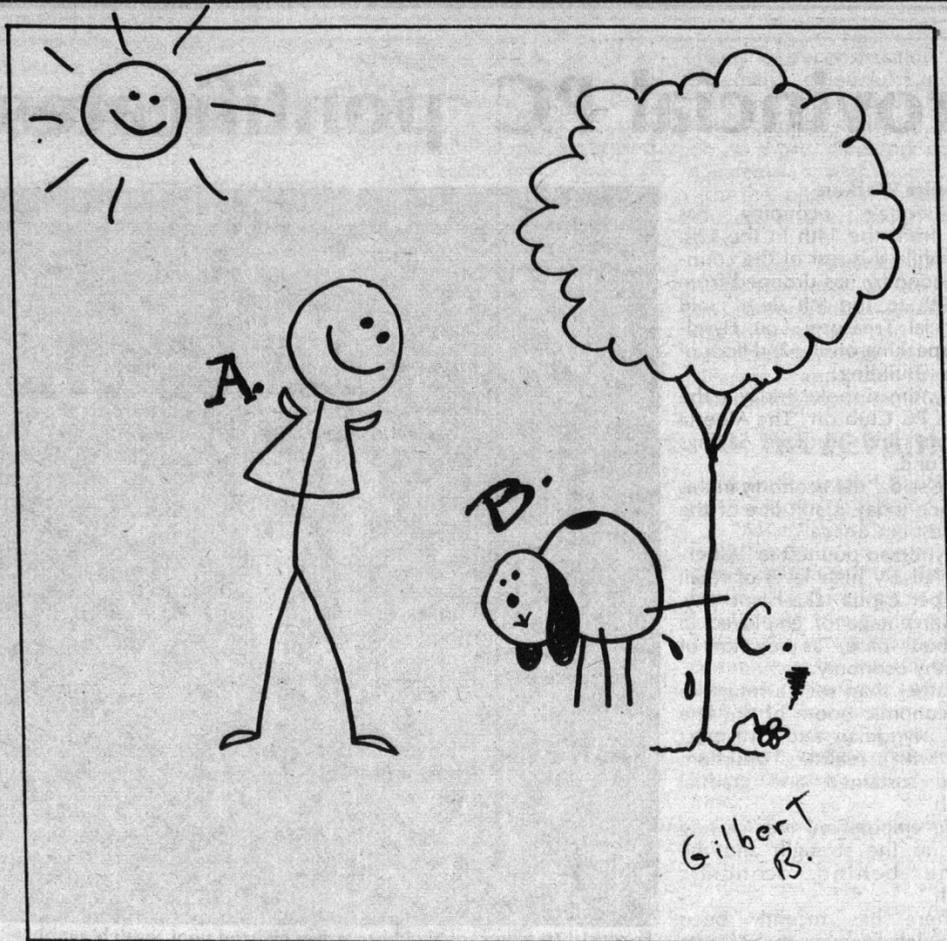
Former Trudeau aide Jim Coutts is active as well, but the favourite in this non-race is still former Finance Minister John Turner.

The major problem for the Liberals is becoming whether Trudeau, if he resigns, will leave the new leader enough time to establish himself and build an organization before having to call an election.

It has been reported that if Trudeau does not retire soon, John Turner will not be in the race.

Meanwhile, the wait continues.

Neai Watson



Editorial Cartoonist on Vacation....

...Managing Editor steps in

Mix and Match captions		
A)	B)	C)
-----	-----	-----
Pierre Trudeau	Liberal economic policy	Inflation
Ronald Reagan	The American Way of Life	The Evil Empire
Your Prof.	Your Mid-Term	Your GPA
-----	-----	-----

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't jump! (I'll push)

RE: Sondor Takats, letter (To Whom it may Concern), Gateway, Feb. 2.

I hope your letter was not serious. You sound like you are on the brink of taking the Nestea plunge off the High Level. Life is what you make it. Try not to look at it so negatively. Your letter to the editor last Thursday really scared me.

I sincerely hope you aren't considering doing anything you will regret. Of course, this advice is alot easier to give than to take but I hope you get something out of what I am saying. Why not lower your expectations and goals for a little while, maybe drop one course, and just sit back a little and try to let yourself adjust to the University system.

You're probably only 18 or 19 years old. Try to be more patient. Remember, you are only human. This also tends to be a bad time of year for some students. Switch faculties if you aren't enjoying Sciences. All that I can say is hold on, you'll survive it.

N.H.
Commerce 3

Phooey to you Rich!

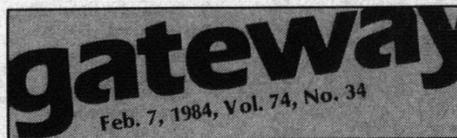
I would like to address this letter to Mr. Richard Stedman. It is in reference to the "No" campaign that Mr. Stedman is running against the candidate for V.P. External, Paul Alpern.

First, let me state that I plan to support Mr. Alpern with my vote because I know that he will do an excellent job.

I would like to thank Mr. Stedman for "unselfishly" bringing to light the fact that the position has only a single candidate running. I would like to ask you Richard if you have carefully considered the "unselfish" service that you are providing me and all of your fellow students. Your decision to oppose the Eugene L. Brody Funding Board referendum held some merit. What I question is your decision to run this campaign against Mr. Alpern.

Unfortunately, it appears that you did not care what or who you ran against, you just wanted to "raise as much s- as possible." Next time you want to stir things up I would request that you consider what you are opposing as well as whose money you are spending.

As far as the "nice guy" is concerned, I think that if you would have done ANY research into the



Editor in Chief: Brent Jang
News Editors: Mark Roppel, Ken Lenz
Managing Editor: Gilbert Bouchard
Entertainment Editor: Greg Harris
Sports Editor: Kent Blinston
Photo Editors: Bill Inglee, Angela Wheelock
CUP Editor: Jens Andersen
Production: Barbara Eyles, Anne Stephen
Advertising: Tom Wright
Media Supervisor: Margriet Tilroe-West
Circulation: Tom Wilson

Staff this Issue

The Gateway is the newspaper of University of Alberta students. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. All opinions are signed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway. News copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm 282 (ph. 432-5168). Advertising: Rm. 256D (Ph. 432-4241), Students Union Building, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta T6C 2G7. Readership is 25,000. The Gateway is a member of Canadian University Press.

As the election heats up, the Gilbertologists start cooking. K. Arthur and Nate Le Roi gleefully deface the Watts' poster by pasting Adrienne, the unknown's face over the candidates' photos while Jim Moore, Shane Berg, and Marie Clifford take time off from the Gateway to draw caricatures of student hacks. George Koch, Oscar Ammar and Denise Workun tear up the independent's pamphlets to use as kindling so Anna Borowiecki, Wendy Hawkins, and Kent Cochrane can have a Huebl-Stamp bonfire. Tim Kabash and Bonnie Zimmerman cut trap doors in SUB Theatre so that Violet Patterson and Neal Watson can make candidates disappear at the forum. Meanwhile, back in Gateway Headquarters, Ninette Gironella and Jordan Peterson prepare the rotten eggs and vegetables to throw at Glenn Byer.