

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

Alternative press

I had the opportunity of spending New Year's Eve with a mad, raving, idealistic, if somewhat intoxicated, socialist who apparently thought he knew me well enough to lecture same on the true and Only purpose of publishing student newspapers (and, by extension, the pursuit of student activities in general).

My trans-ideological friend, who is usually not given to foolishness, knew me better, apparently, than he knew the newspaper I am editor of; that much was obvious from his confession that he had really not read the *Gateway* but that he had heard from journalistic sources close to his heart in Calgary, where he is a student, that the newspaper of the students at the University of Alberta was not — and I quote — "progressive."

I looked down into his eyes, past the waves of inexpensive Bulgarian wine, and saw in them the credulous passions of the committed ideologue: it was not a pleasant sight.

I told my friend that the *Gateway* had published, albeit infrequently, on subjects which might be categorized progressive. But I said if he sensed the paper was not progressive, then, to be sure it was no mistake. That is, the paper was not (at least insofar as I influence what goes into the *Gateway*, which, after writing this, may dwindle noticeably under the harsh operating principles of staff democracy) progressive; and *that*, I added, was because I (the paper, the editorials, and so on...) had no wish to be progressive.

Well. This was too much for my friend who immediately lost all hope and left me alone for the rest of the evening.

However, there are other problems. Among them, that enlightened agency of social change, Canadian University Press (CUP), which runs an admirable advertising network and makes us more money than we pay them for ideological services rendered in part via Canadian University Progressive Press (CUPP), an assumed branch of the former newspaper collective.

On the question of CUP membership and papers' good standing, I quote from a piece of CUP dogma, unofficial, but I suspect supported enthusiastically by the organization:

"CUP should support papers which are trying to be progressive influences in their communities... though this does not force any paper to carry a "CUP" line..." but "I see nothing wrong with agreeing to cooperate, in an organized way, with only those papers which (among other things): realize that newspapers do have an influence, and are willing to use that influence in a progressive way."

That means in practice that I must abide by a statement of principles and a code of ethics which outlaw publishing matters racist or sexist or things otherwise distasteful to the progressive frame of mind. Any deviation from the "CUP" line results, on one hand, a slight chastisement, or, on the other, discontinued access to national advertising via the CUP network (which is CUP's privilege, though not its stated intention, yet).

It is not that I actually would *want* to print *anything* racist or sexist, for *any* reason *whatsoever*. (As did Andy Coyne, former editor of the *Manitoban*, the student newspaper at the University of Manitoba, arguing correctly in defense of his printing sexist advertisements: "I think it's been demonstrated by events in the larger world that the fastest way to combat an attitude, the most effective way, is to expose that attitude to argument, public denouncement, ridicule, and the like.")

It is simply that I reject progressiveness as the obvious direction, for individuals, or for newspapers, in which the worthy goal of social change may be sought. One may argue, fruitfully, that social change should be effected backward, or, at the very least, with two steps forward and one rather large step back.

Peter Michalyszyn

Right tracts

How shrewd the man who observed that Sigmund Freud did more to deprive people of their privacy than any man who ever lived! How? By popularizing a set of categories of disturbed behaviour into which we tend to slot people whose syndromes we vaguely recognize, inviting ourselves to ignore the infinitely various characters of individual human beings.



Seizure no laughing matter

To the Editor of *Folio*:

The article published December 3 under the headline "Gateway Readers Dealt Low Blow" was disgraceful. The issue is not that *Gateway* readers were "deprived of their favorite newspaper for three full days," but that the university, supposedly a citadel of freedom, was the scene of a police raid unworthy of any democratic society. Instead of misplaced condescension toward the students, readers of *Folio* could reasonably have expected some denunciation of the seizure of *The Gateway* on November 19. Police Chief Lunney was quick to apologize, but I have seen no such apology from our own Director of Campus Security, even though the complicity of university personnel was perhaps more heinous than the police action itself.

Immediately after the raid, the protests of various Edmonton journalists and civil liberties spokesmen were published, but I at least read none from university officials until on December 2

President Horowitz was reported as having declared the seizure "offensive...to the university," and still later as having apologized to *The Gateway*. Yet we hear not of reprimands or dismissals of security personnel, but only explanations of their misconduct. Nor have we heard any cries of outrage from the Association of the Academic Staff.

On no other campus that I can think of in the "free world"

would so flagrant an abuse of police powers arouse so mild a protest from within the university itself. Only our students appear to be treating the affair with the gravity that it warrants. Rather than ridicule, the student leaders deserve from *Folio* an abject apology, and from others in the university community, our praise and our gratitude.

Frederick A. de Luna
Professor of History

Critic is homogenized

Re: Andersen's review of *Chivalry Lives*, Dec. 9/81

A reviewer like Jens Andersen starts out with a handicap when writing for a crotchety reader like myself, and if he had any inkling of my prejudices he might have kept the Dec. 9 *Gateway* out of my hands.

Distaste coupled with tolerance only arouses my disgust, and knowing Andersen's sexuality does absolutely nothing to raise

my consciousness of Sereda's album (although I should probably add that I have always felt the liberals should at least be left alone).

I hope this approach to reviewing won't be standard in the future, or can we expect Anita Bryant's next album to score higher for her heterosexuality?

Sincerely,
Brent Johnson
U of A Staff

"Closure" shocks reader

Dear Mr. Michalyszyn:

I wish to express to you my shock at the suppression of the *Gateway*. I can identify even more with the people of Poland because of this cavalier disregard of the right of the students of the University of Alberta to a forum for the free exchange of ideas. I would suggest that all concerned students wear black arm bands

until a vehicle for the free flow of information, essential in any democratic society, be restored to U of A students. But, then, without the *Gateway* how can this call to protest against injustice be effectively promulgated? It is a sad day for freedom and education in Alberta.

Sincerely,
Wilfred S. Canning
Faculty of Theology

**Gateway
staff meeting
Thursday at 4 PM
all staff welcome
Room 282 SUB**

Staff this issue: One by one they struggled in with visions of pink elephants dancing in their heads. Jordan Peterson vowed to never again consider drinking even one Turkey and Rye float, let alone a dozen. Murray Whitby swore he'd never again eat mistletoe after having his stomach pumped twice. David Marples hasn't been heard from since being deported to the Soviet Union. Don Miller sat in a corner with that glazed look that comes with Bowl games overdose. Bruce Longbottom muttered something about Auld Lang Syne and went catatonic. Bill Inglee expressed shock that today wasn't Boxing Day. And Bill (the creep) Buckley stuck his finger up his nose to the fourth joint.

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