

# Gateway

Member of  
Canadian University Press

Published twice weekly by the  
University of Alberta Students' Union  
in the Gateway Offices, Room  
282, Students' Union Building.

Volume LXVI, Number 43  
March 4, 1976

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## CIRCULATION

Circulation 18,000. The Gateway  
publishes on Tuesday and Thursday  
during the Fall and Winter Sessions.  
It is distributed to the students,  
academic, and non-academic staff  
on campus.

Subscription Rates: \$10.00 for 67  
issues

Circulation Manager: Jim Hager; y

## ADVERTISING

No mats accepted. National and local  
advertising \$.28 per agate line.  
Classified Ads, 10¢ per word. All  
classified ads must be prepaid.

Advertising Manager: Tom Wright  
432-3423

## PRODUCTION

Ad make-up, layout and typesetting  
done by Media Productions, University  
of Alberta, Room 238, Students'  
Union Building.

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  
normal copy deadlines.

## COPY DEADLINES

Monday noon for the Tuesday edi-  
tion; Wednesday noon for the Thurs-  
day edition.

## TELEPHONES

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All Departments:  
432-5168  
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432-3423

# letters

## Bad review

Dear Gateway:  
When the terrifying spectre  
of rape menaces so greatly our  
fellow human beings on cam-  
pus, I am greatly dismayed at  
the laudatory review your  
newspaper presented of a  
movie (Swept Away), which, I  
gather from your review and  
one other in *Chatelaine*, glorifies  
rape. This sort of action from  
*The Gateway* does not help in  
forming the new attitudes  
toward rape, freed from old  
sexist myths, that are needed to  
combat this scourge.

Yours sincerely  
John Savard  
Science 4

## Final word

With your response, Colin  
Ross, to my and Margaret  
Cook's comments I find it  
necessary to submit a rebuttal.

First, Mr. Ross, your  
greatest downfall has been the  
removal of fragments of infor-  
mation, from context only to try  
to found an argument against  
these 'portions' of statements.  
Your comments on the February  
3rd article 'David Suzuki: the  
Sorcerer's Apprentice' and  
response to my letter aptly  
illustrate this.

To avoid being repetitious I  
shall limit my argument to your  
comments on my letter. He has  
said that scientists com-  
municate in words' is an inac-  
curate generalization of what I  
wrote, at no point did I limit the  
form of communication to which  
I was referring. At this point  
it might help to consider what  
communication is: one basic  
denotation being - 'an exchange  
of information by talking, writing,  
etc.' With respect to this Mr  
Ross your derivation of the slope  
of that line, and the expression  
of it were forms of communication.  
Just as algebra and calculus are  
means of representing and  
converging ideas.

Your second fault Mr. Ross  
is the way you support your  
arguments. You write without

consistent and complete con-  
sideration of the issue. To  
support this I need only make  
reference to your 'debate' about  
footwear with Ms. Cook.

In this argument I con-  
sidered only one aspect of the  
arts, that of communication,  
which is a basic aspect of most  
of the arts and fine arts. Mr.  
Ross I could have argued from  
numerous standpoints for the  
importance of 'exposure to the  
arts' with respect to all universi-  
ty students. For example the  
sociological implications of the  
work in which the scientist is  
involved (this was Dr. Suzuki's  
main consideration).

I hope I have cleared up the  
basis of my earlier comments.

Roger Patterson  
Science II

## Work and be proud

Dear Sir:

Since I am a hard-working  
engineering student concerned  
about my future, and since the  
Royal Bank is about to foreclose  
on my life, I decided to begin an  
early search for a summer job.

Well, as luck (and a little  
nepotism) would have it, I  
landed a position with a certain  
large oil company, whose name  
will go unmentioned (you know  
- the one that loves politicians  
almost as much as Lockheed).

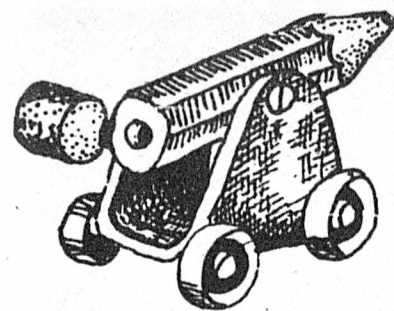
The personnel manager  
told me I'd be working on a  
project involving the  
breakdown of heavy oils, so I  
figured I'd be Joe Research in  
one of those labs Wayne &  
Schuster are always running in  
and out of on TV.

Luckily I happened to be  
talking to a guy who worked at  
that refinery last summer, and  
he warned me that when I report  
for work in April, I'll be handed a  
pick-ax and told to clean out a  
couple of cracking towers.

The thought of chipping  
two feet of coke off the inside of  
a giant tube doesn't appeal to  
me, so I went back to the plant to  
see about a different position.

The fellow there told me  
that I should consider it a great  
honour to be employed by  
Gu... I mean, Company X, and  
that if I didn't report bright and  
early on April 26, I would lose  
the use of one or more of my  
limbs.

Huch Packard  
Chem Eng II



# editorial

## Get rid of the albatross

The Students' Union is not a business nor is it  
staffed by businessmen.

It may have taken six years for successive student  
governments to realize this, but with the decision to  
allow transferral of management and ownership of HUB  
to the university, Council has finally acknowledged the  
SU's limitations and refocused its priorities.

Student housing has always been a concern and  
will doubtless remain so, but I contend that a union of  
students is much more effective lobbying for better  
housing than supplying it. HUB has been a thorn in  
the SU's flesh ever since its conception - not because it  
wasn't a feasible idea, not even because it is poorly  
designed, but because the Students' Union is simply  
not capable of running it efficiently.

How else can it be when members of the SU  
executive make public statements like "the SU is a  
lousy landlord," "we have no business acting as slum  
landlords," and "we don't have the expertise to run  
HUB."

The SU has neither the labor, the capital, nor the  
expertise to run HUB. The handful of people who man-  
age this multi-million dollar investment are by cir-  
cumstance inexperienced businessmen as will be all  
their successors. They lack the business and  
managerial backgrounds needed to operate a venture  
like HUB on a profitable or even a break-even basis, nor  
should they be required to.

The Students' Union should firstly be a political  
entity, a pool of people protecting student interests.  
Secondly it should be a co-operative organisation  
equipped to provide communal services to its  
members. Never should its managers have to be a  
poorly defined, loosely-collected group of efficient  
and/or inefficient individuals elected by an ill-  
informed and/or unconcerned populace - for the  
purpose of "making" money.

After years of financial burden caused by that  
sickly white elephant named the Housing Union  
Building, the reasoning behind the above statement  
should be clear, our big attempt at besting the  
business world in its own arena has failed miserably,  
and we can only view the riddance of HUB with  
gratitude.

You may criticise the Leadbeater administration  
for their secretive dealings, and I do, but you can hardly  
criticise them for bailing out of a sinking ship. Fools  
and romantics would stay and drown; rats and  
businessmen leave and live.

Let's hope the university buys the deal so our  
employees will be free to direct their energy into  
projects better suited to a body of students.

Kim St. Clair

## A union union - the answer to our problems

The formation of formal links between Canada's  
provincial and federal students' unions can only be  
viewed with anticipated relief. It's about time NUS and  
the provincial bodies formally acknowledged they  
could mutually help one another in representing  
students' needs.

From the standpoint of the students at the  
University of Alberta, FAS's (Federation of Alberta  
Students) proposed formal link with NUS (National  
Union of Students), and the other provincial bodies will  
rectify a major criticism that caused the defeat of the  
last NUS referendum. NUS was essentially a good  
organization, but too remote to warrant a \$20  
thousand expenditure, said most critics. "How could  
an eastern-based nation-wide organization feel or  
represent the needs of the students at the U of A?" they  
asked.

If the proposed link goes through, we have the  
answer. FAS's directive will be to make the views and  
concerns of Alberta's students known and represented  
in Alberta's power structure, and now it would be also  
within the power of FAS to do so within the nation's  
power structure.

Clearly the unification will result in the representa-  
tion of *more* students but also, and more importantly, it  
will result in the more powerful representation of  
students' needs and concerns.

NUS has an amazing storehouse of information  
and leadership assistance to offer the smaller provin-  
cial unions. Establishing a formal and constitutional  
link would allow us to make our voices heard  
nationally, where needed.

Since education funding comes largely from the  
federal government, how could FAS alone lobby  
effectively on this issue? Our provincial represen-  
tatives have sometimes been thwarted by local  
governments who say, 'We'd like to help you, but that's  
a federal matter.' We need the national perspective  
NUS can offer FAS.

And FAS can offer something to NUS as well.  
Students who now feel the national union is too remote  
can tell Terry Sharon about it in the SUB general office.  
NUS can use FAS's direct contact with students.

As well, the union can bring about a greater  
sharing of ideas. If Canadian University Press can be  
used as an example, it is easy to see how the union  
would work. CUP is divided into regions each with their  
own particular needs and views. Regional inputs into a  
national organization clearly create great benefits from  
the free exchange at conferences and staff exchanges.

Thus, should the issue come to referendum on this  
campus, it should be heavily supported and nurtured.  
Properly managed and openly discussed, the union  
promises great benefits to all involved, and a greater  
voice to students on their concerns.

Greg Neiman