

## EDITORIAL

### On hacks and their shameless distortions

So, a "group of concerned individuals with no affiliation to either the *Grind* or any member of the Students' Union" wants a referendum to limit SU financial subsidies of Gateway operations to \$5,000 on the basis that we cost the students \$105,000 in direct and indirect subsidies?

Well, if they're so concerned, why didn't they research their facts and attribute their "reliable sources"?

However, first I'll tell you my reliable sources and then I'll tell you who I think theirs is.

According to Tom Wright, the SU and Gateway business manager and my source, the projected deficit for the Gateway for 1984-85 was to be \$9,696.

He estimates the actual deficit for this year will be \$2,000 but when you add the \$8,500 deficit for of the Photodirectorate, the total will be \$10,500.

Thus, based on an enrollment figure of 23,000, you have subsidized the Gateway the grand sum of *Forty-six Cents*, or half the cost of a bus ride.

In case you didn't notice, that's a lot different from the \$2.50 the "concerned individuals" claim is your subsidy to us.

Their information coincides with a study marked "private and confidential" commissioned by our esteemed president and noted columnist, Floyd Hodgins. (Note: I would like to thank Floyd for providing me, at the request of Tom Wright, with a copy.) It was performed by ex-SU business and finance manager Burt Krull and submitted on May 30, 1984.

In his study, Krull calculated all the opportunity cost lost to the SU in terms of foregone rent and administrative costs. He arrived at the total deficit, including the \$8,000 that was accounted for by normal SU procedures, to be \$46,000; so, the cost of foregone revenue to the SU was \$34,000.

This figure of \$46,000 is considerably different from the \$65,000 they claim but wait, there's more.

The \$50,000 in ad revenue is actually \$48,397 in the '84-85 budget. It can be broken down into \$35,662 in internal SU advertising (which is effectively a journal entry transaction and costs you nothing) and \$12,735 for media work, some of which is also a journal entry transaction.

The type of accounting analysis performed by Mr. Krull has never been used before when calculating the performance of an SU service area but somehow Floyd saw fit to have such a study done on the Gateway and only the Gateway. That this information forms the basis for an attempt to financially undermine the Gateway is only one of a series of uncanny coincidences that have occurred lately.

One example: Floyd telling VP Internal-elect Scott Richardson—in my direct presence on Tuesday—that if the motion regarding the Gateway had passed and the one supporting funding for the *Grind* had failed (see this issue's council story) that he would have put forward a motion recommending that the *Grind* be switched into the place of the Gateway. He also voted for a motion granting money to the *Grind* even though he writes a column for them.

He voted against the Gateway motion, but the fact we refused to grant him a column probably wasn't related to his decision.

Think that amazing coincidence has anything in common with the referendum petition? I don't. I believe Floyd has too much integrity to work anonymously against someone or something he doesn't like, or farming out his dirty work. Don't you?

However, another weird coincidence is Gord Stamp solemnly telling me on Tuesday that it would take a referendum to direct funds away from the Gateway and then Presto! In the Wednesday *Grind* we see a request for a referendum from individuals who claim to have nothing to do with the SU or the *Grind*.

Still, I can't believe this is an organized attack on the Gateway, it must be an unconscious act of mental telepathy linking all these great minds together through the energy exuded by the righteousness of their cause.

But seriously, I think this is another ruthless attempt by a bunch of political hacks to attack the reputation of their target, and if they can't find a clear and valid reason for doing so, they're only too happy to distort and twist the facts to suit their purposes.

How fitting that this petition should appear as a letter in the *Grind*, publisher of that other great researcher, Maria Schultz, who also couldn't get any facts straight about the Gateway.

That fighter for free speech, Mike Hunter, must have figured in both cases what the hell, it's only the Gateway and I slander their reputation all the time!

In closing, I would like to invite any student who wants to know how their newspaper is being run to come by and visit us.

If you have any comments on how the Gateway can be improved, we'd love to hear them. Just don't ask us to run a column written by and for political hacks; we're not here to be a plaything for the SU executive, we're here to serve you.

**Bill Doskoch**

P.S. for information about our finances for 1985-86, check the back of this issue and see how our deficit as a percentage of our total expenditures compares to other services requiring a subsidy. You may be pleasantly surprised. Another thing: we don't charge \$10 to become a voting member.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### More comment on youth group

The article written by Walter Cavalieri in Gateway, February 14, 1985 [re: gay and lesbian youth group], requires further comment.

The article fails to recognize the support our agency has provided to the group members and its leaders. Further, the personal comments directed toward myself are lacking of facts and ignore the efforts I have made to re-locate the group within my own church.

Carol J. Ladan  
Executive Director  
McMan Youth Services Association

Editors note: Due to a clerical error this letter could not be located until recently. We apologize to Ms. Ladan for any inconvenience we may have caused.

### Show someone you care

With exam time coming up, and all the pressure of studying, final assignments and worrying about final grades, I'd just like to say a few words about a very "touchy" subject: Suicide. This topic is often one that is shied away from and is even less talked about, but why? Is it because we are afraid of it and death, or is it because it is something we know very little about?

I, for one, know something about it. Last spring a very close friend of mine shot himself in the head. It all happened very suddenly, the day after our grade twelve graduation. No one knows why. He was well-liked, good looking, intelligent, etc., etc., Obviously not a candidate for suicide, or was he? No one knows what makes a person want to die, or what triggers the final decision to self-inflict death, but it happens more often than we know. Do you realize that there are 100,000 suicidal deaths in the United States alone, each year? This total doesn't even include all the unexplained car accidents, drug overdoses, and missing persons. Do you know that it is most often the "best looking", most intelligent people that choose the "easy way out"?

But why am I telling you all this, right? I just want everyone to realize there are lonely people out there who need help. Faces can hide any emotion, and often behind the mask is someone begging for attention, just needing to find out someone cares for them. What extra energy does it take to talk to a friend, smile, show some warmth and encouragement? If you have a friend who seems depressed, get some help! Don't be afraid to talk to a doctor or a psychiatrist—that's what they are there for! There are also lots of organizations in Edmonton where help can be found. The Distress Line (AID Service, 426-4252), L.O.S.S., even the U of A Health Department.

Remember, it is a lot easier to help someone now,

while they are still here, than it is when they are gone. It is no fun to be left behind—a suicide survivor—harboring feelings of guilt, pain and loss. There are always alternatives, no matter how dark the path may seem. It's up to everyone to help people reach the light.

S.S.

Faculty of Education

Editor's Note: Help is available for suicidal individuals and survivors of suicide by contacting AID Service at 426-4252. They offer a Suicide Prevention Program, as well as information on other agencies offering prevention and bereavement programs.

### Take some reality and call me in the morning

After reading Gerard Liston's letter in the March 26 issue of the Gateway, I am compelled to reply. I wonder if Mr. Liston has ever had occasion to visit the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at either the Royal Alexandra Hospital or the University Hospital? Perhaps if he spent some time on either of these superb facilities, then his view on withholding care from severely handicapped infants would suffer a severe blow.

Our two children were both born prematurely and between them they have spent nine months on the NICU at the Royal Alex under the able care of Dr. Stewart and his colleagues. My wife and I have experienced the agony of which Mr. Liston speaks, and I, for one, do not believe that anyone can "appreciate" this agony without personal experience of it. I would like to give Mr. Liston an idea of what it can be like—we spent six months waiting to find out if our daughter would live, and she was not severely handicapped at birth. Some of the parents of children born in this period were not so fortunate. There were a number of infants born whose chances of survival past a few days were infinitesimal. Some of the parents of these children requested that treatment be withheld. In these cases the withholding of treatment only made the final hours of life easier for the child—the alternative was major surgery to repair serious handicaps (unlike Mr. Liston's eye problem) such as lack of kidneys, enlarged heart which had formed outside the rib cage, and similar problems. The surgery in these cases would have only increased the infant's pain, not prolonged life.

For Mr. Liston I would prescribe a healthy dose of reality tempered with tolerance for one who has obviously not had experience in the area he chooses to comment on. To Dr. Stewart and the other dedicated doctors at the NICU I can only extend my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for a job well done.

K.A. Cassidy  
Science !!

## The Gateway

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Little did anyone suspect when Hans Becker's *Stringbean Candies* appeared that they would actually live up to their name. "Yummy" remarked Susan Sutton moments before stretching to 12 feet, puncturing the roof of her car. Shane Berg, ever impetuous, took advantage of the situation and braided together Don Teplysk, Mark Spector, and Ann Grever. John Watson and Dan Watson complained bitterly over their hats crushed against the ceiling while Cindy Rozeboom, having abstained from their voracious candy consumption, laughed and took pictures. Brinton McLaughlin adapted quickly to the situation, catching to the art of folding himself into elevators. Bill Doskoch said he likes his new height. "I'm so intimidating now!" he squealed in delight.