

the Gateway

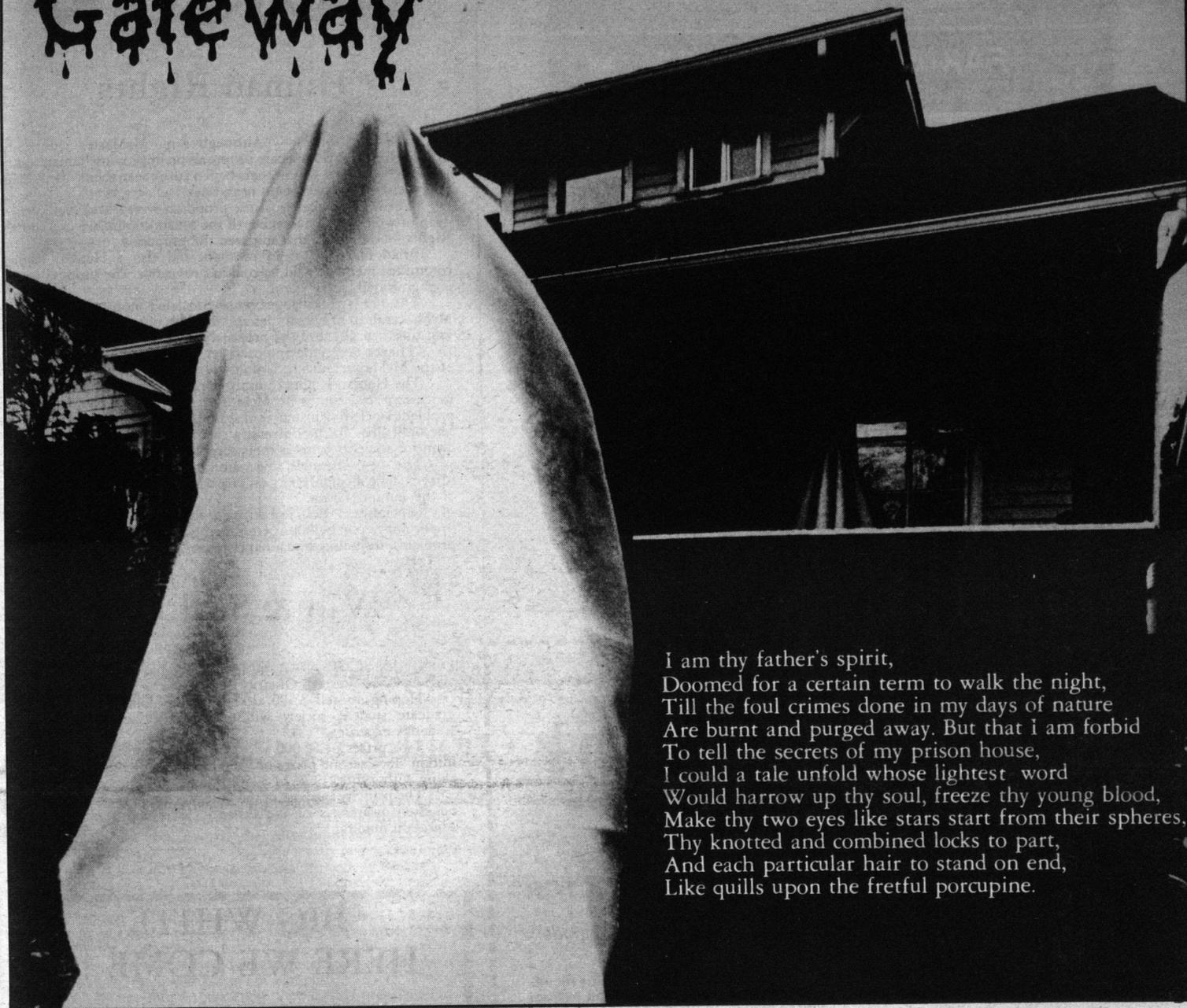


photo Ray Giguere

I am thy father's spirit,
Doomed for a certain term to walk the night,
Till the foul crimes done in my days of nature
Are burnt and purged away. But that I am forbid
To tell the secrets of my prison house,
I could a tale unfold whose lightest word
Would harrow up thy soul, freeze thy young blood,
Make thy two eyes like stars start from their spheres,
Thy knotted and combined locks to part,
And each particular hair to stand on end,
Like quills upon the fretful porcupine.

Halloween II

Economics slashes Music Store's throat

by Wes Oginski

It's a bleak day for students in the Department of Music in the Faculty of Arts.

Tuesday, October 28, 1981, Students' Council voted strongly in favor of closing the SU Music Store, presently located in HUB Mall.

"When the decision was made at the executive level and at the Council level, it was for purely economic reasons," says Student's Union vp Academic Liz Lunney.

"I think the major most important figure to look at was the budget presented for the next six months (of the Music Store's operation) which predicted very realistically and perhaps optimistically, that the store would lose \$9000," says SU president Phil Soper.

Last spring, the Music Store lease expired. The SU decided to renew the lease for only one year instead of the regular lease period of five years. From March 31, the Music Store has been under close scrutiny.

"The motion to review was to evaluate the Music Store's performance, not on a specific date, but as to how it would perform economically for this coming year," Soper says.

"We have already passed the peak season and the Music Store didn't come near to meeting the necessary contribution. By necessary contribution I mean to provide a break even or better year end balance."

"If on the best month we break even, then obviously on the rest of the months we won't come near (to breaking even)."

At Tuesday's Council meeting, students from the Department of Music launched a strong protest to the store closure.

"I don't think this decision was made hastily," says Nancy Millions, music student and ex-president of the Music Students' Association. "We wish they (Council) had let us know (about the motion to close the store)."

Lunney says the lack of notice occurred because the university was pressuring the SU for its final budget. The Music Store's closure is prominent in that budget.

Millions says she found out about the motion at 4:30 Tuesday. Between then and 7 p.m., when Council met, the Music Students' Association (MSA) tried to organize a protest. 34 names were collected in the last 20 minutes of a class period to protest the motion.

A part of this protest was a letter submitted to Council on behalf of music students by the MSA executive. It read:

October 27, 1981
Students' Union of the
University of Alberta
Gentlemen:

It has come to our attention that you are again preparing to recommend to close down the major source of practical and theoretical literature and material for this department. We take an exceedingly dim view of this action. The current financial crisis is no fault of the arts and the arts as such should not bear the brunt of the economic problems of the Students' Union.

Cutting the throats of the musical community by the closure of our access to critical materials is hardly going to foster the cultural growth of this province. How is it that the first thing to suffer in Canadian society is the quality of life, which happens to be the very thing that we should first try to sustain and improve — by supporting and fostering the arts. Denying the department access to these materials serves only to give us the impression that there is in the making not only cultural and

artistic arrest but cultural and artistic erasure.

At best, the closure of this vital technical lifeline seems to be an act of mere ignorance disregarding the needs of the artistic community.

Susan Spencer
(vp MSA)
John Feldberg
(president MSA)
William Damur
(graduate student)
Kurri Lea Mooney
(vp MSA)
Nancy Millions
(music student)

"We understand the economic problems involved," says Susan Spencer, a vice president of the MSA.

"You don't understand the problems it will cause us," she adds.

Spencer explains the intricate problems the music student can face. Bachelor of Music students are required to perform two recitals. The pieces they may have to play are quite often obscure and difficult to obtain.

"There are four music stores in town, each of which has its own speciality in stock," says Millions, explaining how students would now have to obtain these

materials. "We would have to order through them."

"I find they (the music stores) often wait until orders pile up," she adds.

"We have no idea when it will arrive," says Spencer. This can mean several months of waiting for a particular piece of music to fulfill a degree requirement.

Millions also says there is no guarantee these stores can fill the order. This leaves the student to phone order through Calgary, Vancouver, Seattle, New York, or even England. Failing that, they must then order direct from the publisher.

Many councillors agree that the SU Music Store provided a great service to the music community in Edmonton.

"However, it has never been the Students' Union's mandate to entirely replace the function of the university through the bookstore with regard to providing text material for students on campus," says Soper.

"So what we are going to do is lobby very adamantly to have the music students' needs, in the

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