

EDITORIAL

Gateway staff are not Students' Council lackies

Prime Minister Mulroney, President Reagan, Gord Stimp — what do these three politicians have in common? All three believe the world would be a better place if the media would limit its coverage of their activities to deal with only the positive points of their administrations. However the public employs the media to inform them of their doings to ensure that these elected officials behave responsibly and serve the public's wishes. Thus the Gateway acts as a watchdog and serves students of the U of A by screaming bloody murder when and if elected officials overstep their boundaries and abuse their powers.

If not for the media would the term Watergate mean little more than a synonym for a dam? The media must keep these politicians honest. Would the students at the University of Alberta ever have found out about the pay increase to \$1,200 per month of the SU Executive of '83-'84 without information derived from the Gateway?

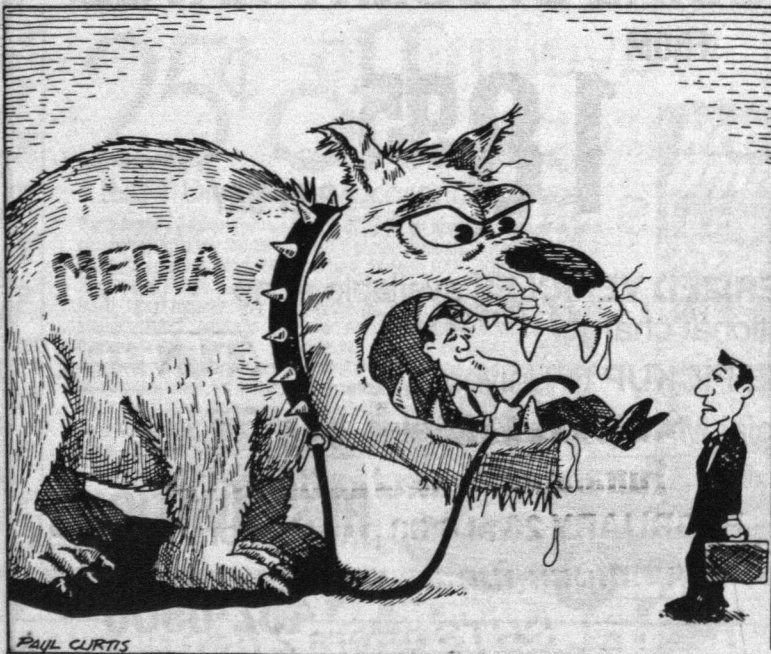
The Gateway of '83-84 did not allow the pay increase to go unnoticed and consequently members of that executive lost their bids in the election of that year and the pay for SU executives was lowered to \$1,050 per month. The student's anger over this situation virtually shooed in current SU President Floyd Hodgins and VP Internal Gord Stamp. ("...I heard people saying in classes — because of the pay increases 'Anybody but Watts,' — Gord Stamp referring to defeated presidential candidate, Andrew Watts, in the Feb. 14 1984 issue of the Gateway 'Anybody but Watts' — hence the motivation for students to vote for Gord and Floyd; motivation from information derived from only one source — the Gateway; the SU's watchdog.

Yet Floyd and Gord have attempted to censor the stories the Gateway writes about the SU and intimidate all staff who disagree with them. Their motivation? Perhaps they feel because this paper is funded by the SU it should only report their activities in a favorable light and, of course, sacrifice all editorial autonomy and credibility. However, because the SU gets its money from the students (who also pay the salaries of the SU executive). The Gateway must keep these politicians honest. How would the Students find out about their representative's activities without the Gateway since few take advantage of their freedom to attend SU council meetings? Floyd Hodgins is obviously very concerned that students are informed of his activities and tells them all about his merits in his *Grind* column "Floyd Speaks". How about that for unbiased reporting? Should the *Edmonton Journal* run a column entitled "Lougheed Speaks"? Wouldn't it have been nice to hear all about the merits of spending public funds on a fancy new golf course?

The Gateway cannot report on only the good things the SU does (Floyd has gone on record in saying this paper is not the official voice of the SU), we must report on their mistakes as well, to insure that they do not get power hungry and act irresponsibly. The students elected these people to office and they have a right to be informed from both sides of every issue.

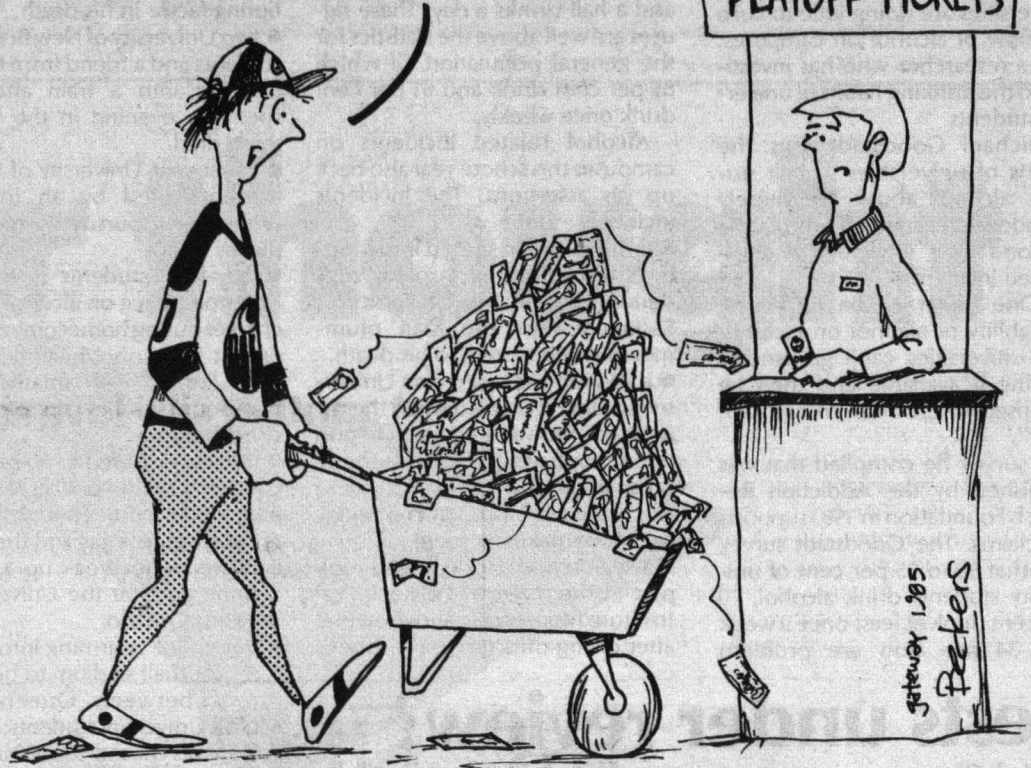
Floyd and Gord do not like the Gateway because the reporters are not their mindless lackies. When we disagree with them they attempt to fire us. However, they fail to acknowledge that we cover all SU activities, clubs and services for the benefit of the students — NOT THEM! The Gateway will not be intimidated by any politician, be he federal, provincial, municipal or from the Students' Union.

M.C.



"Good to see you've got the media on a leash, Brian."

ONE TICKET PLEASE!



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

We're going to die

Because the testing and deployment of cruise missiles has become a concern for many Canadians, it would seem worthwhile to explain NATO's decision to deploy these missiles.

On December 12, 1979, NATO adopted a "two-track strategy" which came as a direct result of the Soviet deployment of nuclear SS-20 missiles. This two-track strategy states that NATO would deploy 572 Pershing II and Ground-Launched Cruise Missiles (GLCM's), only if the Soviets refused to dismantle their new SS-20's. But does the SS-20 really justify deploying these missiles, when deployment will escalate an arms race that is already too high? Only a look at the Soviet SS-20 will honestly answer this crucial question.

The most frightening feature of the SS-20, described by Yuri Andropov as "the Soviet version of a cruise missile," is that its nuclear destructiveness is approximately three times that of the U.S. cruise missile (*Edmonton Journal*, Dec. 21/82). This makes the Soviet missile "75 times as powerful as the bomb that devastated Hiroshima" (*Reader's Digest*, "SS-20: The New Nuclear Threat to Europe," Dec./79). Pretty scary, eh?

I phoned Ottawa and talked to P.M.R. Johnson — the Canadian who negotiated the testing of the cruise missile. When asked whether the SS-20 justified Canada's participation in the cruise missile testing, he responded by acknowledging that the SS-20's technological sophistication gives it "the potential to be used as a 'first-strike' weapon." That is, the SS-20's small size — 10.8 meters — and mobility makes the weapon virtually impossible to shoot down. As well, each SS-20 contains three nuclear warheads which as "accurate within 100 yards" ... the crucial ingredient necessary to eliminate NATO's defense bases (*Time*, No. 20/81). Finally, and perhaps most dangerous, is the tremendous speed of the weapon. It speed, many times faster than that of the American cruise missile, allows the SS-20 to reach European targets within just "five minutes" (*Reader's Digest*, Dec/79).

Rick Peterson, from the International Political Science Institute in Paris, France, concludes that "What counts is that the SS-20 is capable of taking out NATO military posts in Europe before NATO would have any chance to reply. That's why the status quo is upset, NATO has [had] no credible deterrent to a

Soviet weapon developed to neutralize Western Europe's defence." (*Edmonton Journal*, June 15/83). In other words, NATO's ability to "kill the Russians 10 times over," commonly known as "overkill," would provide little deterrence to a Soviet invasion if their SS-20's can destroy NATO's military bases before NATO's weapons can return fire.

With the 3 to 1 advantage the Warsaw Pact holds over the West in conventional forces, the SS-20 could conceivably give the Soviets the ability to launch a first-strike attack on the free world.

However, because the U.S. cruise missiles, like their Soviet counterparts, are also small, portable, and hard to detect, they would ensure a "second-strike" capability that would remove this unique Soviet threat. It is NATO's second-strike deterrence which has maintained peace since the second world war.

Perhaps it is now clear why, in 1979, Jimmy Carter agreed to the European request to develop cruise missiles that would REDUCE Western Europe's nuclear vulnerability.

Ken Shipka
Business IV

Fertile ideas

Here it is, just another wild and crazy Friday night. Just rocking. Yay. We are five "reasonably" gorgeous studs who are sitting here drinking beer and playing Trivia pretending not to care that the phone hasn't rung all evening. But what else is new, it happens every week-end!! You may wonder why we are not out cruising the bars on the pick-up. Well surprise, surprise, we're not all insensitive, shallow, pompous, conceited, sex-minded, alcoholic beasts. We're looking for that someone special too. In fact, just last week, we met several potential "someone specials." But none of them phoned. We've all worked double-shift on guard by the phone during the last week. What's wrong with us?? Where did we all go wrong? This waiting is killing us. I mean we're talking "ulcer city." As our beer bellies mount, so do our insecurities. Where are all you progressive women? Believe it or not, it's just as hard to phone you, as it is for you to phone us. Hurry up, we've memorized all the answers to Trivia and we're almost out of beer. PHONE!!!!

O.V.U.M.

(Organization for Vapid Unsecure Males)

The Gateway

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Some people think they're funny: Shame Berg, Keni Cochrane, Bill Doskoch, Mark Olyan, and Susan Sutton. However, some people actually are funny: John Watson, Greg Owens, Anna Borowiecki and David Marples. Some people realize that this staff box is bullshit: Hans Beckers, Don Teplysk, Mark Spector, Dave Boyd, Brad Clark and Sue Rayfang. A special thanks to the Gollard people who billeted stranded Gateway-ites in Vancouver.