

# EDITORIAL

## Doesn't compute

It's time someone took a close look at the activities of the university library system.

Students will probably be forced in the future, because of library funding difficulties, to search in *three* different places for books and periodicals. And this may not be just a temporary situation.

The root of the confusion is the new COMCAT (Computerized catalog) system, to supplement and (maybe) replace the present card catalogs. But instead of implementing this conversion over a two or three year period, the changeover time is indefinite: five, ten, or even twenty years.

This will create special problems for students. The library system is already a labyrinth of catalogs, fines, and information sources; any further complication is sure to make the libraries less accessible to some students.

As well, library administrators are being less than completely frank about the changeover. By using a step-by-step approach, they hope to diffuse opposition to the computerization plan from students and academics. This explains their reluctance to divulge complete long-range plans now.

The library's juggling and internal shuffling of resources to finance this program is being done for one reason: lack of money. The cash shortage is so severe that *library fines* are being channeled into the computerization; students might be doing the university a service by returning their books late!

What is needed by the university is a special grant for the entire cost of changing over the catalog system. Without this grant, library computerization should be halted, because it can only result in further deterioration of our already overtaxed facilities.

## This is planning?

The long-range plans approved for North Garneau early this week are nothing short of a farce.

The tiny (two pages) document with its *hand-drawn* diagrams is nothing more than a rush job designed to make it look like the Board of Governors is operating within normal policy. Belatedly they realized that it looks bad to approve specific proposals for redeveloping North Garneau without having a policy (however shoddy) to back it up.

So the university threw together a long-range policy to guide North Garneau planners when a committee was *already* discussing floor plans for specific housing projects not yet approved. In their rush to build for the Games, university administrators have given up the pretence that this is part of a careful long-range plan taking into account the university community's best interests.

Admittedly, the Board Building Committee strengthened the proposal Tuesday to virtually exclude parking from the housing area. Nevertheless, the university's tactics seem calculated to silence critics of North Garneau redevelopment by giving them nothing concrete to shoot at until it's too late.

In the meantime, the university will get its way: about half of North Garneau will be freed for academic development, the remainder will be rapidly filled with new, sterile housing projects.

This total dismemberment of a once-proud community is just what opponents of North Garneau redevelopment feared all along. At this point, they seem to have lost their battle against the relentless onslaught of so-called "progress."

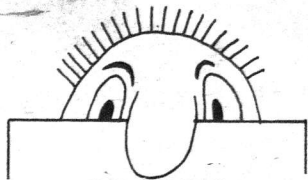
And present and future generations of students will be forced to pay the price.

Keith Krause

# the Gateway

Gene Jamieson memorial issue

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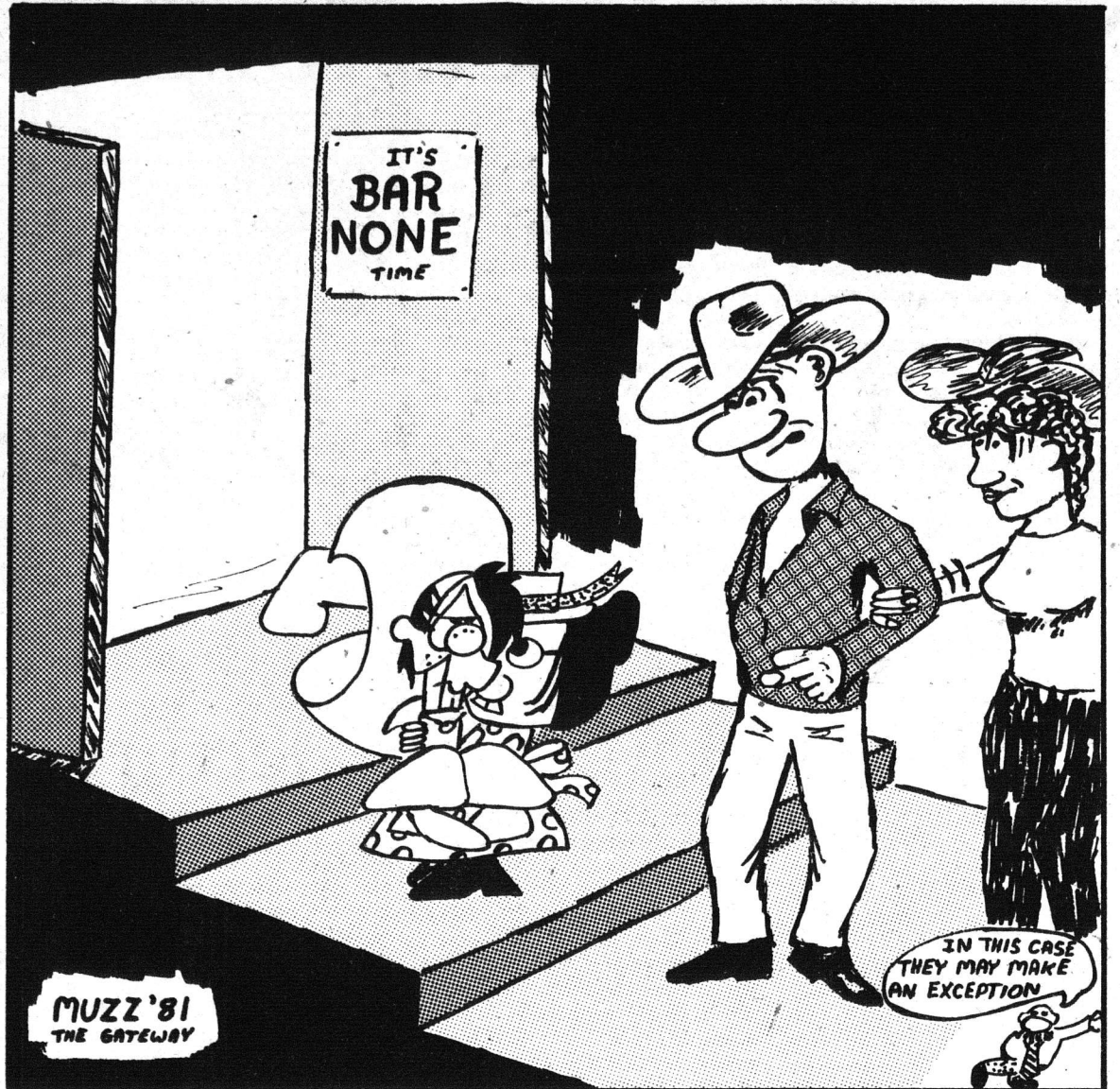


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And as everyone else on campus worried about labs and term papers and finals, the merry band at the Gateway argued about what to do with the ping pong table their mysterious new editor with the Cheshire cat smile and alleged beard had purchased. Murray Whitby thought it'd make great firewood, and Phil Melnychuk, Maureen Laviolette, Marc Moquin and Elda Hopfe nodded vigorously in agreement. Garnet DuGray, Mary Ruth Olson and Cathy Emberley were torn between love of the game and fear of looking silly. But Kent Blinston, Pat Just and Michael Skeet, who had no such worries, were out selling tickets to the Last Annual Ping Pong Tournament. Lenny Bruce just snickered, and went off into the corner to talk dirty about ping pong balls...

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. With a readership of more than 25,000, the Gateway is published by its proprietor, the Students' Union, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter session. Contents are the responsibility of the editor; editorials are written by the editorial board or signed. All other opinions are signed by the party expressing them. Copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. The Gateway, a member of Canadian University Press and the Youthstream Network, is located at room 282 SUB, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2J7.

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## Bulldozers not progressive

May I be allowed to correct a simple grammar error in Brent Jeffery's convention center editorial piece (March 17)? Surely, the literacy-minded writers for *Gateway* must know that "one must ask themselves" should read "one must ask himself," as one is, of course, singular.

What is upsetting about Mr. Jeffery's communique, however, is not his immature grammar, but his immature thinking. To measure progress in bricks, cement, and gorgeous "acoustically perfect" auditoriums is a rather archaic measuring stick that hasn't been used by responsible people since the time the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were used as evidence of the glories of science and technology.

One would have to assume that urban development, considered in this light, is only progressive if it improves the superficial appearance of the downtown area at the expense of the rest of the city and the people who have to live in it. Who knows, Mr. Jeffery, perhaps Edmonton can "progress" to the level of South Chicago!

There are, nonetheless, some urban planners and sociologists in the world who measure urban progress in other ways, and perhaps Mr. Jeffery will someday discover what they have to say and subsequently recognize that other opinions exist besides those of Mayor Purves and his friends, who have never in any way proven themselves progressive in any sense of the word.

Furthermore, if Mr. Jeffery were to go to a car dealer and make an initial deal with the salesperson for \$5,000, and then return with his money only to find that the price had risen to \$11,000, he might be a little perturbed. And, if Mr. Jeffery were told by the salesperson that some design changes in his car had been made without his approval or knowledge, though the rise in cost was an "unfortunate error," he might be a touch angry at the

situation. It might not squelch his desire to buy a car, but it would most likely convince him to change dealers.

The small minority of Edmontonians who voted in favor of the convention centre in the fall 1979 plebiscite (which was not held last fall as Mr. Jeffery tells us) voted for a center with a specific plan and a price quotation that Purves, Bagshaw and all of the others told us was a maximum estimate. Then the Convention Centre Authority, the committee that exists to oversee the project and on which both Purves and Ron Hayter sit, approved major design changes to the foundation and the interior that account for the lion's share of the increased costs.

Purves and Hayter did not deem it necessary to tell City Council or the citizens about these changes when they were proposed. (And here I beg to differ with Mike Walker's "sharper analysis" on page 4 of the same issue, which tells me I am not a sharp thinker if I cast blame on Purves and council for this fiasco. Forgive my dull wit, Mr. Walker, but in a represen-

tative democracy, which Edmonton supposedly is, blame for mistakes of this type fall squarely on the shoulders of the elected leaders, not their appointed flunkies. This is especially true when our esteemed Lordship himself sits on the board deciding on the center!

Mr. Jeffery is of course entitled to his opinion on the convention center, but surely he need not insult the Edmonton Voters' Association, who have made what Mr. Jeffery apparently would consider the gross error of measuring progress in human terms; in terms of need and fairness, and not in bricks and profits for the Four Seasons Hotel. The EVA has been proven 100% correct in what it said during the 1979 plebiscite campaign. That is directly opposite to the record of all convention centre supporters.

Perhaps Mr. Jeffery should ask Purves what his opinion is on that point, so he can flail it about wildly in the next issue of the *Gateway*.

Gordon Turtle  
Urban Design VIII

## Vote, vote, vote for us!

Attention Arts students:

Elections for Arts reps to Students' Council will be held Friday, March 20. As candidates for these five positions, we would like to draw a few matters to your attention.

Last year out of 3,000 eligible voters, less than 3% cast ballots.

This year we have assembled a slate of five individuals who are representatives of many students in the Faculty of Arts. In addition, we have extensive Students' Union experience, enabling us to be effective representatives on Council.

In the upcoming year, Students' Council will be facing important issues — for example: North Garneau, possible tuition

fee increases, and the SU deficit. Of particular interest to Arts students, we support the ASA in developing and expanding their services.

Polling stations will be open Friday from 10 am - 4 pm in the Humanities Centre (HUB walkway) and the Tory and Fine Arts Buildings. We encourage you to vote and hope you will give us your support.

Dave Cox  
Arts III  
Randy Dawson  
Arts III  
Grant Litke  
Arts III  
Dawn Noyes  
Arts II  
Bruce Rabik  
Arts II