

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—All the "Stout" hearted people who showed despite the rain and reign of SUPER-SCARTH are, as my failing memory has it, Leonard Pazdar, Diamond Jim Carter (why not?), Ron Ternoway and run like hell, Mary Worth and the lost little child found on the church steps, Dorothy Constable, Dan Jamieson or sumpin, Eric Hameister, Ginie Bax, Ron Dutton who is suffering from an acute nicotine deficiency, Catherine Morris, and yours truly who is writing this under three tons of concrete parkade, Harvey G. (for God am I flat) Thomgirt, the flatworm.

The Gateway is published daily by the students' union of the University of Alberta. The editor-in-chief is responsible for all material published herein. Final copy deadline for Monday edition—6 p.m. Sunday, Advertising—noon Wednesday prior; for Tuesday edition—6 p.m. Monday, Advertising—noon Thursday prior; for Wednesday edition—6 p.m. Tuesday, Advertising—noon Friday prior; for Thursday edition—6 p.m. Wednesday, Advertising—noon Monday prior; for Friday edition—6 p.m. Thursday, Advertising—noon Tuesday prior; Casserole—copy deadline 6 p.m. Monday, Advertising—noon Friday prior. Short Shorts deadline, 3 p.m. day prior to publication. Advertising manager Percy Wickman, 432-4241. Office phones 432-4321, 432-4322 and 432-4329. Circulation—15,000. Circulation manager Brian MacDonald, 432-4321.

Authorized as second-class mail by the Post Office Department, Ottawa, and for payment of postage in cash. Postage paid at Edmonton, Telex 037-2412.

Printed by The University of Alberta Printing Services.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1969

Editorial

Student press an alternative?

The Gauntlet, U of C's student newspaper, is in danger of financial castration.

A students' union referendum October 27 will determine whether or not the union will withdraw The Gauntlet's budget, which would effectively, to say the least, prevent further publication.

The referendum is the result of a petition circulated by several members of students' council in the latest clash of a long-standing feud with The Gauntlet. Council defeated a motion asking for a referendum two weeks ago. The next day the petition was drafted.

The Gauntlet's "hard" line, described by some as Marxist, has sparked considerable controversy on the Calgary campus. The paper's entire press run of September 24 (7,500 copies) was mysteriously stolen before it could be distributed, necessitating an extra edition.

A flurry of letters to editor Jimmy Rudy took exception to his philosophy, centering on headlines such as "Three capitalists appointed to ruling body" and lengthy articles on education and women's liberation.

The petition calling for withdrawal of financial support was spearheaded by council's external vice-president Bob Ferrier, who has been an outspoken critic of the paper for several years.

In the 1968-69 term, Mr. Ferrier started an "alternative to The Gauntlet," a weekly newspaper with a conservative editorial policy, which claimed to represent the majority of students. It folded after half a dozen issues when Mr. Ferrier failed to find a staff to work for him.

This fall, again, most of the criticisms of The Gauntlet involve its alleged lack of representivity of student opinion and failure to cover campus activities.

The Gauntlet countered this week with an editorial explaining that the paper's editorial policies and its choice of stories are determined democratically by the staff.

It said that any changes in format would come from within, "by the people who do the work." Any

member of the U of C students' union can join the paper's staff.

The present staff feels that the referendum is another move by Mr. Ferrier to establish control over the campus news media. They expect that if The Gauntlet loses council's financial support, Mr. Ferrier will attempt to re-establish the Medium, this time as U of C's only student paper.

In the past, The Gauntlet has taken strong stands on campus issues, supporting membership in the Canadian Union of Students and left wing candidates in students' council elections. Opposition has traditionally come from the engineering and commerce faculties, as well as council's conservative members.

However, this is the first time that the paper has been in real danger of being smashed. Anti-Gauntlet petitions have been circulating for years, but none have ever forced a student vote.

The case of The Gauntlet serves as one example of the sad state of journalistic freedom in Canada.

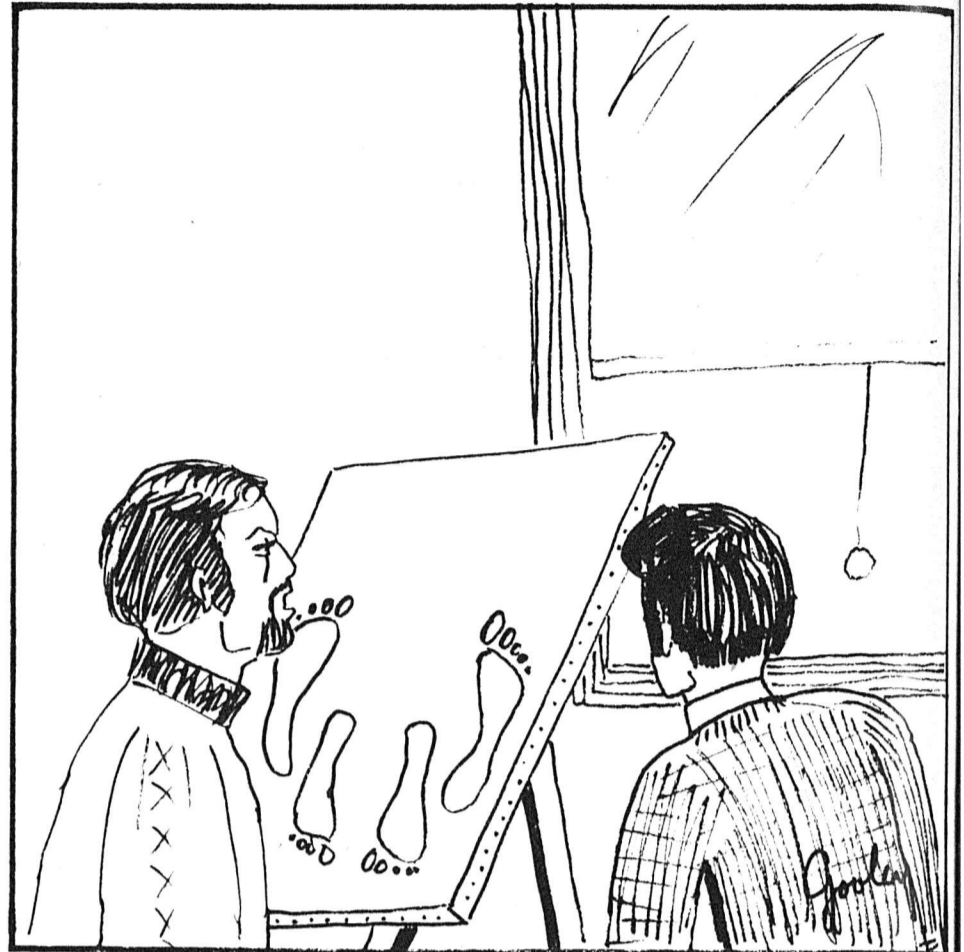
Canada's professional press is effectively under the control of big business. Reporters on almost every daily newspaper have found that any attempt at a critical analysis of certain facets of society is either killed by a news editor or censored to the point of blandness.

The daily press owes its financial life to corporate Canada, and is rarely willing to risk loss of advertising revenue by being critical of that segment.

Much of the underground press is useless: its fixations on drugs and sex can hardly be described as relevant to anyone but an apolitical dope freak.

That is why the university newspaper is so important. It is in a position to provide valid criticism of society, using the research potential of the academic community, run by people who are not yet committed to a corporate structure.

Any move to stifle the university press is another attempt to destroy hope for a dynamic, changing society.



It's a little idea I got in S.U.B. at noon hour.

Sadistic policemen are society's henchmen

By Dan Carroll

"Bill Donald enjoys his job. With a Grade 11 education, he earns \$831 a month and gets four weeks holiday a year. He especially likes the drug squad because he never has to work the graveyard shift—midnight to 8— or Friday or Saturday nights.

"But there's another reason he likes it. Sitting over coffee in a Chinese restaurant one night, he talked of some of the squad members kicking in doors and jumping and throttling addicts, and he said: 'We have a lot of fun'."

"The Detectives"
Canadian Magazine, Oct. 4

Yes Bill my boy, I bet you do have "a lot of fun".

It must really be a thrill to kick in the teeth of some sick addict.

You know these junkies are just dirty criminals that have to be exterminated.

And after a hard day's work, you go home to your wife and kids and nice comfortable niche in suburbia, and rest up for another day of thrills; while your stool pigeon and the rest of the underground carries on its life of quiet desperation, from one fix to the next.

The first point I want to make clear is that a heroin addict is legally defined as a criminal. But man, he's not a criminal, he's just a sick sick person.

He's sick in the head before he ever gets turned on to smack, and he's even sicker after. And

there's no way that a stretch in prison is going to help him. Not one bit.

But this is an injustice initiated by the House of Commons of Canada, and I want to talk to you, Bill.

I've got a bitch against this society, and you're the major representative of the whole bag of things that are wrong with the way this country is governed.

With a Grade 11 education, and a Grade 11 understanding of the whole social problem that society faces with drugs, you're doing an excellent job of perpetrating an injustice that began with the ignorance of 265 men in Ottawa. And you're adding your own little sadistic goodies like the choking technique, just to make sure that you do a good job.

What kind of man are you? Sure, \$831 a month is nice. Sure, the regular hours are nice. But how can you do to a sick man what you do to him and not choke on your food, and itch in your clothes, and feel trapped by the house that your lousy 831 bucks pay for?

Maybe you've isolated your personal life from your job and become hardened to what you "have to do". Or maybe you are "just another pig" who really likes to bust people.

Any way I look at it I can't help but think you are more criminal than the hypos are, and sicker than they.