

EDITORIAL

Admin overhaul

The Students' Union executives have finally made a decisive move, suspending SU general manager Bert Best. This action was long overdue.

Their best move, however, would be to completely restructure the SU administration, perhaps eliminating the position of general manager altogether. The position itself is redundant and unproductive.

In theory, the general manager was responsible for supervising the business areas of the Students' Union, ensuring they provided the maximum service to students at peak efficiency. In practice, the general manager has simply been in the way, providing yet another level of bureaucracy blocking the SU executives and councillors from understanding and controlling the multi-million dollar operation we're all a part of.

So eliminating this position and revamping the administration, with students and business managers co-operating directly in decisions, would bring back large chunks of SU operations under students' control. The various area managers would be directly responsible and accountable to students, and no longer could they conceal their errors behind the bureaucratic cloak of self-preservation at all costs.

This move will go a long way towards preventing a repeat of the financial fiasco of the past three years. More power to the students!

Joe's stayin' alive

The federal Progressive Conservative party has once again displayed its remarkable talent for infighting and squabbling, the same talent that has kept it out of power for most of the last five decades.

And this time the intended victim was the erstwhile Prime Minister, Joe Clark. The one-third of the loyal P.C. delegates who voted against Clark would, in most cases, be sufficient to spell the end of any politician's career.

But Clark, for better or worse, is a survivor. Politics is the only game he knows, but he knows it well enough to have attained political prominence at an early stage in life. Since the age of 16, Clark has been active in the Tory party; to assume that he will now roll over and play dead is to overlook his past seemingly improbable successes.

In fact, Clark and his so-called "Red Tory" friends will probably be around until at least the next election. And the voices of dissent will be quietly throttled in the backrooms, their careers stunted by the ruling poohbahs who brook no disagreement.

And if he's extremely lucky, Joe might even be granted another crack at running this shambles of a country. Can he possibly be much worse than the present alternative?

Keith Krause

the Gateway

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If it happens on campus...it's news to us.

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You mean the whole world doesn't love us? Gasp! The truth is out. Some people don't fall to their knees in Thanksgiving whenever they go by the newsroom. Wes Oginski, Cathy Emberley, Igor and Jessica Leventhal, Candy Fertile, Elda Hopfe and Marni Stanley howled their anguish in gut-wrenching cries of despair. Greg Harris, Pat Just, and Mary Ruth Olson just shrugged: "Hey, man, I only straighten the headlines!" Meanwhile, ace reporter Stephen Lamoreux was out trying to find out what the hard-core pragmatists were up to. But it was too late... Kent Blinston, Murray Whitby, Michael Skeet and Jens Andersen had defected to the Bridge to appear in their raunchy new *Bridgeshine Boy* photos. Sigh... you just never know, do you?

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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Reviewer a know-nothing

Would you please make the effort to find a reviewer for your staff who knows something about theatre? The last review of *The Threepenny Opera* has to be one of the most appalling pieces of so-called journalism to grace your pages.

Jens Andersen writes very well on subjects with which he is familiar, but every paragraph of the article reveals his ignorance of theatre in general, and the university theatre scene in particular.

The article itself was not, as it should have been, a review of the production, but a poorly written essay on the play itself. There is no need to justify the existence of or comment on the relevance of a well established modern classic — except in passing, perhaps.

If your writer does not have enough experience of the medium to be able to judge the quality of the production, then he shouldn't be writing the article.

The lyrics to one of the songs which was published were misquoted. The originals are "chop 'em to bits, not "chuckle to bits." Perhaps this error says something about the clarity with which the lyrics were delivered, but again that would be a critique of the production, an item which apparently has no place in your writer's version of a theatre review.

I can't believe he was not aware that all Studio Theatre productions are done by B.F.A. Acting students, with a few guest artists who may be other students, professors or professional Edmonton actors. If the last paragraph was intended to be facetious, I'm afraid it failed miserably.

These small, but revealing, technical details aside, the bulk of the article seems to be a rather peculiar effort to draw parallels between the events of the play and world-wide historical incidents. It is hardly a tribute to Brecht, whom many people consider to be this century's greatest playwright, to elaborately justify the relevance of his play, a short

fifty or so years after it was written.

In the past the *Gateway* has had a reputation for publishing some of the most astute and enjoyable film and theatre reviews in the city. It is too bad that this year at a university that has the best theatre program in the

country, your paper should be presenting articles that demonstrate not the advantages of having a number of literate persons with specialized knowledge at hand, but that a university degree is indeed fraudulent.

Anonymous

Bauer a faithful reader

You may or may not make good cookies, but, regardless, your paper still has a long way to go. In regard to your "editorial comments" on my last letter I would like to say the following.

Firstly, I could not care less whether or not you printed my second letter — as long as you read it. Secondly, the phrase "roughly proportional" is a very useful one. It may not mean anything, but nevertheless it does have its applications.



Thirdly, although I was sorely tempted by your \$.67 offer, I'm afraid I'll have to decline. As I'm sure you're well aware, this only buys 1.34 cups of Java Jive. In addition, the *Gateway* does not have the power to offer "refunds" to only certain individuals. If it was offered to me, it must be offered to anyone since in no way whatsoever have I done anything to justify a privileged position in this regard. Any offers of this sort made to a select few constitute blatant discrimination against any others who may want the same thing.

As you found out last Friday (Feb. 6) when I and my "clones" dropped by, there is a sizable group of students who would simply love to get refunds. Your refusal to grant them to all of us is an admission of the inconsistency of *Gateway* editorial reasoning.

One wonders why the initial offer was made in the first place. The only evident explanation (aside from sheer stupidity — quite possible in this case) is that it was a puerile attempt to "get even" with me for the contents of my last letter. If such was the case, I hope you've learned from the experience.

In any event, getting my money back would do nothing to change the reality that the *Gateway* is seen as representing (and is intended to represent) student views. It should also provide unbiased reporting of events. When the paper is turned into an activist brochure, I object because that is the impression that "the public" gets of myself as "a U of A student."

Finally, thanks for clearing up the confusion surrounding Alison Thomson's med show involvement. I found it difficult to believe that she could have been connected with such a well-produced event.

Will Bauer
Electrical Engineering III

STAFF MEETING

Thursday
4 p.m.

Room 282 SUB

All Staff welcome