



Photo by Chuck Lyall

point

who's hooked

us into this?

With the future of the university health service still in serious question, the long-standing rumour that a commercial medical clinic lurks waiting in the shadows to take its place, perhaps to gnaw its flesh before it is quite dead, becomes most ominous.

An interview yesterday with a representative of the developer revealed that indeed six floors of the new office tower at College Plaza (that monster to the left) will be devoted to space for medical practitioners.

The confirmation of this rumour raises serious questions about the rise of the new facility and the fall of student health, questions which will be explored here Thursday.

Terri Jackson

with regrets

As much as I regret becoming a combatant in the undeclared war between the Gateway and the Poundmaker, I think that it is high time something was said from the west side of the newsprint curtain.

The Poundmaker people have been energetically dragging all that is good and true to their side of the line—whether it belongs there or not—in an attempt to create an inaccurate impression of the polarity between the two papers.

The difference is NOT, as the Poundmaker would have us believe, the issue of staff democracy. In the Gateway office, decisions are made by the people who are doing the work. That doesn't mean that all choices are made by all staff members. It simply means that the writers, copy-readers, cartoonists, page layout people, etc. make their own judgments either independently or in consultation with one another in a equal footing with the "managerial" staff.

In fact, what passes for democracy in the Poundmaker's haunts is really coercion of the individual by the majority. Editorial policy is formulated by discussions amongst the staff members and sealed by a vote. That's fine except that it means that everyone must agree. Democracy—premised on respect for the individual—is tainted by legislated uniformity and unanimity.

When the Poundmaker boasts that they are "absolutely free" they are obviously not speaking of their individual staffers.

The Gateway, on the other hand, has no official editorial policy except to have none. So if you are getting individuals' prejudices and opinions, they are at least honest and often openly contradictory.

The difference is NOT, again as the Poundmaker would have us believe, that the Gateway is the stooge of the students' council. If our copy to date has not proven that, then perhaps the fact that we have a proposal ready to present to council which would create an independent board, including Gateway staffers, to replace the council in the choice of editor, will.

The real difference is in the sense of responsibility that the papers have to you, their reader. The Poundmaker's leaders argue that there is no such thing as objectivity—that a writer's personality and persuasion will influence not only what he records but what he observes.

This is patently true. But the people who work on the Poundmaker have decided that it is not only true, it is desirable. In other words, their responsibility is to the expression of their own biases and not to providing you with trustworthy information. Surely it is better to admit the impossibility of impartiality without rejecting it as an ideal in news reporting. If a newspaper makes that distinction, you can be more confident that what you are reading is accurate, dependable information.

The other thing that distinguishes the Poundmaker from the Gateway is its history. Right now, the Poundmaker appears to have history on its side. But even the past isn't unambiguous.

During the summer, all the Gateway files, layout equipment—even Harvey G. Thomgirt—were stolen from the office. The whole history of the Gateway in one half-ton truck. Members of the Poundmaker staff have admitted in private that their group cleaned out the office when it became clear that Yakimchuk was not to be editor this year.

Later in the summer, someone else made off with about a dozen type balls for the IBM composer, each of which is worth about \$40. None of the Poundmaker people will admit any knowledge of the whereabouts of the type balls but when Winston Gereluk wanted one of them to use in doing some work for the NDP, he was able to locate it.

A few days ago Ron Yakimchuk inquired about renting the Gateway headliner for \$6.00 per issue. He accepted the more reasonable figure of \$22.50 per issue, a figure which included machine rental and supplies. However, he reconsidered when it was suggested that he might first return the bound issues of the Gateway. He hasn't refused yet, but he hasn't been in to use the machines either.

Until now, I have been naively dedicated to effecting a reconciliation between the two groups. Had there been any sign at all that the Poundmaker had any interest in peace, I would not have abandoned that pose, but there have been too many verbal attacks and near lies to make it feasible any longer.

Candace Savage



for Jewish Social and Cultural Information

Mr. Burt Margolus
Counselor 488-3079

Mr. Eugene Brody
Counselor 452-6387

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