

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

Defend our interest

It's midnight. Policemen break into your home. They confiscate your property without a warrant. No explanation is given - they would just as soon see that you knew nothing of it.

Later, the real or imagined danger is past. The police tell you they acted in good faith. They did what was necessary. No warrant was sought because they thought you would cooperate. So they broke in and 'seized' your belongings anyway.

If you are typical, you will just shrug it off. After the appropriate amount of expressed outrage and indignation and the high-handed police action, of course, but a shrug, nonetheless. If you are typical, you will ask cynically not what you have to lose by reproaching the clearly wrongful actions of the guilty party; you will ask what you have to gain.

On November 18, at approximately midnight, 12,000 copies of the *Gateway* were seized by individuals in the City of Edmonton Police and Fire Departments.

No warrant was issued; no explanation was given for almost twenty-four hours, and then the individuals pled 'good faith' and 'necessity' and asked the *Gateway* to cooperate. They asked the *Gateway* to take the papers back from the residential garage in north-east Edmonton where they were stashed, and distribute them on campus, as if nothing had happened.

We refused. We did not merely shrug it off as expected, and predictably, neither did the two individuals. They were worried. One said his job could be on the line; the other just hung his head and swore a lot.

Things then started to get interesting. By Monday, November 23, City Police Chief Robert Lunney was on the phone apologizing for the *Gateway* seizure, as it was dubbed.

Lunney's internal investigation, and an official inquiry by the Edmonton Police Commission, found that the *Gateway* seizure had been unjustified.

'Internal corrective measures' were taken against the police officer involved.

The Students Union, proprietors of the *Gateway* may take its own 'corrective action.' There is a matter of lost advertising and revenues accruing from advertised events, and the cost of printing and producing that edition of the paper, all of which translates to a straight loss to the Students' Union; such losses could be claimed.

There is also a matter of punitive and general damages which could be claimed, based on the unlawful and high-handed conduct of the individuals who seized the newspaper.

Students Council tonight will decide if it should proceed toward suing for trespass and wrongful seizure. A lawyer has advised that "...the Students' Union has a good cause of action against the City of Edmonton being the employers of the Police and Fire personnel involved as well as the University of Alberta as the employer of the campus security forces."

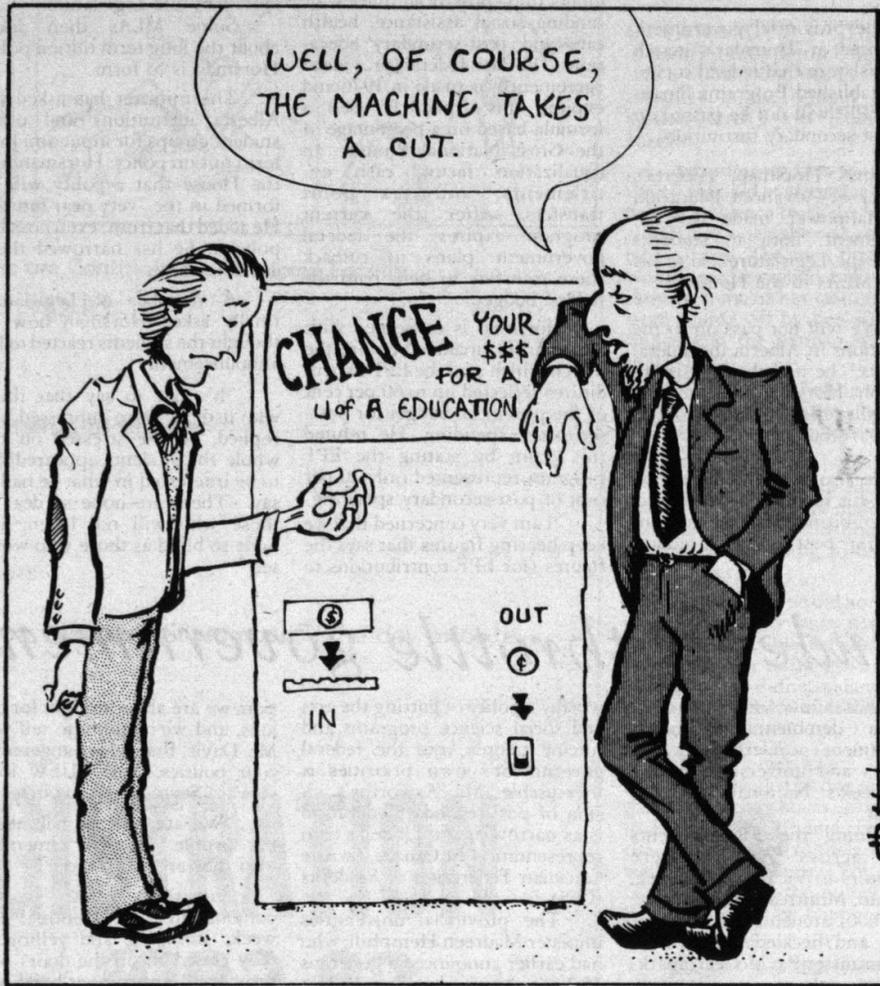
The staff of the *Gateway* urges Council to support the commencement of such an action, with the proviso that it be reviewed after Examination for Discovery, at which time we will know exactly what happened near midnight, November 18.

As we see it, this is not an extraordinary request. On one level it means to compensate the Students' Union for direct losses as a result of the seizure. On another level, it is the logical next step after what we think was a gross breach of civil liberties by irresponsible law enforcers. The only less responsible action is to let them get away with it.

Peter Michalyshyn



"I was going to be a campus radical but it looked bad on my resume."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Women's Centre member responds

I am writing in response to those people who, through the last several issues of the paper, have felt it necessary to condemn the Women's Centre.

This criticism is both unfair and quite unfounded. Over the last semester particularly, the members of the Women's Centre have been attempting to bring into focus issues which we feel are important to both men and women.

In our unceasing efforts to encourage constructive discussion and debate, we have sponsored a number of activities dealing with issues of particular importance to women.

A quick rundown of these events will show our strong commitment: a number of us attended a conference in Lethbridge last month titled "Women Organizing for Equality"; we invited the female Engineering students to discuss the issue of sexism in Engineering Week (they never responded); on March 8, International Women's Day, Debra Lewis from the Vancouver Status of Women Committee spoke on two separate occasions to several large groups of interested people; this past Friday we showed a film about women in South America.

This Wednesday at 12 noon (HC1-7) we have arranged to have Lois Sweet and Britt Griffin present their views on pornography and censorship.

The next Tuesday at 4 pm. (SUB 606) Jane Karstaedt from

the Sexual Assault Centre will lead an informal discussion on Sexual Assault. I object that our efforts to organize these events are seen to be hysterical and reactionary.

Perhaps if the people who are so intent on undermining the efforts of the Women's Centre

would open their eyes, they might see that we have been making a consistent and honest attempt to provide the opportunity for constructive and reasonable discussion.

Rae Ann Robertson
Women's Centre

Study before you speak

Re: U.S. Chooses Not To Commit Suicide (Thursday, March 4)

Don Murray's letter demonstrates his inability to analyze world problems.

Mr. Murray claims that Reagan "ran on a distinct platform that he would stop letting the Soviets get away with murder."

Mr. Murray please explain to me and the rest of my friends in the political science department where you obtain your facts. You claim "the USSR is an aggressive military state". Tell me what you mean by aggressive and military but I urge you to be convincing.

Further, you attack the Soviet Union and "their promotion of world terrorism". Once more, I ask you to distinguish between liberation movements and terrorist groups - in so doing my advice is that you go beyond analysis that is indicative of the *Edmonton Sun*.

Lastly, I'd also point out that "being anti-Reagan is in fact not the same as 'being anti-American'". If one is, as you would conclude, "anti-Khomeini" one is not

necessarily "anti-Iranian". In the future I recommend, you do not step on the seas of uncertainty and thus not discuss topics beyond the horizons of your comprehension.

Oscar Ammar
Poli Sci

Out of space

I was reading the *Gateway* of Thursday, March 4, 1982 and happened on an article on Native Awareness Week. I was waiting for some coverage of this event and was surprised at the lack of space your newspaper gave to it (one small corner of the last page).

Wouldn't it be better, considering the minority position the native students are in, to give their Awareness Week a higher profile? I'm sure many students would be interested in these events, but not everyone reads the *Gateway* from cover to cover.

Helen MacDonald
Rehab Med II

EDITOR - Peter Michalyshyn
MANAGING - Mary Ruth Olson
NEWS - Wes Oginski and Greg Harris
PRODUCTION - Robert Cook
ARTS - Jens Andersen
SPORTS - Andrew Watts
PHOTO - Ray Giguere
CLIP - Richard Watts
ADVERTISING - Tom Wright
MEDIA PRODUCTIONS - Margriet Tilroe-West
CIRCULATION - Mike McKinney

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Staff this issue: This is Howard Cosell here at the 1st and possibly last Killer Dart Competition. Vic Marchiel's team with Ken Tsai, Martin Beales and Peter Jarvis were disqualified and charged with attempted maiming of Umpire Mariann Nielson. The Siamese twins, Land J. Levental's team with Deepak Bassi, Mark Fletcher and Geoffrey Jackson ran a close last. Gunnar Blodgett's team with Garnet DuGray, Bruce Pollock, and Wayne "he shoots, he scores" Gretzky ran several trips to the bathroom due to excessive (toilet) training in RATT. Anne "Cruise Missile" Stephen's team with Kent Blinston, Jim Miller and Michael Skeet displayed uncanny marksperschildship to win the event. The official Dart-Catcher, Jordan "Bullseye" Peterson is in serious condition at the Alberta Hospital.