

The Gateway

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. It is published by the Students' Union twice weekly during the winter session on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contents are the responsibility of the editor, opinions are those of the person expressing them. Letters to the editor on any subject are welcome, but must be signed. Please keep them short: letters should not exceed 200 words. Deadlines for submitting copy are 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Main offices are located in Room 282, SUB for Gateway, Room 238 SUB for Media Productions. Phone 432-5168, 432-5178, 432-5750, Advertising 432-3423. Circulation 18,500.

Editor - Kevin Gillese
News - Don Truckey
Features - Bruce Rout
Arts - Brent Kostyniuk
Sports - Darrell Semenuk
Photo - Grant Wurm
Graphics - Craig McLachlan
Advertising - Tom Wright
Production - Loreen Lennon and Margriet Tilroe-West
Circulation - Jim Hagerty
CUP Editor - Cathy Brodeur

STAFF this issue: Robert Lawrie, Gary Van Overloop, Lindsay Brown, Dave Samuel, A. Fierce, Richard Desjardins, Peter Birnie, Ernie Miciak, Nancy Brown, Mary D., Brian Gavrilloff.

editorial

Someone finally has to ask the question: Is the Lougheed government responsible to the people of Alberta anymore? There are those who would argue that it never has been, but whatever the answer to that question, it is becoming increasingly obvious that the Lougheed government is certainly not *now* responsive to Albertans and never shall be. Lougheed and his Cabinet have, in the space of six short years, gotten completely out-of-touch with Alberta.

Education is a good example, with Bert Hohol telling us the anonymous "people" out there (which supposedly must include the people in "here" as well, even though many of us have vocally protested the move) want differential fees, they want higher tuition fees, they want less esoteric studies, they want less "waste" (for example, a Psych 260 course with over 400 people in it is pretty wasteful in terms of staff-student ratios, don't you think? We should have a ratio at lowest 1 to 450...), etc.

And, while our libraries get the lowest per capita grants in Canada; while day care funding, hospital funding, social service spending are all cut back; while royalties for oil corporations are increased (and petroleum prices to the consumer have jumped again) Lougheed continually tells us how well off we are under his care, how nice the future looks and how concerned his administration is with the problems of "common folk." All of which causes me to breathe a sigh of relief that Lougheed did not run for the PC federal leadership.

It is incredible that only six years ago we listened to Lougheed tell us over and over again that the Social Credit government was wasteful, bureaucratic, haughty, out-of-touch, unfeeling. In six years, Lougheed has expanded the civil service to entrench and solidify his Cabinet; he now has an enormous number of people writing PR for his government, arranging for his PR business trips to the States and Europe, etc.

Lougheed has managed to detach himself from the needs of Albertans and convince us all that we are the wealthiest, richest, most knowledgeable, beyond reproach people in the world. Who cares that we're a little bigoted, self-satisfied, egotistical and parochial when we've got money, right Pete?

But where is the money?

In the hands of the common people?

Or is it in the hands of the real estate developers who have pushed market prices out of reach of the ordinary person? In the hands of the oil executives who have supported Conservative ideals in this province? In the hands of a select few?

Lougheed has pushed his government to a position of arrogance and detachment which took the Social Credit government 35 years to accomplish.

That's progress.

by Kevin Gillese



YOUR MISSION... SHOULD YOU ACCEPT, IS TO ROSE AS A VILE RADICAL AND INFILTRATE THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT. YOU ARE TO ROUT THESE SABOTEURS OF FREEDOM BY OPENING THEIR MAIL, BRIBING THEIR FRIENDS, AND PROMOTING CHAOS. YOU WILL GET THE NAMES OF THESE PINKOS, THEIR FRIENDS, PARENTS, BROTHERS, SISTERS, DOGS, CATS, AND CONGRESSMEN THEY SUPPORT. AS USUAL, THE FBI WILL DENY ALL KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR ACTIVITIES, SINCE FOR SOME INSANE REASON, THEY ARE ILLEGAL... FOLLOWING THIS MISSION, WE'VE GOT A PILLY FOR YOU DOWN IN CHILE! THIS TAPE WILL SELF-DESTRUCT IN FIVE SECONDS...

MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE, A SWEET LAND OF LIBERTY...

Where in the hell is Bub Slug?

A petition signed by 112 people (111 of whom had the last name "Slug").

Editorial interpretation criticized

Although I recognize the need for objective editorial analysis and interpretation of news events important to Gateway readers, I take exception when you inject editorial comment where it is totally unwarranted.

One recent example of your overzealous editorializing appeared in the Dec. 7 issue of Gateway. While reciting the results of the newspaper's questionnaire, you dutifully reported that 60 per cent of the respondents favored increased tuition fees for foreign students.

But, as if to negate the significance of this group's sentiments, you immediately parenthesized an editorial comment which "pointed out" that more than 2,600 students had earlier signed petitions opposing the fee hikes.

What has this fact to do with the results of a supposedly unrelated Gateway query on the differential fee structure?

Your one-sentence "qualifier" didn't elaborate, but I suspect that it was inserted to imply that the 60-40 split favoring foreign student fee increases was a statistical fluke.

Perhaps you feel that the sentiments of petition-signers are more valid than those of people who reply to newspaper surveys? Your apparent view that since 2,618 (petition-signers) is a greater number than 438 (newspaper respondents) it must gauge University sentiment more accurately is somewhat presumptuous - the two opinion polls differed in soliciting methods, were geared to different response groups, and were intended for different purposes.

Neither one came close to giving an accurate assessment of the 20,000 member student body's feeling on the subject. (Since the Students' Union didn't donate \$500 to students agreeing with two-tier fees to organize a support petition, your paper will likely never know if *their* petition wouldn't have drawn more than 2,600 signatures.)

Until you learn not to tamper with news findings which ap-

parently contradict Gateway opinions, I suggest that you limit your parenthetical editorial qualifiers to the more-than-sufficient space allotted you on page four.

Ron Newton
Arts I

Ed. Note: The answer to your question, Mr. Newton, is that the results of the petition have a great deal to do with the "supposedly unrelated" Gateway query because they point out exactly what you state yourself - the Gateway questionnaire in no way produced a statistically valid survey of the feelings of people on our campus. I know that some Gateway survey boxes were stuffed by students (I watched some Commerce students stuff a return box in Cameron before removing their questionnaires) and I was trying to point out that any of the results obtained in our

survey are naturally suspect because they were not taken from a random sampling of the university population, not taken in large enough numbers to be statistically valid for our campus population, etc. I fail to see how "tampered" with news findings by attempting to indicate that findings were perhaps not valid. Since you choose to read a great deal into my "editorial qualifiers" I think you perhaps read and denounced the rest of the questionnaire feature which qualified all of the findings using conditional verbs to indicate any opinions collectively expressed by the data presented. This attempt to tamper with "news findings" is deplorable and despicable, wouldn't you say, if it contradicts Gateway opinion that most people on our campus are honest and thus would not on an anonymous questionnaire would not "stuff" ballot boxes etc? But such is life.

Parking plug-ins cut off

Most users of plug-ins in parking lots are not aware that the parking office cuts off electricity to plugs when the outside temperature is above -10 degrees C (14 F).

There are a number of cars which will not start or start only with difficulty when they are cold and the air temperature is only just below freezing. More importantly, users of plug-ins, including many students who park their cars at plugs overnight, are

not aware of this policy of the parking office. They may be paying for plugs all right, but most of the winter those plugs have been totally useless. The parking office, of course, has chosen not to publicize the ideas on what "cold" is.

It would be in everyone's interest if you could do something on this. The publicity is needed so that people will realize they've been had!

Paul Rapoport
Music

Gateway Notices:

Staffers should note three new faces around the office. Bruce Rout, who has worked on commercial papers of such minor calibre as the *Toronto Star* and the *Globe and Mail*, is the new features editor. Grant Wurm, with a B.F.A. in photography from the U of Saskatoon, is the new photo editor. And Brent Kostyniuk, who resigned in Dec. from his position as director of CKSR and has been a Gateway staffer for two years, is

the new arts editor. Don Truckey has moved from photo to become the news editor.

Any staffers who wish to sit on the publications board, which will select the editor for next year's Gateway, must come into the offices before Jan. 15. Student councillors Doug Robinson, Jan Grude and B. Verdam have already been chosen to sit on the board.