

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 McGowan, Mina Wong, Tim Busch, 432-5178, 432-5750, Advertising 432-3423. Circulation 18,500.

Editor - Kevin Gillese
 News - John Kenney
 Features - Lindsay Brown
 Arts - Beno John
 Sports - Darrell Semenuk
 Photo - Don Truckey
 Graphics - Craig McLachlan
 Advertising - Tom Wright
 Production - Loreen Lennon and Margriet Tilroe-West
 Circulation - Jim Hagerty
 CUP Editor - Cathy Brodeur

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Art Burgess, Janet Critchley, Gordon Turtle, Les Sheldon, Alan Filewood, Mary MacDonald, David Oke, Gary McGowan, Mina Wong, Tim Busch, Richard Desjardin, Nancy Brown, Keith Miller, Bob Park, Brian Gavriloff, and...the Muscle-Bound Lunk.

editorial

People attack newspapers continuously and the usual argument they present is that the paper is "not being objective." And, of course, that's a very valid point - newspapers are not objective. And anyone in the media who tries to tell you they are being objective is lying. As soon as the decision is made about what constitutes news (...man bites dog - that's news, son!) you've already shown your bias. When you make a decision on what to put in a headline, you've shown your bias. When you decide how to begin your story, who to quote from and which quotes to use, which way to arrange the "facts" of a story, where to put the story on a page, you've shown your bias.

That's why it's strange to listen to people criticize our coverage of the Oct. 14 day of protest. Certainly we've been biased - we've never tried to hide it. But the commercial media has been biased too. Just take a look at how the Ottawa Journal dubbed Oct. 14 "LABOUR FARCE"; the Winnipeg Free Press called it "meaningless militancy"; the Toronto Star "Nobody expected the labor unions to enjoy controls, but they ought to be adult enough to swallow the bitter medicine instead of stamping and screaming through a day of protest like an angry child." All this is, of course, not prejudgement, not biased - just a clear reporting of the facts.

And certainly, it's just a coincidence that commercial newspapers are bound up in the business of making profit. The fact the Toronto Star has larger real estate holdings than the total value of its newspaper, the fact the Edmonton Journal is part of a newspaper chain which earns millions of dollars each year (profits up 26 per cent for the first six months of 1976) and runs some of the heaviest advertising copy of any major metro daily in the country ... those are all strange coincidences. That's why it's a 'strange coincidence' that their coverage has been largely anti-labor.

If you can't be objective, you should admit it. And even admitting you can't be objective, doesn't mean you can't (and shouldn't be) "fair."


For all you folks out there who have been paying higher prices to see Student Cinema this year (up 50 cents over last year, \$1 from a year before that) and yet have still had to put up with the obnoxious buzzing noise from the projector, there may be some good news in the offing. It appears that the noise, which sometimes drowns out the movie dialogue, is caused by "in-line distortion" because of cables being laid in parallel fashion and creating some sort of electro magnetic fields.

The Cinema people couldn't do anything about this before because the provincial Amusements Act does not allow pulsators in projection booths (Instead of having continuous light in movie projectors, they require a pulsator to "pulse" light through at very high speeds).

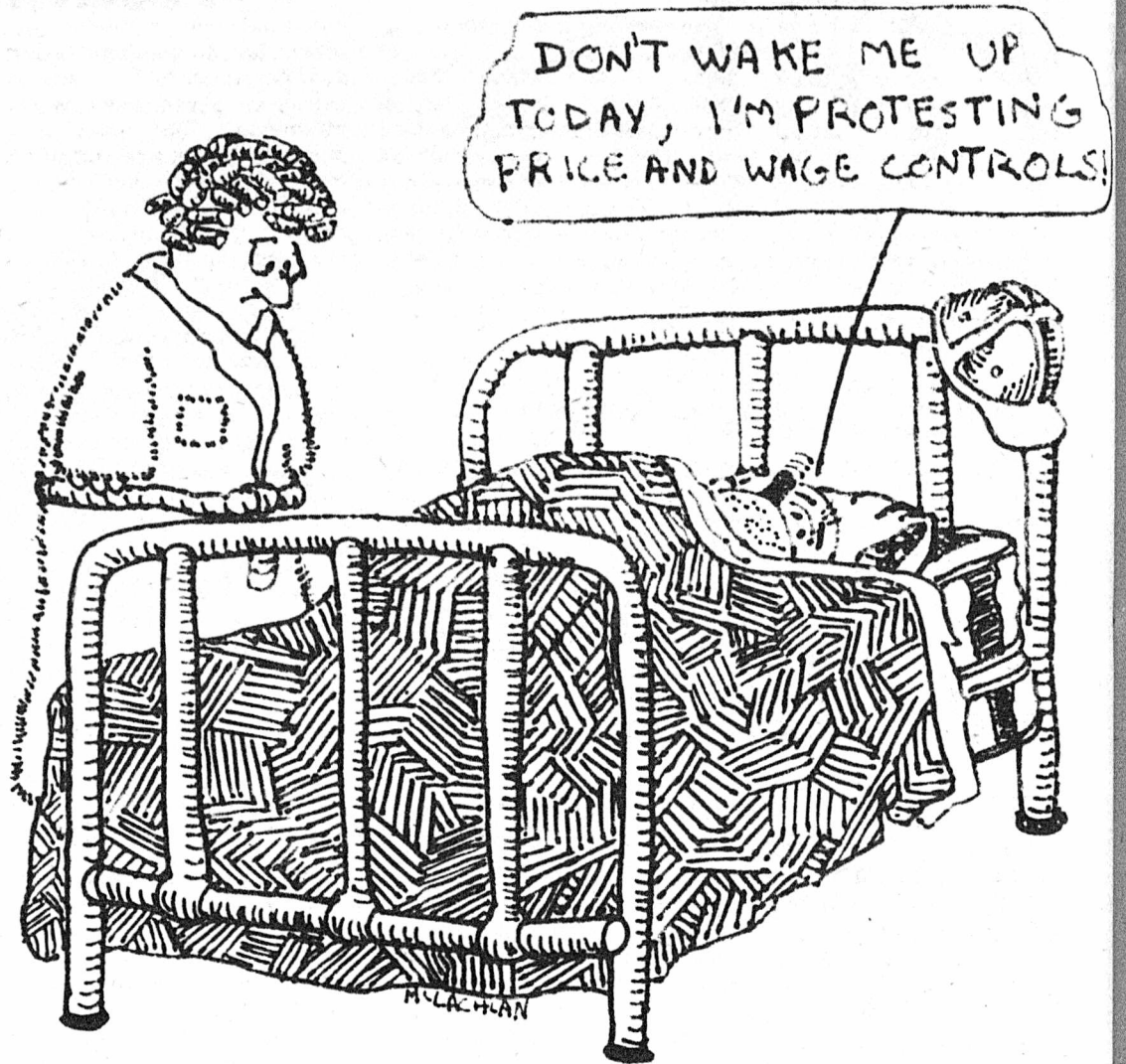
But people in SUB theatre think changes to the Amusements Act within the next three months will allow them to move their pulsators closer to the rest of their equipment in the projection booth and eliminate the problem. So, for the next three months, I suppose we'll either have to suffer through the noise or just quite going to SUB theatre for our movies.

Kevin Gillese

For National Advertising, this paper is a member of



youthstream.
 The Campus Network
 307 Davenport Road, Toronto, Ontario M5R 1K5
 (416) 925-6359



Reader Comment...

Palace revolt ?

by P. Murphy

A new wind was blowing at the Oct. 4 Monday council meeting. Councillors looked and acted alive and the atmosphere of pervasive boredom and non-involvement was missing. The executive faced some severe criticism and several times it looked as if a palace revolution was in process.

Several councillors took umbrage at the statement issued by the executive that the Students' Union would not support the national day of protest on Oct. 14. Janssen (commerce rep) felt that councillors had no input in this decision, though the campus blames them for the stand, which, he added, does not necessarily reflect either the view of council or of the students in general.

SU president Len Zoeteman claimed that the executive was bugged for days by the press to come up with something and that the resulting unilateral statement was one justified by Executive Privilege. A motion to bring the issue back to the floor to have it debated by council was narrowly defeated.

Ken Reynolds, (arts) aided by Janssen, took the Executive to task for nonperformance of campaign promises. He focused on the failure to issue a list of projects for the coming year as promised in April and wondered whether the fact that such a list had not been published in *The Gateway* meant that in fact the Executive did not have any plans for the next six months.

Zoeteman countered by pointing out that a list of items accomplished during August had been made available on Sept. 20, but that council did not have any reactions at that time.

National Student Day was the next item to come under scrutiny. It was learned that the general meeting and rally to promote student involvement and awareness of the possibility that there really is a Student Council and that they are doing

great things (really pounding them out) was going to be part of NSD.

Reynolds questioned the usefulness of this move, pointing out that the rally and general meeting would drown in the quagmire of the exciting events of NSD. Gillese (vp finance) pointed out that if council was unable to draw a sizeable audience on a day supposedly devoted to increased student awareness, they would not be able to do so even on the day of the Second Coming.

Reynolds pointed out that the FAS advertising was shoddy and wondered whether the advertising for the rally and general meeting would be of comparable quality.

Gillese explained that the FAS advertising was marred slightly by the fact that one of the printers of the pamphlet lost her thumb in the line of duty and that, when a printer in the possession of all his digits could be found, the quality and aesthetic appearance of the material would improve. Reynolds wrung out her promise that advertising for the rally/general meeting would be handled separately from the blurb promoting NSD.

The Executive seemed to relax a bit after having weathered these attacks, till it was mentioned that the award for academic and extracurricular involvement, the living symbol of what council is doing for one students, was in fact not as novel,

exciting and innovative as it could have been, due to the fact that there is already provision for three such awards. McFarlane countered this by saying that these awards had not been issued for years and in effect do not exist de facto.

It was pointed out to him that, during the last council meeting, he claimed that no such award existed. The discussion around the question whether new meant in fact new or merely slightly modified continued for some time. In the ensuing boredom, I failed to notice whether or not this shining example of recognition for service (beyond going to RATT and talking to your friends) would earn its rightful place in the tradition of this great institution.

Council further complained that they are thought of as bland bionic puppets by the majority of the students they so ably represent. Zoeteman reassured them that steps were taken to remedy this appalling misconception, and that a booklet with the title: "What Student Council Can Do For You" would be rolling off the presses in the near future.

The report's observation that there is a problem regarding the literacy of university students has generally been accepted. Education students and faculty however, are concerned about certain recommendations for changes in the public school system.

Bookstore shit on again

Instead of installing a new and expensive computing system at the bookstore in order to relieve the miserable situation at the beginning of every new term, why can't the textbooks simply be distributed to students by the instructor in every class? In that way, a lot of time could be saved and the essential text books could be obtained by the students right on the first day of classes. Standing in line for three hours or more just to pay for one's text books is simply too

illogical a thing to do, and believe there must be at least one way to solve the ridiculous problem.

If students care enough to spend hours standing in a queue because their instructors ask them "the first three chapters be read by the next class," the instructor and the bookstore staff should also be considerate enough to help to save some precious time and energy of the students.

Mina Wong
 Art