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CIRCULATION

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432-3423

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Production Managers:
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FOOTNOTES

Publicizes campus events or those of
interest to students, without charge.
Footnote forms available at the
Gateway office and should be sub-
mitted before 2 p.m. Mondays and
Wednesdays.

LETTERS

Submit all letters, typed and double-
spaced to the Editor, who reserves
the right to edit copy. Regular copy
deadlines apply.

Opinions expressed in the Gateway
are those of the writer, and are not
necessarily those of the Gateway.

GRAPHICS

Submit all graphics, cartoons, and
illustrations to Graphics Editor by
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COPY DEADLINES

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TELEPHONES

• Editor's office:
432-5178
All Departments:
432-5168
Media Productions:
432-3423

letters

Hypocrites

On Tuesday, March 30, a full-page ad appeared in the Gateway asking students to sign a petition asking for support for King's College on the grounds that it would provide "a choice." This advertisement was more than a bit misleading and hypocritical because it omitted some very essential information regarding the character of King's College.

The document titled "Proposed Terms for Affiliation: The King's College" (dated August 14, 1975) contains some rather remarkable assertions in its Statement of Principles (p. 7). Among them is the assertion that "the Bible is the written and inspired Word of God in its entirety and the infallible rule of faith for life." It is further asserted that "Man, the world, and its purpose, is to be understood only in relation to God, the Creator, and to Jesus Christ, the redeemer." This constitutes a very extreme and dogmatic form of bias which is nowhere made clear in the Gateway advertisement. The claim made in this ad that King's College has proposed "an approach which broadens points of view" seems more than a bit hypocritical in this light.

It would appear that the framers of the King's College proposal do not really want an open discussion and debate between those who hold alternative positions. There are a substantial number of Christians on the campus already and they have been clearly free to present their views. Rather, the proposal, in effect, advocates not more breadth but a privileged enclave for Christians (largely at the expense of the general public) which will exclude those of other viewpoints.

The fact that scientists, apparently unlike Christians, do not propose to have final answers and that science is a growing and vital body of knowledge seems to escape the authors of this proposal. They also seem to ignore the role of human creativity and effort in the formulation of these laws which are more descriptive than proscriptive. Thus, in addition to a largely unnecessary duplication of effort, King's College would be offering a decidedly limited and distorted view of science.

The King's College proposal would be much more acceptable if they simply proposed courses in theory or Christian values but instead they propose alternative courses for the first two years in a very wide variety of departments including Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and English. The value of whatever distinctive contribution that King's College might make in these fields seems dubious at best. On p. 25 of the proposal, there is a very odd view of Science as being allegedly concerned with the "operation of general laws in nature." It is further asserted that "a Christian perspective in the sciences will relate these laws to the lawgiver and place their study in a proper relationship to the understanding of natural things." Thus, science is viewed as a cosmic legislative code dictated by God with scientists, presumably, reduced to God's law enforcers.

Kellogg Wilson

Literary reactionaries

In the recently published "Blue Book" advertising the fall line-up of English courses and their producers, there is listed a 400-level course on African literature. Let us examine some of its features. Firstly, "The focus of attention in this course will be upon writers from East Africa (mostly Nigeria) . . . "A simple lesson in geography would inform us that Nigeria, far from being in East Africa, is actually in West Africa! Secondly, who are these East African authors we will be studying? With one exception, they are all from Nigeria. The one exception, who is from Kenya, is listed as James Ngugi, while in fact he should be referred to as he would have it — Ngugi wa Thiong'o.

Finally, the emphasis of the course "will be upon these writings as works of literary art rather than as historical or sociological documents". In fact, by stripping African literature of its political, historical, and sociological context — the context from which the literature emerges and to which it is being addressed — the impact, vitality, and significance of the literature is being neutralized so that it can be examined as if it exists in a void — Art for Art's sake. Given the present intensifying situation in Africa — the clash between the forces of imperialism and the forces of liberation — this is a naive and reactionary approach.

Greg Teal,
Anthropology

Locked Out

Last week an article appeared in the Gateway documenting the Students' Union's executive decision to refuse use of the Students' Union Theatre to the Faculty of Engineering.

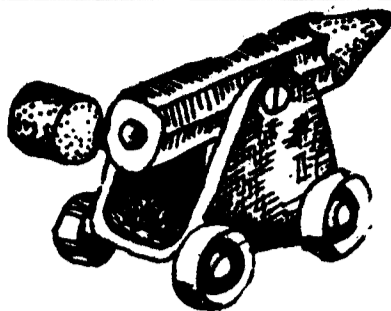
The reason the Faculty needs the theatre is to hold the Engineering Profession 200 and 500 lectures. Each lecture contains roughly 600 and 200 students respectively.

At these lectures Engineering students listen to guest speakers such as Dr. Berkowitz, an authority on coal gasification who also spoke at an SU Forum earlier this term and Mr. Spraggins, a board member of the Syncrude corporation. If the Students' Union does not allow the Faculty of Engineering to use their theatre the lectures will have to be split into sections. Unfortunately, each new section will not be able to listen to as many guest speakers as the single section did. As a result, the "value" of the course will drop.

In the article, President Leadbeater's stated reason for the refusal was a planned increase in the number of forums next year. However, since the Engineering Profession 200 and 500 level courses would take up only two one hour time slots every week it is hard to imagine how President Leadbeater can justify his statement; three forums per week are surely enough for everyone.

It is with this refusal that the Executive has bitten into its flesh, us. As well, it must be clear to everyone who reads the article that president Leadbeater has decided that the Engineering students do not deserve his concern; may one dare ask who is next?

Christopher Vaughan
Eng. 1



editorial

- 30 -

It's been a long time coming, this last editorial; just a bit over three years. And seeing as how I'm the first editor since the great Poundmaker debacle way back in '71-'72 who has spent more than two years with *The Gateway*, I'll be hanged if I'll let this opportunity to flower into nostalgia go to waste.

The first day I visited this campus, in March of '72, I managed to bump into the then mildly famous Ray Turchansky, who had recently defected from my hometown paper, *The Leduc Representative* to *The Journal*. I told him I wanted to break into journalism, and since he was already more than well on his way to success, I asked his advice on how to do it. He told me the best way for me would be to work on one of the two campus papers, *Poundmaker*, or *Gateway*. Well, being new to the big city, I never did find Poundmaker House (it was supposed to be the big white house with a lot of beer cases outside its door), and that decided the issue for me.

I walked into the Gateway office and was met by the editor, Terri Jackson, and asked for a job application form.

"What?"

"A form. I'd like an application form for a reporter's position. How many references do I need, if you don't mind telling me?" I had a lot of confidence then.

She gave me an assignment instead, and even though they misspelled my byline for the rest of that year, I considered myself staff member enough to ignore my classes, thus dropping my marks almost a full grade point in only three weeks. After that my grade point standing dropped steadily, as did my course load — until last November when I pulled out of my final class, three full courses short of a BA.

Still indignant, still suffering from the devastating loss of staff and continuity that the creation of *Poundmaker* forced on *The Gateway* of those days, the outlook of the paper was entirely different from the one you see now.

Those days were remarkably lacking in journalistic highlight, and it was quite an event (of sorts) to have a special story to hinge your front page on. Indeed, it was a special event of sorts to have enough copy or advertising to even fill the pages, notwithstanding we only published sixteen or twenty pages per week.

Linked with *Poundmaker's* death struggle was the issue of CUP. *Gateway* had been more than severely chastised by the national press organization when Council decided not to ratify the staff's choice of editor. Since *Poundmaker* was a member, and a CUP by-law forbade more than one member paper per campus, *Gateway* went without CUP's news service or Youthstream's advertising for about four years. I breathed a hearty sigh of relief when we started receiving the news service last January. It meant no longer having to produce entire news slots for a twelve or sixteen page *Gateway* with only two or three writers, or even sometimes by myself.

Learning journalism via *The Gateway* can teach you a lot besides the simple art of newswriting. You learn to sneer at *The Journal* (except when you're making a job application with them), you become a socialist (except when you're making a job application), you deplore capitalism and big business (except when you're selling advertising or subscriptions), you promote equality (except when you're negotiating salary budgets), and you're unquestionably loyal to the paper, (except when someone offers you a job).

A parting shot to the staff itself is also in order, at this auspicious moment.

Since the good old days when we had trouble scraping ads or copy together for two eight page issues a week, and when it took poor old Scott Partridge til four in the morning to lay it out and paste it up, we've made a lot of changes. We've grown, and we've re-established a lot of records. But here's one record I'd like to see someone try and match: try going three straight years without missing a single issue, and in the meantime, try writing entire news slots yourself to stay in good verbal form, without thinking of classes, marks . . . or quitting.

Who knows? Someday you might be able to sit at this desk and wax sentimental.

by Greg Neiman