

## POLICY: THE BUBBLE AND BEYOND

A new editor traditionally makes a policy statement at the beginning of his term. This is a good thing, but it can be a dangerous thing also. Good because readers have a right to know what to expect, and editors certainly ought to know how to express the things they believe in. But dangerous in the same way political promises are dangerous—because commitments are more easily made than fulfilled.

I shall sidestep the likelihood of un-fulfilled policy by making it clear right from the first that my overall policy is to have as few rules as possible and to overrule these few as often as seems appropriate; to experiment; to change my ways whenever I see better ways.

Now, after saying this it is only fair to give you a few details of what to expect.

• First, the paper will look much as it has in past years. We have talked of ways to smarten our make-up (e.g. to modernize our headline types), but we are hampered by antiquated and ridiculously inadequate printing facilities. For several years Gateway has toyed with the idea of moving its printing to a down-town shop. But we have stayed on campus for financial reasons and because the people at our printshop here take a personal interest in our journalistic efforts, giving us a high class service in spite of the physical odds against them, and tolerating our idiosyncracies.

Within the limits of budget and an ancient press, our make-up staff will be experimenting with ways to give you a classy looking journal.

• Second, the paper will read very much as in past years. I am conscious of inheriting a mantle proudly worn by my predecessors. The three editors just before me I have known personally, and they have won my respect both for journalistic competence and for originality; it would be presumptuous of me to aim at a dramatic rejection or alteration of the patterns they have passed on to me.

• Nevertheless, if you watch closely you may detect a deliberate swing toward what we might term "internationalism." My Features Editor and Canadian University Press Editor agree with me in wanting to interest you in many activities beyond this academic bubble: beyond this particular campus, but certainly not beyond our scope as students. We believe

that it is for us to be students, not merely of physics, or of medicine, or of classics, but of life, and of being itself, as wide-reaching as our imaginations will stretch. This does not mean to say that we will try to compete with the Edmonton Journal in reporting the week-end traffic toll, the Grey Cup game, or the latest summit sophistry. But we will report on the activities of students abroad. We will discuss ideas which originate abroad. We will follow up those themes which interest us as students, wherever they originate.

• Many of you will be glad—I am more than glad; I am up in the air—at the prospect of increased attention to the fine arts. We have secured the services of a talented Arts Editor who will treat you to a regular critics page, or culture page. This is new to Gateway, and in my opinion, long overdue. Here again we will be expanding our interests beyond the immediate campus boundaries.

Watch for this new Gateway baby—but be patient, for the period of gestation is but eight months past, and there will be labor pains.

• These considerations remind me to let you know that your departmental editors are taking on increasing responsibility and authority. When the scope of a journal is small the Editor-in-Chief can pretty well run the show by himself. This is increasingly untrue of The Gateway. News, Sports, Features and Fine Arts Editors are very nearly autonomous in their own spheres, while the Editor-in-Chief is coordinator, personnel manager, public relations officer, and chief joe-boy.

Remember this when you have specific requests or complaints: channel them through the department concerned.

• All of this hasn't told you a great deal about what your editor believes in. You have learned that I intend to promote the arts, and international awareness. Also to delegate authority, and to experiment. But you haven't yet heard just what I think about the functions of a campus journal. Well, you will—it will come.

Let me only add, for now, that I have already demonstrated my policy by breaking one of my own rules: namely, that editorials be short.

## BEYOND THE IVORY TOWER

Another term of ivory tower life is beginning. We university students are retreating to our campus world and will, too soon, too completely turn deaf ears to the east side of 112 Street or the north side of the river, and beyond.

Summer jobs, non-university acquaintances, and their ties with working life, are being left behind.

Perhaps it is good to remove ourselves from the functional problems and patterns around us.

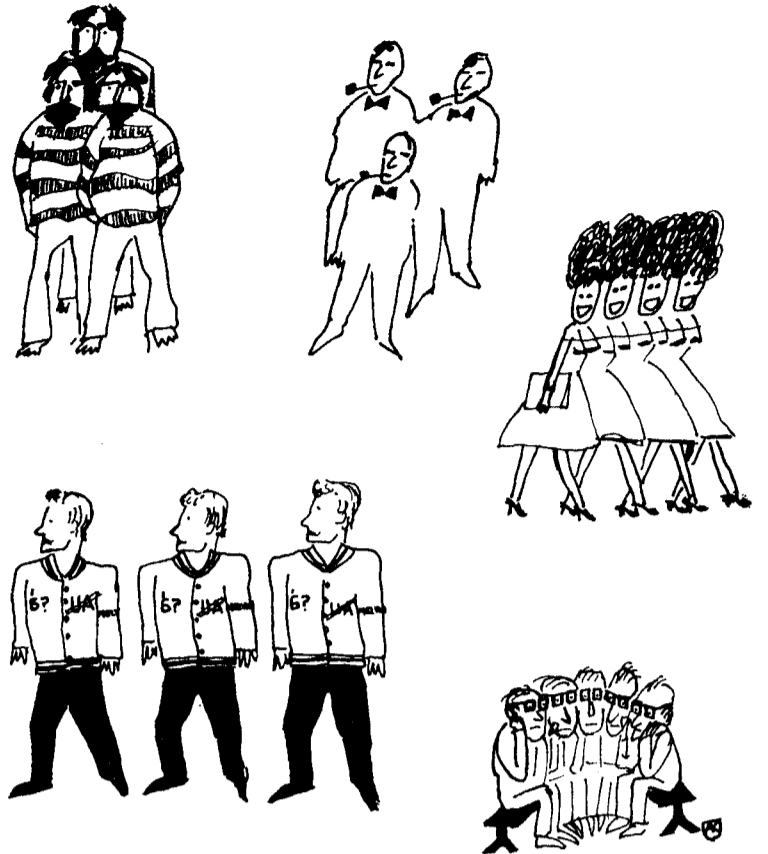
Perhaps too, it is essential to our role as university students to concentrate completely on the pure, the theoretical and the ideal, without having to apply. Must we not have the opportunity to discover and discuss all possibilities in the abstract?

We must have this opportunity, but we must not allow theory to hold our whole attention. We must not remove ourselves, thinkers though we be, from our practical off-campus environment. We cannot equate ourselves with the historical university student: Canadian undergraduate campuses today are not solely academic schools. Right or wrong, we are at least semi-vocational students. While some of

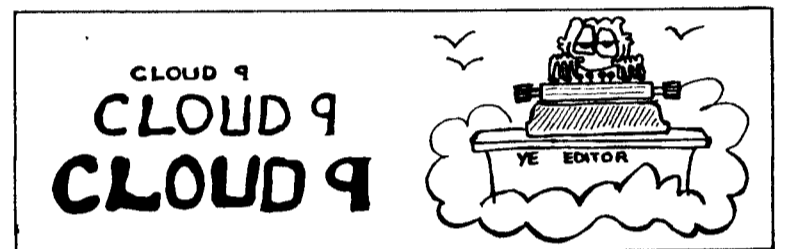
us may not have come to university for a diploma-ticket to higher paying employment, we are all expected to re-enter everyday professional life. There we will be looked to for practical contributions: contributions other than pure knowledge.

Delegates to the recent Fifth National NFCUS Seminar in Ottawa heard complaints from a business executive that because graduates are satisfied with being merely diploma wavers, they are remaining unacquainted with, and unwilling to learn about, any practical application of their studies.

Do we not owe it to our post-graduate world to bring to our idealistic studies considerations of application—application not necessarily of the subject matter but definitely of the instilled ideas? Do we not have an even greater responsibility to remind ourselves from exam session to exam session that practical experience also has value, often above that of calculated education—to remind ourselves that many of the fools making the so-painfully-obvious blunders in provincial, national and international affairs today, were once, many experience-filled years ago, students in ivory towers?



IT IS A WELL KNOWN FACT THAT A UNIVERSITY BREEDS INDIVIDUALS



An editorial page, so they say, shall be a page of informed and mature comment on the news. Which is a pleasantly idealized expectation. I find myself in a sobering position of doubt—of wondering whether my information and maturity are adequate to meet my responsibility to 7,000 plus. (I wonder—do other editors feel so?)

You may decide during the year that this page is not quite orthodox in the traditional journalistic sense. In the first place, you may find that the tone is a little more personal and informal than you normally expect. Secondly, you may notice comment on all sorts of things besides news. Some of my meditative ramblings might swing way out. I hope Cloud 9 is far enough out to catch them.

Some of you may complain that I thus betray the hoary journalistic tradition. To which I reply that my personal commitment as a student, as a writer, as an editor, is a commitment not to any particular form and not to any set subject matter, but primarily to the proposition that what we print be worth reading. I am committed to the principle of excellence. On this ground I am ready for your criticism.

I am not overly reverent about ceremony. The more rigid the ceremony the less reverent am I. I am a bit dubious, for instance,

about Wauneita initiations—which are run this year in shifts to accommodate the numbers. Volitional? Like calves through the branding shoot! As if registration lines and beanie lines and blood-test lines were not enough of regimentation.

Were I a wondering freshette, I might be inclined to back away. But perhaps I'm just bitter because I wanted a real fire for the faggots.

This week's Students' Council agenda includes a vote on the establishment of a Fine Arts Club. I would like to see it. I think there is a demand for this sort of cultural expression on this campus. Gateway is taking a parallel step with the initiation of a Fine Arts page. We hope. Elsewhere in this issue we invite talented people to work with us.

Your response to these two ventures into the stratosphere will tell us whether or not we are extending our necks too far. Let us know. It's your union and your journal.

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We invite students from any faculty who are willing to contribute to a Fine Arts page.

**Music:** chorus, symphony, jazz

**Drama:** reviews, features

**Literature:** poetry, short short stories, book reviews

**Art:** reviews, features

**Artistic Photography**

**Movie Reviews**

Meet the Fine Arts Editor at The Gateway office, top floor of SUB, Monday October 1, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR MATURITY. THIS DOES NOT NECESSARILY EXCLUDE FIRST-YEAR PEOPLE.

## THE GATEWAY

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Bentley Le Baron

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