

# 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 282, 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

It is disappointing that the university would consider purchasing a \$50,000 rare book this year, when, at the same time, they are screaming about government austerity and, in fact, because of a reduced operating fund grant increase will almost surely boost student tuition fees again.

It is true that the work—the 11-volume *Atlas Major* by Johannes Bleau (Amsterdam, 1662)—is a magnificent set and would be a significant addition to our library. There are many professors on campus who would appreciate being able to use such a book for research, and it would be a beautiful way to celebrate the library's two-millionth acquisition.

But it makes no sense to buy such a book, now. We are hard pressed financially and the library has been especially hard pressed by recent government cutbacks. The rate of acquisition of new books by the library has fallen steadily for four years (up until last year when the university made a special concession to the inflationary costs the library faces, and granted them an extra \$4 million). It would be more appropriate for us to purchase a \$10,000 or \$15,000 book to celebrate our two-millionth acquisition, and spend the rest of that \$50,000 on extending library hours or ensuring proper staffing of the library—or acquiring \$35,000 worth of "common" books we might not otherwise be able to acquire. If we were to make such an ostentatious display, however, by spending \$50,000 on a single work for the library, I think it quite possible we would further hamper our pleas to the provincial government and the public. Or worse, we would not be helping that part of the library which needs help most, and would instead squander our money on a showpiece.

And of course, all that being said, there is also the point that if indeed this \$50,000 book were purchased, the students who pay to attend this university would likely never see the work.

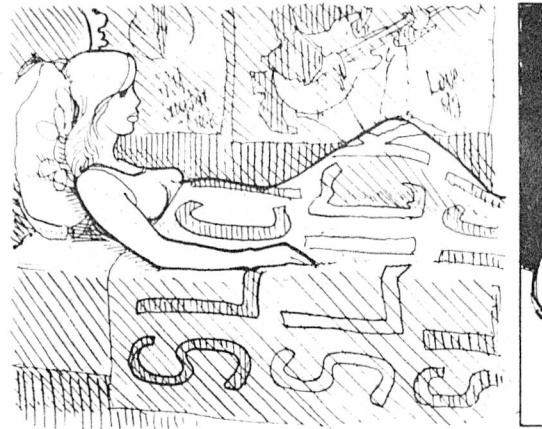
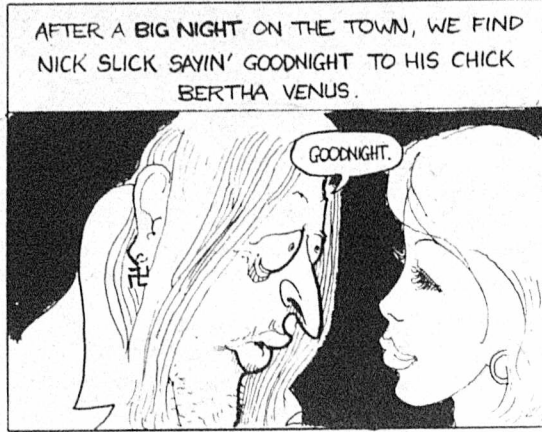
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Dirk Schaeffer, in his Tuesday "Ombudsman" column, illustrates very well some of the problems of life in a burgeoning bureaucracy — how Wendy Stringer's case is indicative of the rule-bound, administration mentality of our campus. Schaeffer also shows clearly the need to establish a separate Faculty (or School) of Fine Arts on this campus, instead of continuing the farce of including BFA programs in the Arts Faculty, when such programs are for the most part completely cut off from non-BFA students. People in the Arts Faculty administration suggest the fine arts departments of art and design, drama, and music, don't want to separate from the Arts Faculty because it might mean a cut in grant allocations. However, the department chairman in art and design, Doug Haynes, insists his staff are perfectly willing to work either in a department in a school of Fine Arts, or within the Faculty of Arts, as at present.

And he says while he can sympathize with the Wendy Stringer case, his department just can't offer an advanced drawing course to a non-fine arts student, even if s/he is just auditing the course. "We haven't even got enough people to staff our own BFA courses properly," Haynes said Wednesday. "Days of expansion are behind us." But realizing the problem with drawing courses being restricted to BFA students (when there are students in such disciplines as engineering, zoology and education who also require training in drawing for their professions) Haynes said his department is offering an advanced drawing course in both spring and summer sessions in which priority will be given to non-BFA students.

But back to the Wendy Stringer case and how changing fine arts to a separate faculty might help ease such problems. First off, in a faculty, outsiders wishing to audit an advanced course will encounter more administrative obstacles than in a department. Thus, people in a faculty might be more willing to make an exception simply because they believe less people will be willing to go through the hassles to get into their courses (and thus they'll be "safe from the hordes").

As well, with allocations on a faculty level, there may be less problems convincing the university administration of the need for larger grant allocations because of service offered to people outside the faculty. Regulations regarding admittance to courses can usually be made more explicit at a faculty level, too. In any case, it isn't right, as Schaeffer points out, to continue to lie to Arts students by including BFA programs in an Arts calendar when, in reality, the BFA program is only open to BFA students. Why not tell it like it is? **by Kevin Gillese**



## Ex-editor strikes back

I am writing in reference to the *Rendition Rankles* Ross letter in the Jan. 11 issue of *Gateway*.

So, Ross Rankles. What's new?

I refer to the letter in which Colin Ross launched a self-pitying, personal attack on *Gateway* editor Gillese.

As a former *Gateway* editor (arts and features), I would like to offer a bit of perspective on Ross' alleged persecution in the pages of the newspaper.

First of all, the article in question was *not* edited (or, as Ross calls it: axed) by editor Gillese. It was in fact edited by another staffer who has had more than eight years experience in the commercial media, as an editor, and who happens to know what the hell he's doing.

Secondly, as a *Gateway* staffer, I have at times edited Colin Ross contributions as well. I refer specifically to a front-page article on Justice Thomas Berger appearing in the Nov. 9 *Gateway*.

I spent approximately two hours first editing, then in desperation rewriting Colin Ross' version of Berger's public meetings here in Edmonton. I say Ross' *version* because what he handed in to the *Gateway* was not an article in any sense of the word. Ross' version of the meetings was an interpretation of news, not a report of news. What we at *Gateway* thought the public might want to read was what Thomas Berger *said*, not what Colin Ross thought of what Berger said.

Whether or not Ross agrees, that is what *news* is: a report of an event — not an opinion of an event. So I rewrote Ross' ponderous, opinionated offering, using the one quote from Berger's speech that our intrepid reporter included, which indicates that Ross did indeed judge the readers capable of interpreting for themselves at least a little of what Berger said. Generous soul.

And if Mr. Ross wishes to so vociferously object to *Gateway* headlines, then he can damn well come in at midnight Monday and Wednesday and write them himself.

Might I mention just one more thing. If Mr. Ross had deigned to read the *Gateway* carefully, he might have noticed that in every issue we mention the fact that submitted letters and editorial comment should be limited to approximately 200 words. This is so one person will

not monopolize entire pages of the *Gateway* with their unsolicited opinions. Ross' last "contribution" was — after editing — 1,200 words. Before editing, it was more than 2,000 words.

Thus, Mr. Ross, you have only said what you have to say ten times the prescribed length and that not very well, either.

Gateway ex-editor  
Lindsay Brown  
Arts

## Finance board queried

The Alberta Government has rung in the new year by appointing a new Student Finance Board.

While it is not known what consultations, if any, took place, it seems clear that very little emphasis was given to the needs and aspirations of students.

The four members of the Board are all senior civil servants. Not one is a student. There is now one member representing the University community.

The Student Finance Board recommends policy toward student aid, including the balance between loans and grants. It also administers the existing program, deciding, for example, on the amount of rebate students

receive.

It is small wonder that Alberta has the least generous student aid program in Canada.

This is another example of the continued centralization of authority in the hands of the advanced education departments in their downtown Edmonton office buildings.

The Progressive Conservatives have no right to govern whatever manner they see fit: they ignore the interests of those they serve, they have on themselves to blame for the consequences.

John McInnis  
Strathcona New  
Democratic Party

## Spiel playdowns

As you may have read in the last issue of the *Gateway*, the U of A is not entered in the Western Canadian University Curling Playdowns this year. The Phys. Ed. Department felt the money was needed elsewhere.

Because of the large number of interested individuals, the U of A Curling Club has decided to reorganize the playdowns. Work is presently underway to enter U of A in the Western Canada Finals, and our chances seem fairly good. We will have a university men's curling playdown the weekend of

January 28-30. Full teams can sign up at the SUB Games desk for this 32-team double knockout contest to determine the university champion.

Ladies teams can also sign up and playdown dates will be determined according to the number interested.

We hope this effort will show the Phys. Ed. Department that curling is still alive, and wanted at U of A.

Don Anderson  
President  
U of A Curling Club