

Our CUP runneth out

by Martin Levenson

The Gateway has decided to withdraw its membership from Canadian University Press (CUP). The decision, made at last Friday's staff meeting, terminates a relationship that has lasted 50 years, ever since The Gateway helped found the organization.

The Gateway is the third major student newspaper to pull out of the organization this year, following similar moves by the University of Calgary's *Gambler*, and McMaster University's *Silhouette*.

CUP is a national student news organization that provides news, graphics, and features exchanges for its member papers. It also provides an advertising agency that solicits nationwide advertising on behalf of its members. Membership

fees to CUP depend on the size and circulation of the paper: The Gateway's fees are \$15,000 per year.

The decision will have a major effect on The Gateway. "The news editors will have to work harder... and recruit more volunteers," said Editor-in-Chief Rod Campbell. He suggested that the increased emphasis on local and campus news will require increased student participation.

Campbell also pointed out that there will still be coverage of other campuses. "We will be getting in touch with other student papers to form a paper exchange... postal costs (to The Gateway) will be substantially less than what we pay now... the service (to U of A students) can only get better...", suggested Campbell.

The Gateway's problems with CUP involve a wide range of concerns. Chief amongst them is the quality and biases of the news and



features services. Campbell also said that "...some of our staff have problems with the ideological stance of CUP," adding "CUP has

become a top-heavy bureaucracy. Change comes so slowly that it appears to be a waste of our money."

CUP expects member papers to support its guidelines, known as the Statement of Principles (SOP), which includes a contentious phrase requiring student newspapers to be "agents of social change." Campbell also pointed out that the SOP does not include one mention of the promotion of quality student journalism. He also asked, "What the hell does 'agents of social change' mean?"

Former Gateway news editor Bill Doskoch (85-86) welcomed the decision, saying "I've never liked CUP... and CUP has historically perceived The Gateway as fighting, and hasn't welcomed our input." He also dislikes the constraints imposed on member paper's editorial policies. "I've pointed out to them the Neo-Nazis could be considered 'agents of social change.'"

Matt Hays, a frequent Gateway contributor and "generally an advocate of CUP," agrees that the SOP "is ambiguous and should be changed. I personally believe that our chances of affecting change are greater if we stay in the organization."

Most people contacted expressed support for the idea of a student news organization such as CUP, but didn't like what CUP had become. Dragos Ruiu, who voted in favor of pulling out of CUP, said, "I think it's (CUP) a good idea, but something went wrong," Hays a-



Editor-in-chief Campbell

greed, saying "I don't think we're unhappy with the idea of CUP, what we're unhappy with is what CUP has become in the last twenty years."

The decision to pull out was made at a well-publicized meeting, open to all Gateway volunteers. Campbell cast the deciding vote as chair of the meeting, after the present deadlock at 6 for remaining in CUP versus 6 for pulling out. Campbell pointed out that the decision is reversible "...if it (CUP) were to streamline and change, I would recommend for future Gateway staff to participate again."

The dissatisfaction with CUP services has been present at the Gateway for the last two years. "When it came down to the crunch," said Campbell, "we were paying 15,000 dollars for something nobody's happy with."

Homeless man banned from library

MONTREAL (CUP) — Despite protests from students, a homeless man has been effectively banned from reading and studying at one of Concordia University libraries.

Damjan Grucev, 53, was kicked out of the Norris arts library of

Concordia University last December 2 because security guards said he "carried too much luggage" and did not have a university ID card.

Grucev has spent every day of the last seven years reading and studying in the library. At night, he sleeps

with other homeless men on a hot air vent at the back of a nearby concert hall.

"When you are lonely, homeless, and down and out, you don't know what to do with yourself," Grucev said. "I go to the library to save my sanity."

Following the ousting, library director Al Mate received angry letters and a student petition. In January, Mate met with a group of protesting students before agreeing to allow the homeless man to return to the library.

However, Grucev will not be allowed back if he carries his belongings with him. Because Mate refuses to give him a locker, the Bulgarian native is still, in effect, banned.

Mate said Grucev had been initially banned because he carried "too much luggage, garbage, and substances that attract animal life."

When asked about giving a locker to Grucev, Mate said "we felt we should not get into the locker business."

According to figures from City Hall, there are currently about 10,000 homeless people in Montreal.



Some people have nowhere else to sleep

Photo Bruce Garvise

Impure water served

REGINA (CUP) — While other campus food outlets were boiling their water during a water contamination scare, a pub at the University of Saskatchewan continued serving drinks containing unboiled tap water.

Regina residents had been advised by the city's Health Department to boil their drinking water after a valve burst at a pumping station.

It would have been impossible to boil the water going into the pub's soft drink machines because they are directly hooked to city water

lines, said Brent Caron, bar manager for the Lazy Owl. He said all patrons were warned of possible water contamination, but the bar would continue to "sell cokes to those who want(ed) them."

Students said they had not seen a sign posted late in the week which warned of water contamination.

Other cafeterias on campus responded to Regina's water problem by turning off pop machines until pre-mixed soft drinks could be supplied, said to Food Services manager Dave Campbell.

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