

# The Gateway

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—Ooooooh. It's something about a CUP conference. You average three hours sleep a night, you see. And then it's new Year's Eve. Ooooooh. Anyway, keen staffers for this last paper before midterms were Al Scarth, Marg Penn, Lorraine Minich, Sheila Ballard, Andy Rodger, Ralph Melnychuk, John Westmore, Marion Conybeare, Marilyn Fix, Dilcan Harry, George Yackulic, and yours truly, the editor-in-chief of The Tissue, Harvey Thomgirt. Ooooooh.

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PAGE FOUR

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## fees: abroad and at home

Students at the University of Victoria are to be commended for their recent decision to withhold temporarily \$56 from their second-term fees. They have voted by an overwhelming margin of 85.2 per cent to take this action against rising tuition fees at their university.

Students at UVIC have written letters, drawn up briefs, taken a student means survey, made formal representations and even marched to show their provincial government they will no longer accept rising tuition fees.

But the government of W. A. C. Bennett has not listened to students who have been able to show average summer earnings of only \$495. His government has instead continued to carry out a three-year program to raise tuition fees. The first increase was \$50, the second \$56 and a rumored third one of at least another \$50.

UVIC students want to withhold \$56 from their second-term fees to show they are still fighting last year's fee hike, and to force their government to stop further increases. Their valiant action, directed against a government rather than against a university administration, represents an unprecedented move by a university community against the institution which supports it. It is a protest against a government which can afford to lend as much as \$100,000,000 to less-fortunate provinces such as Quebec.

It is disturbing to hear that this student action could result in fines and suspensions for those who choose to continue the fight against rising tuition fees. Fortunately, professors at UVIC have already agreed to hold lectures on the the lawns if students are expelled in large numbers from classes.

UVIC students who support the movement against rising tuition fees face other kinds of intimidation as well. For example, each student who does not pay his fees by Mon-

day, will be eligible to pay a neat \$10 fine for late payment of fees. This is a ridiculous penalty for UVIC's board of governors to levy against students who have found a most dramatic way of voicing their opposition against a government which continually says no to a well-formulated argument. The opposition is being directed not at a board of governors, but rather against the government.

No board of governors should attempt to penalize students who are trying to tell a government they will no longer tolerate rising tuition fees. Increasing capital and operating costs have placed students in the unenviable position of having to make up the difference. Tuition fees now make up approximately twenty per cent of university costs, but as costs skyrocket, the twenty per cent becomes a sum far greater than students should be asked to pay.

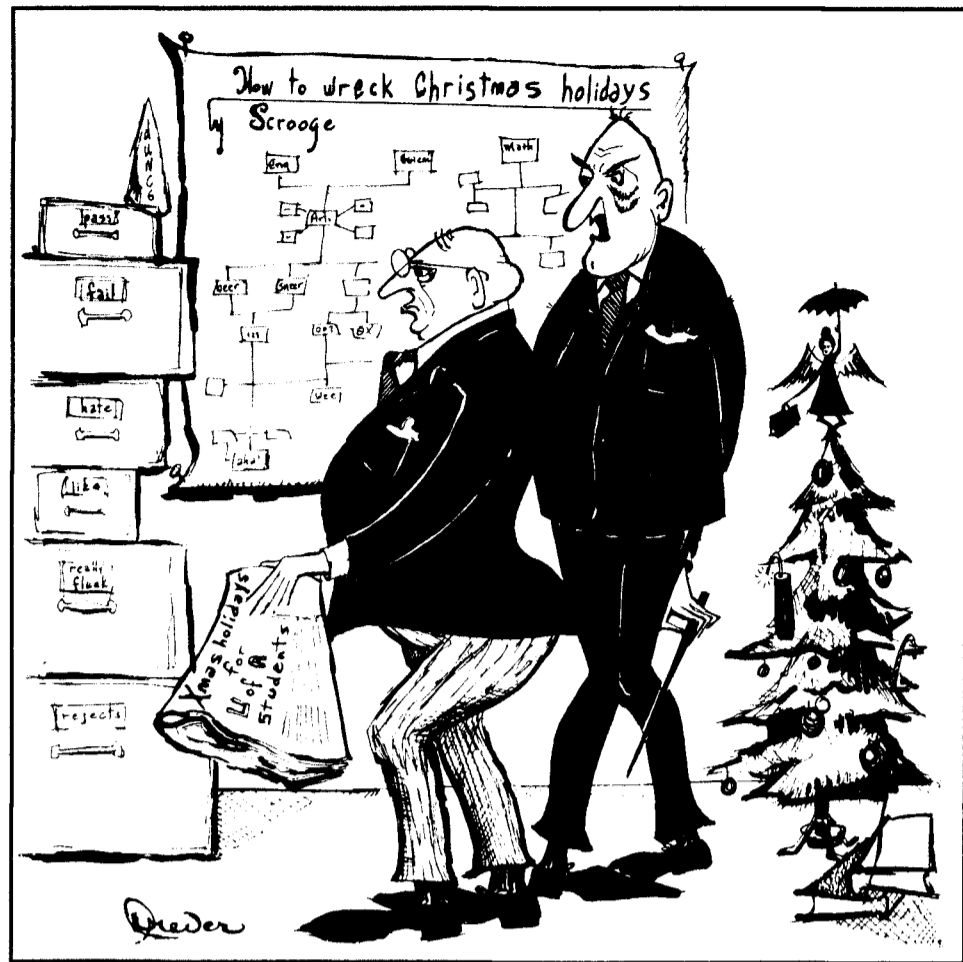
Here at the University of Alberta, students should be concerned about what is going on at the University of Victoria because we are facing a tuition fee hike which could range from \$50 to \$100 per student.

Tuition fees here, instead of making up twenty per cent of the university budget, now total only sixteen per cent. Basically, this means we are facing a fee hike.

A student brief will be presented today to the Board of Governors, but no amount of talking or writing will help the board to find enough money in the form of tuition fees to make up the four per cent difference. This prediction is not startling—at least it should not be.

And with the impending fee hike, students here should begin thinking of ways in which they too can show governments rising tuition fees cannot be tolerated. Governments rely upon public support for their survival, and it is only logical that if students can show they are backed by the people of Alberta, the provincial government will have to heed their demands.

It is not enough to say the Alberta government can afford to spend more money on education because the Alberta government will spend more only if the people demand that more be spent.



"if they read all the books assigned, they missed Christmas."

## not-so-gentle proddings

by doug walker

It is, I am sure, a generally held opinion that trips to conferences are little more than rewards or a form of patronage for deserving students' union members.

While not wanting to play down the more pleasant aspects of these conferences, I am sure that the majority of them are far more work than play. The annual Canadian University Press convention held in Calgary during the holidays last month is a good example. Speakers, workshops, commissions and the plenary session kept delegates busy from 9 a.m. until 10 at night. Parties were scheduled at your own risk after that hour. (Admittedly several people took the risk.)

Highlighting the speakers were Grant MacEwan, incoming Lieutenant-Governor of the province, and W. O. Mitchell, the well-known author from High River. It is, however, the remarks of one of the other speakers, Peter Gzowski, that I would like to discuss now. Mr. Gzowski is a former editor of Maclean's Magazine who took part in a walk-out of that magazine's editors several years ago. He is currently doing free-lance work.

Mr. Gzowski made some penetrating remarks on the ills of Canadian journalism, remarks that understandably drew quick reply from the Calgary papers, but more about that later.

Mr. Gzowski contends that newspapers earn whatever knocks they get, that they present every day a "truly inexhaustible supply of wrong facts, useless information, fatuous comment, misleading rumors, typographical errors, demeaning advice, unfunny jokes, and columns about people's Christmas trees falling down."

This is true partly because the publisher does little to discover who is actually reading his paper. As

long as publishing has to rely on advertising, the publisher must know precisely at whom his product is directed, and aim to please that group. In the university community, the task is simplified because the target is readily evident, and theoretically it should be possible to write for that group.

In addition, Mr. Gzowski suggests there is a "publisher's club" in Canada whose motto is "publish according to the club's rules, or perish." The evidence for this is the failure of anyone to start a new daily newspaper in Canada. One simple reason is that they are excluded from all Canadian press wire copy.

There are also implied, if not explicit, restrictions on the newspapermen. The "establishment" exerts a sort of hidden pressure not to publish certain material. For instance, the papers skirted the real reason why Carl Brewer quit the Toronto Maple Leafs, namely that he "hated Punch Imlach's guts", because any reporter who wrote that would be barred from the Maple Leaf dressing room. The most common recipients of this type of pressure are members of the Ottawa press gallery, said Mr. Gzowski.

The next day, the Calgary Herald took pains to point out editorially that any paper applying for the CP wire services in the last decade received them and Gorge Hunter, the paper's sports editor, said he didn't like any Johnny-come-lately intimating sports writers hold back the truth from their readers. "I'm up to here with outsiders, like Gzowski, blabbing on about their so-called inside information on sports," he said.

The truth here, as in so many things, probably lies somewhere in the middle, but is interesting to note the reactions of the "establishment" to the not-so-gentle proddings of what they consider an outsider.