

editorial

More than any other Students' Union job, and that's including the president, the *Gateway* editor meets a lot of people. During the course of this school year, I have been forced to deal with Moonies, super-Christians, communists, fascists and everyone in between or beyond, old men trying to sell poetry, mad dog jocks, sensitive *artistes* peddling their art like Amway products, and irate mothers who don't want their children reading our crap.

And, for better or worse, the staff at the paper have attempted to placate or in some way satisfy the requests of most people. Therefore, it is time to write about the staff members themselves, if only to remind them that, of all the people, they were indeed the most vital part of the paper, and of the memories I will have of it.

Though I would love to take credit for the excellent financial year the *Gateway* has enjoyed, the fact that the paper broke even this year, (and therefore, didn't cost students a dime), is due entirely to the hard work of our advertising and business manager, **Tom Wright**. I can't bear to think of what would have happened if the staff, and especially me, didn't have Tom to fall back on. Without interfering in the editorial operations of the paper (unless invited), Tom managed the ship, defended all our decisions, and backed us up when we made mistakes. For his open-mindedness and extreme tolerance, I am greatly indebted.

Equal thanks is extended to **Margriet Tilroe-West**, who, though she does a lot of everything around here, is most famous for her incredibly accurate typesetting and management. Once again, Margriet's patience has been a frequently undeserved bonus, especially at the beginning of the year, when the editors always submitted late stories that were indecipherable. Our success would certainly have been limited without Margriet's assistance and advice — and she even fed us. As one campus luminary said, "Pretty, and smart, too."

Our other typesetters, Maxine Murphy, Barb Horricks, and Janice

Michaud, all performed admirably under very trying circumstances. The work of typesetters is chronically underappreciated, and to these three I offer a vote of thanks from all the staff.

Down in the newsroom, I was fortunate enough during my editorship to have the most experienced and cooperative *Gateway* editorial staff that I've ever seen in my countless years on the paper. That is not meant as a meaningless compliment: at no time in recent history has *Gateway* news been so well-written and tightly edited, and never have the layout and design been so consistently clean. So, let's briefly run through this year's staff:

Lucinda Chodan News editor. Commonly referred to as the whip-cracker, Lucinda deserves most of the credit for our high quality of news reporting and editing. She put in more hours of work on the paper than anyone else this year, and the paper reaped the benefits of her labors. Her talents as a writer and editor saved our paper many times from mediocrity, and her conviviality and pogoing kept things from disintegrating.

Portia Priegert News editor. Like Lucinda, Portia also spent a lot of time editing and writing last-minute news stories. An unknown quantity in September, Portia more than earned her keep because of her prolific writing, amazing knowledge of the university, and her gorilla mating calls. (It's incredible how many gorillas responded.)

Keith Krause Managing editor. Keith began the year laying out the Letters pages, and by the time we reached the end, he was doing practically everything else besides. Keith solved more of my problems than I care to remember, and production-wise, became my right-hand person. Thanks to the Krauselet for keeping the ship afloat, and I'm sure he's looking for someone to return the favor next year.

Bruce Cookson Arts editor. With a small staff and virtually no previous experience, Bruce stepped into his job and handled it with the grace and coolness of a pro. Bruce is the easiest

person in the world to get along with, in high contrast with last year's arts editor. It's too bad more of his type aren't in the provincial government.

Karl Wilberg Sports editor. Karl had big shoes to fill when John Stewart left the sports editorship, and Karl filled them admirably — and even managed to stretch them at the toes. A literate sports editor is almost impossible to find (just ask the *Sun*), and Karl's wit and wisdom carried the sports section far beyond the pansy-ass Golden Bear PR section that it has often been in the past. (You know, like the CJSR sports department.) Anyway, thanks Karl, for joining the crew and keeping us amused, shocked and blushing.

Russ Sampson, Rick Lawrence, Brad Keith Photo editors. Filling another thankless position on staff, the photo editors this year have been the greatest thing since the Kodak Brownie. Their efficiency is remarkable, their ingenuity is amazing, and all three worked hard to cut our press nights down by about three hours. And hata bonus that was!

Mary Duczynski Production. Gypsy Rose Duczynski brought new standards of professionalism to the production department and was so efficient that we could hardly keep up with her. Mary also makes a great cup of Kampuchea coffee.

Alison Thomson CUP editor. Keeping us on our toes at all times, Alison proved that even the busiest students can do an excellent job at the paper when they want to. Through the many discussions and arguments we've had, I've learned that it's impossible not to respect her judgement and her knowledge, and I thank her for preventing a number of bad mistakes.

Julie Green Features editor. Most of Julie's time was taken up by the Science page, which she took from a half-baked idea to a tight and well-read section of the paper. As well, Julie was an important news writer and a valuable assistant on press nights, though we wouldn't leave her, photos, and a knife together in the same room.

Besides these people, there are a lot

of staffers who devoted a considerable amount of time and energy to the paper: **Dave Marples**, who provided an important and popular column that earned us a lot of envy amongst CUP papers; **Mike Walker** a top-notch rookie news writer who also wrote one of our best features; **Shaune Impey**, a veteran sports reporter who faithfully wrote and wrote and wrote ...; **Nina Miller**, who came through with the copy at the right times; **Peter Michalyszyn**, yet another rookie with a lot of talent who served the paper well; **Marni Stanley**, film critic, whose dedication to the paper is so great that she sat through *Hero at Large*, and **Alexandra Milner**, who proofread and debated with the best of them. There are countless other staffers who devoted a lot of time to the paper, but they know who they are, so thanks to everyone.

I would also like to thank my English professors over the last two years, who tolerated my absenteeism and late papers. Without mentioning names, may I say that Can Lit, the novel, and Victorian literature at the U of A are the better for their talents and efforts. (Of course, there are others in the department who don't deserve their jobs and I hope that they soon learn to cope with the pointlessness of their lives.)

Also, credit should be given to: **John Barth**, **Richard Thompson**, **George Eliot**, **Steve Winwood**, **Fairport**, **Brucie Springsteen**, **Tom Robinson**, **E.L. Doctorow**, **Woody Allen**, **Lindsay Anderson**, **Wayne Gretsky**, **Mordecai Richler**, and **Bobby D.** for helping me make it through the year.

Lastly, a special thanks to the following: **Ken Daskewech** for his advice, criticism and wit. We met three years ago by discussing Neil Young, and we're still talking about him ...

Harvey King for his constructive cynicism, my room-mate **Chris** for his tolerance of my weird hours and poor cooking, **Loreen Lennon**, who gave me the chance, and **Cindy**, for helping with everything.

I don't know what else to say except thanks to our readers. It's been fun.

Gordon Turtle

the Gateway

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If it happens on campus . . . tell us next year.

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Newsroom 432-5168
Advertising 432-3423

Well here it is, THE STAFF THIS YEAR: Thanks to Brian Bechtel, John Lear, Sue (Techie) Jurczak, Jens Anderson, Judy Fisher, Sue Eberlein, Marni Stanley, Jeff Wildman, Megan Collins, Lasha Senluk, Diane Young, Peter Birnie, Martyn Chisholm, Greg Harris, John Blisland, Gary Gee, Neil McDonald, Peter Nagainas, Mike McKinny, Wendy Christianson, Rick Tom, Janet Laird, Larry Campagna, Austin Hitchins, John Lawrence, Maggie Coates, Dave Flanagan, Debbie Jones, W. Reid Glenn (guess who came to dinner?), Bobbin' Bobby Kilgannon, Garnet duGray, Dora Johnson, Wilf Golbeck, Pam Spencer, John Barry, Ernie Lotz, Larry Riggan, Bert Townshend, Jim McElgunn, Bede de Mede, Pizz Doff, Bruce Cuyler, Tony Peakcock, Bill (Prosthesis) Ruzycski, Gerard (Pasken) Kennedy, Margo Leahy, Janet Laddish, Ed Bell, Lesya Wynnchuk, Marlene Pinter, Bruce Pollock, Tim Wood and Ken Blinston, Peter Michalyszyn, Janice Michaud, Maxine Murphy, Margaret Donovan, Alexandra Milner, and the bitter-enders Kenny D., Moon Walker, Ninny Miller, Sancho Panza Marples, Mary D., Barbieee, Margriet and Tom, Rikki, Rusty and Johnny Yuma Keith, Jools, Ali, Karlos Hunter, Cookie, Porsch, Krauselet, Chodie, and the Big G (for Harvey G. Thomgirt) Turtle. The party's on Friday at Rusty's: come up to the office for details.

Editorial Staff
EDITOR - Gordon Turtle
MANAGING - Keith Krause
NEWS - Lucinda Chodan
Portia Priegert
ARTS - Bruce Cookson
SPORTS - Karl Wilberg
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PRODUCTION - Mary Duczynski
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Tenure stand misread says MLA

I was intrigued by the interpretation of my views on the university in an interview with several members of the Student's Union, as re-interpreted by the *Gateway*. In the article in last Tuesday's paper I was quoted as believing that the University of Alberta and the faculty members are fourth rate.

I don't. But I don't think the university is a great university either. By world standards, we don't have any really great universities in Canada. The University of Alberta is not really outstanding, even by Canadian standards. That concerns me. The University of Alberta is a good undergraduate school with several fine graduate programs.

Yes, there is some important research work done here. The overall emphasis though, it not on equivocal excellence.

I feel I can be critical because of a real devotion to the university. As a former student and now as a legislator I want the U of A to improve.

Let's define the goal of building a great, world class institution. To me a great university excels in at least three areas.

1. The education of the students who are enrolled.
2. Pushing back the frontiers of knowledge in its research program.
3. Showing the community how to apply knowledge to improve our understanding and quality of life.

By those standards, is the University of Alberta equal to a Harvard, Cambridge or Berkeley? I think not.

Do you see any organized effort to develop the academic

community here so that we will have a center of excellence? I don't and the province and mankind are poorer for it.

As an interested member of the lay community, I believe that several changes should be made. I am critical of the "universal" tenuring system at the University of Alberta. I also recognize that more financial support is necessary.

Tenure is basic to the academic community. It protects the university as an institution and as individual professors, from outside interference with their teaching or research. It is designed to protect critical or innovative people from the crude sanction of being fired.

I agree with that concept. But in a perverse way it can protect mediocrity rather than the critical mind. If we want to pursue unequivocal excellence, should we tenure the "average" professor — simply because he or she has served out a probationary four years?

A "no cut contract" is only given when an individual professor shows unusual ability as a teacher, researcher or as a scholar. It is not given to faculty member like union seniority.

Staff members who are not given tenure can be given fixed term contracts and a chance to demonstrate outstanding ability. The decision to renew or end the contract would be made by the university.

There are other changes that I mentioned earlier that would also have to be made.

I am critical of the level of funding given to the university

by industry and government. When the University of Alberta shows a desire to grow qualitatively rather than simply in size I believe funds would be available.

Before endowing the university with large amounts of money we should be sure that it will be targeted at outstanding scholars, researchers and teachers; not merely to expand the status quo.

We should endow chairs of learning in our faculties. We should offer attractive salaries and support for research. We would also gain people who could provide academic leadership to graduate students and their colleagues.

We should upgrade common service like our library and laboratory equipment.

The University of Alberta should develop a strategy or game plan to develop as a world class center of academic excellence. Government and industry should recognize their responsibility and the benefits in building an important intellectual resource.

The University of Alberta has a solid reputation as a good undergraduate university and is developing a good graduate school. Growth should not be measured solely in terms of enrollment. We should strive for unequivocal excellence as our standard.

I would appreciate the critical comments or advice of people in the university community. I intend to pursue the topic. I can be reached by writing.

Rollie Cook M.L.A.
Edmonton Glengarry