

The Gateway

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editorial

Ed Leger thinks there should be a second daily newspaper in this town. So do a lot of people. So do I. It's a great idea—but that doesn't mean another daily will ever start here. As Charles Allard put it, "If you talk to the businessmen they all say they'd like to see a second newspaper; but if you ask them if they'd advertise in the second paper, they'd all tell you they wouldn't or couldn't."

Exactly.

Bucks make the world go round. And nobody with the bucks who is going to fork over the millions and millions of dollars needed to begin a second paper in Edmonton. A new press will cost you over \$15 million. To get a foot into the advertising market takes five to 10 years, so you're looking at five or 10 years before you've established yourself enough to take on the big (or even the small) advertising money. So we're stuck with a monopoly. That monopoly gives us a paper with a huge amount of ad copy, surrounded by a disproportionately low amount of news copy. It gives us a paper which last year made \$6 million in profits. It gives us a newspaper which has made revenue-generating copy its highest priority, and investigative journalism a secondary one. And who's the winner? The answer lies in the words of Lord Goodman, former chairman of the British Newspaper Publishers Association:

"Press freedom is the right of a newspaper, through its editor or whoever else may control it, to say whatever he likes, in whatever fashion he likes, subject to the legal restraints.

"And as long as another newspaper exists to contradict him, and a third to qualify him, and a fourth to augment him, and a fifth to revile him, freedom of the press as we understand it, survives...."



The 25th anniversary concert by the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra last weekend was an enthusiastic celebration of the efforts in this city which have resulted in the formation of a fine symphony orchestra, one we can justifiably be proud of. A small note of warning was introduced to the celebrations, however, when ESO president John Schlosser announced that the ESO, the only Canadian orchestra to be invited to the Athens Festival, would be unable to travel to Greece this summer. The ESO couldn't make the trip because they couldn't solicit government funds.

The federal government, it seems, would rather spend their money moving a 1,000-man airborne regiment to Petewawa, Ontario, than help support an international tour by our local symphony. And the provincial government decided to increase their public relations staff, rather than perhaps help the ESO add to its limited string section, because it seems they suppose the Alberta public would rather listen to the Lougheed tune than to symphonic works. Of course, the situation is no surprise to Schlosser — he also happens to be chairman of our Board of Governor's finance committee and he knows he'll be receiving the unhappy news about operating grant fund restrictions within the next month. It's a shame the provincial and federal governments seem to regard the arts and education as their lowest priorities, along with social services. The result? Social services are cut back, the ESO must continue to charge such high prices it ensures catering to an elite audience, and Alberta universities begin to restrict enrolment on the basis of economic qualifications. Isn't it wonderful to know we live in an egalitarian society, so well removed from the repugnancy of monetary concerns or class structure?



What have we done wrong? How have we so alienated young G.B. Shaws and Ernest Hemingways that they refuse to step forward and offer themselves as editorial candidates for next year? Nominations for Gateway editor 1977-78 opened two weeks ago — we have yet to hear a murmur of interest from anyone out there. And so the nomination forms grow dirty and dusty in the lower right-hand corner of the editor's desk in Room 282, SUB, while next year's editor walks around in complete listlessness, not quite ready to take the plunge. Careful, nominations close Feb. 4. You'd better move quickly if you want to enjoy all the fun and games of late Monday and Wednesday press nights, and be able to skip your classes without feeling guilty.

by Kevin Gillese

BUB SLUG by Delaney & Rasmussen



Filewod reviles...

I was dismayed, upon reading the printed version of my review of Stage West, to find that editorial interference had in several places distorted the accuracy and very meaning of my sentences.

To some extent, this comes as no surprise, as virtually all of my submitted pieces to date have suffered grammatical errors at the hands of an editor. The annoyance in this case lies in the fact that I have found myself apologizing more than once for major errors that were not my own.

I would like, therefore, to clarify two major points.

My remarks about Berman's delivery of the opening line of the play were not as incoherent as they seem in print. In my original copy, I described the line, the delivery, and most important, the audience reaction. I am astonished that the editor saw fit to remove the salient point about the audience reaction, for in doing so he rendered the whole section of the review pointless. This is not unlike printing a joke and omitting the punch line.

Secondly, and more seriously, I did not say that Stage West is the only dinner theatre in Canada. I said that other than a few summer stock companies, I know of no other dinner theatre than Stage West. You will agree, I hope, that the qualification is important, especially in light of the fact that I have been rebuked in these pages for indiscreet use of generalizations.

The copy I submitted was proof-read no less than five times by myself and another, and I wish to have it made clear that I would never rely on such sloppy grammar as your editor has imposed on my review.

Is it too much to ask that

Gateway abide by the standards of responsible journalism, and check with the writer before running a distorted piece under his name? I am not challenging the editor's right to clean up a piece prior to publication, but that right carries the responsibility of ensuring that the integrity of a piece is maintained. An occasional error is excusable, but an average of five per review, exclusive of spelling mistakes and missing sentences, is beyond tolerance.

Alan Filewod
Grad Studies

Arts Ed. Note: Because we are a newspaper and work within certain time limits and with certain space restrictions, we must often

cut overly-long articles without being able to rewrite paragraphs (to ensure stylistic continuity), contact the author concerning the changes. Filewod's remarks about cutting the sentences

noting that Berman's opening line drew laughter from the audience did not seem so much the removal of a punch line — rather of an obvious (not prominent or "salient") point. The original remarks about dinner theatre were phrased ambiguously — "I think there are some..." — which I saw no need to include, and used instead a conditional verb to qualify the remark about Stage West (thereby accomplishing the same purpose, but saving 25 words).

...Thakur rebutts

I would like to respond to a letter in the Gateway, Jan. 6, by Mr. F.S. Singh. It is true that I am a member of the Edmonton and District Cricket League and it is true that the league was involved in racist sport. My purpose in remaining in the League is to fight its pro-racist policies. Mr. Singh may believe that it is better to leave the League; but nothing is achieved without struggle and I have chosen to continue the struggle within the League.

One could argue, using Mr. Singh's logic, that if you do not like capitalism, you can leave it. Using this logic, the people of Cuba should have left their country rather than carrying out a revolution to change it.

The "foreign student problem," identified by Mr. Singh as arising from the visible militancy of certain foreign students, arises in fact, from other causes.

Indeed, were it the case that militancy causes racist reactions, the historical anti-Oriental reaction in Canada would never have occurred since Orientals have largely been intimidated from participating in Canadian political life. The "foreigner" scapegoat has had a long history here. When the contradiction within capitalism became more apparent and unemployment rising, the immigrant — including foreign students — is a convenient target for the capitalists.

If the working classes cannot be divided along racial lines, they will not unite to overthrow the common enemy; and it is to ensure that they remain divided that the capitalist class and the governments unleash attacks against "foreigners."

Vidya Thakur
VENCEREMO