

editorial

Whats new?

Perhaps the more pertinent question is "Who's new?" Big changes are being made these days.

For example, since last summer two of the university's most significant bodies have welcomed new leaders; John Schlosser as Chairman of the Board of Governors and Jean Forest as Chancellor. For the first time in two years, the Students' Union management has been fully staffed with the appointments of Bert Best as General Manager in April, and Glyden Headley as Finance Manager in September.

Yesterday we received the names of the candidates for the 1979-80 Students' Union General Election. And today the Presidential Search Committee decides who will become the President of the University of Alberta for the next five years. By March there will likely be a new provincial cabinet and, therefore, a new Minister of Advanced Education.

It's no secret that most campus news is made by a small percentage of the university population. In this context these changes are big news; wiping the political slate clean as it were.

But, you say it's a fact that members of the university community delegate their responsibility to the interested few, and ultimately could care less about what is actually done. Let's face it, as long as the primary function of the university to facilitate teaching and learning is not affected, the rest, the politics, is by comparison of little importance. It's just news.

For the most part the select group of leaders handle university affairs well. The newspaper's function is to report their activities so that those who are interested in making judgements or comments are adequately informed. We give back to members of the university community as much of their delegated responsibility as they want.

So what's the point? Well, today marks the beginning of the end of a critical changeover in this institution's leadership. By September it is possible that the complexion of university politics will have changed dramatically. It's a good time to pay a little more attention than usual to the news, to start fresh on your reluctant campaign for awareness.

Of all these changes the nearest to my heart, of course, is the imminent selection of the 1979-80 *Gateway* editor. It is a position that straddles the division between those who lead and those who are led. Would-be occupants of the spacious editor's office (rm 282A SUB) can expect to deal with all of the new faces. In fact, the job of the editor is largely defined by that small group of leaders and their interaction with the majority of the university population.

Next year's editor will undoubtedly make changes too, to reflect the new situation. Even for jaded, seen-it-all-before editors, its all pretty exciting. Considering the chance we have, particularly in the next two weeks, to scrutinize our new and potential leaders, there should be no hesitation in declaring — what's new IS who's new.

Loreen Lennon

Don't forget: Women's Supplement Organizational meeting today at 2 PM in the *Gateway* office 282 SUB. All ideas welcome.

the Gateway

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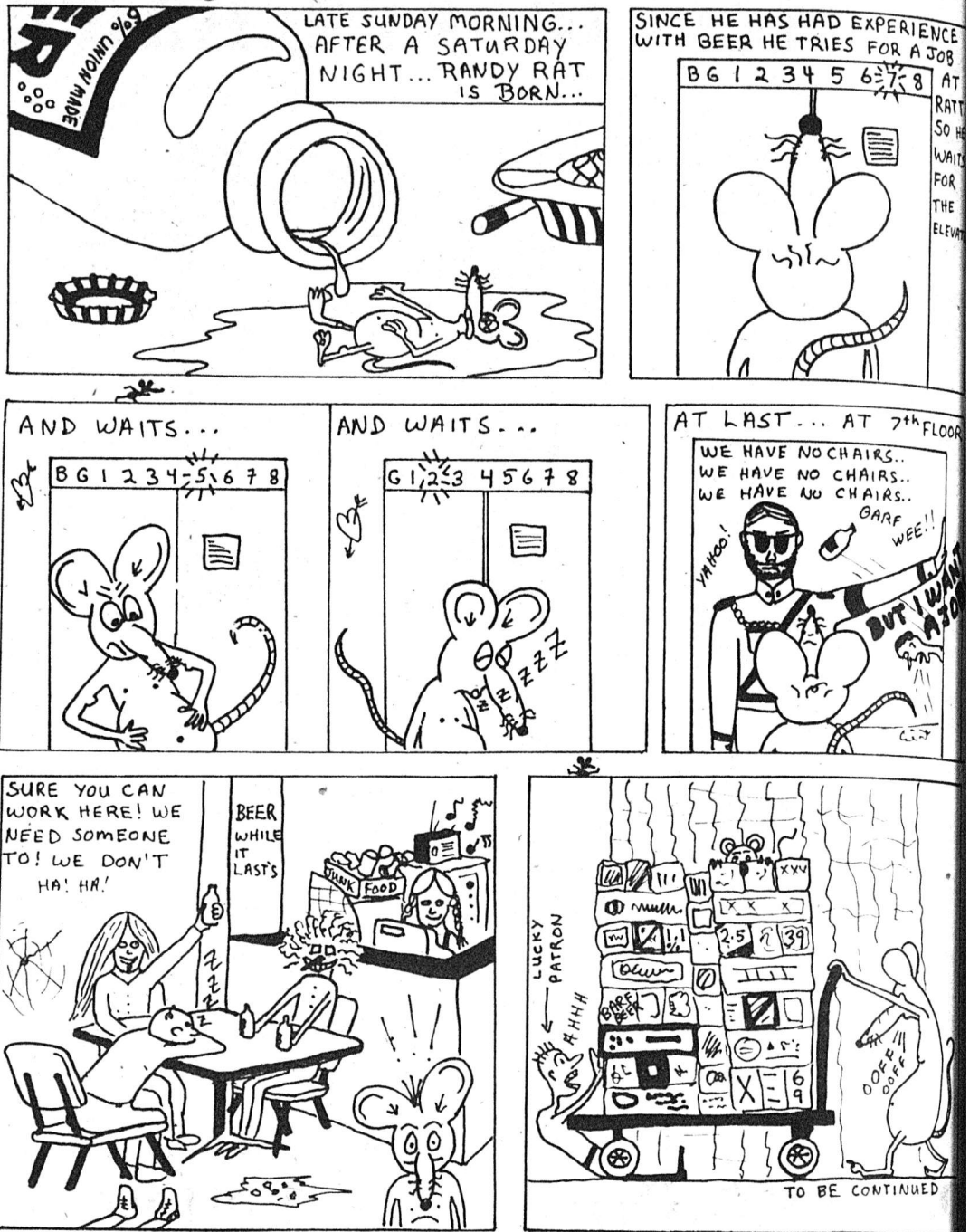
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RAT TAILS

THE CONTINUING SAGA OF
RANDY RATT AT RAT AND
THE RAT STAFF...



Res: love it or leave it

This letter is in response to Mr. K. Kuzminski's letter in the Jan. 19th issue of the *Gateway*.

My reaction and the reaction of my fellow floor members is: "If you don't like the place, Move!" Obviously Mr. Kuzminski is of questionable mind if he has lived in a place he does not like for the past three years. Perhaps if he would have gotten involved with his fellow floor members he would have discovered what a great place residence really is, even if the food does turn your stomach. The menu is the only thing that really needs changing around here. We do not need, nor do we want any of the proposed changes Ms. Brown wants to make.

Getting back to Mr. Kuzminski's letter, I feel that his comments about the floor seniors are unfair. He makes no mention of the fact that these people are volunteers who work very hard to make life in residence enjoyable for both the newcomers and the second or third year students who live here. It has been my experience that almost all of the floor seniors who live here work very hard at making life here pleasant for all. They are also accessible for help in personal or university problems. When you add to this their pressing responsibility to their schoolwork one can understand the need to let off steam every now and then. I certainly do not mind them doing this, in fact, I would most likely join them.

As for Mr. Kuzminski's comment that "the needs of the undergrads are not being met," Bullshit! Our student government is doing an excellent job right now, and all my needs are being looked after perfectly, so we do not need any changes in

that department at all! One last item; my chairman has informed me that our loss residents on our floor of Christmas was 4.5%, or 14 persons out of forty-four.

Gary Sofko
Science

Promises, promises?

As the term of office for the present SU Executive comes to a close, it is time to look back at the past year and evaluate its performance. I think this Executive can be characterized by its going beyond its realm of powers and not doing enough (or what its members had promised to do) within that realm.

A case in point for going beyond its powers was the motion by Steve Kushner (VP External) at the last council meeting asking council to prohibit the National Union of Students from distributing leaflets in the upcoming NUS referendum. I share disbelief with Tom Barret of the *Gateway* when he said in the column "Second Wind" that: "Where Steve got the idea we have the authority to dictate who can distribute what on university property is a mystery to me." What is even more incredible is the fact that Steve's motion was defeated only because of the (10-10) tie vote. What would happen if the motion were passed and NUS did distribute leaflets on campus; would the SU then hire some kind of goon squad to

enforce the "law"? But what about the area power where the SU does have authority. Last year, the Hume Slate in its campaign leaflet promised to "return the floor of SUB to the SU." It is a year later and so far nothing has been done. Last year the Hume Slate promised to "audit bookstore." So far nothing has been done in this regard (it may be in fact another point where the SU exceeding its bounds since the university and not SU owns the Bookstore). As last: the Hume Slate's promise "establish Student Bill Rights" has yet to be fulfilled. Perhaps the slates candidates running this year the SU elections ought to remember the unfulfilled promises of the past Executive. What is more, they should appreciate what the bounds the SU are. Indeed, if a Student Bill of Rights ever comes again, sections should be added to protect the students against such motions as Kushner's bid to prohibit freedom of information. Travis Huck