

To the Gateway staffers:

The Young Socialists Campaign Committee would like to offer their complete support to you in your struggle against the undemocratic dictates of the Students Council.

The present action of the Council is merely the latest in a long list of dictatorial directives (remember CUPE, the Art Gallery, Student Help, CKSR, UAVAC and so on?).

If the Biltek-Black slate is elected, next year we'll have no Gateway, no CUPE union, no committees, no democracies - just Biltek and Black signing their mighty names. After all, they said that this year they have just laid the foundations.

Every person concerned about this arbitrary quashing of a paper run on a democratic basis, open to all who are willing to work, should go to the Wednesday election rally and raise this issue. We should turn the rally into a giant meeting to support Gateway and reinstate Ron Yakimchuk.

Finally, the Young Socialists would like to offer their alternative to everyone on campus. We'd like everyone opposed to the Council's actions to vote for us in the elections, because we represent a break with all past councils. We want a council which is an organizing leadership for students rather than against students. Why should students fight students while our bosses sit back and chuckle over in University Hall? The answer must be to vote Young Socialist and organize a mass student movement to fight for our real interests.

Mark Priegert,  
Chris Bearchell,  
Don Wiley,  
Linda Gaboury,  
Larry Panych,  
for the Young Socialists.

Dear Sirs:

On reviewing your article "What they DID" analysing the accomplishments (did I say that?) of McKenzie-Biltek and Co., I was compelled to add a thought regarding the section marked Students' Assistance, one of the few areas they appeared to deserve credit. I doubt if these people actually deserve this credit either. The residency requirement of ten years (for remission and not loan as you stated) was quite preposterous and was recognized as such by many people in the Provincial Government long before our honorable representatives arrived on the scene. Their whole planning on Student Aid was minimal. I was office manager of the Students Finance Board until this September and stated this on the quaint little forms the Executive give out when they need help. I offered to give my four years of experience and knowledge in the area of Student Aid, but as I was not taken up on this offer I assumed that Biltek-McKenzie and cohorts were far superior in this field and my knowledge wasn't worth a tinker's dam. I was wrong. Six months later I realize they are not worth a damn. Don't come knocking at my door for votes for Biltek or I'll huff and I'll puff and blow you flat on your .....

K. A. Detloff  
Education

To the Gateway Staff:

The members of our Local have passed a motion strongly supporting the stand taken by the Gateway Staff and condemning the undemocratic action of Students' Council.

CUPE Local 1368,  
Students' Union Building

Dear Bob,

I wish to express my full support for the Gateway in this latest childish squabble initiated by the Students' Union executive.

Richard Mercier,  
Director of Public Relations,  
Students' Union

To mssrs. MacKensie, Biltek, and McDonnell

It appears to us that the University of Alberta Student Council (specifically the Executive) have once again transgressed their bounds of jurisdiction in appointing a non-staff recommended person for editor.

But it did not come as a surprise to us as MacKensie, Biltek, and McDonnell had hinted at this, at the fall conference of the A.A.S.. They weren't happy with the Gateway, they didn't like Bob Beal and stated that this year - the staff recommendation for editor would carry very little weight. Shortly after that, a CUP investigation committee revealed that Gauntlet Editor, Gus Henderson, had virtually been guaranteed the position if he were to apply. We wonder if perhaps Miss Jackson isn't another set-up by these same perpetrators.

Furthermore - we find the negation of the Gateway's staff recommendation in favor of someone who has never worked on the paper before untenable. Granted, Democracy is a very nebulous concept in the hands of the best intentioned Students Council Executive (We don't have any illusions that MacKensie and Company are the best) but when a paper such as the Gateway honestly attempts democratization in terms of its decision making process etc. and then when their editor is appointed - we can't buy it. The staff puts out the paper, writes it up, does the layout and many other tedious and sometimes boring tasks - Student Council doesn't and in a very real way the Editor doesn't. He or she co-ordinates and acts as a resource person. You don't just walk in and say I'm your Editor for the next year like it or leave it. (It is called something you MacKensie should be acutely aware of - Alienation.)

The Gateway isn't a perfect paper by any means as was borne out by the CUP investigation committee - but it is trying. Visit their offices sometime, people are trying to get their heads too. You don't solve minor problems by creating larger ones. Think about it.

In conclusion, we strongly suggest that you reconsider your decision.

Gus Henderson  
Editor of the Gauntlet  
Marni Storas, Assoc. Editor  
Sharon Smith, Telex operator

Democracy has been threatened. Shall we sit back and watch an elite dictate? The Gateway staff is responsible for its newspaper, its mistakes and accomplishments. Have they not the right to elect their own editor? I voted against the Personnel Board's decision at the Council meeting on Monday and I feel that I am justified in having done so. It's up to you to involve yourselves! Make a wise choice in Friday's election.

Ingrid Lowig  
Arts Rep.  
on Students' Council

Dear Gateway Staff;

I am writing this letter in my position of National Field Secretary for Canadian University Press. I am very

Dear Gateway Staff;

I am writing this letter in my position of National Field Secretary for Canadian University Press. I am very distressed that I am forced to write this letter because the Gateway has long been a member of this organization but it seems that it will no longer be able to remain a member.

The action taken by your Students Council concerning the appointment of Gateway Editor on February 14 is a direct contravention of the Statement of Principles of the Canadian University Press and a contravention of any principles of a free press in general.

Hopefully your struggle to reverse the actions of your council will be successful and CUP will do whatever it can to support this struggle. In the event, however, that it is not successful I am afraid that the Gateway as a student paper for the University of Alberta will not be eligible to remain as a member of CUP.

Good luck in your struggle.  
Ron Colpitts  
National Field Secretary  
Canadian University Press

Darrel Ness  
General Manager  
Student's Union

Feb. 15, 1972

Dear Mr. Ness:

Further to our brief conversation this morning I wish to formally submit my resignation effective June 30, 1972.

It is with some regret that I am submitting my resignation but I feel that the latest move of Student's Council in selecting an Editor from outside of the present Gateway staff leaves me no alternative.

During the 2½ years that I have been employed by the Student's Union as Advertising Manager I have developed a degree of loyalty and a good working relationship with the Gateway staffers. Therefore, I cannot be part of what I feel was an injustice to the Gateway Staff and by staying on as Advertising Manager I would be indirectly supporting the action taken by Council. Furthermore, I feel this action taken by Council was a serious mistake and the final result will prove to be detrimental to the Gateway and in effect to the students at large. The question of the Gateway is complex and I wholeheartedly supported the choice of the Gateway's Editor elect feeling he was well qualified.

It was a shock to me that Council would overrule the Gateway choice and elect a person for Editor that almost all the Gateway staff felt they couldn't work under. I sympathize with the Gateway staff in this respect for I feel it would be difficult for most anyone to work under the dictatorial conditions she implied she would impose.

I stated earlier that it was with some regret that I am submitting my resignation and I mean this in all sincerity. I have enjoyed working with the Gateway staff and the other members of the Students' Union Staff.

Even though there have been frustrating periods and a number of differences, I have found the last 2½ years rewarding and have felt some personal satisfaction and accomplishments.

In conclusion I would expect that I have given you ample time to select and train a replacement.

Percy Wickman  
Advertising Manager

c.c. Bob Beal, Editor Gateway

The Western Alberta Silly Party, at its recent semi-annual policy convention, was thrown into turmoil by the news that der Fuehrer Biltek and his council capos had forced the Gateway staff to accept as editor an almost totally inexperienced person, chosen only because she acquiesced in Mr. Biltek's political views. The overwhelming rejection of Terri Jackson by the Gateway staff, those who are most directly concerned, would indicate that she would in fact have extreme difficulties accomplishing her job. The W.A.S.P. (Silly Party to our friends, and that's you) unanimously passed a resolution asking the students to defeat the Biltek-Black slate, and demand that the other slates make clear immediately their position on this issue, and the other issues raised by the Silly Party, so that the students know who to vote for to restore democracy on this campus.

We of the U. of A. Ski club wish to protest the recent action of Students' Council in appointing a new editor for the Gateway who is obviously lacking in experience, as well as proper motivation for such a position. We support, instead, the Gateway staff's own choice for editor, and urge all other students and student organizations to do likewise.

U of A Ski Club

Our students' council (and executive) have done it again. In their high handed manner they have seen fit to try to impose their way on our newspaper. By overruling the group decision regarding the Editorship they have shown their desire to tame the paper for their own purposes.

I want a newspaper, not a council rag. My position is that I will stand behind the Gateway (and other media), not on it.  
Power to the Press.

Barry McLaren.  
(V.P. Services  
Candidate (victor?))

Dear Mr. Beal,

I am writing this letter to express my full support for the strike action taken by the Gateway staff. I consider the acceptance of the personnel board's recommendation at last night's council meeting to be an outrageous denial of the wishes of the Gateway staff members.

The overwhelming support given to Mr. Yakimchuk by the paper's staff, combined with his many years of dedicated and competent service to the Gateway provide sufficient reasons for granting him next year's editorship. It is my feeling that an editor cannot produce a paper without the support of his staff. It is obvious to me, that council's choice (Ms. Terri Jackson) is not that of the people presently producing this newspaper. Furthermore, I consider council's decision to have been based more on petty revenge than upon common sense.

I urge all students concerned about the present situation to offer their support to Gateway staffers by signing the petition currently being circulated. An injustice has been done, let's work to correct it!

Dave Shragge,  
Med. Rep.,  
Students Council.

Gentlemen:

Whatever internal strife may exist within various democratic organizations, it nevertheless appears that freedom of the press is an essential democratic right and that a duly elected editor, elected by those who spend their time and efforts creating a student newspaper, deserves the support of those who recognize how fragile and difficult it is to maintain the freedom of the press, not only on a University campus but in the society at large.

Control of the press is an unhealthy situation in the long run, even though it may represent short-term gains to those who feel unjustly attacked by the news media. As a volunteer organization working across the hall from another volunteer organization, we feel that when it comes to the crunch it must be the people who put in the time and work who have the say as to who will be their leader.

MARY VAN STOLK  
President of S.T.O.P.

To The Gateway,  
Having had similar dealings with Students' Council in the past, dealings which still have not been resolved, we can sympathize with your position and support you in your efforts. Surely an executive with such disregard for student services, will not be re-elected for another term.

W. May,  
Chairman,  
Art Gallery Committee

Contributions to  
THE GATEWAY STRIKE  
FUND will be gratefully  
appreciated. These monies  
will enable us to publish a  
strike paper.

Henri R. Pallard  
STRIKE Treasurer