

In Edmonton

# CUP bucks Chevron

by Marc Allain

Delegates to the 41st annual conference of Canadian University Press (CUP) reaffirmed their commitment to staff democracy by expelling the Chevron, the member paper from the University of Waterloo.

During the 8 day conference in Edmonton, Alberta, delegates gave priority to the status of the Chevron after delegates at the opening plenary called for a review of its CUP membership. Following the request the conference membership commission presented delegates with documents outlining a 2½ year history of internal harassment and intimidation of Chevron staff by members and sympathizers of the Anti Imperialist Alliance (AIA) a political group which had come to dominate the paper.

The AIA is the Waterloo front group for the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist). The CPC (M-L), active on the Dalhousie campus as the Dalhousie Student Movement, adheres to the slogans "MAKE THE RICH PAY" and "DEFEND THE BASIC INTERESTS OF THE STUDEN

Although delegates consistently referred to violations of staff democracy as the crux of the expulsion question, delegates from the Chevron maintained that it stemmed from "anti-communism" and "red-baiting".

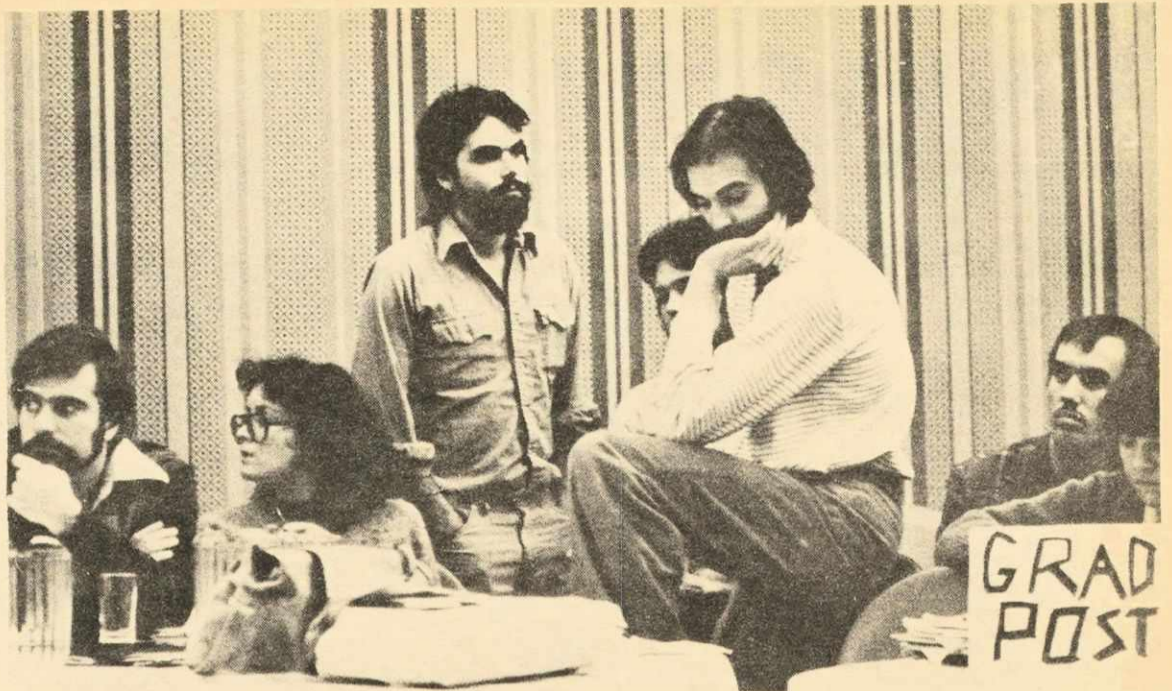
Minutes of the Chevron staff meetings, however, explicitly documented cases where opponents to the political line of the CPC (M-L) were systematically abused by members of the AIA. Cases were cited where staff members had their voting privileges suspended while others were expelled from the paper.

Many Chevron staff members left the paper last summer and formed their own paper called the Imprint. That paper will likely face a student referendum in the near future to determine if it will be the Waterloo students' official newspaper. In late November students voted 4051 to 786 against continuing support of the Chevron.

The CUP membership response to the Chevron's flouting of democratic principles was near unanimous as papers voted 37 to 2 in favour of expulsion. There were 8 abstentions on the motion.

Delegates also approved the signing of a new ten year contract with Youthstream, the agency which provides CUP papers with national advertising. The new contract makes provisions for a new membership category and includes a performance clause guaranteeing papers an annual income from national advertising tied to the fluctuations in the Gross National Product.

Gazette staffperson Susan Johnson, a member of the two person negotiating team



Gazette delegates Marc Allain and Matthew Adamson listen to debate on violations of staff democracy at the Chevron during the 41st Conference of Canadian University Press

which secured the new contract, said she was satisfied with the outcome and considered the contract mutually advantageous to both the CUP membership and the Ad agency.

The conference also elected a new executive slate for the organization. In a three person race for the presidency Gazette business manager Matthew Adamson placed second to Maureen McEvoy, currently the B.C. bureau chief.

The conference agenda included numerous technical sessions on newspaper production as well as several issue oriented workshops on such questions as the class structure of the media in Canada, gay rights, international students and immigration, nuclear energy and unemployment.

During the final plenary delegates also endorsed the demands of the members of CUPE 1392 in their strike against Dalhousie. Members

of the Gazette delegation, Marc Allain, Alan Adams, Matthew Adamson and Susan Johnson had previously prepared a display detailing the events of the CUPE strike for the conference delegates.

The conference site was put into jeopardy early in the week when Alan Adams of the Gazette and St. Mary's Journal editor Leo Jacobs secreted a decorative Xmas tree from the lobby of the posh Edmonton Plaza Hotel. After a 20 floor promenade with the tree the pair deposited it at the

room of festive Quebec delegates.

The following day irate hotel officials, citing the Xmas tree incident and subsequent acts of vandalism, threatened to cancel the conference arrangements unless a \$20,000 damage bond was posted by the organization. Placated by a certified cheque and promises that delegates would be advised to adopt more moderate behaviour the hotel management reluctantly allowed the conference to continue.

# Gazette editor resigns

Gazette staffers returned from their Christmas break to receive the surprise announcement of Marc Allain's resignation as editor, effective January 12.

Allain is leaving because of another job opportunity. He said he doesn't plan to totally desert the paper and will continue to work on the Gazette and to act in an advisory capacity.

Allain said the whole question of replacement has to be discussed thoroughly by staff. "At this stage it is unlikely that one person will take over as editor", he said. "Some sort of shared responsibility by a group of people is possible. But people will have to be prepared to reconsider their commitment to the paper."

Staffmembers expressed disappointment over Allain's resignation. "It came as a surprise", said news coordinator Daniele Gauvin. "But by this time of the year we're pretty well organized and I know we can pull through. We have a lot of staff solidarity

and I think everyone will pitch in and do more than their usual share until we can work out some sort of cooperative editing arrangement."

The Gazette is meeting

**Peter Kow Chang**

## Free to stay

from the SMU Journal

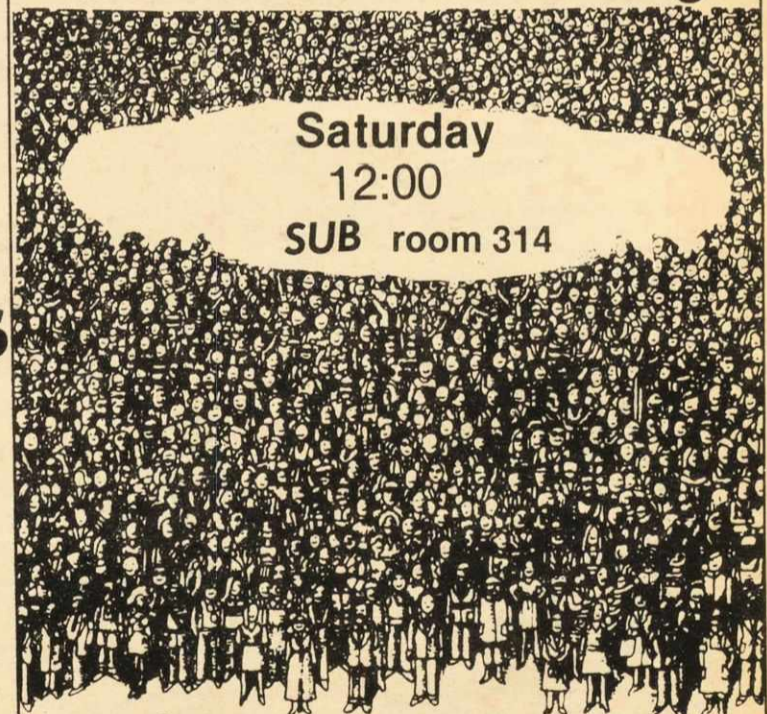
The case of Peter Kow Chang versus the Department of Immigration has finally come to a happy conclusion. The Saint Mary's University student no longer faces any threat of forced departure from Canada for "working" in his sister's take-out restaurant.

Chang, a visa student, had been ordered out of the country by November 4 by the Nova Scotia adjudicator for the federal Department of Immigration. He had been charged with violating his visa status by selling 15 cents worth of candy to children.

Saturday at noon to discuss future plans for the paper.

After working on the paper since September 1977, Allain began as editor in May for a one year term.

## Important Gazette staff meeting



Saturday  
12:00

SUB room 314

### Agenda:

- New editorial structure (Our editor is leaving)
- Staff recruitment campaign
- Map out the Gazette's course for the term-news coverage, what features can happen, autonomy, future seminars, hosting ARCUP conference and parties.

*It is important as many people as possible attend. Brainstorming for a new set-up for the paper will not be easy and any staffer's input is welcomed. Make a point to come and make a point-Saturday 12:00, third floor SUB.*