EDITORIAL

My CUP runneth over

As some of the *Gateway's* esteemed readers may know, we are members in a national newspaper cooperative affectionately called CUP or Canadian University Press.

CUP provides the Gateway many services including a national news service and a national advertising service. As

with most organizations, we are stuck with the drawbacks. We are stuck in a dilemma of distinguishing CUP as either a service cooperative or a policy former of ideology. Slowly but surely, the drift is toward an ideology. Those who do not wish to conform to CUP's ways are in for some heavy peer

Back in the 1940's, the cooperative created a unifying statement of principles. What the predominant feature of that statement has evolved into today is all papers are "agents of social change." To some that clause has negative connotations,

and to others it has positive ones.

CUP's statements worry me. They blatantly state the purpose of abuse. Cuppies will rush to reassure me that the goals of these principles are only to make the world a far better palce to live, but have they not heard that the Reverend Sun Yung Moon and Jerry Falwell have the same objectives? As they say, the line between genius and insanity is fine indeed. The same can be said about making a world and destroying

I know all of this sounds catastrophic, but do individuals deserve such power? Remember the old axiom: "Absolute power corrupts absolutely." It is not a law of any sort, but a logic still prevails in it. The more one has an ability to control things, the more that ability will be used. The problem lies in the CUP executive, not its member papers.

As any large cooperative, a committee is formed to keep the whole machine running smoothly. This is the CUP executive. The executive is elected both for a national body and regional bodies at annual conferences. Eventually we get a few highly motivated and idealistic people who will guide the

organization's direction for a year. These people are supposed to represent and guide hundreds of student newspapers across Canada; east, west, north and south. Anyone who does not believe differences of policy, direction, and beliefs occur, is greatly misinformed. Setting policies for this group is not easy, so what is made are

very vague clauses (e.g. "agents of social change") which are left to the individual members to define.

Unfortunately, students being the idealistic creatures they are, the members want to enforce their common beliefs somehow, again the executive's function. What happens, though, is again an individual's interpretations of some very vague guidelines.

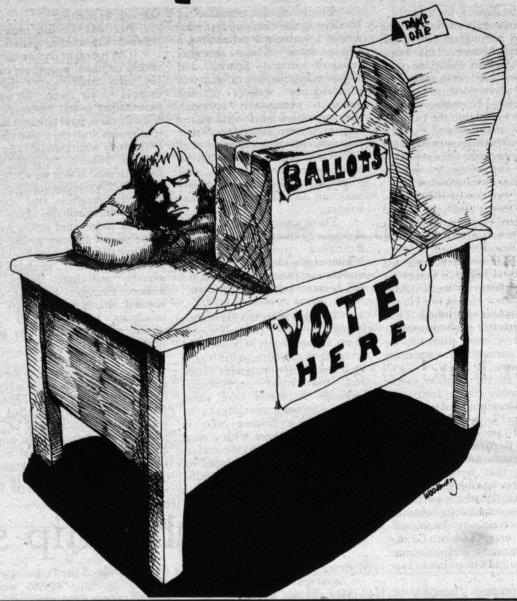
Whose show is it?

Recently, the Gateway has been criticized by its cooperative's executive. If you recall the February 11th, 1982 issue, CUP did not like the editorial cartoon, ears, or front page graphics. The cartoon depicted a blind man driving past a university parking booth. The front page graphics were the covers of Heavy Metal and National Lampoon, the two magazines Charing Cross Books took off the shelves and the focus of the front page story. The ears: "When a girl marries, she exchanges the attentions of many men for the inattentions of one." - Helen Rowland."

The executive member whose duty is to watchdog the member, papers says these features "were irrelevant and unnecessary. The Gateway was questioning a foregone conclusion." Personally, I disagree. First, I believe the newspaper has the obligation to present the issue, especially one of such social relevance as sexism. More important, I do not believe the Gateway is questioning a foregone conclusion, or why else is sexism still a prominent problem. To add insult to injury, this executive member says, "The material run in the Gateway is not extreme enough ... the problem must be identified before it is recognised.

These though are criticisms of an individual, but one who has been delegated to represent the cooperative on such matters. Yet our own readers did not respond in the same manner, either pro or con. I just want to ask, who is the Gateway accountable to - CUP or the students who pay for

Wes Oginski



TO THE EDITOR LETTERS

Gateway scolded by CUP

I was approached by several delegates at the Spring Con-11th, 1982 issue of the Gateway. greater impact. The cartoon depicted a blind man looking for parking.

Other members later approached me about the front page of the same issue. They were offended by the covers of Heavy Metal and National Lampoon magazines to illustrate the story;
"Progressive store strips magazines and the cutline beneath the illustrations, "Does this insult

They were also offended by the ears of that issue - "When a girl marries she exchanges the intentions of many men for the inattentions of one. - Helen Rowland."

These people were offended by the copy, creatives and cartoon because they believed it would reinforce discrimination against the disabled and women.

I do not believe the Gateway would use such material without attempting to undercut it and ridicule it, but it should be pointed out that the reaction this received probably wasn't the one you wanted.

Conference delegates were obviously confused by the cartoon. They couldn't find anything funny or relevant about it and I must agree with them. Blindness is no joke and humour at its expense can only be labelled as poor taste.

I presume the cartoon was leveled at parking at the U of A ference in Vancouver who being so inaccessible that it can't questioned the use of your be seen. But the issue could have editorial cartoon in the February been handled differently with

As for the illustrations, and a seeing-eye dog in a car women were offended and insulted by them and the cutline. They felt that both were irrelevant and unnecessary. The Gateway was questioning a foregone conclusion. Women have been protrayed as sexual objects that do not have any other relevant function in society and the material run by the Gateway promotes this image. This concept has created and re-inforced discrimination in the workplace, home, relationships and self-

image for women.

The ears were also a source of insult. "Girl" is not a term applied to women who are old enough to marry. I realise that the term is a colloquialism much like "going drinking with the boys," but "girls" is far more frequently used by both sexes. Calling a woman a "girl" implies that she is intelltectually immature, unable to live without financial support, and unable to make her own decisions regarding her life. It also encourages other catch phrases like "she doesn't know her own mind."

If discrimination is to be stopped or questioned effectively, then language is a very basic first step. And as language is the basis of any newspaper, it may be a good idea to examine your approach to

Although the Gateway may have run this copy to create reader reaction, stimulate discussion and allow more questions to be asked about the viability of such attitudes in our society, more analysis should be provided.

Creating discussion among people who are already aware and concerned about the issue is not the best way to provide informa-tion for others. The material run in the Gateway is not extreme enough to create massive reaction among people who accept this as status quo. It is encountered every day and is often thought acceptable because its existence makes it relevant. In order to encourage more thought about the desirability of such discrimination, the problem must be identified before it is recognised.

> S. Matheson WRCUP Human Rights Coordinator



Letters to the Editor should be maximum of 250 words on an subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed although we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

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CIRCULATION - Mike McKinney The Gateway is the official newspaper of the students at the University of Alberta. With a readership of over 25,000 the Gateway is published Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter session, excepting holidays. Contents are the responsibility of the editor; editorials are written by an 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 the Canadian University Press and of CUP Media Services Ltd., is located in Room 282 Students' Union Building, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7. Newsroom 432-5168; Advertising 432-4241

Staft this issue: The Gateway censored by the Students Union? 'Absolutely and

specific country recognic