

EDITORIAL

Why a Gateway?

What is the purpose of the *Gateway*?

During the three years I have been here, I have had many opportunities to contemplate this question. As can be expected, my views on the subject have changed over time.

At first, I thought the task of a campus paper was somehow to mirror the diversity and complexity found on this campus. This would be done by covering the events and issues affecting specific interest groups on campus, and by addressing their concerns, without worrying about the broader appeal of an article or feature.

But if this were all we did, the *Gateway* would be nothing more than a glorified club and faculty newsletter.

The flip side of the coin is that students and staff pursue diverse interests, isolating themselves in an impenetrable cocoon of narrow parochial interests. They completely lose sight of the social milieu in which they live.

In short, most students are totally blind to all but their immediate surroundings. To assume naively that the *Gateway* can mirror their interests is an abdication of the responsibility to consider the total audience that must be served.

For most students, a campus paper is their first experience with a media source covering events directly affecting them. Thus they see at first-hand the subtle, and not-so-subtle distortions and choices implicit in news-gathering. Their usual reaction is one of rejection.

"Why are you so biased?"

"Why don't you write objective stories?"

"Why didn't you cover such and such event?"

What these critics fail to realize is that the choices made in the media are essentially, and unavoidably, subjective. There is no such thing as "objective journalism." Even if the writing is as fair and unbiased as possible, the act of choosing what to cover, how to cover it, and what *not* to cover is subjective. We don't try to deceive ourselves that our coverage is "objective" and "unbiased."

But because we are the first media source students come into direct contact with, they assume these challenges to their world view are the result of the "radical" *Gateway* staff, or some such mythical force. This misses the point.

All media sources are biased. People just don't notice it when the *Edmonton Journal* or the *Edmonton Sun* make these implicit value judgements; because they usually do not know what these publications have chosen not to cover, they are not in a position to say "why didn't you cover this?"

Reader are as much a victim of the values and choices of some faceless copy editor as they are victims of the choices of the not-so-faceless *Gateway* crew.

The predominant myth of "objective journalism" (and it is a myth) has done more damage to the free and open exchange of ideas than any censorship program. For when something is censored, often people are aware of the misrepresentation. It is the censorship that goes unnoticed and unchecked that does the most damage.

Does this answer the question: "What is the purpose of the *Gateway*?" In a way, it does. The purpose of the *Gateway* is to awaken in the reader this awareness of the uses, and abuses, of the media. We have made our choices; you may disagree with them, but we do not conceal the fact that we choose.

Keith Krause

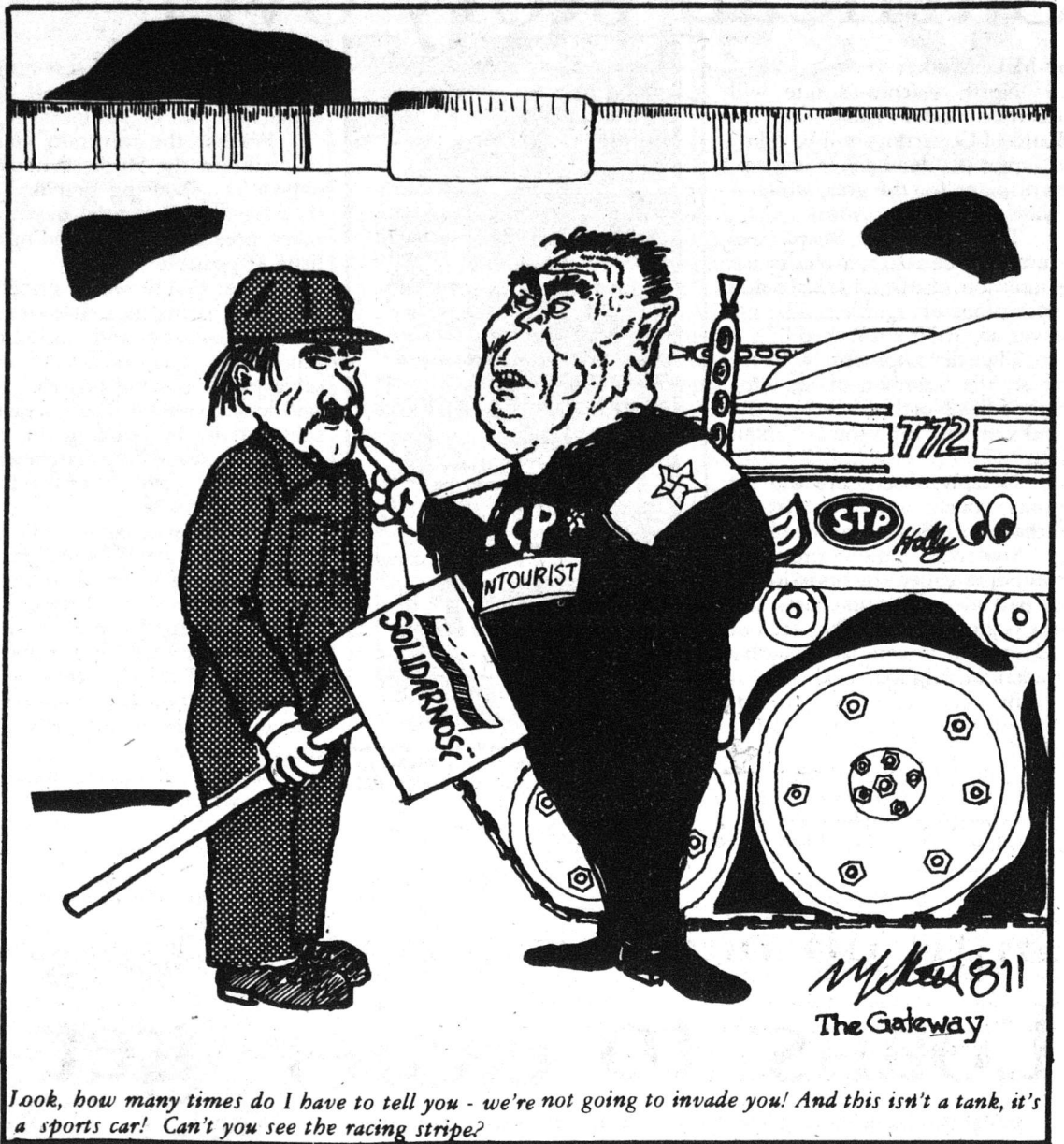
the Gateway

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STAFF THIS YEAR: In no particular order, thanks to those who helped: Chris McDonald, Alison Thomson, Bob Kilgannon, Garnet DuGray, Rick Lawrence, Sharon Lyons, Nina Miller, Ken Daskewech, Kathy Kebarle, Kent Blinston, Leslie Sharp, Brent Jeffery, Adrian Chamberlain, Chanchal Bhattacharya, Russ Sampson, Karen Lawrie, Tom Freeland, Michelle Kawulka, Nancy McRitchie, Erin McEvoy, Lucinda Chodan, Dick Hancock, Pizz Doff, Steve Hoffart, Michael Skeet, Wes Oginski, John Roggeveen, Loraine Champion, Rob Charpentier, Ross MacDonald, Bruce Pollock, Beno John, Glen Erikson, Durk Bolvin, Karen Kebarle, W. Reid Glenn, Hollis Brown, Sharee Carton, Gene Kozak, Marc Garvey, Gary Fieldstein, Karl Wilberg, Ferdinand Taureau, Janice Michaud, Doug Spaner, Debbie Pelehos, Joanne Hutsul, Marni Stanley, Candy Fertile, Kitchener Prijit, Altal Jina, Howard Hill, Gary Gee, Ken Whyte, Peter Mitalainen, Cathy Barker, Sue Jurczak, Sue Swann, Dave Shutiak, John Reed, Marie Amyot, Ron Lavioie, Rick Roberts, Gerard Kennedy (Pasken), Mary Duczynski, Murray Whitby (Muzz), Victor Tanti, Greg Harris, Peter West, John Charles, Carol Merod, Larry Lutgendorf, Hans Becker, Garth Hildson, Katherine

Dedyna, Enrico Bedard, Maureen Laviolette, Barb MacRae, Bill McKeown, Allan Young, Gary McGowan, Theresa West, Pat Murphy, Denise Campbell, Gwen Krook, Libby Drake, Nashila Mohamed, Vanda Killeen, Adam ("Silkshirt") Singer, Doug Curtis, Gordon Turtle, Victor Stanton, Marc Mogun, Rob Chester, Eddie Kuhn, Ian O'Hara, Gene Kosowan, Igor and Jessica Levental, Jackie Tatabee, Mary Ruth Olson, Blair Brennan, Sandy Gusnowski, Roy Van Hooydonk (Ree Ree), Alex Corinthiens, Ben Yee, Bill Chandler, Dave Cox, Cathy Emberley, Elda Hopfe, Philip Melnychuk, Stephen Lamoureux, Susan Knowling, Dave Chan, Peter Hammond, Janice Dunford, Sylvia Betts, Simone Gareau, Gabriel Bransco, Ronald Kuehne, David Jowett, Valeri Tsyganov, Bob Yetagaw, Spike Milligram, Rich Watts, Charlotte Cooper, Pat Just, David Orrell, Helgi Eyford, Pat Markleute, David Shutiak, Gabor Simonyi, Stuart Mackay, Elaine Sax and David Marples!

And as the valiant swimmers crawled up on the beach, exhausted from their marathon, Deacon Greese's voice could be heard above them all: "Hey, everybody! Let's swim back to the other side." Abadee, abadee, that's all folks!



Look, how many times do I have to tell you - we're not going to invade you! And this isn't a tank, it's a sports car! Can't you see the racing stripe?

Lauditorial

by Keith Krause

The time has come for me to take my bows, and leave the stage.

But I feel I'm just beginning...

Chris de Burgh

Gateway readers often equate the quality of the paper with that of the editor. That's flattering when things go well, and depressing when they don't; but in neither case is it accurate.

It may be a cliché, but the *Gateway* is only as good as its contributors — all of them. During this incredible year, I've learned many lessons about the value of co-operation, good morale and teamwork. I have had the great pleasure of working with some of the most intelligent, madcap, dedicated, and inspiring people I've ever met, and I depart a better person for it.

Since this is my last kick at the cat, so to speak, I would like to publicly thank the many people who made this year's *Gateway* happen. Jim McElgunn, the managing editor, was on board from the first, and he provided a constant (or almost) source of support. He possessed enough perspective on things to call me down when I began making outrageous demands, and for that I'm grateful.

Mike Walker, in news, is simply one of the most forceful personalities I have ever met. His high-profile style was perfect for the job, and, more than anyone, he held the paper together. His influence was pervasive, and he led the move away from our early hard news style (and into hot water).

Mike had two different co-news editors this year: Nina Miller and Peter Michalyshyn. Nina moved to arts after Christmas and left us in March. Her departure made us realize her presence provided a necessary balance to the newsroom, and she was missed.

As for Peter, his Cheshire cat grin and offbeat sense of humor (not to mention his ping-pong table) kept us hopping. I suspect he will be full of surprises next year when he steps into the job of sucker-in-chief.

Shaune Impey, the sports editor, is one of the few people still around the *Gateway* who's been here longer than I have. His steady performance, unobtrusive manner and dry wit made him a pleasure to work with.

A couple of the editors departed at Christmas (oh, it seems so long ago): Kathy Kebarle from photo and Ken Daskewech from arts (entertainment — right, Ken?) Kathy in her perseverance (which kept her in the darkroom many a late night) and Ken with his taunting, deflating humor that spared no one, added to the ambience of the office in their own ways.

The newcomers, Ray Giguere and Bill Inglee in photo and Robert Cook in production, were the people in the right place at the right time. I spent many a sleepless night worrying about these

positions, and it was a pleasant surprise to find such dedicated people willing to step in in the middle of the year.

Jens Andersen, our arts editor since March, was likewise the man of the hour. He has been working here for about three years, and his pseudo-fascist sentiments have made for some wild arguments. Just wait till next year...

Special thanks should be given to Alison Thomson, our tireless "Aspidistra" writer and general hack. Despite our differences (and believe me they were many), I managed to develop a great, albeit grudging, respect for her views. Kudos also go to Kent Blinston, the oldest surviving *Gateway* staffer. His tireless, if perverse and libellous, sense of humor kept me busy bailing us out of trouble.

These people were the core of the newspaper, but without the regular staffers, we would have been nothing. Greg Harris, Wes Oginski, John Roggeveen, Geoff McMaster, and Mary Ruth Olson held up the news and production departments; Murray Whitby, Michael Skeet and Gerard Kennedy supplied us with an endless supply of high-quality cartoons (one of our consistently good points); and Tom Freeland and Brent Jeffery supplanted the work of our photo editors.

Shaune had help in sports from bouncing Bobby Kilgannon, our football reporter, DuGray, who showed up as regular as clockwork with his intramural postings.

Without Tom Wright, our indefatigable ad salesman, we wouldn't have had any money to run the paper with. His excellent work picked up the slack in national ads this year, and Margriet Tilroe-West, the office manager, kept him (and us) organized. Our typesetters and ad layout people, Doug Smitheman, Mary D., Cathy Emberley, and Elda Hopfe also put in long hours in unrecognized jobs.

Meanwhile, Mike McKinney also spent long hours in an unrecognized job — sleeping in the office waiting for word that the *Gateway's* bright new morning edition (and at least twice the evening edition) was ready to deliver. Here's to reliability.

Of course, unless I plan to write a book, I could not possibly include all the people who made a contribution to this year's *Gateway*. If I've missed anyone, you can be sure I remember you where it counts.

I owe a special debt to two personal friends, who, although they may not realize it, managed to keep me sane, mostly just by being there when it counted. Thanks to Grant. And Rae Ann.

So I now can take a stretch, turn off the typewriter for the final time, and have a nap. You know, the only thing I haven't heard the *Gateway* called this year is "boring," and for that I'm proud. It's been a slice.