

## EDITORIAL

One of my favourite comic books is *New Teen Titans*. Its stories are usually entertaining, with intriguing plots, realistic dialogue and sensitive characterization. But this month's issue features a courtroom drama.

I hate courtroom dramas in comic books. Here we have a group of vigilantes trying to uphold a set of arbitrary rules (laws on Earth-1 are different from those on Earth Prime) in an American court of law. In this case, our young heroes are testifying against a "bad" vigilante, the Terminator. In the story, each side tries to outsmart the other, but winds up wasting clever twists on a situation which is absurd in the first place.

That's when I realized the parallels between the comics and students' council.

First of all, comic book super-heroes operate on an alternate universe in relation to the rest of the world. Its laws are arbitrary, changing with every plot twist it needs to make stories that much more exciting, since life, either as an Earth-1 citizen or a U of A student, is essentially boring.

The major players in both the comic world and students' council are mutants. Either by birth or choice, we witness a bunch of self-appointed defenders of the law — the arbitrary laws — running around displaying super-human ability to either withstand or shovel out bullshit.

Finer distinctions can be made between all the characters. There are good guys and bad guys; protagonists and antagonists; star players and backroom boys — but they are essentially all vigilantes, taking the law, however they define "law", into their own hands. That's why the Batman runs around avenging his parents' murder. That's why the X-men go around protecting the unprotected. That's why Wonder Woman still believes that goodness and light will once again (she's a revisionist) flourish in the world.

But as every literature prof will tell you, the metaphor has to end somewhere. I can't deduce why members of students' council wanted to fire the Gateway editor before his term began. I don't know why members of students' council have repeatedly threatened to "shut down" the Gateway. It was never explained to me why a member of students' council sent me a memo threatening me with a lawsuit. And why do certain members of students' council insist on interfering with the Gateway's internal election process?

Yes, it's too bad the similarities between comic books and students' council are not absolute. After all, in the comics, with so many alternate universes, none of the characters are under the illusion they are living in an absolute reality. Thus, comic book characters don't take life too seriously. Although they often possess the future of the world in their hands, they know they can find life on another astral plane or time or dimension. They know once they are not popular, their book is liable to be cancelled. They know if they die, some revisionist writer down the road is going to resurrect them by hook or by crook or by jewel kryptonite.

It's not as if it's all that different in the world of student politics. Once a councillor's term is up, there is the option of going back to civilian life. Or, if they are popular, councillors can find life on a higher plane as an SU executive. If they are unpopular, they would be defeated, but that does not rule out the possibility of a Phoenix-like resurrection (is Don Millar a suitable example?)

I suppose the great difference is that many student council members do not realize that junior politics are not the "be all and end all" of life. These vigilantes do not seem to realize they are playing with real life, not 2-D day-glo cut-outs. And whereas comic book characters have their comic book lovers, bosses, friends and family to impress, SU characters have no one to impress. No one other than their little SU character cohorts to make an impressions on, positive or negative.

And just as most people do not care who Nightwing is currently sleeping with, most students are not interested in student politics. Whether apathy is bad or justified, the antics of the current batch of student politicians have been apt to do nothing but make students wonder about that \$9.43 they shell out to pay for students' council every year. For the same price, you can subscribe to a year of *Teen Titans* in deluxe format with more relevant social and philosophical comment than council has been able to muster all year.

The Gateway would like to have a relationship with the SU similar to the one the *Daily Planet* has with Superman: a co-operative dialogue. The last thing we need is for Lex Luthor to come down on us because we printed a picture of his "bad" side.

Suzette C. Chan

Politics and the press: should they mix? They must for the Gateway to select next year's staff.

In the next two weeks, in co-operation with the Students' Union, the Gateway will select an editor-in-chief. The person selected will be responsible to see the Gateway gets to you, the students.

After the editor-in-chief is selected, the staff of the Gateway will then elect the remaining editors who will be responsible to fill the pages of next year's Gateway.

That's a lot of politics for a paper that is apolitical. But this campaign stuff makes sense because the Gateway is a democratic body run by its members. All major decisions are made by the staff in open meetings. Each volunteer has a say and a vote equal to that of any editor.

Who are Gateway members? Any student, faculty member, support staff or alumni of the University of Alberta who makes three contributions to the Gateway is a member. The contributions may be written (not including letters), graphic, photographic, or in the form of assistance in layout, administration, office maintenance or what have you.

This kind of democracy ensures that the Gateway can remain an open student newspaper and fulfill its mandate to accurately cover all aspects of student life. This open policy, which allows input from any student, means the Gateway can call itself the official student newspaper of the University of Alberta.

The Gateway welcomes any and all input that you, the student, may have. Comments may be made in the form of letters which are edited solely on the basis of libel and available space (less than 250 words please). All students are welcome to attend meetings or participate in all aspects of the newspaper.

Persons interested in running for a position on the Gateway may do so by submitting resumes and letters of intent to the editor-in-chief by noon Mar. 14, 1985.

We need participation from the students we serve so the Gateway can remain a vital newspaper.

Bill St. John



THE COLLAPSE OF  
THE COAL MINER'S  
STRIKE IS A VICTORY  
OVER VIOLENCE AND  
INTIMIDATION! NOW  
PLEASE EXCUSE ME  
WHILE I SEND MORE  
TROOPS TO NORTHERN  
IRELAND AND THE  
FALKLANDS!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### Yay, gay!

I want to commend Gateway for the "Pink Triangle Supplement" in its Feb. 14, 1985 issue. It covered many aspects of the reality of gay/lesbian segment of society, and all articles were written in a balanced and for the most part, accurate way.

I would like to comment on some inaccuracies in the "Gays and the Church" article, in particular, to set the record straight (no pun intended!) First of all, our pastor Charles Bidwell is not yet ordained, so it is inaccurate to refer to him as "Reverend". Secondly, we (MCC-Edmonton) do not serve "lesbians and gays exclusively", as the enclosed brochure will document. The writer is predominantly straight and we have had other straight people attending our church on a regular or occasional basis. As a matter of fact, our church in Nigeria is made up largely of straight people.

Another small matter is that our local bodies are called "churches" or "congregations", not "chapters"; we are not a society or gay caucus within a Christian denomination (as, for instance, Dignity within the Roman Catholic Church), but are a denomination.

The correct title of Dr. John Boswell's book is: "Christianity, Social Tolerance and Homosexuality" and it covers the period from the beginning of the Christian era to the 14th century.

I doubt that Charles Bidwell would have said, which he was quoted as doing, "Homosexuality was not Sodom's only sin," because he does not believe the orientation of homosexuality is a sin. I'm sure this quote must have been a misunderstanding on the part of Gilbert Bouchard. Charles may have said: "homosexual rape was not Sodom's only sin." There's a difference! He was also quoted as saying that Jesus would have said: "Do you have power over that person?" One small word, left out of this quote, if added, would bring this statement closer to what I'm sure Charles said, namely "or" — "...Do you value that person? Or do you exercise power over that person?" The last statement is meant as a contrast to the first four, whereas the way it was printed, it is

grouped with the other four.

To quote Philip King as saying the "Gays should have a place within mainline churches" (with which I heartily agree) and then to quote him as saying: "Christianity shouldn't only be a religion for the respectable" is contradictory, for it makes it seem as though Philip was inferring that gays/lesbians aren't respectable; I'm sure that wasn't Philip's intention. What he probably said was something like this: "Christianity shouldn't be viewed as a religion of 'respectability' (as society views respectability) — Christianity is for everyone."

One last comment: there seems to be a typesetting error a little further on in the article, again quoting Mr. Knight. "Churches should deal with gays and lesbians. (Big gap) Many of us think that...the question of whether Greeks should have been allowed into the early church." After "many of us think that" the words "it is similar to" should be inserted for the sentence to make sense.

Sean Dean

Deacon, MCC-Edmonton

### No lust for O.V.U.M.

Re: Letter from O.V.U.M.

Where the hell do you get off saying all these things about the "lack" of progressive women? Here WE are, two gorgeous (no "reasonably" about it) chicks lying here, sipping Canada Coolers, playing "Old Maid," and reading "The Gateway—NOT waiting for the telephone to ring. Do you know why? Because WE are today's progressive women!!! Everybody knows we don't "do" waiting. Now you're probably wondering why we don't phone you. What do you look like, who are you, and what the hell are your phone numbers? As well, we're not all nymphomaniacs (surprise!!!) lusting for your body, your car, and your money. About your phoning crises and your fear of rejection, there's a good psychology department at the U of A, and after you've been there, you can go pick up a student directory, then perhaps one of us. Or how about the two of us getting together with the five of you?!! Get with it, we're out of Coolers and our "Old Maid" cards are getting sticky.

2 R.F.A.'s

## The Gateway

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**Editor in Chief:** Gilbert Bouchard  
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**Circulation:** Paul Chu  
**Typesetting:** Linda Derksen, Janine McDade

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Ann Grever and Mark Olyan are starting their very own slave shop. Up for sale at present are Jim Herbert, Bill Doskoc, David Marples and Mark Spector. Cindy Rozeboom says her slaves Shane Berg and Hans Beckers are working well and are a considerable improvement over Melanie Klimchuk and Mike Evans, who refused to change the kitty litter. Shareholders Brad Clark, Alex Miller and Greg Owens are pleased. Tim Hellum thinks the whole idea is disgusting.