

EDITORIAL

“Up With Students”

They are members of the Students' Union executive and their state of the union address in today's Gateway takes on a nauseating public relations tone: one would assume their sermon was written to draw a standing ovation from adoring councillors at tonight's (Tuesday) Students' Council meeting.

Such an overt wish for applause, usually reserved for the United States President when he's giving the State of the Union address to Congress, reveals the executive's decidedly desperate need for student approval - or at least acknowledgement - of their work.

“Why are we doing this?” ask the executives.

Instead of answering the question, the advertisement merely comes across as a public confession by some disillusioned student leaders, trying to validate their term in office.

For the benefit of those students who don't own a magnifying glass and for those who would rather leave Interpretation of Rhetoric for literature and philosophy classes, the Gateway provides a condensed, what-I-really-meant-to-say version of “Why are we doing this?”

“We, the Students' Union executive, want to make it better and make it yours! Yes, we can!

“Come on, U of A students, yes we can!

“We can stomp out nasty deficits, build club space where no club space has ever been before, seek out new life, new frontiers, to boldly go where no other Students' Union has ever gone before.

“Let's do it, U of A students, do it, do it, do it!

“We can do, at the SU Bank we can do, can do!

“We can meet with Tories and make the Earth Sciences Building a safe place to live again.

“We can join the Canadian Federation of Students, start a student ombudservice, hold a Week of Action, expand the exam registry.

“Yes we can!

“We can renovate SUB, give money to charity, find you a parking spot, tell you about Central America and disabled students, and represent you on the Students Finance Board.

“At the SU, we do it all for you.

“We type your papers, give you FM; show respect for DIE Board in public (and raise our middle fingers at DIE Board in private.)

“We make it better... make it yours.”

There now, wasn't that painless? Wasn't that unpretentious? (This was a free political announcement, candy-coated for your reading enjoyment.)

Brent Jang

Something terribly wrong?

To: University of Alberta Students
From: Jerry Rubin (Sixties activist turned Wall Street stockbroker)

The record number of student activists at the University of Alberta this year is distressing.

This is 1984, not 1969. Your campus is supposed to be conservative, not Canada's hotspot for student rights.

Indeed, I hear the Student Union is being pushed to its limit by students-at-large clamoring to get onto committees and sub-committees. The interest, unfortunately, is naive and misdirected.

It's a tough world for university graduates. And first years are being sucked into joining the Anti-Cutbacks Team or the Group for Nuclear Disarmament. Instead, it would be much smarter to devote one's time to studies and strive for a high grade point average.

Employers don't care if you participated in the 1982 March to the Legislature. They don't care if you were a member of Students' Council.

So why are so many U of A students hanging around the second floor of SUB? Why has every Council meeting been jammed to the rafters with spectators?

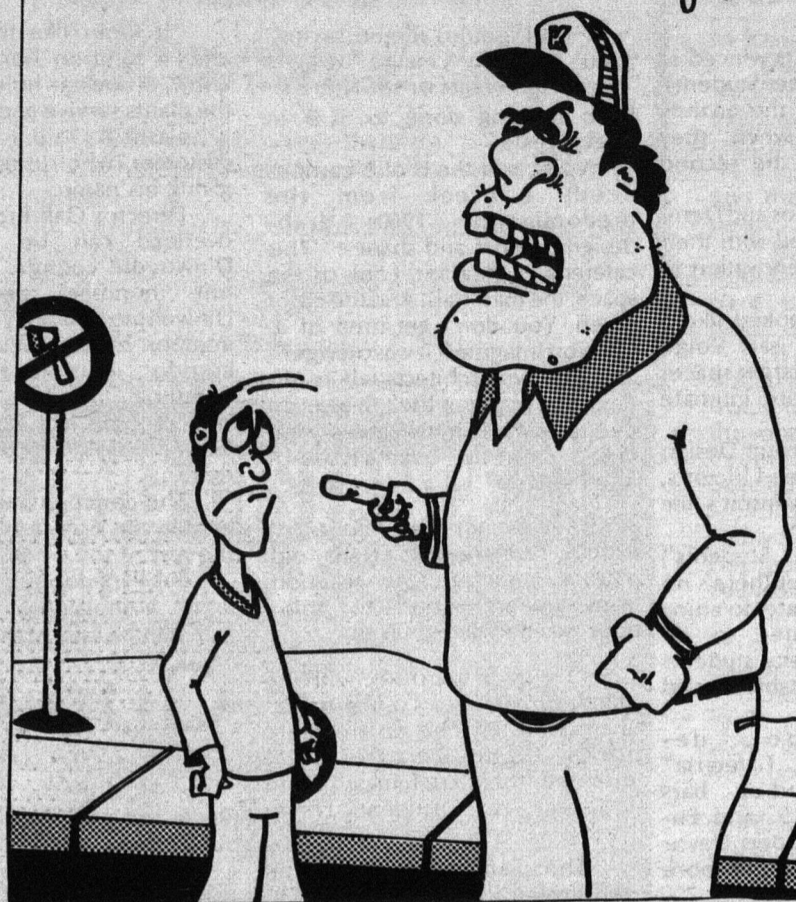
Stupidity.

Student politicians outnumber “regular” students in the Arts faculty by a 2 to 1 ratio. Even in Engineering, that last bastion of political apathy, there is a newly formed Student Left Collective for Engineers.

Something is seriously wrong here. Someone, and it might as well be me, should tell these student activists that they're wasting their time. After all, the libraries were built for a reason. Sadly, they are half empty this year because students-at-large are too eager to protest against cutbacks, lack of government funding, and crowded classrooms.

Troublemakers.

News Item: Proposal for voluntary reporting of traffic accidents.



“The way I see it, it's your fault I totaled your car.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Big Brother Blinked

It strikes me as rather fitting that the referendum issue should grasp our attention just days into 1984; but then again, Big Brother is far from dead.

Several months ago, the Discipline, Interpretation, and Enforcement (DIE) Board concluded that the referendum “could not reasonably be deemed to indicate the actual preference of the electors”. After hearing evidence for two days straight, after deliberating for over thirty hours, the Students' Union judicial board of eight students realized that it would be within the best interest of the student body to hold a new referendum.

However, Yes-CFS campaign manager, Robert Lunney, took the issue before a non-Students' Union tribunal board run by the university. Unfortunately, to the great detriment of students throughout our campus, this tribunal of only three individuals decided for some unknown and unpublished reason to overturn DIE Board's request that a new referendum be held.

I assure students that this latest round of developments will bring forth cries of innocence and virtue from Mr. Lunney's committee on CFS. However, I should point out that this tribunal did not clear Mr. Lunney of any of the earlier convictions, but rather, it chose to decide that these convictions did not warrant holding a new referendum.

For what reason this tribunal might make such a conclusion, I cannot imagine. I only know that the lies and misrepresentation characterizing the last referendum was only part of what DIE Board found to have misled the student body. To lay blame now for the dishonest referendum is hardly appropriate. Was it Robert Lunney? The Chief Returning Officer? The SU Constitution itself? Regardless of who perpetrated this entire issue, a severe injustice has

occurred; an injustice that warrants holding another referendum if for no other reason than to clear the air and allow students to decide for themselves the issue of CFS.

Tonight Students' Council meets at University Hall to decide if a fresh referendum should be held; the opportunity now presents itself to determine if these wrongs of several months ago can now be made right. I urge all concerned students to come and make their views known. Remind these adolescent politicians what the Students' Union stands for, and what the students themselves stand for.

The issue of democracy is hardly a trifle, we have so very much to lose. In this prophetic year of 1984 we must always be reminded: “All it takes for evil to succeed is for good men to do nothing.”

Gord Stamp

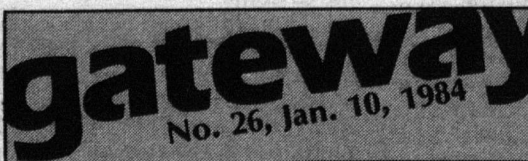
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Big Brother Winked

On Dec. 7 the Gateway published a small article announcing that the Students' Union had declared Dec. 9 to be “Gay Blue Jeans Day.” The article urged students to wear blue jeans on this day in solidarity with an “oppressed minority.”

On the surface, this article might seem relatively trivial. However, what it actually represents is the presence of insidious prejudice and bigotry. It harkens back to the taunts of “FAG!!” or “FAGGOT!!!” by adolescents in high school - an insult which they consider lower than any other.

The so-called humour in this article turns on the assumption that no-one in his 100% heterosexual homophobic mind would want to be suspected of homosexuality, or even of sympathy for homosex-



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It's New Year's Eve and the Church of Gilbertology is celebrating in wild CUP-type abandon. Burning a sacrificial motel at both ends, Shane Berg and Jim (not a commerce student, but kind of funny-looking) Moore read Playboy at the plenary. Peter Michalyshyn and Rich Watts ran for national office unbeknownst to Ian Ferguson who never did return from cross-country skiing. Brenda Waddle and Anna Borowiecki pass out from the fumes, while Eric Blare and high priest Algard discover that they have lots in common as they chat among the ruins, chomping on roast typesetter a la Jordan (Peterson that is).