



## editorial

### Picking our way out of the ivory cocoon

Next year's gonna be a big one.

Right. You've heard it all before, haven't you? New editor comes into office and immediately the big plans - next year we'll come out on time, every time. Not only that, we'll expand our capacities - have reporters in Ottawa, Washington, Peking and Paris. We'll go daily, run between twenty and forty pages an issue, offer an alternative voice to people looking for something different from *The Edmonton Journal*. We'll start our own advertising office in Toronto to solicit national advertising, come out with a modest literary supplement each Sunday, run prize-winning political cartoons, steal professional media people from *The New York Times* and *Macleans* and *CBC*.

Etcetera.

Well, yes it is true, I would like to expand next year - but even though I have hopes for expansion, I don't think they're quite that ridiculous. Actually, what I want *The Gateway* to do ... is to go public. Morespecifically, I would like to see *Gateway* delivered across the city and not just on campus.

On many other Canadian campuses (U Vic, U Saskatoon, U Western Ont. - to name a few large ones), the campus newspaper is delivered into the downtown area, as well as to surrounding shopping and community centres. It means a boost in press run for the papers (larger printing costs) as well as payment for courier service, but these papers still seem to feel it is worth-while.

The reasoning, I suppose, goes like this:

(1) Large daily newspapers rarely carry much university news. Many members of the public have no dealings with the university and feel themselves isolated from university life. This is one method of providing the public with university news.

(2) Large daily newspapers often have neither the time nor the space to print philosophic articles or lengthy examinations of current affairs in philosophic and/or political terms. Yet many people want to read such pieces, without having to subscribe to magazines. In some ways, university newspapers can offer such lengthy stuff to their audiences because they are not as concerned with printing timely news and can devote more energy and space to such feature-type material.

(3) Increased exposure gives the public a view of the concerns of young people and may interest more public response and interaction with the students (in the form of letters-to-the-editor, etc.).

(4) A campus newspaper can often offer an analysis of political or social situations which is different from that of professional media. Many people would like to examine that type of analysis but simply have no chance to do so.

(5) Increased circulation also means increased line rates from both local and national advertisers and this can often more than offset the extra money required in "going public."

Those are the reasons for, as far as I can make out. And they seem fairly weighty ... in favour of making the move. But can we do it? For one thing: it will mean that we will have to produce a much more professional product than we do at present (if we want to present a credible image to Edmonton) and that means we need staff - lots more staff.

I know that it's unusual asking for people to volunteer for work on *The Gateway* when there is only eight issues of the paper left, but I am anyway. We need staff next year - staff with some experience, with some ability and with some desire to turn out a good newspaper. If we can get people who have had some time on campus and know a bit about the operations of our paper - and then, who will come back and work for us next year - I think we can and should go public.

If we can't, I think we will miss an excellent opportunity to offer the community a service and do our own university community a service.

It's up to you.

by Kevin Gillese

## The great skim milk fiasco

The coverage which has been given to the recent discovery of a surplus in skim milk powder, has been nothing but biased and distorted.

The excessive surplus has arisen from a number of factors, the main one being the intervention of Government in private enterprise. The management system set up by the dairy industry to control quantities of milk produced each year, deserves nothing but praise for their "futurist approach."

Better than a year and a half ago this Board foresaw a problem of surplus and indicated to government that steps should be taken for its control. However, the marketing boards were over-ridden both at the provincial and federal level, with the input of approximately another 7.5 million in subsidies, even after the predicted surplus had finally materialized. To compound this major problem of government intervention, other exporting countries had under-estimated the world's supply of skim milk powder.

This can be credited to the lack of expertise in management systems such as we in Canada enjoy.

Skim milk powder is a by-product of the butter, yoghurt and ice-cream related industries. The cream is separated from the milk to be used in these products leaving the skim milk. Some skim milk is sold as packaged skim milk powder for reconstitution and the remainder is sold as cattle feed. In order to keep up with current demands for cream, which is used in the aforementioned industries, a surplus of

skim milk has arisen.

It is my opinion that the Canadian people could very easily add this most nutritious food to their list of aid items for underprivileged countries. This surplus has not just cropped-up for the first time but has reoccurred to some degree off and on for years. I feel that by introducing it on a regular basis to under-privileged countries the inhabitants, with only a few initial problems, could soon adapt it to their diets. Milk is one of the most nutritious and completely balanced foods known to man. It would certainly be a shame to shorten supplies merely because producers were going bankrupt.

The milk prices in Alberta are most reasonable and in fact, due to the economics of the situation, they are doomed to go higher. "Why is this?" you ask when good old Beryl 'the Pearl' Plumtre and her Food Prices Review Board reports that there are 'no' excess profits in the dairy industry beyond the farm gate. Therefore, she claims, the only way to reduce the price has to be to cut back on what the farmer makes.

The thing which this motley group fails to mention is that if it wasn't for a provincial milk price formula instituted last year, which ties the farm price to the cost of living index and a few other relevant economic indicators, there would not be a shortage of milk. The reason being that many farmers would have long gone into liquidation. Even with this new formula the farmers are restricted to a very moderate profit when compared to any other segment of

the Canadian free enterprise system.

It always amazes me to see the press attacking the farmers for excess prices - yet there is never any mention of the fact that in the past five years an \$18,000 tractor has gone to \$50,000; fuel has increased by better than 400% at well head; and that labor costs have doubled, or even tripled.

However, it is redundant to state payments made to farmers are nowhere in the league just previously mentioned. Did you know that for some twenty years or more, prior to 1973, wheat sold at approximately \$1.50 per bushel while the rest of the country's economy has increased at an average of 10% per year? This puts farmers, by my calculations, some 200 or more percent behind the rest of Canada.

Canadian grain farmers since 1973 have gained some ground, but mostly at the expense of the beef industry, due to the interdependent aspects of the agricultural industry, as a whole, the Canadian agricultural picture is far from ideal. The people of Canada will shortly be forced to choose between luxuries and food, for agricultural costs have skyrocketed and the curve continues upwards. In order for producers to remain in the field, prices for agricultural commodities must go up as well.

What is needed is a leveling out of inequities and then positive policies to combat the ever present evil of inflation.

Glenn G. Edwards  
Ag 4th Year  
rep

## letters

### Animals' place

I am writing in regards to your article several months ago in *The Gateway*, "The Place of Animals in our Society." Has the group mentioned in your article been formed yet? If so I would like to participate. I am a zoology student and was disturbed by your article. I am very concerned about animal welfare and realized how the attitudes of the society must be radically changed.

I would certainly appreciate information on your group.

Marc Hamilton

### "Worried" about religion

Once again Gish and his travelling slide show have returned to the campus to preach the old-time fundamentalist sermon on why evolution is supposed to be false.

Never mind that he is a biochemist and not a paleontologist. A reputable scientist of any kind does not have to rely on past credentials the way he does, and if you look at the ads announcing his coming, the fine print is nothing but a list of eminent scientists Gish has worked for (which proves nothing). Gish is obviously trying to shine in the reflected glory of his superiors.

The fundamentalists claim that they want all sides of the story taught in public schools

and universities. Setting aside the principle of separation of church and state for a moment, if evolution and creationism are to be taught together, then medical students should also be required to learn the story theory, and Astro 253 should include the Bermuda triangle.

The increasing belief in pseudoscience, the occult, and other weird religious beliefs worries me, not so much because of their ideas, but because they ignore the principle of the scientific method. A theory must be the simplest explanation for a given set of facts, the proof must be reasonably valid (and not based on a single book as is creationism), and it must predict future trends. All of this applies to evolution, and none of it to creationism.

D. C. Spiers  
Mackenzie Hall

### Just kidnapping

While perusing back issues of *Payola Weekly* in the Law library last night, I heard some muffled screams coming from the hallway. Rushing out to see what was going on, I came upon a young girl with her hands tied and a sack over her head.

She kept screaming "Please help me - they're trying to kill me," so I figured it was a senior law class re-enacting the Patty Hearst kidnapping.

However, now that I think about it - why would Patty Hearst be wearing a cowboy hat and a Buck Owens belt buckle? I may be onto something here... but maybe not.

Bob Brownnose  
Law II

### On being a real man

Are there no men on campus or are they just afraid of Ags. For the past two weeks I have been trying to get some other faculties involved in a tug of war during Bar None Week. It was thought that this would be good advertising for Bar None plus give a few of the fellows a chance to show what they are made of. I figure that we would have no problem getting teams because guys would like to get into something a little physical than pushing a pen all day. To add to the incentive the Ag Club purchased \$100 worth of trophies and free passes to Bar None for winners. Well one would assume a huge turnout of teams, not so. It seems most everyone is scared to use some muscle and try and get those passes and trophies. So far only Kappa Sigma, Law and Forestry have confirmed registration. Why is this? Are the Engineers, the Meds, the Dents the Jocks etc. too scared to challenge an Ag team. Are the Engineers just big talk, no action. Do they feel they can't match the Ags man for man and woman for woman? Well I don't really know, but if there are any guys interested in trying to get those trophies and free passes to Bar None phone me at 459-6498 and be in CAB at 12:50 on Wednesday of this week for the "tug of war." Don't worry, we Ags will take it easy on your Jergens' lotion hands. I suppose its true Ags are still No. 1.

Bill Hole  
Bar None Committee

Yes folks, this letter is real in its entirety. No it is not a fabrication. A real university student wrote this. Ed.