

# EDITORIAL

## Sartorial splendour

The Assassins club has stirred up some major shit and the real truth of the matter is the entire fault lies with the Dean of Students, Paul Sartoris.

I admit I think the game is kind of dumb. My idea of fun is not bang-bang-you're-dead games of hide'n seek.

But the behavior of the people involved in the game is nowhere near as irresponsible or childish as the behavior of Sartoris.

The first thing he did wrong was by-pass all those little bureaucratic channels and phone the club's organizers at home personally instead of going through the Students' Union.

We as students have to put up with all kinds of bureaucratic bullshit with no escape ever. But Sartoris is a dean so it's okay for him.

But anyway, he complains to the club organizers about the "nature and motif" or the game. You know, "condoning violence" and all that garbage. So the 'Assassins' agree to change their name to "Spy vs Spy."

Sartoris has scored a little point and everyone figures everything is groovy.

But it didn't end there.

Sartoris was probably horrified at all the type that was generated by the media. The *Journal* ran stories, so did the *Sun*; 9 radio stations mentioned it. ITV were calling up and last and most W-5 were inquiring about the story.

So, it's gotta be "full steam ahead and damn the dart-guns" for our Dean of Students. He has to shut the game down now, otherwise he looks like a total buffoon for stirring up so much hype about nothing.

So he starts complaining about "third person liability." This means someone else will get hurt. This is bullshit.

Next we start hearing tales of cops gunning down Assassins players in the States thinking the toy guns were real.

This is stretching it too, but by now the guy is probably desperate. He wants to keep his job and he can't back down without losing a lot of face.

Anyway, he manages to pass the bureaucratic buck to Dr Baldwin, who was then Acting President of the University.

Well Baldwin is a little smarter than Sartoris. He does come up with a face-saving formula. He tells the club to change their toy guns for water pistols that do not "resemble" real guns. It was a good decision (even though the issue should never have reached his desk).

Sartoris' objections are given a certain amount of credibility so he doesn't look like a total fool and the club can still play the game if they want.

Unfortunately, the people in the club were by now kind of sick of the controversy, and changing the rules and the guns seems too much of a hassle, so they call it off. But it was *their* decision.

However the whole issue should never have received such a high profile. By acting irresponsibly Sartoris managed to endanger the credibility of his position, Dean of Students, alienate a lot of students, he probably made the administration uncomfortable and generally he has turned the University of Alberta into a laughing stock.

If he had acted with a little more presence of mind initially the game could probably have proceeded quietly and a lot of people could have been saved a great deal of embarrassment and hard feelings.

Richard Watts

## The absolute

Objection, evasion, distrust and irony are signs of health. Everything absolute belongs to pathology.

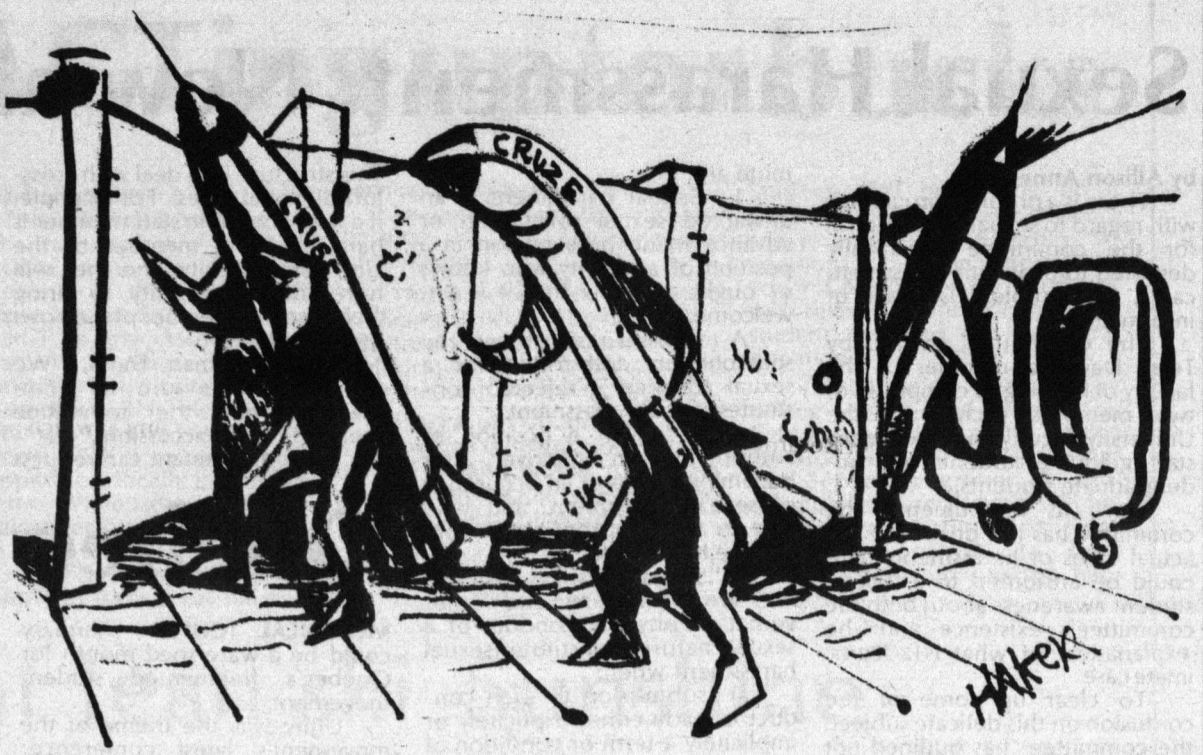
F.W. Nietzsche, 1886  
Beyond Good and Evil

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Local raconteur Bob Dylan discussed pomes with Gilbert Bouchard and John Algard... Margo Schmitt and Christopher Dallin are not a love story... Martin Coultts scored early on... Glenn Byer played censor... Ninette Gironella lusted after Ken Lenz... Bill Inglee, Zane Harker, and Martin Beales exposed themselves... Karen Redford played cut and paste... Nate LaRoi had plants for sale... Kent Blinston played God... all in all, a typical orgiastic, discomboobillating time... while Heather-Ann Laird set the pace, and Teri Lyn Paulgard dabbled, Michael Skeet doodled, and Mary Ann Nielsen dawdled...

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Cruising

## « LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

### The fix is in!?

I am outraged at the discovery that two fulltime Gateway editors are running in the Students' Union elections. In light of their actions and knowing that a great deal of student politicking has been going on for months behind-the-scenes, I have no choice but to question the integrity of this year's Gateway reporting.

Though impartiality is more than can be expected from even the most altruistic of writers, I hoped that it was not naive to believe that student journalists would put something ahead of their own petty political interest. The thought that men selected to report accurately and analyse fairly University/Students' Union activities, would abuse their mandate, and take unfair advantage of their positions to pontificate themselves into the SU executive deeply offends me.

To begin with these candidates have had an opportunity shared by no others, to espouse explicitly their so-called philosophies (or lack thereof) upon the editorial pages. More disconcerting, however, now that we are aware of their motives, is the recognition that their reporting itself is suspect, particularly where it refers to SU activities. Until now, I never suspected that, in a non-partisan campus paper, news stories slanting against one student politician would be written by someone planning on replacing him/her, while good publicity would be given to potential running mates. Unfortunately, although it would be unfair to taint the entire Gateway staff with the same brush (after all, is blood really thicker than water?), the action of its editors severely damage the paper's credibility.

Gateway editors who have masqueraded as impartial guardians of the University milieu only to reveal themselves as self-serving politicians have abused their trust and must resign their positions.  
James R. Weir, Arts III

ME Note: As explained in last Tuesday's Gateway, the editors in question have resigned their positions for the duration of the election.

I was surprised to read on Tuesday that Mr. Andrew Watts (Gateway Editor) is running in the upcoming elections with Mr. Robert Greenhill (Students' Union president). The more that I think about it, however, the more I realize that I shouldn't have been surprised, even though Mr. Watts was responsible for covering his current running mate all year.

Actually, this whole thing explains a lot. I had always thought that the reason Mr. Greenhill got unquestioning coverage was either that the Gateway was less ambitious this year or that, just maybe, he did have a decent record. It's also interesting to see the prominent coverage he got — on all kinds of issues — following his announcement that he planned to run again. Amusingly enough, Mr. Greenhill was even on the front page talking about freedom of the press. However, it didn't stop there. Another Watts/Greenhill slate member, Barbara Donaldson also got great coverage in a story written earlier this month.

Then Mr. Watts showed a sudden interest in food and housing issues at Faculte St. Jean a couple of weeks ago and wrote a long story on the subject. He saw fit to quote Ms. Lise Malo on these problems. Now he and Ms. Malo have joined Mr. Greenhill in running, together, for office. (It would be interesting to know when Mr. Watts decided to run; before or after he quoted one of his running mates.)

Finally, I think the fact that Mr. Greenhill was quoted on tuition increases (which a lot of his cooperation hasn't stopped) the same day that the stories announcing all of the slates running (see Gateway February 1) gives him an unfair profile and advantage.

I don't think that a student paper should be used to help build budding young political careers. I'm going to consider this possible Gateway conflict of interest before I vote.

Kathy Collins  
Arts IV

### Librarians reply

Sheila Reed, it looks as though you had a bad day at the library! We certainly hope that not all students feel the way you do about our library service. As a result of your letter and the few innuendos and statements which were made, we feel obliged to reply.

First of all, it is a common misconception made by students that university libraries are funded by student tuition fees. The money that student tuition fees provide for library administration is only a portion of what it takes to actually run the library system at the University of Alberta.

Secondly we liked to question a few of the statements made about our library personnel. Our scholars do not spend hours reading the books, as they have quota's to meet and our coffee breaks (which take place behind the desk) are not endless but actually 15 minutes long. Also, students are our first priority and therefore are definitely not ignored but assisted in as many ways as possible (including tentative suggestions if we feel they will be helpful). If there are specific complaints about certain library personnel there are suggestion boxes and library management is always appreciative of this kind of information.

And finally, you're right, the University of Alberta is a big place and so it helps to see a pleasant face be you student or library staff.

Heather Schneider, Wendy Mathewson  
Cameron Circulation

### To the law of the letter

While reading the over-zealous managing editor's reply to Mr. Campbell, I was dismayed to find an inconsistency between the OZME's remarks and the Gateway's stated "Letters" policy. If, indeed, trimming letters has little to do with individual letter length, wouldn't it be better to amend your stated policy to something like: "We reserve the right to censor for libel, and to edit for purposes of clarity or space."?

J. Borynec  
Grad Studies

### Taking UP the challenge

A few factual corrections to statements made in the Gateway Feb. 1.

First of all, His Majesty the Exalted John Paul Roggeveen I and No-No Nanette do not "take credit for the UP slate." In fact the idea of a slate came to them in a vision in which they also saw a seven-headed beast with ten horns and a lot of other weird things too numerous to mention (check the Book of Revelation for details).

Secondly joke slates are not "made up of people who secretly wish they could be elected to office but realize they are so dinky that they wouldn't stand a chance in a serious election."

This may be true of the Brand X joke slate in the SU election, but not us. Our slate is actually made up of people who secretly wish we could implement our neo-fascist program forthrightly, but know we only stand a chance if we disguise ourselves as a joke slate.

Jens Andersen  
On the right-wing side of Rogg the Father