

EDITORIAL

Choice is clear

This year's race for the Students' Union finance and administration portfolio is particularly important, given the current financial condition of the SU.

And the two candidates, Elise Gaudet (Soper slate) and Cheryl Donnelly (Kirk Slate), present radically different approaches to the problems. One will work, and one will not.

Donnelly's favorite line is "we're not afraid to act." Great, but when that action is based on insufficient knowledge of the situation and the overall picture of SU finances, bad decisions can and will be made. Gaudet, on the other hand, is at least smart enough to realize she will have to wait until she enters office to make these decisions.

Their attitude towards the SU fee referendum is also interesting. Donnelly quite clearly suggests some of the money will have to be directed towards paying off some of the deficit, while Gaudet wants to look first to the business areas as the source for funds. Considering that students are voting on a referendum to direct additional funds to student services, Gaudet's attitude is the more responsible.

Having a candidate with both the experience and the will to act firmly would be wonderful, but these people are seldom found. Instead, voters must make a judgement on the approach these people bring to the job - are they level-headed and willing to take advice or are they bent on appearing strong and determined, with the disastrous results that surely follow decisions based on poor judgement?

In my opinion, Cheryl Donnelly represents the latter view, and her election to the position of vp finance and administration would simply not be in the best interests of students.

HUB in decline

The rent increase facing HUB tenants is the least of the injustices being inflicted upon them in the university's round of policy pronouncements concerning student housing.

Admittedly, the 8 to 12 percent rent increase is the lowest among the units operated by Housing and Food Services (HFS). But this increase is not justified by increased services or greater costs. In fact, HUB residents already subsidize other HFS operations to the tune of \$200 per year.

In addition, HFS director Gail Brown wants to change many of those aspects of living in HUB which make it so popular. HUB is currently run as an apartment complex, not a residence. As in any apartment, tenants have the freedom to choose their roommates. Instead, Brown wants to force tenants to choose roommates from a waiting list.

Brown also wants to institute room checks to ensure suites are kept clean and fit. But this paternalistic attitude runs counter to the principles for which HUB was built, and is an undue interference in students' lives.

Finally, Brown wants to implement formally the tacit policy that first year students are not permitted to live in either HUB or North Garneau. Restricting students to the widely-disliked Lister residence only adds insult to injury.

HUB was established as a student apartment complex, and it should be maintained as such. It provides a welcome alternative not present on most campuses and to turn it into just another residence would be a loss to all students.

Of course Gail Brown is playing on HUB's popularity (it presently has a waiting list of over 400) to milk the market, making it easier for her to maintain HUB and subsidize other HFS operations.

Instead, her efforts should be directed to making these operations more economical and more attractive to students. Students are financially pressed enough without having to subsidize each other. The real answer lies in cleaning up Housing and Food Service's own operation.

renegade editors

the Gateway

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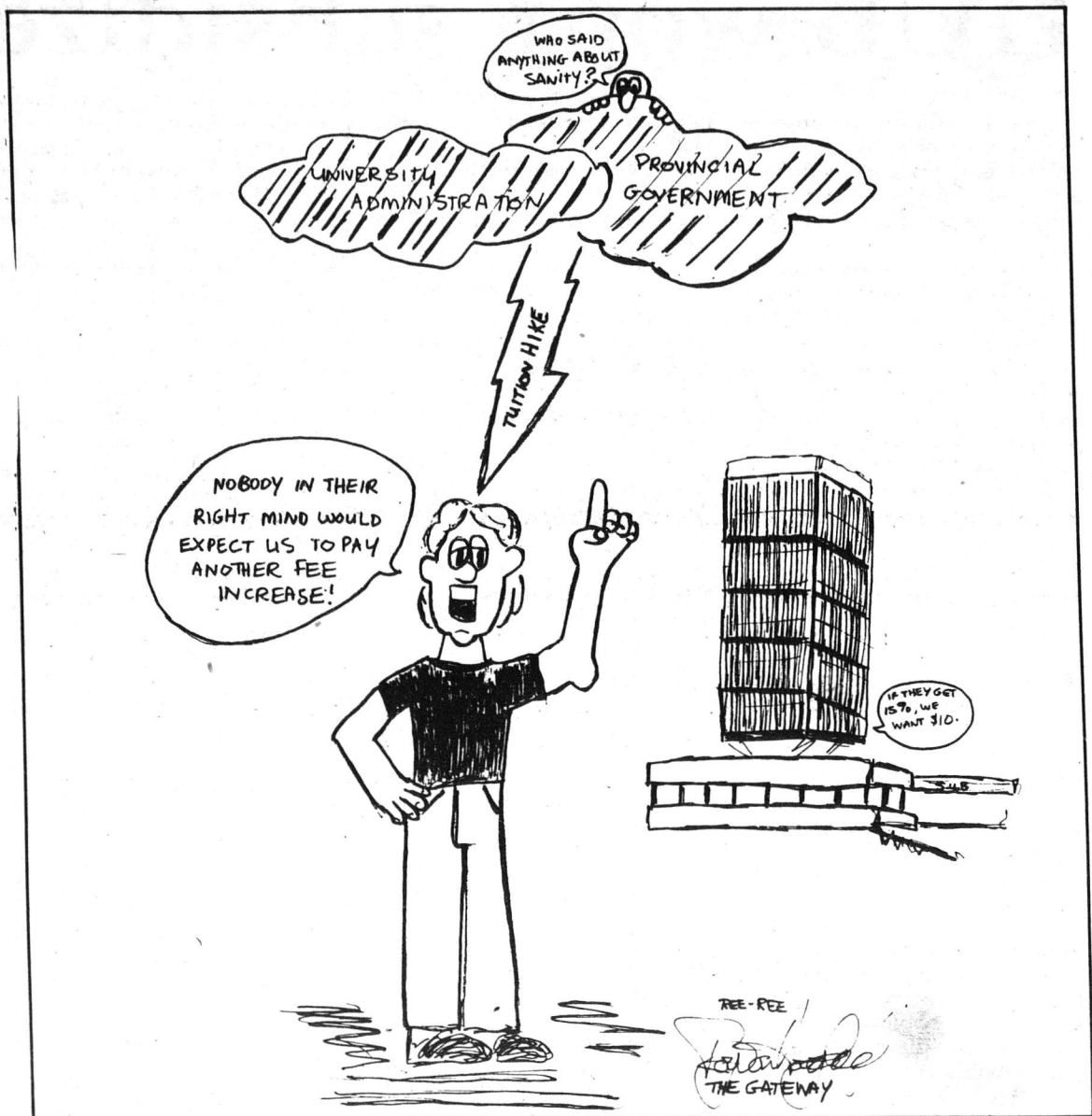
Mea culpa! Mea culpa, groaned Jens Andersen as he read the latest batch of letters blasting our hapless rag. John Roggeveen, Dave Cox, Eida

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THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. With a readership of more than 25,000, the Gateway is published by its proprietor, the Students' Union, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter session. Contents are the responsibility of the editor; editorials are written by the editorial board or signed. All other opinions are signed by the party expressing them. Copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. The Gateway, a member of Canadian University Press and the Youthstream Network, is located at room 282 SUB, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2J7.

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Irresponsible pack of liars

It is irresponsible journalism to print rumors, second-hand facts, and falsified statistics. The *Gateway* has gone one step further and now publishes propaganda.

In a biased "news-story" headlined: "Garneau destruction nears" (Jan. 22, p. 1), Peter Michalyszyn reports that "all but 13 of the 85 houses... would be destroyed...." This lie is supported by Keith Krause in his Jan. 27 editorial in which he calculates that "...only 13 (houses) will be renovated for continued student use..." and suggests that the rest will be stealthily bulldozed to make way for the administration's secret plans for academic expansion.

Gateway's juvenile "Us against the World" attitude has once again caused them to misrepresent and omit many facts about the student housing that is going to be built in North Garneau.

North Garneau today has big houses, cheap rent, and huge back yards. However, the neighborhood is decaying. Many lots are empty, houses are falling down, and the density of N.G. is steadily decreasing as the demand for student housing increases. Garneau becomes functionally obsolete as it fails to meet the demands of students.

Architects working on North Garneau have designed a plan which features attractive, low-rise rentals, built as a series of distinct units and incorporating many of the large, older houses in the perimeter layout.

- Remaining will be 63 houses, mostly in the center of the 'horseshoe' development. These will be maintained for student use. Academic expansion is decades away.

- Three large, historically valuable homes will be extensively renovated.

- Over 300 students will occupy this new housing, and benefit from the above-ground walkway

between Humanities and the Saskatchewan Drive units.

- Resident parking is planned to go under the new housing, while the proposed 3-level underground parking lot would provide 6 tennis courts for local residents.
- Rents will be lower than market value because the Students' Games' budget will subsidize construction.

The *Gateway* had access to all of these facts but chose not to print them. By-liners like Michalyszyn who deceive their

readers encourage self-righteous clowns to clutter HUB mall with "Save Garneau" petitions. Ego-addicts like Krause provoke emotional reactions instead of rational discussion, and presidential nominees like Phil Soper add to the hysteria by making "demands" and spreading second-hand facts to the media.

These political hacks are too irresponsible to be trusted with the students' interests.

David Knight
Arts IV

Cut the no-good bums!

In reference to the upcoming student election, one of the main issues is a fee hike. I would like to bring to the attention of the soon to be elected Students' Council one way of cutting back on spending that seems to have escaped the previous Council's eyes and yet is obvious to all.

It seems to me that the *Gateway*, being a paper refractive of the attitudes and ideals of the student body could be trimmed in order to make it more enjoyable (heh!) and less costly. I have concluded that the S.U. could save considerable cost by using less ink in the printing of the "newspaper." I am referring to the two pages which in one corner is pasted the word "Editorial." I propose that one page, preferably the left, continue to be printed, however, the right page be left devoid of ink.

"Why should we leave one page left blank?" you ask. There is a simple reason, it being that all that is ever printed is only one half of the story in which whatever tickles the fancy of our prejudiced editors to be blackballed, is. It has been the subject of conversation that the editors know how to spell one-half of the word "editorial", this

conforming with the rest of the paper.

I would also like to suggest that the *Gateway* clean up the smut and useless garbage in their own backyard, that is their classifieds and editorials before they start digging for skeletons in someone else's.

Do we really need the bold faced garbage on editorial pages such as the small section in the bottom left corner of page 4 printed in the January 29th edition. I say, "Who needs it." Or, for that matter, who needs the garbage printed in the classifieds.

Why don't we avoid asking the questions above and instead as the real question, "Do we really need the *Gateway*?"

Jeff Watson
Engineering I

STAFF MEETING

Thursday, 4 p.m.

The Gateway
Room 282 SUB