

# FINAL EDITION

## the Getaway

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1981

Necessity is...

...the mother of suppression.

by newspaper staff

The university community is in shock today following the sudden surprise closing of one of Canada's oldest and most respected student newspapers.

In a prepared statement yesterday, university Board of Governors chairman John Schlosser said:

"Given the state of Students' Union finances and considering that the situation could only become worse by next spring when the university itself may run out of money, it is my opinion that drastic action is both justified and necessary. The university has decided to takeover the Students' Union operation and close, among other SU areas, the *Getaway* newspaper.

The official decision to pull the plug came at a special meeting of the Board Monday night. The meeting was called with a minimum of advance notice, catching student reps who were intent on this week's exams unaware.

The subject of the special meeting was described only vaguely in the short-notice, and editor Peter Michalshyn was not in the building when the Board's intentions became clear. A search found Michalshyn and other members of his staff unwinding at the Commercial Hotel, and hurried opposition was thrown together. By then, however, it was too late to save the paper, an institution on campus since 1909.

The *Getaway* was not the only part of the Students' Union operation closed down as part of the takeover, which has already been coined the Mohday Night Massacre (or the Tuesday Night Trauma, depending on when you heard about it).

Essentially all non-profit aspects of the Students' Union operation - which is to say almost the whole organization - were closed down in one sweep.

It was not clear at press time whether the takeover was a coordinated action by the Students' Union executive and the Board of Governors or a unilateral Board decision; all SU executive members were unavailable for comment.

The man in the middle of the whole affair appears to be former SU general manager George Ivanisko. The genial, soft-spoken business manager was hired by the Students' Union in September to obviate a one million dollar debt; however, the *Getaway* has learned Ivanisko was unhappy with the Students' Union operation and held meetings with Board of Governors officials prior to and after the historic takeover decision was made.

As if to confirm suspicions, the university has announced it has hired Ivanisko as interim takeover transition manager of the SU operations, including SUB, SUB Theatre, RATT, Dewey's, and SU Records.

When contacted by the *Getaway* and asked about what appears at least to be a conflict of interest, Ivanisko merely laughed.

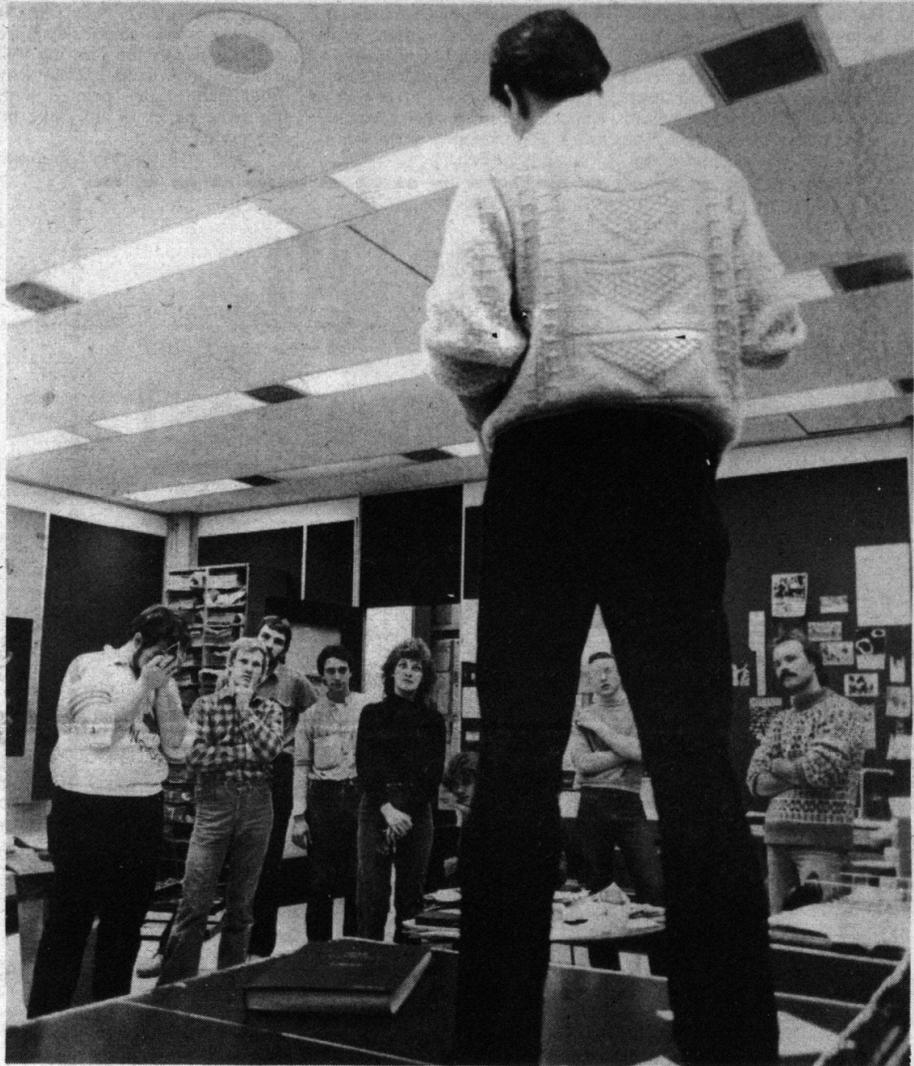
"I promised to retire the debt, didn't I?" he said, his eyes sparkling. "I didn't say anything about how I would do it."

When asked by this incredulous reporter if Ivanisko meant for this comment to be on the record, he replied, "At this point what difference could it make to you or anyone else?"

Ivanisko's point was borne out by the almost total lack of reaction to the story. The various Edmonton news media have for the most part not reported the story, waiting, as usual, for reaction, which is not forthcoming because few know about the story.

The reaction amongst those who do know has almost invariably been one of shock and sadness. Members of the SU executive have been pointedly unavailable for comment, but SU v.p. External

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Is this the end?

Getaway publisher Harvey G. Thomgirt breaks the closure news to a stunned, credulous staff.

photo Ray Giguere

## Govt. forces liquidation

The Board of Governors at the University of Alberta has taken over the Students' Union to liquidate the \$300,000 debt owed to the university.

The Board of Governors (BofG) decision to close down the 73 year old student organization followed an imperative from Jim Horsman, Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower, that the U of A "utilize its internal monetary

resources to finance itself rather than finance other corporations..." such as the Students' Union.

The university has complained in the past several years about inadequate government funding, but at the same time has supported massive Students' Union overdrafts out of its "insufficient funds," the government memo read.

Following government advice,

the Board of Governors in a meeting Monday night endorsed its finance committee's recommendation to take over the Students' Union, and to implement massive cost cuts across the \$4.4 million operation.

The *Getaway* was served notice formally yesterday from Board chairman John Schlosser that operations cease immediately. All former SU operations that did not generate revenues, including the *Getaway*, CJSR campus radio, the Housing and Exam Registries, the Art Gallery, and Student Orientation Services (SORSE), have been told to cease operations.

Opposition to the University move has been piecemeal at best.

While SU president Phil Soper and his executive were unavailable for comment, Student Union general manager George Ivanisko was meeting with university officials. The *Getaway* has learned that Ivanisko acquiesced to the Board position; he has also been

hired by the university temporarily to oversee the takeover of Students' Union Building, SU Records, RATT, and Dewey's and SUB Theatre.

"The university has great faith in Mr. Ivanisko's abilities to deal with students and management," said university president Myer Horowitz in a prepared statement.

Horowitz said the end of the Students' Union would actually benefit student interests on campus.

"We're doing the student leadership a favor; they can pay more attention now to student politics instead of student services, which they could not manage anyway," he said.

However, Horowitz said operations like the *Getaway* could easily be merged with the *Bridge* or *Folio* to save the university valuable money.

"There's no room for politics in a newspaper; that's the Board view, supported by Mr. Ivanisko."

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*Gone but not forgotten*