

# EDITORIAL

## Real-life choices

"He's a farm boy - so I think he's pretty responsible."  
 "Good. Just hold your temper when you tell him - and make it work out."

"...Take my word for it, raising a baby by yourself is no fun."

"There's nothing to having a baby, really, that's the easy part. Just remember: when they ask you if your pains are bad, say 'yes.'"

A soap opera? Regrettably, no. I overheard this conversation in an all-night cafe, where a group of young women were trying desperately to become women. These women were not irresponsible, evil, immoral, or stupid. What they were was frightened.

Frightened of what they didn't know, of what no one had bothered to teach them, and of what at least one of them was being forced to do.

And all the preachy moralizing in the world by teachers, parents and other meddling individuals meant nothing to teenagers forced to deal on a direct level with their sexuality.

Of course, a few organizations and people do exist who are dedicated to helping young people cope with unwanted pregnancies and related problems. But they are more than outnumbered by those intent on pontificating, on forcing their view of reality on all of society: anti-abortionists, parents against sex education, organized church hierarchies and others supposedly dedicated to helping people.

The arguments for and against abortion, birth control, pre-marital sex and assorted other "sins" have been exhaustively dissected by pseudo-philosophers and proselytizers. But what they think should be irrelevant, because their goal is to inflict their views on all of society.

If they were arguing about politics instead of sex, their views would be given no more credence than those of any other streetcorner preacher. But since they conceal their ruthlessly anti-individualistic principles in a Judeo-Christian cloak of "morals" and "values" they find a large and uncritical audience. By and large, these are people willing to pass judgement on situations they never have to face, and they shamelessly tell others how to make decision they alone must live with.

In the twentieth century, their arguments are hopelessly out of date. In a world engulfed by child abuse, poverty, overpopulation and countless other social ills, traditional concepts of morality must adapt. Individuals must be allowed to make the choices they must live with.

To do otherwise only builds in the same social rigidity that has caused all previous social systems to fall.

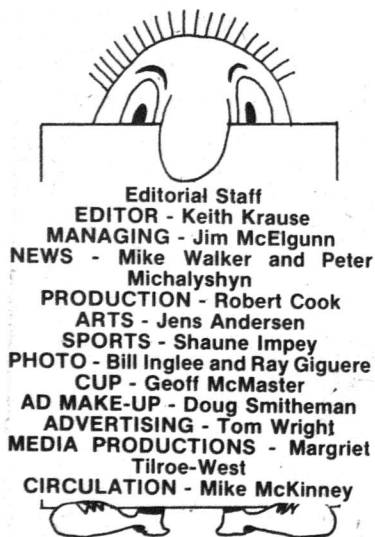
Keith Krause



## the Gateway

If it happens on campus.. call a lawyer.

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It was a grim time. Indeed... Cap'n Krause was pacing the deck of the S.O.S. Gateway, muttering: "Only ten more leagues to shore." Mr. Walker had let his sharp tongue waggle once too often, so he had been chained to the mast and forced to do most of the writing for the ship's log. Lou O'Hara, Ben Yee, Elda Hopfe, Tom Freeland, and Brent Jeffery swabbed the deck and cursed bitterly at the Fates. Michael Skeet was alone in his cabin, drinking Pepto-Bismal and plotting revenge on the Managing Midshipman, while Pat Just and Greg Harris sweated in the kitchen, trying to think up imaginative new ways to serve stale leftover layout. And Cathy Embrey, David Orrell, and 'Friar Wes' Oginski were holed up in the hold, plotting "Aye, the cap'n he be mad. There be no land out thar, and he must be o'erthrown." When high in the crow'snest came the cry from Mary-Ruth Olson, "Land! Land!" And the crew danced and shouted as the iceberg split the fair ship asunder...

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.

Newsroom 432-5168 Advertising 432-3423

## Letter better never than late

Some apologies are in order regarding my Reader Comment printed last Thursday. The Gateway very irresponsibly published my analysis a full three weeks after it had been written. Since then the differences between the involved student groups have been discussed and largely worked out. We came together in the 'Committee for the Defense of North Garneau' and together have effectively waged a press campaign and staged an inspiring rally.

The students that I slammed in my article have since made public statements admitting to making mistakes, which required courage and commitment to the cause. It has taken us all some time to figure out what is happening

and how we might influence the University decision makers. We have all done an excellent job and we deserve more accurate reporting by the Gateway staff.

There is at this point a definite possibility of securing North Garneau as student housing. The Board of Governors must be pressed to decide on April 10, before students have gone for the summer, to use alternative sites for the Student Games' housing. We still need help from students on this. You could phone or write Dr. Horowitz, Board of Governors representatives and your favorite administrator. North Garneau is an important issue and one in need of your support.

Laverne Booth  
 Education IV

## Apology

On Thursday, the Gateway printed a Reader Comment by Laverne Booth on the proposed redevelopment of North Garneau. The letter was received in early February, but was not published until now because at the time we had a large backlog of letters. Developments since then mean that many things said in the letter are no longer true.

The Gateway regrets any confusion or misunderstanding that publication of the letter at this time may have caused, and apologizes to Laverne Booth and others involved in the controversy over North Garneau.

## Paranoia seizes the editor's brain

It would seem that Mr. Keith Krause has a rather pessimistic view of our world's future. On March 5, 1981, Mr. Krause presented his doomsday version of the future. He tends to believe (or just wishes to say he believes) that we are heading for a nuclear holocaust because of the irresponsibility on the part of the superpowers, and the nations to which they supply military aid.

Although the power for destruction is every-present, it is doubtful that it will ever be used. Regardless of what reasons politicians and historians give for war, the truth is war is caused by greed on the part of an invader. Even the greediest of invaders

wouldn't consider actually using nuclear power because that which they seek to gain would only be

destroyed. It would be ridiculous to destroy a farm, city, or country which could prove profitable if merely captured by conventional means. Since the explosion of the first two nuclear bombs over 25 years ago, nuclear power has never been used in warfare. Instead, wars have been fought in much the same ways as they were in WW II.

If Mr. Krause does in reality harbor a doomsday phobia, I would suggest he withdraw from the university (and the Gateway) to a secluded hideaway where he can nurture his unfounded fears in safety.

Weda D. Sposmin  
 Commerce III

### STAFF MEETING

Thursday  
 4 p.m.

Room 282 SUB

All Staff welcome