

new, for a vision of what could be. No doubt the Gateway news editor wishes to preserve his spot in the current SU establishment. Why, I ask, do we need an invisible, self-perpetuating bureaucracy to represent students?

All I can discern from Mr. Watson's editorial is that those people now entrenched in the SU building have something to hide. At least John Watson's paranoia wouldn't be so obvious if the Gateway was autonomous.

Those of us dedicated to this university on the THINK slate believe in Freedom of the Press. The Gateway would be autonomous if we were elected.

By the way, how come Mr. Watson didn't feel compelled to itemize the political affiliation of other SU candidates? I'm sure students would be equally interested in who carries a PC membership, or is an organizer for the Young Communists League. Or is it simply that Mr. Watson also objects to people who aren't just active on campus, but in the community at large as well?

Dexter B. Dombro

## Has Think touched a nerve?

To the Editor:

Well, well, well.

So now we know exactly where the Gateway stands on the upcoming SU elections. Full tilt against the 'Think' slate.

The sheer volume of printed hate that surfaced in the last Gateway is truly amazing in this day and age. Perhaps the persons responsible (most of whom are SU employees) learned their media techniques from the examples of persons such as Goebbels, Mao et al. The 'Big Lie' technique is obviously still alive and well in 1987.

The one question that has to be asked, and I don't think a slap in the face could be any more plain, is what exactly are these people so frightened of? What nerve has the 'Think' slate exposed that required such an inundation of vitriol? Could it just be that pressures from certain quarters are being brought to bear in an effort to ensure the silence of the one slate that questions the whole financial status quo and asks pertinent questions about our (the students) money? Just what is going on here?

SU officials, who should in no way be involved in a purely political campaign, have overstepped their mandate to cast aspersions and misleading statements about the goals of the 'Think' Slate. Only in Canada, eh?

As for Tom Wright, who earns a minimum of two incomes as Business Manager of the SU and as Advertising Manager of the Gateway (now isn't that a coincidence?), he seems to be taking this a tad too personally to maintain the neutral distance that should be a must for salaried employees. As students, we should seriously question these motives.

In all of my experiences on five continents, never have I encountered such yellow journalism and obvious biases.

To the readers of this reply, remember that we used the figures from a financial study commissioned by the SU administration and available from the same. I guess its all in the way you read the figures, eh, Tom!

Mike Berry

## They'll sell our bars?

To the Editor:

Currently, the Students' Union registered clubs are able to purchase alcohol at cost through RATT and Dewey's for their on-campus parties. If these two Students' Union bars are sold, as one of the campaign slates is proposing, will this continue? I think not. It is very unlikely that a private entrepreneur would show these clubs the same courtesy that the Students' Union does.

Barb Higgin

## Bravo for Making Waves!

To the Editor:

Kudos to Dragos Ruiu for his insightful and overdue article on the overrated clique known as CJSR. (Making Waves, Gateway, March 10) From my own discouraging experience, I can testify that the anonymous station employee quote "...you have to be part of the right group," is absolutely true. I approached CJSR last fall with an idea for a show based on a format of alternative progressive rock. The response? "That doesn't fit in with what we're trying to do here." (Denyse Terry) When I asked exactly what it IS that they're trying to do, I was told, "listen to the station and you'll find out." So much for a comprehensive policy.

Yet it is OK for someone like Mike Berry to write about the Canterbury music scene (a major part of English progressive rock) and presumably play its music on his heavy metal show (and thus out of context). I guess he must be

part of that elusive "right group," whilst I am not. Too bad, because I would much rather contribute in a positive way than resorting to this sort of thing.

So, folks, don't be fooled by CJSR's pleas for volunteers. What they are really looking for is people to run their bingos, unless of course you want to start something relevant to an alternative music station, like a Central American news program.

The concept of an alternative music station is a good one, and definitely needed in Edmonton, especially when you consider the schlock that you hear (for the most part) elsewhere. But CJSR is a campus station as well as an alternative station, and I concur with Mr. Ruiu in his feeling that the station represents no one but themselves. It is doubly ironic that they seem to be as narrow-minded, in their own way, as the commercial radio stations that they claim to be an alternative too. However, alternative does not mean rejecting every bit of music that gets commercial radio airplay. What CJSR needs is less cliques and more open minds.

Mike Spindloe

## What is the Gateway lacking?

To the Editor:

In reading recent issues of the Gateway, I have noticed a rather unfortunate trend developing.

It seems that when there is little else to write about, certain Gateway staff decide it's a good time to do some mudslinging... mainly towards CJSR Radio.

In the February 12th issue, Mark Spector went to great lengths to slam both Brent Kane and CJSR, referring to Kane as "incompetent" and "arrogant", and calling CJSR's audience ratings "insignificant". Now in the March 10 edition, Dragos Ruiu comments that he and several other people find no use for some of the music being played on CJSR, and goes on to slam the station through the remainder of his column.

Until BOTH gentlemen can convince me that they've had enough experience in broadcasting that their opinions should be counted as authoritative, then it's only reasonable to look upon their comments as the rantings of men with fairly large chips on their shoulders.

Look... the Gateway and CJSR are both supposed to be UNIVERSITY media. For the SAME university. That implies a sense of unity. I think it's time the Gateway realized that. You'd be surprised at the results if you were to give each other the support that you should be. Your readers aren't interested in your petty personality conflicts with Brent Kane. All the politics and the personal problems should remain as behind-the-scenes dealings. Exposing these difficulties to your readers does nothing but reduce your credibility as a journalist.

In all honesty, I spend more time listening to the station I work for than to CJSR... but friends who listen tell me that there's no Gateway-bashing there. It seems to me that CJSR has a very LARGE axe to grind, and could easily start slamming the Gateway on the air. But they don't. For one of two reasons. Either they are professional enough not to resort to such games, or they realize the value of their airtime... and understand that it shouldn't be wasted. I wonder which of these qualities is lacking at the Gateway?

Neil Hedley

## You're part of the problem

To the Editor:

Re: News, Fluff and CJSR (Dragos Ruiu, March 10)

What's the matter, Dragos? A DJ not play a request? You seem to be in a very bad mood as you embark on your vendetta. While it's true not all Canadian music is up to par, that does not excuse your other inaccurate or offensive comments.

"Is Central American news really relevant to people on campus?" To the Central American students (eg. the El Salvador group), it's not considered a waste of air space. The program also covers the plight of refugees in Canada — something we should all be concerned about.

Re the "political squabbling" — this was caused by the principle behind an alternative or "opportunity" station. Such programming should not be funded by glitzy night-clubs catering to the Top 40 mindlessness so many are afflicted with. Unfortunately, the places that should be represented (Yardbird Suite, Southside Folk Club, etc.) cannot afford the publicity. This unfortunate circumstance is helped by the attitude "filthy lucre" is the only measure of success, or that an alternative radio station dedicated to providing a choice to listeners who want something a little more socially conscious than *Wham!* should also be forced

into playing obnoxious spots about "pink elephant sightings" to remain active. I cannot help but wonder if you searched for CJSR listeners in a crowd of airheads writhing to the syncopation of "Madonna and Springsteen pap." These people need no alternative — the whole commercial radio system serves them.

As for the "Geer Week Stunt" — if their "own alternative" was mainstream mush, why not take over K-97? At least you admit the airtime was practically extorted (I hope the new treasurer will realize "purse strings" aren't puppet strings). Why should the Engineers be allowed to clutter up an already eclectic slot with music available on 16 other frequencies?!

It's unclear what Kane is indignant about, and the other bad-mouthing you report is unnecessary. I don't understand the stance an alternative newspaper is taking towards alternative radio. This also includes Mark Spector and "Michichi." If you have any viable suggestions, call the Program Director, or address your concerns in a letter specifically to CJSR. Don't just start dumping on an organization many people believe in and work hard to support. Until you have some constructive criticism, perhaps you'd best stick to reviewing albums. Your negative outlook has even less place than you consider foreign language programming to have. And since you're so fond of cliché tag lines: unless you're part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

Deborah Layton

## Ruiu condescending

To the Editor:

Dragos Ruiu's "News, fluff and CJSR" of March 10th is full of enough half-told stories and narrowmindedness that I, at first, decided it didn't merit a reply. I changed my mind when I reflected on how far beyond CJSR Ruiu's venom reaches and how many people his words wrong.

Ruiu says: "They spend too much time catering to minorities that consist of a mere handful of people like the foreign language programming. And is Central American news really relevant to people on campus?... It has about as much interest as a politician's speech."

I'm nauseated and furious to see such a condescending, ethnocentric attitude in print. I thought that kind of thinking had died out with the British Empire, but let me try to spell it out for your columnist:

You see, Mr. Ruiu, people with cultures other than your own are human beings. Their music is neither a frill nor a fringe — it is valid and vital artistic expression. You can listen and enjoy without understanding the words. If you don't, you cut yourself off from the expression not of "a mere handful," but of the vast majority of humanity.

Given Mr. Ruiu's surprising belief that it is possible to present a broad spectrum of human music without ever leaving the English language, his characterization of Central American news as irrelevant and dull is less surprising. Millions of human beings in Central America consider degrading poverty, vicious oppression, and random killing to be anything but irrelevant. So do many on our own campus who have relatives or friends in Central America. But to Ruiu, all this is as out of place as talking about the forced internment of Japanese-Canadians was in this country during the 1940's — as trivial and inconsequential as degrading poverty, vicious oppression, and random killing seemed to millions while they were carried out by fascist Germany or colonial Britain.

Grant H.P. Smith

## A Letter to Keri...

No longer can you walk on campus and hear the familiar ring of "Hey, hey", for its originator, Kevin Meyers, has dropped out. Kevin, in his third year, just dropped out one day before Reading Week. For any of his profs who may still see him around, Kevin comes back occasionally to disrupt classes or terrorize people studying in those oh so quiet areas on the top floors of libraries. For any of you who want this man stopped, he is the guy with the wavy hair. (I can tell that most of you already know this person.) Now, why would Kevin just drop out? One of the more credible theories is that Kevin wants to spend more time with his high school sweetheart, Veronica Shepard, who he has trouble remembering. (He once asked me what she looked like!) This is very possible since, of late, Veronica has been showing a deep interest in the Wave (Kevin's family nickname). However, now that he has dropped out, will she still be interested in a man with no upward mobility (financially) or is his body (with the wavy hair) sufficient?

Marc Simao

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