

# the Gateway

## EDITORIAL

### ...and justice for us

Police Officers?  
Firemen?  
Lawyers or judges? All of these are publicly respected professionals whose authority is rarely questioned. We almost never challenge the common stereotype of law officers not only as men and women who enforce the law, but also as demigods who are the law; people who operate within legal confines on a day-to-day basis, but who still have that air about them of being slightly above the law.

Well, are we not taught to *respect* authority rather than question it?

But let's talk about exceptions to the law. After all, they pardon presidents, don't they? Who else - if anyone - should be exempt from legal prosecution if they are convicted of committing a crime: cops, politicians, you or I - if our intentions are good?

No one.

A cold, hard fact, but the foundation for any society such as ours that strives towards operating under rule of law, as a democracy. What the law is for the common people is the same law for the rich, the influential, and the law officers themselves - especially the law officers themselves. They can under no circumstances be allowed to use their legal authority as a license for law-breaking.

If this isn't true, then some of us are in the wrong country.

Last Thursday evening, Nov. 19, two high-ranking officers (one a Detective in the Police Dept; one a Captain of the Fire Department) confiscated approximately 12,000 student newspapers from the Students' Union Building (SUB), and the Central Academic Building (CAB), in order to prevent a story from hitting the stands. These two individuals, using their police credentials and police authority, and without a legal warrant or orders from their superiors, did willfully take thousands of newspapers without even notifying the publishers - your Student Union - or the *Gateway*.

In fact, we were not even told the newspapers were in the possession of the two officers until nearly a day after they went "missing". Almost as surprising is the fact that the newspapers were not taken to an official police compound, but instead to the residence of one of the officers: specifically, his garage. Upon deciding that the story was either "safe" for public viewing, or that the papers simply took up too much space in the Captain's garage, these two tried to give our newspapers back late Friday afternoon without upsetting us. We're upset.

Here are the questions that the *Gateway* asked the Students' Union lawyers: Should we simply slap these two individuals on the wrist and say, "Naughty, naughty - you should have known better - but seriously, don't do it again?"

Or should we follow the more unpopular route and take these people to court in order to make examples of public servant who abuse the power, authority and trust that society bestows upon them?

After all, if two students, rather than two peace officers, had been responsible for the disappearance of the newspapers, wouldn't the police arrest and charge the two students?

Why would the police treat their own differently?

We feel we're doing the right thing - pressing charges. We cannot swallow the line that this was an innocent mistake and that the two officers who confiscated the papers just didn't realize what they were doing.

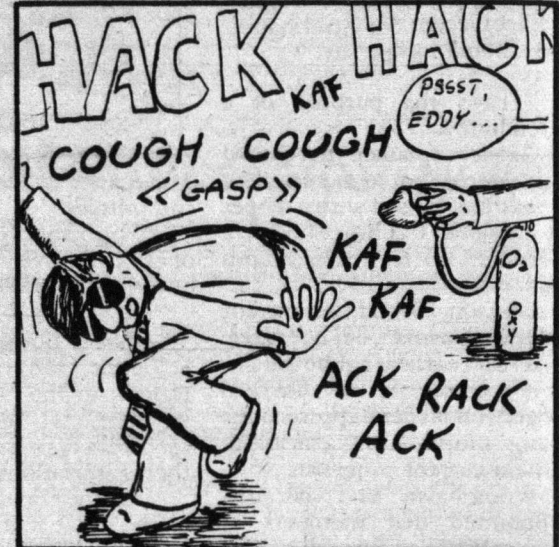
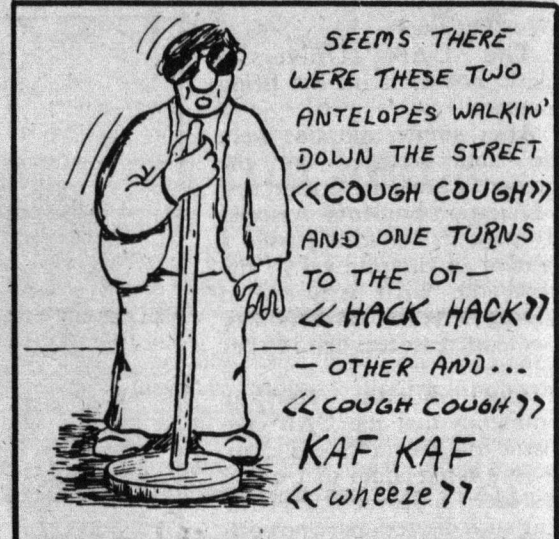
After all, they know the law better than we do... don't they?

R.N. Cook



THERE'S GOT TO BE A MORE EFFECTIVE WAY TO PREVENT UNGRATEFUL STUDENTS FROM TAKING ADVANTAGE OF FREE SPEECH!!

Eddy  
the  
ASTHMATIC  
STAND-UP  
COMEDIAN



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Breakdown of uni athletic fees

Dear Editor,

As interesting as the question is of whether or not the UAB should have the right to increase their fees by 15 per cent without going to referendum, I believe there's an even more important question to be answered concerning athletics on this campus. Specifically, all full-time undergraduates have to pay \$27.00 this year in UAB fees. Of this total, roughly \$18.90 (70 per cent) is used to support intercollegiate sport, approx. \$1.35 (5 percent) is used to provide grants for non inter-collegiate sport clubs, and the remaining \$6.75 (25 per cent) is used to support intramural sport.

If the UAB is allowed to increase their fees by 15 per cent, without going to referendum, rest assured that they will do so with alarming regularity. You can also rest assured that the percentage breakdown of their money allocation is unlikely to change. So, while your fees may go way up, only 25 percent of your fees will likely go into sports programs which the average student non-jock can participate in. What a wonderful prospect!

My question is: what does the average non-jock think about this set-up? I don't think most students are against supporting intercollegiate sports, but to the tune of 70 per cent of their athletic fees...?!

It would seem that if they held a referendum, it should be to ask students to answer the following question with a yes or no: Should the UAB allocate more

than 50 per cent of their resources to inter-collegiate sport? The UAB would probably be very surprised by the answer they get from students on this campus to that question.

I think the average student wouldn't mind if the inter-collegiate elite had to look elsewhere for a little more of their money.

Stuart Mackay  
Arts 74

### IRA letter misread

N. M. McCulloch (19 November) has doubts about my seriousness. I have doubts about his reading ability. I neither praised nor condemned the IRA, but merely noted its prominence on the Irish political scene, taking this as evidence that attempts at more democratic solutions have apparently failed. How Mr. McCulloch manages to deduce from this innocuous statement that I am an "embryo terrorist" is beyond my imagination.

Mr. McCulloch then comments that most people could not condone the use of force to keep a region in confederation. This was precisely my point. A plebiscite would probably reveal that a majority of people in Ireland would prefer the country to be reunited. But they are not likely to be given the chance to make such a decision.

As for Mr. McCulloch's guilt complexes, there isn't a nationality on earth that hasn't committed a crime at some point in its history. Only a masochist would walk around feeling guilty for something that took place before he was born. I happen to be British. I condemn what the

British did to the Indians under the Raj, but I don't feel guilty about it.

Perhaps Mr. McCulloch finds it difficult living on "stolen land." If so I suggest he retires to some remote hillside cave to reflect on his sinfulness. He may, of course, discover that several hundred years ago, someone once owned that cave, in which case I have no solution to his problem.

Brian Cohen  
Arts IV

## LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, although we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Gateway*.

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Staff this issue: "Man was born free and he is everywhere in price tags," wailed Matt Moralis. "But I still live in the best of all possible girls," said Dianne Taschuk. "Philosophy is the art of the impossible," muttered Dave Chan, but P. Prince, Kent Flintstone, Adolf Hitler, Don Miller, and Martin Beales overheard and began chanting, "turkeys of the world unite; you have nothing to lose but your brains." Tom Freeland, Garnet DuGray, Murray Whitby, Dave Cox and Jordan Peterson quickly line up on the other side of the room and screamed back, "No Free Crunch! Back to the jerk ethic!" Michael Skeet and David Marples stood by, aghast. "To air is human," they insisted, "to confuse - define." Mike Eklund shrugged uncomprehendingly and confessed, "Ich bin ein Bertlitzer."