

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

That defiant debt

I was in my office editing furiously yesterday when I stopped, called together the collective, and passed the collective buck:

"Well, what do you think I should write about the Students' Union debt?"

Blank faces stared back at me.

"How about knocking them for not getting on top of the deficit soon enough?" ventured one.

"Didn't they?" I replied. "They closed the big losers - Friday's and RATT kitchens. They froze capital expenditures. They laid off a few people but the union wouldn't cooperate. They fired SU manager Bert Best. They upped retail prices across the board."

"How about taking a shot at the professional management?" another one piped in.

"Well, good idea but we can't say anything about Bert Best because he's in the process of suing the Student's Union. Glyden Headley left last summer and besides, some people seem to believe Best had him under his thumb."

"You mean Best force-fed Headley that \$157,000 interbudgetary error in the 1978/79 preliminary budget?" one asked disbelievingly.

I didn't say that," I said.

"What about that new guy, Ivanisko?" asked a third.

"George. What do we know about him except that he's taking over from Best and Headley? He's making some accounting changes, he's making area managers think about this year's final budget by using a new budget form, he likes Nikons..." I trailed off.

"Why are we doing this Special Issue in the first place then?" asked a disinterested party.

"A bit late to bring that up," I replied. "But we should do at least one story on it. After all, they are a million bucks in debt."

"How about an editorial on how students are affected?" says one.

"Good angle, but the executive maintains students won't be affected. No services are going to be cut. Price increases would have occurred anyway. No one with half a brain ever ate in Friday's or RATT. In four or five years the SU will be back in the black and no one will remember it ever happened," I said.

"Exactly."

"What?" I said.

"It doesn't matter," the voice replies. "It might as well not exist. No one is affected by it. What is this debt? It doesn't exist. It's a plot to get more money out of the students."

"You're not quite right there Karl," I said. "After approving last year's fee referendum students are contributing three bucks exclusively to offset the overdraft. They also contributed an extra two bucks toward SU services but the services aren't expanding for it. Students aren't totally insulated from the debt; until the SU gets out, services won't be improved, no new restaurants will be built, no dome over the SUB courtyard, no HUB of the 80's," I said.

"A dome - over the courtyard?" asks one.

"Sure. Everybody thought HUB was a stupid idea and now it's the most dynamic place on campus. A geodesic dome - Bucky Fuller would love it. Look, the university insists on building drab condominiums and gravel parking lots. Students should be more adventurous. Two of the nicest buildings on campus are student buildings. Or were student initiatives - that's quite a legacy," I said.

"Uh, we're getting a bit off topic here," warned one.

"Yes," I agreed. "Well, how about this - it's impossible for amateur students to walk into a five million dollar operation and manage it competently, especially when they're backed up with allegedly incompetent management. On top of that the university was irresponsible for letting the debt escalate so much before stepping

"Well, that sounds a bit more rational, but don't make it sound so uncomplicated when you start writing," warned one critic.

"O.K.," I said, and I wrote this.

Peter Michalyszyn

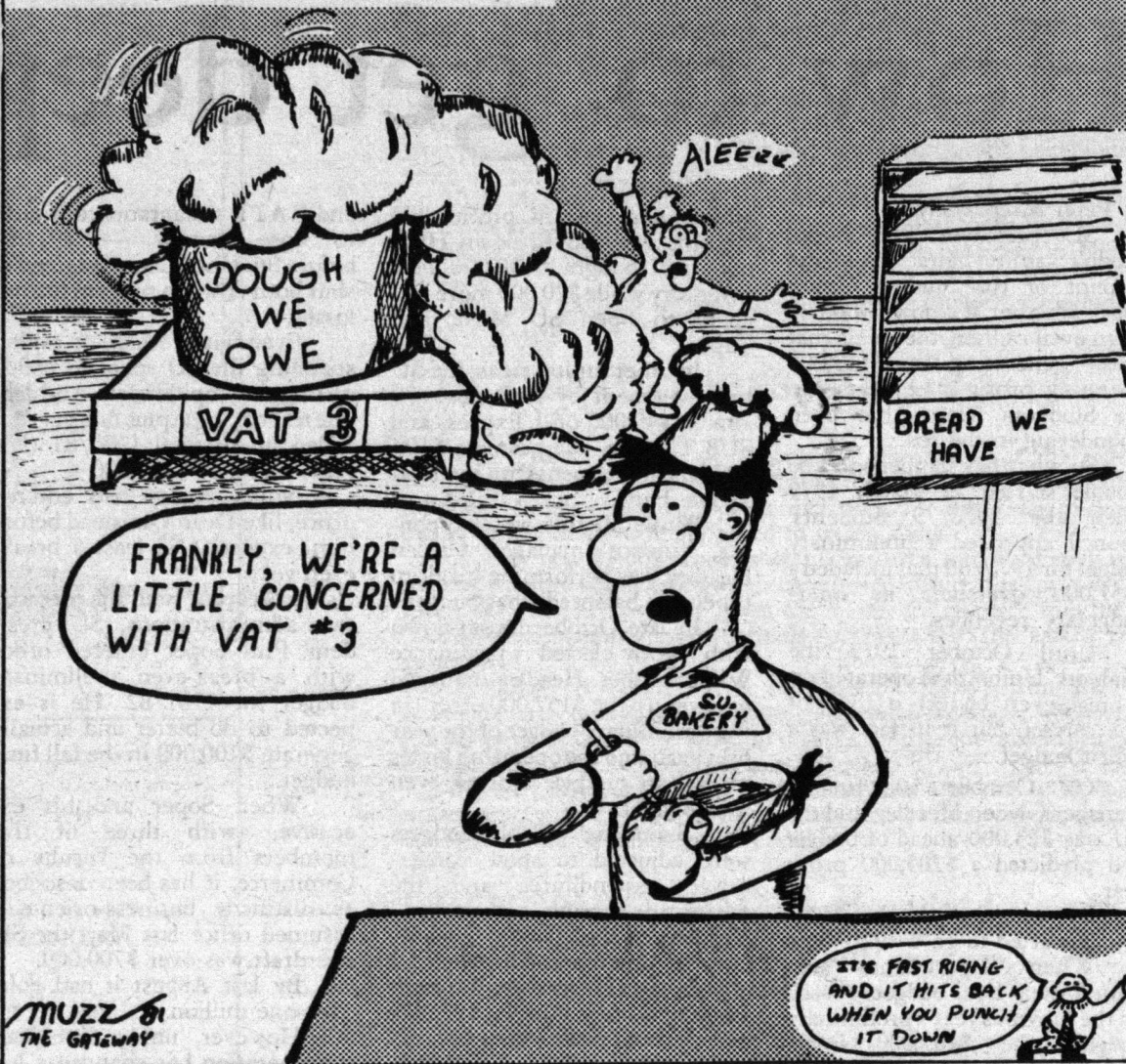
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Staff this issue: Does anybody out there actually read the staff box? I mean does anyone really recognize the stunning beauty of these little gems of timeless, matchless prose? Some nights I lay awake thinking that I won't be recognized as the driving force behind brand new wave journalism until I'm dead. Dave Cox and Bob Kilgannon only laugh at my little works.

Peter Melnychuk, Con Boland and Lloyd Takeyasu don't think my work is Shakespearean in the least. And Pat Just, Murray Whitby and Kathy Kabarle, with all their years of production experience, say that they've never encountered anything quite so appalling. I think I'll go home and start nasty ruminations about all of them in my memoirs.

ITEM: S.U. DEFICIT ON THE RISE



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

What British democracy?

To the Editor:

David Orrell's defense of the Brits' military occupation of Ireland on grounds of democracy is ludicrous, and it's difficult to avoid being pejorative in rebuttal. But since his arguments reflect so much of the bilge that makes up the British case, it must be commented on.

A majority of Ulster supports the Brits, and the government is "democratic" says Orrell.

Ulster was incorporated as part of Britain at the end of WWI, when the centuries-old Irish freedom movement stood at the brink of complete victory and independence. It was the largest

chunk of land with a protestant (pro-British) majority that Britain could amputate. Only one problem: one third of the six counties' population was Catholic and nationalist, and didn't fancy being Brits. A minority, but not a British minority.

It's an open secret in the British "democracy" that Ulster is, and has been since its incorporation as part of Britain, run on the basis of permanent privileged status for the pro-British protestants in the North. The Catholic minority has been suppressed.

The Regional government and Loyalist political machine (which supplements the Tory party in Westminster) is run and organizationally permeated by the Orange Order, a fascist-type semi-secret society and grass-roots goon squad based on the protestants, who were imported,

mainly from Scotland a couple of centuries ago to keep the natives down.

This situation, called the "Protestant Ascendancy," was the only way Britain could keep a foot in Ireland. It still seems to be, since the British government shows no intention of dismantling it.

Given this disgusting fact, organized from the Mother of Parliaments and necessarily a mortal embarrassment to every Briton who takes the word

freedom seriously, one can only call on the Orrells of this world to desist from apologizing for Margaret Thatcher's defense of the *status quo* in the name of democracy. The word has really been debased and dragged through the mud too much this century. In spite of Margaret Thatcher, the British Empire and the Atlantic Alliance, it should be encouraged to survive to the next.

Robin Hunter
 Pol. Sci. Grad Studies

Friday's revamp chintzy

Dear Gateway,

In my everlasting humble opinion, the changes made to Friday's do not substantiate a sixteen thousand dollar cost.

Dewey's is certainly not a sixteen thousand dollar name.

In qualitative terms, new carpet, resurfaced tables, new drapes (half drapes) and new handrails do not a sixteen thousand dollar change make.

Why didn't council use their limited money supply to change Friday's instead of cosmetically renovating it? Upon entering this establishment one still feels that one is only in a cafeteria that serves alcohol.

Why didn't council panel up those damn mall-side windows so patrons could at least be tricked into thinking that they were no longer in that godforsaken hole of HUB?

Why not dim the lights?

Why not pipe in something other than that imitation music spewed out by CJSR?

Dewey's is still as revolting as Friday's, and I for one will only be seen in there when I need outside aid in turning my dry heaves into glorious puddles of stinking vomit.

Herman Malchow
 Arts IV

LETTERS

Letters to the Gateway should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. Anonymous letters will not 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.