

## The Gateway

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. It is published by the Students' Union twice weekly during the winter session on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contents are the responsibility of the editor, opinions are those of the person expressing them. Letters to the editor on any subject are welcome, but must be signed. Please keep them short: letters should not exceed 200 words. Deadlines for submitting copy are 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Main offices are located in Room 262, SUB for Gateway, Room 238 SUB for Media Productions. Phone 432-5168, 432-5178, 432-5750, Advertising 432-3423. Circulation 18,500.

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# editorial

## Closet wimps

Students' Council has become so serious about its business that media has been barred from recent "political" discussions. Council went into Closed Session at Monday's meeting and threw the two Gateway reporters out. The reason given? "Things might get too political," said arts rep Ken Reynolds. Another councillor commented (only after demanding anonymity), "We felt the presence of the media might inhibit people in their discussion and debate."

The only time the presence of media inhibits debate is when people are embarrassed about what they are saying. If councillors are too shy to debate publicly about Saturday's cricket protest, perhaps they should resign from politics and instead go into quiet, inoffensive administrative positions in Three Hills, Alberta. If you're a politician, debate politics openly - the logic behind your decisions must be made apparent.

Admittedly the "Edmonton 61" affair is by no means a clear-cut issue, and while our sympathies lie with the protestors, we feel compelled to offer these criticisms and questions:

- whether or not millionaire Derek Robbins is a true representation of apartheid is a debatable point. Though he is a part-time resident of South Africa, he's British, and his money comes from pre-fabricated building construction there, not from the "toil of millions of South African blacks." Also, by sponsoring multi-racial cricket teams, is Robbins supporting or opposing apartheid? It's not clear whether his multiracial teams are only that outside of South Africa, or if they're all-white inside. Because the issue is obscured in these ways, one wonders if the Robbins cricket team was a good choice as a target for protest. We think the "Edmonton 61" would've been better advised to hit local business and government first. (South African brandy and wine, which is produced by the toil of South African blacks, can be bought in ALCB stores.)

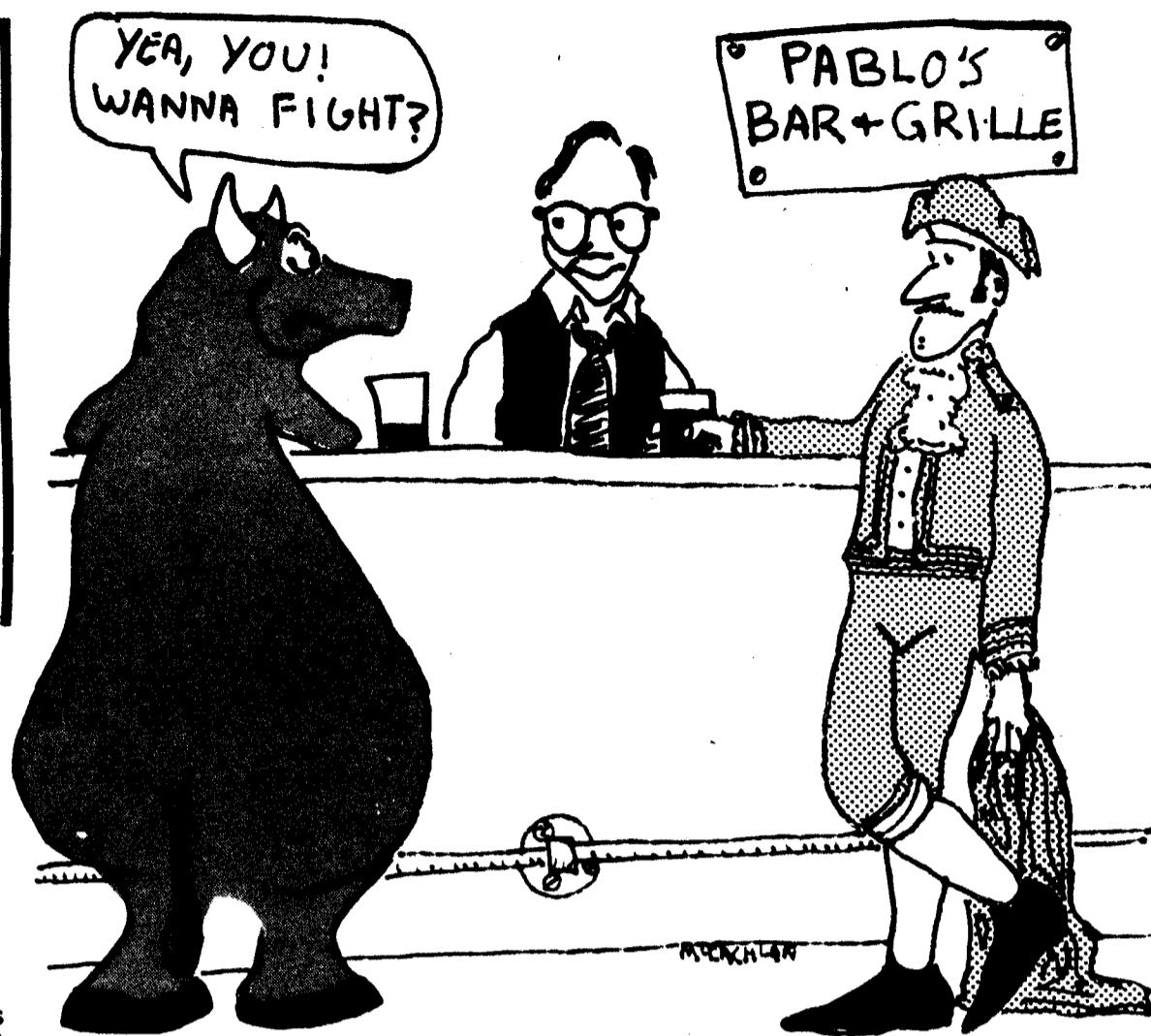
- as far as the sentences that will be handed down by law to the "Edmonton 61", it's clear that when they broke the law they were playing by the rules of a well-known game. They knew there would be consequences, and justly so: the civil liberties (which most Canadians enjoy) of the cricket players were denied them when they were forced to stop their game. But when the civil liberties of an entire nation of people are non-existent, the problem of twenty-two thwarted cricket players seems pretty small in comparison. Ideally, the "Edmonton 61" should be given suspended sentences.

This editorial is an attempt to show that the issue is not as clear-cut as some would have it. Whether or not apartheid should be opposed is not at issue. Anyone agreeing with apartheid is, firstly, not going to be convinced otherwise by this editorial, and secondly, not worth talking to.

Here, the condemnation is directed towards the Students' Council for copping out on students and hiding behind polished doors on a difficult discussion. Here, the argument is with the "Edmonton 61's" choice of target at which to direct their very justifiable contention, although it must be said they first "went through all the proper channels," including negotiations with the cricket teams beforehand.

And judging from the arguments (heated) that have gone on at this university since Saturday, the "Edmonton 61" did accomplish one important task: people are thinking, out loud.

Kevin Gillese  
Lindsay Brown



## Just for the record...

Re article in Tuesday, Sept. 21 Gateway, on anti-apartheid protests. I understand technical problems resulted in typesetting difficulties, but this article contained too many errors to avoid a response. As the staff writer who submitted this article, I want to clear the record on a few points.

I have actively followed and sometimes participated in several actions of the Free Southern Africa Committee. Articles that I write (I am not ashamed to admit) try to reflect a solidarity with the black majority of South Africa who are fighting against Vorster's regime. I like to see maximum, accurate press exposure of the activities of all those who are trying to end Canada's complicity in apartheid.

Last weekend's demonstrations against the "Robbins Eleven" cricket team were probably the most significant political events to take place in Edmonton or across Canada at that time. Hundreds of people of all types of interests and political

beliefs united to try to prevent a racist sports event from taking place here. Extensive press coverage in the Gateway testifies to the importance of these events.

Sports teams such as the "Robbins Eleven" objectively serve as South African ambassadors. They try to hoodwink public opinion with regards to the real nature of apartheid.

I thought the editing of my article was far too kind to Derek Robbins. Regardless of where or how he made his bundle, he does live in S. Africa and enjoys along with the other 17% white population the highest standard of living in the world. This is at the devastating expense of the black population. Robbins justifies and perpetuates apartheid by his actions.

The biggest error committed was the statement that all those arrested pleaded guilty. This is obviously only a typesetting problem but it is a crucial point. After a democratic discussion all 61 arrested people agreed to

plead not guilty in court. Monday morning they did exactly that. The Edmonton 61 are not guilty. City Council is clearly the guilty party for allowing such racist teams to use our sports facilities.

I also feel the Gateway coverage of the whole event did not adequately reflect the positions of the Free Southern African Committee. It is not clear in the coverage why these people did what they did. An article had been written by myself and another writer which attempted to do this. For whatever reasons this did not show up in Tuesday's paper.

These criticisms are in the general context of applause to the Gateway for extensive coverage and general support of the action. I urge everyone to support the "Edmonton 61" in their legal defense campaign. DROP ALL CHARGES AGAINST THE EDMONTON 61, FREE SOUTH AFRICA.

staff writer  
Tom Baker

## Warner disputes "waffle"

As the one dissenting member from the "great waffle" vote Monday night I would like to reply to the implied criticism of the Gateway of Tuesday. The decision council took was a necessary one and a legitimate one. If we are to carry on and preserve (to the best of our ability) the interests of students at University from the terms of expediency and because the situation set a precedent, Council could hardly take a stand on this issue. For example, we should then also take stands on prisoners in the Gulag, nuclear arms proliferation and the Cia coup in Chile. While we all have opinions on this and do exercise our right to state them, from time to time; I for one do not have the time to spare for Council to act on all these and other issues not directly impinging on students.

For this reason and because it is not directly in the operating terms of the Students' Union, I supported Mr. McFarlane's motion - or at least the first part of

it. The second part of the motion - that implies no actions of questionable legality are justified - I feel is far too dangerous a generalization. If the arrest of the "Edmonton 61" are beyond our terms, the unquestionable morality of the law is even further. For the left the "Nuremberg laws," for the right Soviet repressions and for the middle both of the prior provide dangerous examples of laws too long left unquestioned.

For this reason, I feel the criticism was unjustified for it would have been easy enough for

council to slip into making vague political statements and admonishments rather than dealing with the more painful issues facing students at the U of A such as housing, quotas or the precarious financial position the previous executive have left us in. Rather we unanimously rejected this course and have chosen to work rather than make "good press".

Kevin Warner  
Ed. rep

Ed. note: Isn't it possible to do both?

### GATEWAY NOTICES:

**Needed** - 50 news reporters who aren't afraid of being obnoxious enough to discover the truth behind bland political statements. Apply, Gateway offices.

**Headlines and Deadlines** - it's all part of life on an obscure bi-weekly tabloid. But why don't staffers realize that? The deadline on ALL copy is 12 noon

Mon. and Wed. unless it is breaking news. If it is possible to turn the copy in before Mon. and Wed., please do so. Take heed Gateway writers!

**Interested in Winnipeg on Thanksgiving?** If you're a Gateway staffer, you're eligible to see the 'Peg at a journalism conference Oct. 8 to 11. Talk to ed. Kevin Gillese for further information.