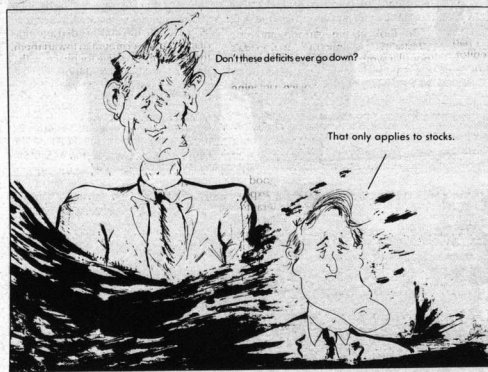


each generation strives to improve the world they inherit. Surely the students of the University of Alberta are not content with unemployment, hunger, poverty wages, discrimination, sexism and the threat of total nuclear annihilation? Yet *The Gateway* publishes nothing to indicate otherwise, and much to show they are!

In her editorial, "Pay Equity Myth", Roberta Franchuk states, "that women have ghettoized themselves into low-paying, low-prestige, semi-skilled jobs." This is a trite analysis at best, which focuses blame on the victim while totally ignoring centuries of systemic discrimination. She uses an example of a secretary being paid \$2.00/hour who, if unhappy with that rate of pay, should pick up a wrench and learn to become a mechanic. This clearly indicates that Ms. Franchuk does not believe a secretary's skills of typing, key-punch, computer literacy, short-hand and dictaphone measure up to those needed to tune-up a car. I would disagree and I would point out many other examples which could be used. We could compare our lowly secretary to a truck driver or a warehouse worker—both occupations which pay higher yet require little, if no advance training. The difference? Male occupations by tradition, worthy of higher prestige by our sexist society simply because men dominate those workforces. Women's work has been undervalued and trivialized for generations; women have been viewed as a cheap labour pool and have, traditionally, been the last hired and first fired. Pay equity is an attempt to put a realistic, non-sexist value on the work women do. Women such as Roberta Franchuk who find themselves in the fortunate position of choice about their career must realize that, by continued support of women's wage ghettos, they truly limit themselves in their career choices. Not all of us can be or want to be engineers. Are their donations of bridges and highrises of greater benefit to our society than the donation of those who teach our children? I think not.

Dressing up Mulrooney in women's clothes to portray him as the angry mother dragging



Marg Bail

a squalling infant (labelled CUPW) out for a spanking, was both a sexist editorial cartoon and a pro-privatization endorsement of the Tory government's back-to-work legislation for the Canadian Union of Postal Workers. Privatization is nothing more than poverty-sharing for the Canadian workforce. The profit expected is based on a low-wage scenario. The postal workers' fight was to save 4500 decent-paying jobs from becoming minimum wage positions. It was to save and improve the level of service Canadians deserve from their post office. By conloning back-to-work legislation for postal workers and by condoning the use of replacement workers (U of A Postal Corporation Support Committee poster), the students are, ultimately, condoning a cheap wage strategy for Canada. As optimistic about their futures as young people may be, surely they must consider the high unemployment rate and the possibility that they may not all find careers in their study areas. The post office is full of individuals bearing university degrees. These individuals have not been able to obtain the employment they studied for but are, at least, able to support themselves and their families. Should the Tories succeed in privatization of the post office, the current students will face a job market upon graduation offering 4500 fewer opportunities for a livable wage.

Nine pages of sports and entertainment comprised the bulk of the issue. With only one exception (hardly a notable one) all photos were of men. That one exception was in the entertainment section and showed a young woman leaning against her hero. Overall, this issue impressed me as little more than an "Examiner" for U of A students.

I have had the opportunity to read and enjoy many university newspapers from across the country. *The Gateway* stands very poorly beside others in light of content. Perhaps this would be the time to review your mandate and to actively search for students who offer critical analysis and constructive alternatives to the Tory status quo. *The Gateway* so obviously supports,

### Legislating value?

I enjoyed Ms. Franchuk's 'pay equity' editorial, and Doris Badir's response. However, one important question was not addressed. Specifically, how can we legislate value? The answer, of course, is that we cannot. What we can legislate, and what 'pay equity' backers would have us legislate, is the cost of labour. Unfortunately the two are not interchangeable. If we drive up the employers labour costs, he will have to react either by increasing prices, or decreasing manpower: Inflation or Unemployment.

It is all well and good for Ms. Badir to brag of the U of A's leading role in 'pay equity'. Universities (and governments) pay for this luxury out of the taxpayers' wallet, or, I suppose, by tacking another 'library fee' onto our tuition. Perhaps we could calculate the total annual dollar cost of U of A 'pay equity' programs, existing and if proposed, and itemize them as optional contribution with our tuition assessments. Students could then vote, with their own money, on whether they want or can afford 'equal pay for work of equal value'.

John Staples

### Inaccurate verbiage

Mr. Vethan's letter of Oct. 27 reminds one of the type of attack that is often launched when a person is frightened, embarrassed and confused. While it is usually not fair play to take such a person to task for statements made while disaffected, I feel that some comments are necessary because of the unacceptably high number of inaccuracies contained in his verbiage.

First, it is indeed true that I am questioning the rights of the Education "representatives" to sit, for the simple reason that the Education students have not chosen then to do so, nor had the opportunity to contest the seats themselves as our S.U. Constitution requires. I do not consider this to be an "unprovoked attack", as it is neither without ample foundation nor done with malice.

As for Mr. Vethan's charge that this is the second such consecutive attack, I would be pleased to know what the first one was. I like to know what it is that I'm "attacking".

Second, Mr. Vethan is either confused or forgetful when he claims that I obtained the ESA Constitution through "indirect means" (whatever these are). If he means "secretly", (like it was written up this summer), then he's absolutely incorrect. I he knows darn well that I gave a written request to the ever-so-helpful ESA executive for a copy. This request was never even acknowledged, never mind met. Finally, I had the nerve to ask an Education student to request a copy for me; is Mr. Vethan suggesting that Education students do not have a right to see their own Constitution, or actually have the gall to let someone else see it? I may remind Mr. Vethan that constitutions are public documents, meant to be read and perused. How else does one ensure they are legitimate and being complied with for my part. I just think that the Education exec are a tad miffed that someone actually has revealed their exploits.

Last, Mr. Vethan has been misinformed when he claims that I've threatened her of the ESA executive with a lawsuit. This is unacceptably untrue. With the exception of Mr. LaGrange, who will, I'm sure, be happy to state that I've never threatened him, I don't know who the others are. However, as their antics are becoming more and more public, I'm not sure that I'd even want to.

Don Davies

### Political division

James Heelan's defense of his party's policies and accomplishments, which appears in the October 22 edition of this paper, is admirable if the quality sought is loyalty. And it does reveal that selectivity is unavoidable for admirers of at least two of our nation's major political parties!

It is easy to defend one's party when it takes a clear stand on an issue. What is perhaps more difficult, however, is to determine whether one concurs with that position. One must be cautious not to overlook this exercise. Membership in a political party does not preclude such evaluation.

The confusion alluded to in the case of the Liberal Party on the issue of the Meech Lake accord at least reveals some thoughtful examination and representation is taking place. Division in a political party is not something to strive for but it happens, especially on issues like free trade and the constitution (with proposed provisions for recognizing Quebec as a Distinct Society) where implications may vary between the provinces.

Karen McRae  
V.P. Policy  
U of A Student Liberal Association

### The Gateway



Editor-in-Chief: RHODERICK (ROD) J. CAMPBELL  
Managing Editor: SHERRI FITCHIE  
News Editors: ROBERTA FRANCHUK, KEN BOSMAN  
Entertainment Editor: ELAINE CESTY  
Sports Editor: ALAN SMALL  
Photo Editor: BRUCE GARDOVE  
Production Editor: JUANITA SPEARS  
Circulation Manager: CURTIS BEAVERFORD  
Media Supervisor: MARGRET TILROE—WEST  
Advertising: TOM WRIGHT

#### Contributors:

Tom Wharton, Jennifer Mullitt, Ben McCaffery, Brian Martin, Doug Smith, Jerome Ryckborst, Randall Smathers, Patrick Mondin, Peter McCleure, Eric Baich, Ajay Bhardwaj, Pat Hughes, Lutful Kabir Khan, Christopher J. Cook, Kerry Deane, Dragos Ruiu, L. Robertson, Paul Menzies, Rob Galbraith.

The Gateway is the newspaper of the University of Alberta Students. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. All opinions are signed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway. Copy deadlines are 11 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm. 282 (ph. 432-5168). All photographs printed in the Gateway are for sale. Call the photodivisor at 432-5168 or come to room 236 SUB. Advertising: Rm. 256D (ph. 432-4241). Students' Union Building, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta, T6C 2S7. Readership is 25,000. The Gateway is a member of the Canadian University Press.

## STUDY IN THE U.K. AND FRANCE... A YEAR ABROAD!

The International Student Centre will be holding a free 2-day seminar on study choices in the U.K. or France.

**Thursday, November 5, 1987**

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Room V-107 (V-wing)

General Information session on studying abroad

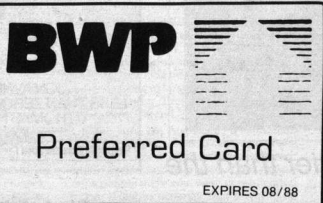
**Friday, November 6, 1987**

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Specific information on the U.K. and France

You MUST register to attend. Please call 432-5950

"Never leave class without it"



IS COMING

Do you feel like really looking into things?

Write feature stories for The Gateway.