

Student Union starts legal action against City, University

The students are fighting back. Tuesday evening, Students' Council agreed 20-2 to sue the City of Edmonton and the University of Alberta for November 18's *Gateway* seizure.

SU Lawyer C.W. Morrison was instructed to commence the action immediately.

The Students' Union will ask for damages accruing from lost advertising in the *Gateway*, and losses from printing and production of the November 19 issue.

As well, the SU will seek punitive and general damages for the "unlawful and high-handed conduct of the persons who seized the newspaper," according to Morrison.

The *Gateway* was seized by individuals of the Edmonton Police and Fire departments near midnight, November 18, 1981.

The individuals claimed a story in that issue on an arson in the Students' Union Building could have caused 'copy-cat' fires on campus.

Acting without a warrant, the officers confiscated about 12,000 *Gateways*; later, they offered to return them, and eventually, the papers were returned to campus and distributed.

Chief of Police Robert Lunney apologized for the seizure, for which "there were simply no grounds," he said.

An official Edmonton Police Commission investigation sustained a Students' Union complaint against the police action.

"Corrective action" has been taken against the Police officer involved, according to Lunney. He would not comment further.

Democracy is...

the Gateway

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1982

...the art of running the zoo from the monkey cage.

H.L. Mencken

Tuition freezes in Quebec

MONTREAL (CUP) - Canadian students attending Quebec universities will be spared an increase in tuition fees for at least one more year.

Now paying the lowest fees in the country, Quebec students have paid roughly the same amount for tuition over the last 15 years. However, international students registering for the first time in the province pay \$4100 for tuition, about 7 times the price for Canadians.

Education Minister Camille Laurin told a March 12 meeting of a conference of Quebec University Rectors and Principals (CREPUQ) that it would not be feasible to raise tuition fees for Canadian students before 1983-84.

Laurin outlined new funding plans last November at a workshop attended by University administrators, faculty and students. Under current government policy, the total subsidy package of \$700 million will be cut by 3.3 per cent in 1982-83, and 2.1 per cent in each of the following two years. The universities were told they must cut 3 per cent from their budgets in each of the next three years.

At the workshop, Laurin said he proposes to cut additional government funding to universities, and increase tuition fees. The government said a restructuring of the loans and bursary system would compensate for the changes. Ministry officials admitted recently that too many questions remain unanswered to raise fees for next year.

"The extent to which we would aid and even define needy students still needs to be worked out," said Laurin's aide Micheline Paradis.

But according to CREPUQ Director-General Richard Perusse, students ultimately will have to accept the government's financial situation and subsequent fee hikes.

"I'd say that given Laurin's proposed new methods of university funding, fees will most likely rise in 1983-84," said Perusse. He said that if fees were raised totally new structures for loans and bursaries would have to be implemented.

"At this point, raising fees would constitute a negative measure and would prevent students from enrolling," he said.

Concordia University Rector

John O'Brien agreed that the question of accessibility had to be studied before fees could be raised.

"I think the government wants to make sure they properly study the bursary and loan system before making any drastic moves," said O'Brien. He said the implementation of Laurin's November proposals will make a boost in fees inevitable.

In November, Laurin said his proposals were crucial to the university system's survival in combatting the current economic situation.

"The Ministry of Education should play a more centralized role in order to facilitate the sharing of resources," said Laurin.

But Marie-Andree Bertrand, President of the Federation of Quebec University Professors (FAPUQ) proposed in November that an autonomous council should determine the methods of implementing a rationalization, or amalgamation of resources programs.

"It would exercise a critical function but not have a monopoly," said Bertrand. "Universities are fragile tissues. There should be no forced coordination."

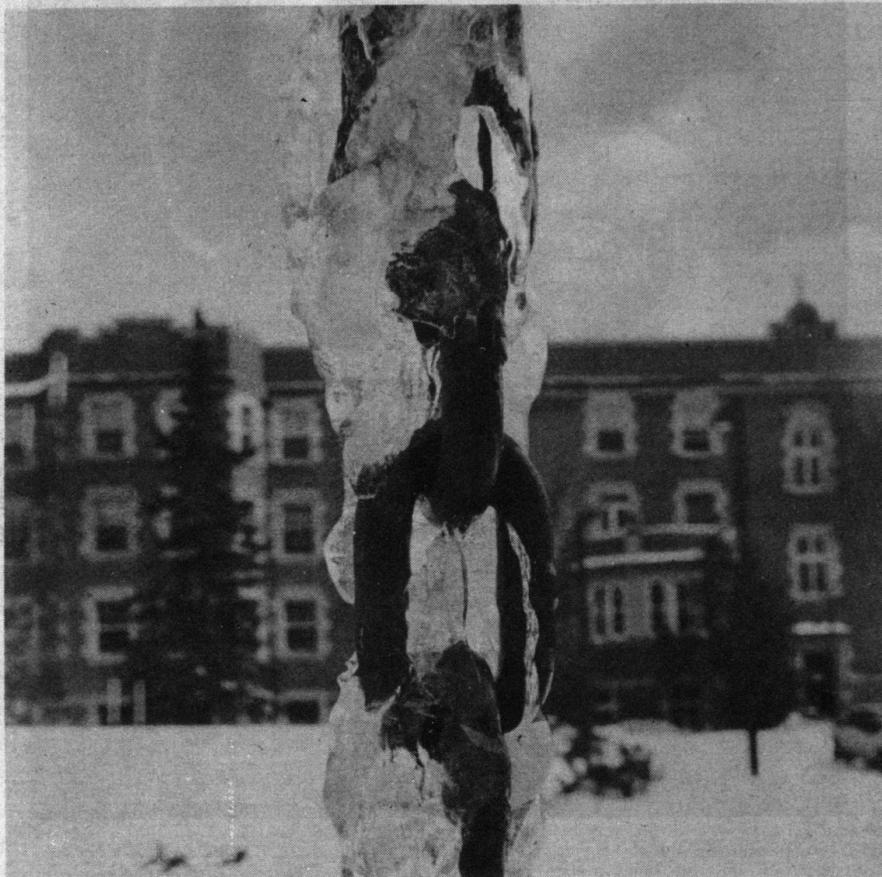


photo Martin Beales

Out with the old - in with the new

If you liked Peter Michalshyn as this year's *Gateway* editor, wait till you meet Andrew Watts.

Students' Council ratified the editor selection committee's choice of Watts as next year's editor-in-chief of the *Gateway*. Five paper staffers, two Council members, Michalshyn and SU v.p. Internal Brian Bechtel formed the committee.

"I think there was a great deal of competition this time," says Bechtel, who also chaired the committee. "I was pleased we had a definite choice of two different approaches to editing a newspaper."

Watts is currently the sports editor and enrolled in an Arts II program. He joined the newspaper in October to replace Michael Skeet. In his application, Watts stressed that the *Gateway* should be a campus newspaper first, but its purview should not be restricted to the campus. He also pointed out the importance of

going out to the reader audience and getting their opinion.

"In September there will be a whole new look for the *Gateway*," Watts says. Both staff positions and design are to be redefined.

The other candidate is a three year *Gateway* veteran. A tied vote forced Bechtel to cast the final

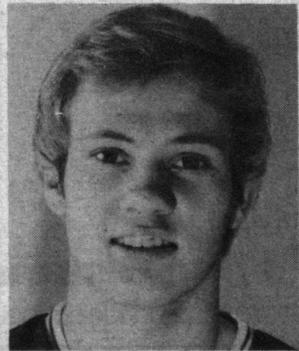
decision.

"I think Andrew was given the advantage because his personality was better suited for keeping in touch with the reader...a feeling that a better working atmosphere would exist for newcomers," said Bechtel. He also felt that Andersen's editorial stance would have inflamed more

readers than would Watts'.

A spectator to the selection thought Watts won because he exhibited more charisma. "He dripped with charisma," the spectator stressed.

"I think that the good thing we have (in the *Gateway*) this year will continue next year," Bechtel adds.



Andrew Watts: "drips with charisma"

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