

Everybody has to believe in something...

the Gateway

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1981

I believe I'll have another drink.

Gateway seized

by Gateway staff

The Students' Union at the University of Alberta is contemplating legal action against the City of Edmonton following confiscation of the Gateway student newspaper Thursday, November 19, by officials of the Edmonton City Police and Fire Departments.

Officials said the Gateway was seized because of a story on the Wednesday, November 19 arson in the Student Union Building (SUB). They said the story may have been detrimental to the Department's investigation.

The papers were returned to the Gateway by Police Monday morning, and were distributed on campus.

About 12,000 copies of the Gateway and about 21,000 copies of the Federation of Alberta Students' Voice were discovered missing Friday morning. Except for about 5000 Gateways already distributed to the Central Academic Building (CAB) and SUB, most of the papers were still on the SUB loading dock. City officials later said they had mistaken the Students' Voice for Gateways, and took them all.

The Gateway contacted Campus Security and City Police Friday morning when the papers had been discovered missing. Until later that afternoon, there was no word on the whereabouts of the Gateway.

At approximately 3:00 p.m. Friday, Gateway Editor Peter Michalyshyn was contacted by the City Police.

Shortly thereafter, Michalyshyn and Gateway Production Editor Robert Cook met with Police and Fire Department officials at Police Headquarters downtown. The men said the papers had been removed shortly after midnight Thursday.

No court orders justifying the seizure had been issued.

The Police and Fire officials said in conversations with Michalyshyn and Cook that the department wanted the paper out of circulation only for one day to thwart the possibility of copy-cat fires.

The papers had been stored in a garage of the residence of a fire department official. One of the officials who admitted to taking the papers led the two Gateway Editors to the garage to identify their property.

The Gateways were transported from the garage in a Police paddy wagon and taken to a Police compound, according to the police officials.

Campus Security said they assisted the Police and Fire Department officials in removing the papers. Director of Campus Security, Gordon Perry, said it was standard procedure to "assist" police investigations on campus.

Senior Security Officer, R.J. Oliver said, "It's their investigation - they can do what they want."

Oliver said he was informed of the seizure by a Campus Security officer who assisted the police and fire department officials in removing the papers soon after the Thursday evening seizure.

When the Gateway contacted Campus Security on Friday morning they claimed to have no information about the missing papers.

At 3:00 p.m. Friday, SU Facilities Manager Stan Perka called Campus Security regarding the missing papers. Oliver told him he would inquire into the matter. Shortly after 3:00 p.m. Oliver contacted the Police Department. He informed officials there that they should act on the inquiries from the SU about the missing papers.

At about 3:15 a Police Department official phoned Michalyshyn, who then went with Cook to meet with the City officials. The Gateway then learned that police and Fire Department officials were responsible for seizing the paper.



photo: Jens Andersen

Gateway editor Peter Michalyshyn signs for the return of last Thursday's Gateways which were confiscated earlier by the City of Edmonton Police Department.

THE CITY OF
Edmonton

POLICE DEPARTMENT

4, Sir Winston Churchill Square
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NEWS RELEASE

Re: GATEWAY PAPER

A member of the City Police Arson Detail and a member of the Edmonton Fire Department Arson Detail investigated a rash of arsons which occurred over the past week on the University Campus. The first fire investigated occurred on the 18 of November 1981 was set on the second floor of the Student Union Building. Approximately 25,000 dollars damage was done. A second fire was investigated on the 19 of November 1981 in the Hub Mall. It was set in a washroom and the damage was minimal. The last occurrence took place on the 21 November 1981 in the Student Union Building. This fire being set in the same area as the one on the 18 of November 1981 and damage was minimal again. In relation to these arsons one Patricia Elaine JUST was arrested. She is 17 years of age and has been charged with three counts of arson.

During the course of this investigation, the two investigators, one from the Fire Department and one from the Police Department were informed of an article in the Gateway Magazine. This was on Thursday, 19 November 1981. Feeling that the contents of this article were detrimental to their investigation, the investigators seized approximately 10,000 copies of the paper from a loading dock area in the Student Union Building. Following this seizure, the investigators reviewed their action and thought that they had been incorrect in seizing the papers. Attempts were made to return the papers on Friday, 20 November 1981, however, the newspaper staff refused to take them. On Monday, 23 November 1981, the papers were returned after a phone call was received from the newspaper asking for them back.

Proper search and seizure procedures have been reviewed with the Police Officer involved.

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