

# the Gateway

## EDITORIAL

### Elitist pagiation

Here is an inside scoop on what Canada's press monopolies have in store for their readers, as related by a man who worked for the *Globe and Mail* and the *Montreal Star* for more than a decade.

According to him, the Thomson and Southam chains are preparing to test out a new practice which he called "pagiation".

The idea is that every newspaper in a chain would carry exactly the same "national section" the same day, with three or four pages at the back reserved for "local news." Thus, a story written in Winnipeg about Sterling Lyon, if judged of sufficient interest, would appear not only in the *Winnipeg Free Press* but in the same spot on the front pages of other dailies across the country, the same day.

Individual newspapers would therefore no longer have control over their news section, with the exception of the portion reserved strictly for local coverage. A single chain editorial staff would prepare a prepackaged news section for publication in every one of the chain's newspapers.

My source may have been embittered by the fact that his jobs with the *Globe* and the *Star* were as a linotypist - a person employed to re-type editorial copy on a linotype machine. Linotypes have been replaced by computerized photo-composition equipment in all of the major metropolitan dailies now, and these days the man repairs plaster on the walls of McGill ghetto apartments.

But Thomson and Southam could be planning to impose uniform national news sections on their papers; there is nothing technologically preventing them from doing so.

The *Globe and Mail* transmits its national edition by satellite to presses across the country, so that it can be run off simultaneously. Presumably, front pages could also be transmitted that way.

From a business point of view it makes perfect sense. Centralizing chain editorial staff and running the same articles across the country would mean that many reporters would become "redundant", just as linotypers became redundant, and could be phased out of the business through attrition. Just think of the savings.

The implications this would have for the editorial independence of the nation's dailies probably do not concern the chains very much. There is evidence that Thomson and Southam are already imposing editorial homogeneity on their monopoly properties.

The unanimous, essentially identical denunciations which filled the editorial pages of Canada's English language press after the release of the Kent Commission report on media concentration were instructive in that regard. Either the chains directed their properties to write what they did, or all the editors of every metropolitan daily in Canada think alike. The latter is more likely, and demonstrates that Thomson and Southam, predictably, are appointing editors useful to Thomson and Southam.

The report's substantive proposals are that media conglomerates should no longer be permitted to expand into new kinds of outlets (newspaper chains shouldn't be allowed to buy TV stations, for example) and that chains shouldn't be able to print national editions like the *Globe*.

The unanimous verdict of the country's press was that chain ownership is inherently good because it allows papers to pool resources. The Kent Commission violated freedom of the press by even putting forward its timid suggestions, which are unlikely to be acted on anyway.

In fact, the Kent Commission is flawed because it avoids the issue. Monopoly ownership of the press guarantees the handful of businessmen who direct Thomson and Southam access to the media through the appointment of editors prepared to "toe the line" and guarantees them veto power over access by others through the same means.

It is therefore precisely because chain ownership has allowed papers to "pool resources" eliminated independent competition, and establish their present monopolies in every major city except Toronto, that the chains should be broken up.

Some other form of ownership, preferably employee, over state, but certainly not the status quo, must be established before the press is subjected to its ultimate emasculation, and expression becomes once and for all the domain of a tiny, isolated elite.

Brian Topp  
Chris Cavanagh  
McGill Daily

WHO NEEDS THE NEUTRON BOMB? IF TUITION KEEPS GOING UP, WE'LL HAVE LOTS OF BUILDINGS STILL STANDING WITH NO PEOPLE IN THEM.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Canadians get a pat on the back

On Tuesday November 17, 1981 I went to University just as I do everyday, walking through the same places, going to the same library and seeing the same people. In the afternoon sometime I picked up a copy of the *Gateway*. To my surprise the feature was the issue of El Salvador.

The *Gateway* crew proved that they can be competent at times. *Gateway* ran an interview with Greg Chisolm, the man who went to El Salvador on numerous occasions and was a witness to government atrocities in that nation. This allowed him to provide us with a clear picture of the true situation.

But my story continues: two days later going through HUB Mall I saw a literature table on the Salvadorean issue. Well, I quickly approached these people to show my support to their cause.

I spent five minutes by the stand. In those few minutes many students came to the table. Some picked up literature and others came just for curiosity. Nevertheless in that short period of time the Salvadoreans received four or five donations. What success!

Finally on Friday I found myself amongst many people listening to a lecture by Raul Pineda, a Salvadorean student. The turnout was large. The discussion was interesting. But the attention here must be given to the attitude of Canadians. So many of them were asking what they could do to help the people of El Salvador - others felt ashamed of

the present Canadian policy towards the Salvadorean junta. Really, I have to hand it to you Canadians; you are a good people indeed. Having been to Mexico, Panama and Colombia I can say with all honesty that in those areas you are considered a friendly people, a just people, a humanitarian people. Sincerely, you proved you are worthy of friendship of the Salvadorean people, too.

The people of El Salvador are struggling to liberate themselves from the U.S.-backed junta which is killing thousands of innocent human beings in the name of so called "Democracy". We should help them in any way possible. Perhaps, one day we will succeed

in forcing Trudeau & Co. to join the Franco-Mexican alliance in supporting the FDR which is the true representative of the Salvadorean people.

Thank you *Gateway*! Thank you Canadians! Felicitaciones Salvadoreanos! You made my week.

P.S. Let's do it again.

Oscar

### Hot rocks

I do not pretend to understand fully, the complex financial and organizational difficulties faced by our present S.U. government. Perhaps, however, in their ambitious attempts to put straight these problems, they have forgotten who they were elected to serve.

To me, this year's closing of the S.U.B. curling rink is unjustified, badly reported, and damn bloody annoying! Why close up a social gathering place for students, to open a jean shop for the general public? Financially, well-run curling rinks can, and do, make money. Socially, there is no better sport for students and faculty to enjoy.

If there is a logical reason, I (and many students I have talked to) never heard it.

Come on guys, the WORST way to battle student apathy is to cut away good services that benefit students who don't generally get involved in the headaches of student government.

James Paterson  
Ed I

## LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject, regardless of how much you normally run off at the mouth. The fact that you are hot under the collar doesn't impress us in the slightest. Also, spastic, disjointed and semi-intelligible writing is pure migraine to read, and should be saved for your professors, who deserve it. Thirdly, the statement "I think" is just a theory, and considering the evidence - 3,877 predictable letters on every subject - a rather dubious theory. Finally, we reserve the right to hack, chop or shred any windy, illiterate or defamatory correspondence. Furthermore, if you persist in sending us such diatribes *Gateway* special assistants Vito and Ernie will take whatever extralegal measures are necessary to ensure that you bother us no more.

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Staff this issue: *Gateway* cultural movement continued. Konnichiwa! Minnasanwa nihonjin ni natte ita. Susan Baillessan, Dave Coxsan, Matthew Moralissan to Beth Jacobsan wa nihon e itta. Nihon no kogi ni deta hito wa Brent Jefferysan datta. Bob Kilgannonsan to Bill Inglesant to Mike Chengsan to Martin Beallessan wa nihon no hon o yonda. Sorekara Nihon no eiga o mitahito wa Ken Tsaisan to Mike Ekelandsan to John Roggeveensan to Kent Blinstonansan datta. Tom Freelandan to Mike Skeetsan to Marianne Nielsenan wa sukuyaki o tabeta. Phil Sopersan wa gaikokan ni natta. Even the editors are turning Japanese. Sayonara.