

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

For the record

"Well ... yes, and here we go again."
Hunter S. Thompson

Lord knows why I do this when I could be packing fish in Newfoundland or working on the pipeline making \$1500 a week or finishing a B. Comm. en route to Law like my almost-editor colleague who all of a sudden got smart.

Back when I was interviewed for this best of all possible jobs and life was simpler a prosaic political science student asked if I thought I could write editorials twice a week. If I'd been half as clever as he thinks he is I would have rebutted that I could hope only to live up to his example, but under intense lights and a small amount of pressure all I could muster was a plaintive 'yes.'

Well, now the charade is over (or it is just beginning) and I guess I should come right out and say something. Being slightly, but not decidedly conservative, hopefully optimistic, and tending more to listening than to raving, I suspect I will have trouble forwarding opinions on every imaginable topic arising or falling about our heads in the next 51 issues of the *Gateway*. Having said that, it should be clear it is the editor's prerogative to do what he wishes with this space, and if that follows then we may all expect the results will be rather less structured than say, the *Edmonton Journal's* editorial columns.

What to do with the rest of the paper, however, is somewhat more structured. Constitutionally, the *Gateway* is the 'official newspaper of the students at the University of Alberta.' Our Students' Union bylaw reads in part:

1. A student newspaper, to be known as "The Gateway," shall be published by the Students' Union for the purpose of:
 - (a) providing accurate and complete coverage of campus news;
 - (b) aiding in the promotion of student activities and functions;
 - (c) presenting all aspects of student opinion to the student body as a whole;
 - (d) encouraging the literary and artistic talents of students on campus;
 - (e) maintaining co-operation between the administration, staff and students of the University.

This has been variously interpreted by a variety of interpreters, and we — the *Gateway* staff — interpret it this way:

The purpose of the *Gateway* is to collect, write, and edit campus news and news of interest to the student body and to provide a forum for student views.

At this point skeptics may ask why a small clique of *Gateway* staff should so arrogantly preach what students want to see in their paper. Our response is this: any member of the *Gateway* staff, from the top on down (as it were) has a say in newspaper policy. That includes news content, cartoons, classifieds — the works.

The *Gateway*, blessed with high (compared to most other campus papers) advertising revenues, costs students very little, somewhere between one and two cents per issue. Such a small financial contribution gives no outsider the right to make unreasonable demands of an overworked, underpaid, and unpaid newspaper staff — not on the basis that the *Gateway* is supported meaningfully through Students' Union fees.

For the \$25,000 that pays editorial 'honoraria' this year the Students' Union probably could hire a retiring *Edmonton Journal* copy-editor to reprint Community Relations news releases and campus club newsletters. The *Bridge* would be squeezed out of the market, but the U of A would lose a dynamic, provocative, and, at least in journalistic circles, well-reputed campus newspaper.

Despite the protestations of a few, I don't think students here want to lose the *Gateway* as it now exists. So there you have it. Now you know where we're coming from.

Peter Michalshyn

It is something of an old *Gateway* tradition to welcome first-year students to university in the first issue. So, welcome, first-years. So there.

P.M.



LETTERS

Bad wrapping

I am the very model of a *Gateway* editorial, as I attack most everything with snorts and blasts censorial. I never have a word to say in favor of the government. I skewer Student Council and the policies of Parliament, 'cause I'm the one who knows what's best for all of our community, and tell the world just what that is at every opportunity. I loathe all Science, Arts and Law and Education students, and brainless engineers who always seem to lack the prudence, tact and taste to hold in check their very lowbrow fulminations. Instead of just applauding all my matchless lucubrations. And so you see that I must be with bombast professorial—the very perfect model of a *Gateway* editorial.

Gilbert N. Cellophane
 Aitchemmespinna IV

LETTERS

Letters to the *Gateway* should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters should be typed, although we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Gateway*.

THE CHOPPING BLOCK

by Jens Andersen

As you have probably already heard, 1982 will be UN's "Year of the World."

Hume N. Wright, Canadian co-ordinator of UNESCO-organized educational campaign, remarks in a recently released information bulletin that the "Year of the World" will be an attempt to get away from the narrow issues of previous campaigns like the "Year of the Handicapped," the "International Geophysical Year," the "Year of the Child," etc., and yet simultaneously concentrate on all of them:

"In essence, next year you can be concerned about any legitimate concern."

Wright suggests that good issues to ponder upon are the menace of pollution, the menace of food additives, the plight of women, the menace of religious cults, the menace of the arms race, and the plight of whales, harp seals and third world peoples. He states that concerned citizens should worry seriously about these issues, even to the point of knitting their brows and losing sleep at night. More activist people, he says, should wear buttons or T-shirts with slogans on them, buy "Year of the World" stamps, paste bumperstickers on their cars, toss "message" frisbees, and harass friends and neighbours into doing the same.

"True, this may not solve the world's problems," Wright concedes, "but at the very least we should be able to bolster the advertising novelties industry, which has been hard hit by the recent recession."

Wright also warns that there is a dangerous tendency nowadays to shrug and dismiss public-awareness campaigns like the "Year of the World." To counteract this indifference UNESCO has introduced an innovative technique for motivating people to agonize over world problems: beginning January 1, 1982 anyone caught minding their own business will be summarily shot by UNESCO's Consciousness-raising Police.

Next week: The case for compulsory sterilization of English professors.



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 CIRCULATION - Mike McKinney

The *Gateway* is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. With a readership of more than 25,000 the *Gateway* is published by its proprietor, the Students' Union, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter session. Contents are the responsibility of the editor; editorials are written by an editorial board or signed. All other opinions are signed by the party expression *them*. Copy deadlines are noon Mondays and Wednesdays. The *Gateway*, a member of Canadian University Press and of CUP Media Services, is located in Room 282 Students' Union Building, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7. Newsroom — 432-5168; advertising — 432-3423.

STAFF THIS ISSUE: John Roggeveen, Bob Kilgannon, Murray Whitby, whoever wrote the Student Code for the university. That's all. Pretty sad for a big sophisticated operation like the *Gateway*. Pretty sad for a big sophisticated university like U of A. With 25,000 students who do little more than go to class to sleep and stay out late on weekends to miss sleep. In the midst of such widespread irresponsibility, the *Gateway* goes on. We are truly obstinate. We are. I wonder, though, where all the old *Gateway* staff are? Are you avoiding us Nina, Alison, Keith, Mike, Kenny D, others... It's too early to grovel, but if this keep up we may become desperate. And then who can tell what might happen.