

## EDITORIAL

With the confusion coming out of the Returning Office, it is difficult to make any conclusive statements regarding the recently completed SU general elections. That the Returning office botched the job of counting the ballots quickly and accurately is obvious. It is a mystery why Chief Returning Officer Michael Brings did not call for a quick re-count with some of the races decided by less than ten votes. Hopefully the re-count will clear up the problems.

Considering the "un-official" results, it appears students voted for less intervention by student government in their lives and for the fresh approach of new-comers to student politics.

SU president-elect Mike Nickel and some of the other candidates for president stressed that they were not "political hacks," but really students interested in student issues. Nickel is a new face on the block and this certainly enhanced his chances. Any candidate associated with the "political antics" of second floor SUB started at a disadvantage.

It is obvious students responded negatively to anyone indicted as a "political hack" (remember Floyd and Andrew).

However, it is doubtful all students want from their student executive is a fast food franchise and insurance coverage. Nickel will have to demonstrate leadership on more pressing issues in order to make his executive "relevant" to students.

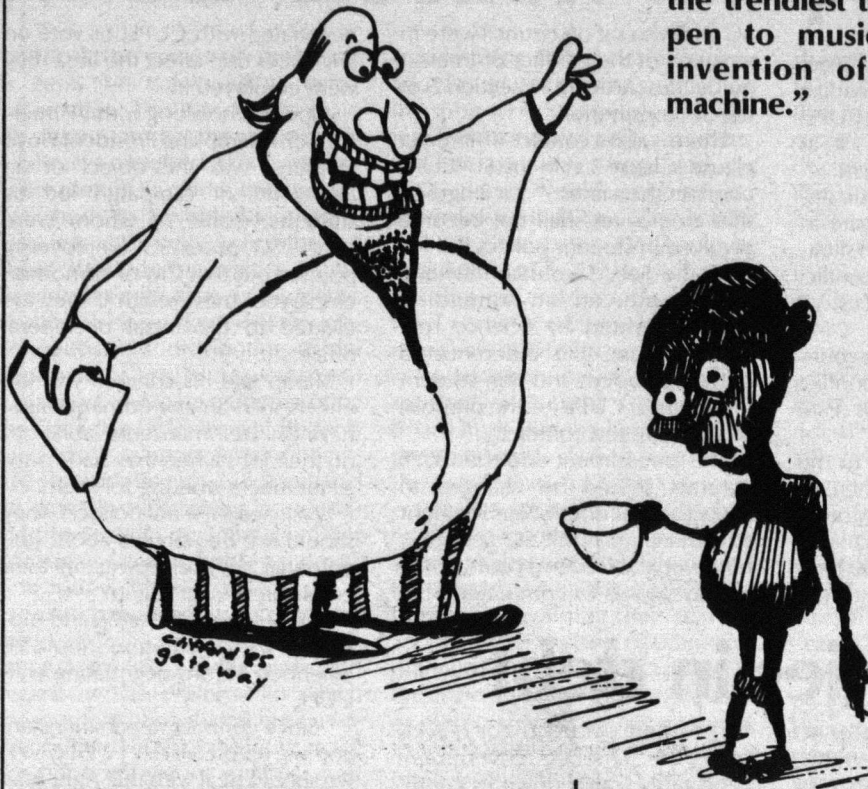
As well, the incoming SU president will have to demonstrate an ability to work effectively with two members of an alternate slate in order to make the SU executive a unified team.

The results of the two referendums illustrate students' dissatisfaction with student politicians intervening in their lives. The overwhelming vote against the SUB Building Policy is evidence students responded to the argument that they were quite capable of governing their own lives.

The decision to leave the Canadian Federation of Students is a result of the perception that the organization is not credible and has not accomplished anything as a national lobby organization.

Or perhaps, it is impossible to make any conclusion at all. Only 28 per cent of students voted in the elections. That may be an improvement, from last year, but the numbers still give the clear impression students are pretty apathetic about the whole thing.

Neal Watson



## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### No Gateway

The CFS NO committee does not recognize the Gateway as an outlet of objective news coverage. The coverage by the Gateway of the just completed Election and Referenda campaigns has fostered adequate doubt in our minds as to the ability, and indeed desire, of the Gateway staff to provide a factual and unbiased account of the events of a story. As such, it is our belief that any statements we may issue to the Gateway stand a significant chance of being misquoted, taken out of context, or otherwise distorted so as to alter the intended meaning. We thus issue a strict and absolute "NO COMMENT" to any and all questions posed to ourselves by the staff of the Gateway. We trust that this statement is of sufficient clarity as to express, without chance of misinterpretation, the "CFS NO" perception of Gateway objectivity.

Kenneth G. Bosman  
Chairman—CFS NO

### Paul's prerogative

This letter is in reference to the February 7, 1985 issue of the Gateway.

We are extremely concerned that your letters section was deliberately used to favour one side over the other in the recent referendum on the issue of continued membership in the Canadian Federation of Students.

It was your stated policy (see January 31 issue) that an equal number of letters favouring each of the opposing sides in the referendum would be printed, yet there appeared three letters for CFS and none against. Is it your policy to tell your readership one thing and then do another? We find it hard to believe that the obvious bias was unavoidable.

While it is the prerogative of the newspaper to print editorials or editorial cartoons which reflect the opinions of the writer or of the newspaper establishment, and while it is the prerogative of the reporter to write news articles without external influence (one would hope that they would be objective) it is INEXCUSABLE that the one section of your newspaper where

ALL of your readers are given the opportunity to express themselves should so obviously be manipulated for political purposes.

One would hope that your newspaper's objective is to inform the campus population of all points of views about a variety of issues. Your disregard for all other opinions save your own cheapens your paper.

The Gateway has a large influence on the University population. No other publication is as widely read on campus. The responsibility given you to inform students and staff accurately and objectively is an enormous one. You have failed miserably.

Paul Alpern  
Students' Union Vice-President External  
On behalf of the Executive Committee

Editor's note: The Gateway did not receive any No CFS letters. The deputy returning officer was consulted in this matter and letters were approved.

### Shame on us!

It was a pleasant surprise to see the Gateway is meddling in the CFS referendum. Thursday, February 7th's printing of three pro-CFS letters was a really nice gesture. Unfortunately most students understand the motivation behind these timely printings.

The Gateway's lack of an obvious stand on this issue and their willingness to allow the student body to determine the future of CFS on campus is truly encouraging.

B. McDonald  
Science IV

### Freedom fighters

Last fall a letter appeared in the pages of the Gateway inviting students to join the Young Communist League (an organization "with a history — and a future") as a means to promote the struggle for jobs, peace, etc...

While I can't vouch for the future of the Y.C.L., I can point out that the group's history and its current policies also include unquestioning support for the current rulers of eastern Europe and U.S.S.R. — the so-called "existing socialist states."

## GATEWAY LITERARY CONTEST



### CASH PRIZES FOR EACH OF THREE CATEGORIES:

Short poem — maximum 32 lines

Short story — maximum 3000 words

Long poem — maximum 200 lines

FIRST PRIZE (each category) — \$150

SECOND PRIZE (each category) — \$100

#### RULES

- Open to all persons attending a post secondary educational institution in Canada, except the employees of the Students' Union of the University of Alberta and writers who have earned more than two thousand dollars from their craft in 1984.
- All entries must be typed with double-spacing on a single side of good quality bond paper. The name, address and phone number of the author must appear on each page submitted.
- All entries must be submitted by noon, March 14, 1985. No late entries will be accepted.
- Each writer may submit a total of three entries in aggregate.
- Submissions may be in French or English.
- The winning entries and additional entries selected by the judges will appear in the Gateway Literary Supplement on March 28, 1985. The Gateway shall hold only first North American serial rights to any entries that appear in this issue. All other rights will remain with the author.
- Entries shall not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
- Entries should be submitted to:

LITERARY CONTEST c/o Suzette C. Chan, Room 282, Students' Union Building, University of Alberta, T6G 2G7

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## The Gateway

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The following staffers did not win the Loto 6/49: Chris Maynard, Alex Miller, Bill Doskoch, Brad Clark, Mark Spector, Shane Berg, Hans Beckers, Susan Sutton, and Laurel Braid. They are poor just like everyone else.