

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

Where you're about

As I survey the campus I am encouraged to see students brimming with enthusiasm, here to learn, no doubt, the wisdom of the ages and, thereafter, to conquer the world as they see fit.

A closer look, I suspect, would reveal a less encouraging scene. It is one where for every true scholar there are ten students, where mediocrity is the norm, and where university education is reduced to an interminable grade thirteen.

Some of you, of course, should not be here. In due course you will arrive, along with many others, at this conclusion. You will realize you should be instead at NAIT, at Grant MacEwan, at Alberta College. Some of you should be at nursery school. Others should be at Harvard or Yale.

Now far be it from my intention to tell you what to do with your lives. If your interests range from bowling to drinking beer to attending Sunday mass, then carry on, by all means. You are, after all, mature adults with a reasonable amount of intelligence, according to the registrar's records, each of you with a reasonable chance of becoming educated. But if your interests tend to lie predominantly with major league batting averages, you might consider better wasting your time elsewhere.

To those who will continue to waste their time here, ask yourselves if you're not taking your status as university students for granted.

The university is still a special place. In spite of funding shortages and the devaluation of the Degree, you are fortunate to be here. You are set apart from thousands less fortunate, who for lack of money or intelligence or both, couldn't get in. You are among an elite, and you have opportunities unimagined by most people.

Rarely will you experience the freedom — academic and personal — you will here. You will confront the challenge of scholarship and excellence, and see its sharp contrast to the rigorous boredom that pervades most of the outside workforce. You will never again have the opportunity to improve yourselves by getting involved in concerns beyond your own narrow self-interest. Yet for all of this you are on a free ride. As a student you consume society's resources without in the short run contributing very much, and still you get respect.

So ask yourself: what are you doing with your status as a university student to earn that respect? In avoiding the answer to that question, you may use the excuse that in this very mediocre institution, scholarship and excellence are thwarted by the grade point system, quotas, poor professors, crowded classrooms, and so on.

But these are only excuses. In these you deny yourself any credit for your own mis-education, which is a result as much of your own lack of initiative as of anything else. The institution cannot give you a good education. You must want it.

Peter Michalyszyn

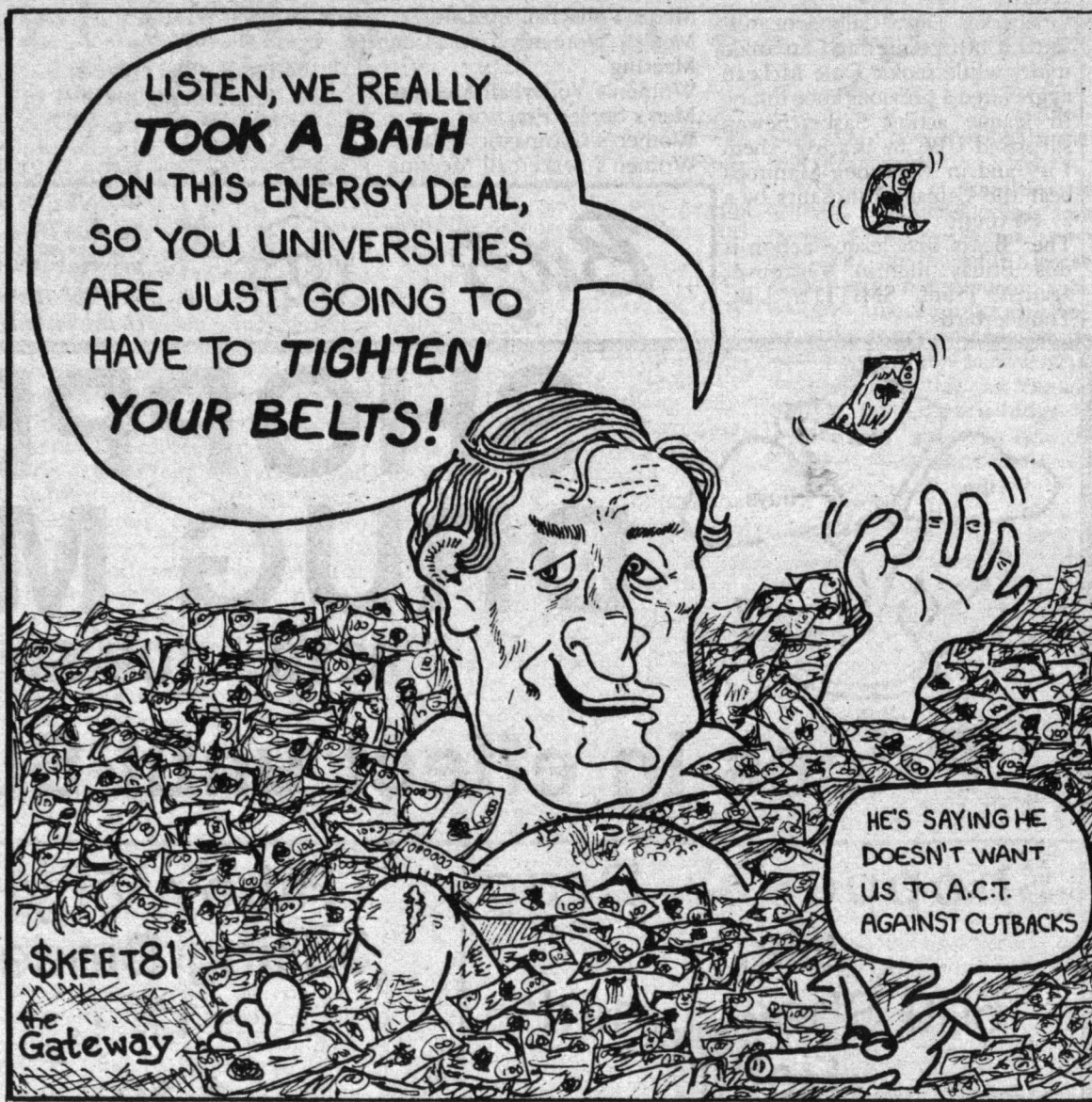
A Note

... on modern art, from the *National Review*, in view of the new show in SUB Art Gallery, *Body Parts*.

"There is considerable hand-wringing in the art world about the Reagan budget cuts, which threaten to halve the \$173 million that supports the National Endowment for the Arts and the \$165 million given the National Endowment for the Humanities, for a total savings of \$171 million ..."

"Young would-be artists who, except for fellowships and grants-in-aid, would have blushed unseen or starved in garrets, will have a rough time; no longer will they be able to 'find themselves' while living at the tax-payer's expense. It seems safe to predict that the number of those calling themselves painters or sculptors or video artists will be sharply reduced as more and more rejoin society and get an honest job."

P.M.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Gateway is a sexist rag

Dear editor(s):

New newspaper staffs should, I think, be allowed a few issues to get adjusted before readers start the usual barrage of criticism. But the very first *Gateway* of the year (Sept. 3) contained an advertisement so disgusting that it can't pass without comment.

I refer to the 'Models' advertisement on page 15, a reproduction of the now familiar 'Models' record album cover. It depicts a barely-clad woman doing something vaguely sexual with a water hose.

This ad is undeniably sexist, and although that may attract people to the cabaret it advertises, there should be absolutely no place for it in any newspaper that claims (as the *Gateway* often has in the past) to be anti-sexist. Such hypocrisy! Is this the *Gateway* that spent the better part of a month lambasting the engineers for their sexist activities last spring? Is this the paper that turned down an ad two years ago because it depicted a female torso wearing a K-97 t-shirt (and then told us all about it on the front page of the next paper)?

Of course it isn't the same paper. Staffs change, papers

change. But any student paper at the U of A) against sexism in should be concerned with the state any form.

of women on campus and elsewhere; should strive to destroy stereotypes of women as objects to be appraised for their physical assets; should be part of the campus movement (growing

I hope the *Gateway* and its staff will become part of this movement.

Mike Walker
Commerce 4

Dunk the Gateway

Think the Gateway is all wet? This is your chance to hit back Thursday, Sept. 10 in the Dunk Tank in Quad.

Gateway is vanilla-flavored

Gateway is rather vanilla-flavored for a left-wing publication. I only hope that someday you will attain that shrill note of obsessive hysteria that distinguishes truly great publications.

Fidel Castro
Poli. Sci. Grad Studies

Rookie night is coming — stay tuned

EDITOR - Peter Michalyszyn
MANAGING - Mary Ruth Olson
NEWS - Wes Oginski and Greg Harris
PRODUCTION - Robert Cook
ARTS - Jens Andersen
SPORTS - Michael Skeet
PHOTO - Ray Giguere
CUP - Richard Watts
ADVERTISING - Tom Wright
MEDIA PRODUCTIONS - Margriet Tilroe-West
CIRCULATION - Mike McKinney

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Staff this issue: They were everywhere. It seemed that with the addition of a new coffee machine, the Gateway offices had been invaded by flies. Peter Durovic broke down first and opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle. Andrew Watts and Ron Macdonald immediately began digging in for prolonged battle. Pete Westbottom and Tom Freeland came by to furiously escalate the carnage with bazookas and hand grenades. David Chan let out a barrage of fire in an effort to cover Russel Kirk, who was bravely planting land mines in the sugar cubes. But the flies were winning. Even Bob Kilgannon's air to surface missiles proved ineffective. At last Hugh Hoyles arrived on the scene with a small nuclear bomb. A peaceful serenity settled over all as he det...