

Award prickles

With a forum in last week's paper, a lengthy rebuttal in this edition, and a good deal of controversy raging on campus as to the merits of the various award winners, the "confidential" awards list has received more than its share of the traditional complaints.

Whether awards were deserved or won by "sucking lemons" is mostly a matter of individual opinion. The awards committee vacillates between a patronizing bunch of fools to a group of honest students trying to accomplish an impossible task—with the definition seemingly corresponding to whether the speaker was graced with an award, or left pinless.

No solution to the award system, short of abolishing the whole stupid thing, has come out

of the welter of criticism and blather. The point system is a partial answer, but how many points do you award for the steady pressure of a key executive position? Further, should awards be given for past achievement only or as an incentive to eke more effort out of the award winner anxious to live up to the label of a student leader? Is an invitation to join Golden Key a form of award or a method of insuring the nominee remains involved and does not rest on his past laurels?

The list goes on as long as one wishes to sit in SUB cafeteria listening to the in-group rehash the list. Whatever the selection, when the awards are given out tonight, we congratulate those who earned them and trust that the prickles of conscience are few.

The editor says farewell

"This year will no doubt be remembered as 'the year The Gateway took over Students' Council.'"— a campus minstrel.

The obvious question (a question I have already been asked numerous times) is whether my move gavel-ward means The Gateway will mysteriously align its editorial policy with Students' Council action next term.

My answer is: an emphatic "NO!"

The Gateway editor should always remain a separate, responsible individual—free to put out a vigorous university newspaper. He should feel free to take stands that conflict with those of the university administration and Students' Council.

Since Students' Council pays for the student newspaper, the ultimate sanction of firing the editor has always hung over the editor's head. This is as it should be. However, the problem arises when Students' Council attempts to control the minor week to week aspects of the newspaper. If such a situation is allowed to continue, soon the newspaper loses all independence. Like many American college newspapers, it becomes dull and lifeless.

The running of a newspaper should be left up to the good judgment, the maturity (?), the sense of responsibility of the editor-in-chief. It is his duty to keep the news columns free of bias—and to ensure that bias or opinion expressed in the editorials and signed columns do not amount to libel. And, of course, a newspaper must keep its columns open for replies from any party or group criticized.

The Gateway and Students' Council at the University of Alberta have enjoyed a relationship over the years that is envied at other universities. The relationship is based on a reliance upon the judgment and sense of responsibility of the editor-in-chief. I will do all in my power to ensure that this relationship is maintained and strengthened.

At the beginning of this term, in the traditional opening blat from the editor, I set forth a few plans for the year—some of which have since aborted. I had hoped to see The Gateway better prepared for the day when it is printed on a fast rotary press—and through John Taylor's work on makeup at one point we were eliminating a half-day in the production process. However, an inadequate budget forced cancellation of Tuesday issues after Christmas, and the Taylor project ended. I only hope his lead will be followed in years to come.

We did not always succeed in getting the paper out as early on Fridays as we had hoped, but at least we had every Friday paper out earlier than any last term. The innovation of distribution by university trucks rather than students should be maintained.

Makeup was better because more time was spent on it this term. Still it is far from top-drawer. At least, I feel the lower-case headlines give The Gateway an appearance distinctive from all other Canadian college newspapers.

Proofreading seemed to improve this term—mainly due to frenzied last minute changes in the printshop. My plan to have a "crew" of copy readers sifting through the reporters' work failed abysmally—but fortunately artful

Pete Brewster turned out to be a one-man crew.

Bentley Le Baron, followed by Bev Woznow, this year turned out what unquestionably have been the outstanding features in The Gateway's 52-year history.

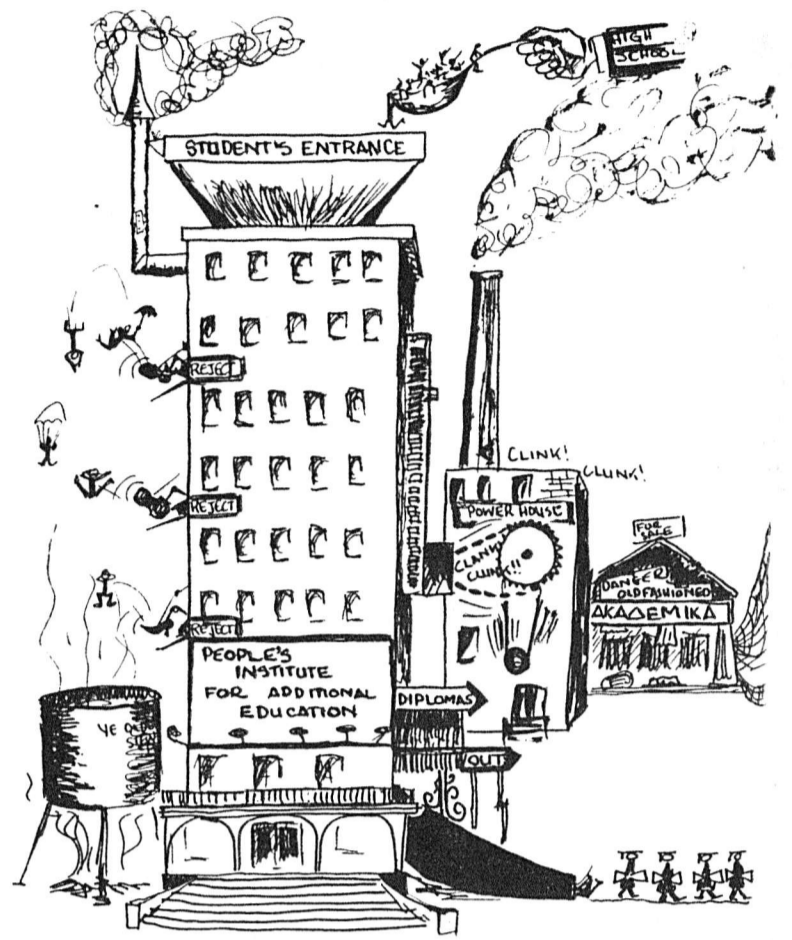
Due to Bentley's fine pre-Christmas work, The Gateway won the NFCUS Trophy for having the outstanding features in Canadian college papers. The Gateway also placed second in the Southam Trophy race.

It is now 2 a.m. and I am growing nostalgic as I hammer this out in The Gateway office. I think back to the editors I came in contact with over the years—and all that I learned from them. Wendy Macdonald (how to get along with a woman editor), Bob Scammel (how to raise hell), Joe Clark (how to fight), and John Taylor (how to give up a year of your life for a cause in which you believe).

I think back to the incredible personalities who have worked for The Gateway. The individualists on the staff this year. The dedicated stalwarts like Jim Richardson. The sports writers who worked until 5 a.m. one morning. Photogs who never study. Corbet Locke. The printshop foreman Alf Hartwig. The pathetic souls who telephoned or wandered in. Malcolm Taylor. Stan Kenton. Peter Hyndman. Ralph Bat. The enemies we carefully infuriated. The friends we accidentally won.

Next term I look forward with great interest to seeing at last if the work load of the student president is heavier than that of The Gateway editor. Or whether the editor wields more actual power than the president. I fully appreciate the duties and responsibilities that lie ahead, and will do my best to live up to the high standard set by my predecessors.

But tonight I am looking over four years of Gateway. I will never forget them. Goodbye. Davy J.



... AND ANOTHER DYNAMIC YEAR ENDS AT U OF A.

UNIVERSITY VOICES

WRONG WAY JON

To The Editor:

I have become irked by Jon Whyte's column in The Gateway. I think that he is one of the most mis-directed students at the University of Alberta.

Why? For several reasons.

In the first place, he tosses around the words of which he seems not to know the meaning. For instance, if he knew what "God" and "hell" stand for, would he use them as loosely as he does? To him God is obviously not the just ruler who will punish those who, for example, use his name lightly, with eternal death in hell. He apparently does not believe that hell is a real place; therefore the term should be quite meaningless to him. Then why does he use it to head his column? After

all, he is still on earth, though I am afraid that the Bible would describe him as dead. Does he head his column the way he does merely to offend the true Christians on campus? If so, I would judge that he is far from being the educated person he prides himself to be.

Secondly, it seems that in his column in the March 2 issue of The Gateway, he digressed so far that it is impossible to discover what he was trying to say. Or was he trying to say something? Possibly, since he had begun a column in The Gateway, he had to fill up space; and, having nothing to say, he wrote down a conglomeration of sentences, hoping that if no one could understand him people would think him a genius. Or am I entirely mistaken?

(Continued on page 5)

THE GATEWAY

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