

EDITORIAL

Separatists hordes

Listening to Doug Christie, Elmer Knudsen and the separatist hordes burble away makes me nauseated. These people are not theater of the absurd; they're theater of the stupid.

This mythical "force" of Western Separatism we are supposed to recognize and deal with is little more than a ragtag collection of blue-chip capitalists (with or without money) devoted to the cause of Economic Progress. Their arguments for separatism, such as they may be, do not address the issues nor explore the consequences in any systematic fashion.

Instead, they plead for the support of the naive and the unintelligent who may be easily swayed by arguments as sophisticated as: "if we quite subsidizing the east (especially the French) we would all be 50 to 60 percent richer." Some people may be 50 to 60 percent richer, but you can bet your gas tank it wouldn't be you or me.

If it weren't for this element of big business interest behind some of the western separatists, we could just laugh at them. As it stands, however, we must recognize the nature of their support, especially when someone attempts to compare Western with Quebec separatism.

The West does not exist as a distinct cultural entity, although it does possess some unique features. It is not a distinct political entity either. It is, like it or not, part of Canada, and it is within this framework that Canadians must work out whatever differences exist.

Keith Krause

Money in a sock

The university's plan to invest its \$14.4 million land sale windfall as an endowment fund is commendable. And the decision to spend the proceeds (about \$1.25 million per year in interest) largely on research is also desirable.

But what is really important is that the plan is designed to fund areas not covered by provincial government funding. The reason for this merits a close look.

The university and student groups continually complain of government underfunding of university operations. Instruction, equipment and libraries are among the areas that would obviously benefit from an extra \$1.25 million per year. But the university has decided instead to devote the funds to special areas of research that would otherwise remain unfunded.

Research is undeniably a worthy recipient of extra funding. But was it chosen freely over all other alternatives, or chosen only after instruction, equipment and libraries (all of direct benefit to students) were ruled out?

What would happen if the university decided to spend the money in these areas hard hit by government funding cutbacks? The government would probably reduce its operating grant to the university by the amount of the endowment fund. This would leave the university no further ahead than it was without the fund.

Regardless of the reasons released for public consumption, it seems obvious that there was considerable risk just this would happen. Faced with this risk, the university had little choice but to place the bonus funds beyond the government's reach: in areas of research not funded by the government.

It is unfortunate the university is so restricted by the Lougheed government's funding policies that it cannot spend this extra money where students need it most.

Mike Walker

the Gateway

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'Twas a dreadful mess. One thing led to another and soon everything was late. Jens Andersen, Bob Kilgannon, Garnet DuGray, Theresa West, Dick Hancock, Pat Murphy, and Alison Thomson fought for the typewriter to get in late stories. Kaos reigned in the photo lab as Bill Inglee, Maureen Lavolette, Tom Freeland and Ray Giguere raced to finish the prints. Libby Drake, Denise Campbell and Gwen Krook raced to put the finishing touches on their articles while Shaune Impey blushing explained his forgetfulness to Wendy Grasdahl. Cathy Emberley, Eida Hopfe and Robert Cook just gave quizzical looks while Michael Skeet ambled on unperturbed. And amid

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the turmoil was heard Nashila Mohamed, muttering that newspapers were too risky and he was going back to bed...

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 the editorial board or signed. All other opinions are signed by the party expressing them. Copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. The Gateway, a member of Canadian University Press and the Youthstream Network, is located at room 282 SUB, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7.
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Running dogs running paper

I refuse to respond to the frivolous and superficial *Gateway* reader survey and instead, have decided to commit my thoughts to paper, in the vain hope that the editorial board will consent to publish a letter written by some other than semi-literate engineers or right-wing Bible-thumpers.

Unfortunately, the *Gateway*, like its more illustrious parent newspapers, the *Journal* and the *Sun*, has become a tool of the bourgeoisie, restraining itself from comment on any issue of major significance. The Alberta-Ottawa conflict, perhaps the most important event since the foundation of the Dominion, has been greeted with almost deafening silence. Premier Lougheed, imperialist lackey, is on the very brink of selling out Western Canada to the American multinational corporations, the real owners of Alberta and you, Mr. Krause, are content to sit on the fence, like some medieval philosopher in a world of vacillation, fearful to adopt a viewpoint in case it gets shot to pieces by the running dogs of the Right.

The letters page, rather than constituting a forum for progressive discussion, has degenerated into a shouting match between homosexuals and Christians. Is no one concerned about the arms build-up in the United States? Is no one concerned that a pistol-packing fascist has been elected to the White House, with the IQ of a house sparrow? It seems not. According to your survey, students are supposed to be more concerned whether, and I quote, "Nolan Astley and Pat Hawk play footsie."

The only redeeming feature of the abysmal *Gateway* this year

is the *Aspidistra* column, and even there, a short course on the classics of Marxism-Leninism could only benefit Ms. Thomson. Remember Mr. Krause, a newspaper can determine the moral fibre and outlook of its readers and supposedly you have 18,000 of them. Let us have some leadership, some example of socialist seriousness and commitment and let us have no more cowtowing to the bourgeois materialists, whether they be in the provincial government, the fraternities or Student Council.

Brian Cohen
Arts III

Cartoon a cruel joke

Your editorial cartoon of November 12 demands immediate rebuttal and denouncement of its horribly sarcastic punch line. The cartoonist, although visually well informed of the facts relating the long-term effects of "pot" smoking to one's genetic makeup and its possible side-effects, has nonetheless

thoughtlessly disregarded the feelings and handicaps incurred to the people and families of those who have suffered these terrible side-effects.

Is it not enough for these people, who have learned the hard way, to have this cruel joke poked at them? Perhaps the *Gateway* should print a cartoon which illustrates the beneficial effects of milk on one's bones instead and an apology to those who have been stricken by the drug's mutating side-effects — some nearly as bad as the poor chap illustrated on November 12.

Glenn Berry
Geology I

You missed the boat

Brothers and Sisters, I must commend you on your attention to such important matters as industrial carcinogens (*Gateway*, November 18, page 1). Of course, it is of great concern to Albertans if the cancer mortality rate is to rise in the next few years.

However, I am puzzled at your decision that Dr. Epstein's comments are of interest to *Gateway* readers only when made in Waterloo and not when made in Edmonton.

Why did the *Gateway* choose to ignore Dr. Epstein's presentation in October at a Faculty of Extension seminar? Dr. Epstein made all the comments your story contained to a group of Edmonton unionists, business people and health professionals a month ago.

Perhaps, the importance of this matter was only brought home to you when you saw it

carried in your wire service. It is unfortunate that this good judgment is only exhibited by people who are not in a position to have extensive impact on the *Gateway's* news coverage.

Faternally yours
Alison Thomson
Medicine II

LAST CHANCE

to enter the *Gateway* humor contest. Just rush your entry of 250 words or less on any subject to room 282 SUB by Monday, November 24.

So let's get funny!

Just a tuck?

I am curious? What services do the twilight tuck-in gentlemen actually perform? Are a bedtime story, a lullabye, and a good night kiss all that can be looked forward to? Or, is this a front for one more of those sleazy operations which are permeating our society?

I would be very interested to read in your paper, a verbal reconstruction of the events of the night by a few of the girls who have been tucked in. No names of course, just honesty. I think that the potential consumer is entitled to know.

Name withheld by request