

EDITORIAL

A valuable co-op

Returning from the annual national conference of student journalists is guaranteed to give one a boost of enthusiasm and energy with which to begin the new year.

CUP, the national student journalist cooperative, is a low-profile organization at the U of A, but one which is of great importance to the Gateway. It provides us with much more than the three or four CUP notes in each issue that most readers are familiar with.

First, CUP provides a weekly news service and telex bureau network that keeps us in constant touch with over 60 other newspapers. This allows us to bring readers up-to-date news from campuses across Canada.

Second, CUP provides the Gateway with an impressive core of experts in such fields as layout and design, investigative journalism, feature writing and coverage of student issues. Without this backup of expertise, it would be impossible to acquire new skills while struggling to keep up with the work involved in putting out a paper twice weekly.

Third, CUP provides a network of contacts in other cities that can assist in the gathering of information on provincial and national student issues. Cutbacks, tuition fee increases and student housing are all issues which students across Canada should be made aware of. More important, students everywhere should be aware that the problems they face and the solutions they work out are shared by others.

Fourth, the Gateway, by being a CUP member, has access to a national advertising network serving a circulation of over 300,000. This network provided us with over \$20,000 in ads last year. It is now undergoing some changes, however, as CUP moves towards the establishment of a member-controlled advertising agency.

Besides, knowing we're not the only people doing this sure makes the job a lot easier.

Research lives on

The appointment of Gordin Kaplan as the first vice-president responsible for research will be an important boost to research programs at the U of A.

Research is often ignored as a part of the university; there are few people anymore who will argue that it is the university's prime function. Instead, increased attention is being directed toward keeping students satisfied; when students begin leaving in droves, the entire foundation of the university establishment is shaken.

Thus, the past few years have seen a decrease in both the quantity and the quality of research activity, primarily because of the funding squeeze. Having a qualified and high profile administrator soliciting funds and publicizing research efforts can ameliorate the situation.

Kaplan is certainly qualified for the job, as he has served as president of numerous professional societies in his field. As well, he has had experience in lobbying for increased research activity, and his efforts were often successful.

Now if only the provincial government would cooperate and begin funding research at an appropriate level, the U of A could begin moving toward creation of the "brain center" fondly dreamed about by the Tories. Kaplan's appointment has brought that dream one step closer to reality.

Keith Krause

the Gateway

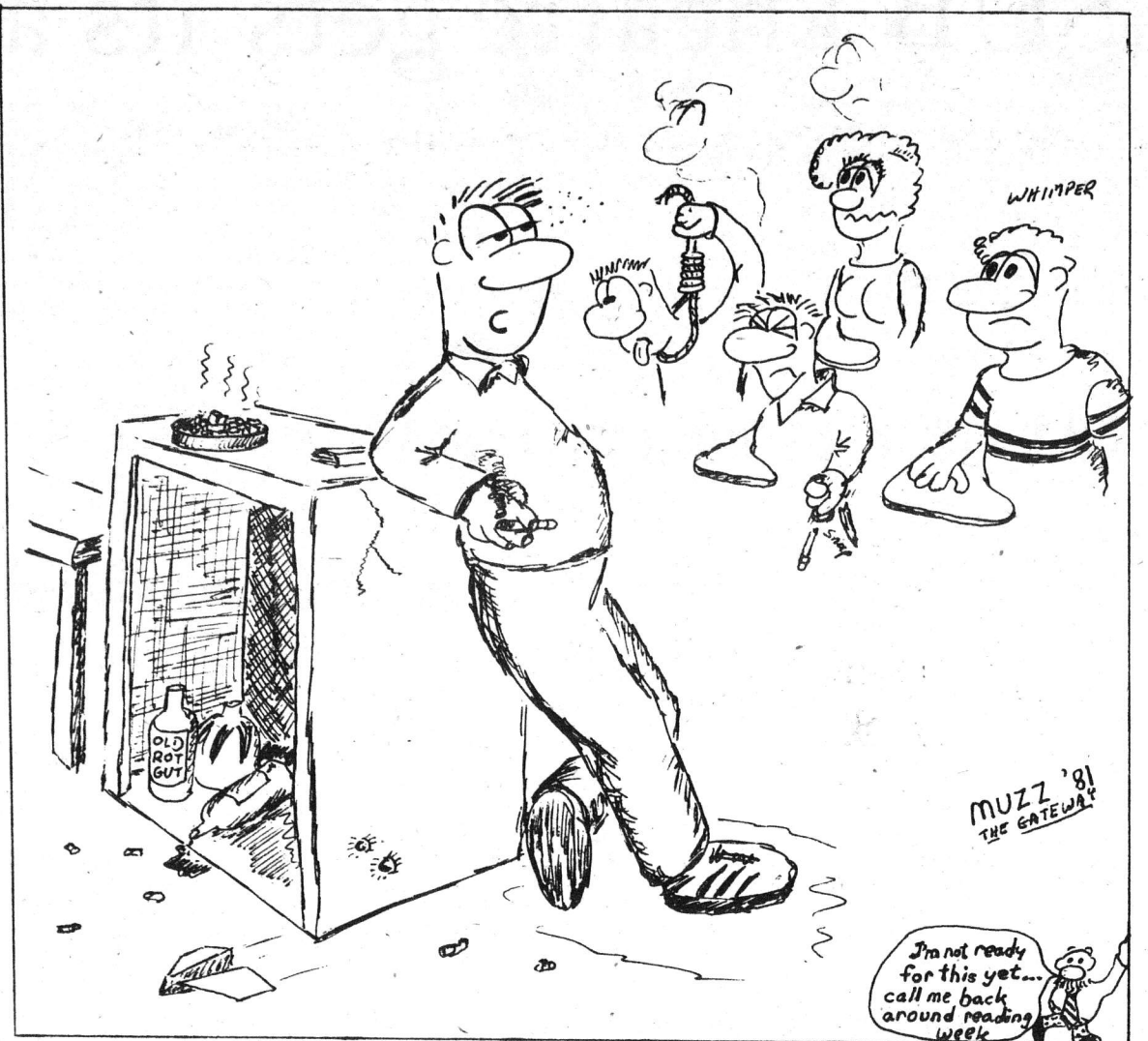
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Creeeeek! The lid swung open on its rusty hinges and out crept Keith Krause, back from the dead, but just barely. "Come with me," he moaned, in an accent that bespoke distant lands and bitter cold and eternal nights and untold ingestion of spirits. "We have a mission." And slowly the pallid corpses followed, but with heavy steps. Onward they came - Tom Freeland, Murray Whitby, Maureen Laviolette, Brent Jeffery, Cathy Emberley, Alison Thomson, Michael Skeet and Eida Hopfe - but hesitantly, with troubled hearts. When ever so quietly their leader whispered the magnificent words, "I'm buying this round." And from then on there was no stopping them...

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.

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GOOD MORNING, I'M PROFESSOR DIPSTIC. THIS IS ENGLISH 334 AND EACH OF YOU ARE NOW NINE HUNDRED PAGES BEHIND IN YOUR READINGS.

Who is really pampered?

My first reaction after reading "Cushy perks for elite jocks are not justified", Gateway December 2, 1980, was to ignore it as a biased letter from an uninformed source. But then I decided that it was about time that someone spoke in favor of athletics at our university.

First of all, the assumption is made that the University of Alberta footed the bill to send the Golden Bears football team to Toronto for the College Bowl. Wrong, the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union paid close to 80% of the expenses, (airfare, lodgings, etc.) while several donations including money from Edmonton Lions Club made up the rest of the financial arrangements. Other U of A athletic teams, such as the women's basketball team and the men's cross-country team have been eligible for the CIAU's corporate and government money to attend 1980 CIAU Championships.

For argument let us suppose we take all the money allocated to athletics and pour it into intramurals, as the Dec. 2 article suggests. Before long intramural allstar teams would be formed and they would travel to Vancouver to take on UBC's intramural "all-stars". Then an intramural all-star league would be formed amongst the Canada west schools and we would be back to our present set-up. Universite de Montreal dropped intercollegiate sports a few years ago on the assumption that intramural sports would improve. No dice!, the money was allocated elsewhere in the University budget. The intramural program remained the same, while intercollegiate sport at the school was lost forever.

Intercollegiate sport is one of the only areas of university life where students are brought together from all faculties to represent their university in competition against other schools. It is the only area where a sense of

school spirit can be fostered. Every U of A student has the opportunity to attend any intercollegiate event, free. Fed up with the trash you're watching at the Coliseum, come to a Bears hockey game and see real hockey.

Athletics at the university level allows every student to have the chance to be part of a top quality program, from swimming, field hockey and soccer to basketball, gymnastics and wrestling.

Comparatively our university must be doing something right in terms of successful winning season, with seven national championships coming our way in 2½ years, tops among the CIAU's 43 schools.

It is human nature to strive for excellence. Intercollegiate teams allow for this outlet to be available. Think of how many high school athletes' aspirations and goals would be cut short if they knew that they wouldn't have the opportunity to measure their skills at the university level.

With government funding based on declining enrolments, universities across the country are faced with severe financial

restraints. Universities are in competition with one another for students to try and bolster their sagging enrolments. Through the athletics medium, the University of Alberta has been on national TV twice in 1980. (U of A football and hockey, both national champions.) I'm sure in Alberta alone thousands of potential U of A students watched the College Bowl, exposed to their first facet of the University. Through a high profile situation, athletics are providing one of the best sources of advertising for the university.

May I remind the avid supporters of amateur athletics, who in their Dec. 2 Gateway letter to the editor, say that "intercollegiate athletics should support their own habit", the entire University of Alberta intercollegiate sports budget, subsidized by matching government grants and some corporate donations would not be enough to pay for Wayne Gretzky's salary for one year.

Who is pampered?

Rick Shaver
President
Men's Athletics



Ever had an intelligent thought cross your mind?

Then walk, don't run to the Gateway, and put your talents to work

The Gateway
Room 282 SUB