

Fight night

The battle against the provincial government and its systematic attack on post-secondary educational institutions in Alberta has reached a stalemate. On one hand, the government seems less and less interested in even talking about the issue, and on the other side, students and student groups have apparently run out of ideas for tactics to use against the government.

Our Students' Union has proposed a new sort of method: the plan involves winning the respect of the government to get them to hear our point of view. The SU hopes to win this respect by hosting a small dinner and campus tour for MLAs sometime in the spring, and the event will be called "University Night."

I don't think that anyone on Council is in favor of the event merely to improve future job opportunities, but I do think that supporting the idea indicates a considerable amount of political immaturity and naivete. Unless students can be seen as a unified political interest group in society, no number of dinners, tours or letters is going to twist any political arms.

Face it, the Alberta government is not interested in the legitimate concerns of students. They don't count on students for political support and they offer none in return. *The interests of students are contrary to the interests of the Progressive Conservative government.* That's the point we should start at.

From there, it should be recognized that most MLAs have little say in the government; the Lougheed team is a well-organized political elite, with all decision making coming from the top. Some MLAs have as much as admitted their influence on government decisions is negligible.

The government doesn't like confrontation. All sorts of interest groups wine and dine government members, but most success will likely come from public dissent, not buttering up the government. What will happen on University Night will be a mere empty gesture in public relations, not an informative discussion between two sides of a debate.

The only thing that will scare or in any way affect Joe or Jane MLA is a display of numbers. Rather than hosting a University Night as planned, a public meeting should be arranged between students and MLAs, where all students could meet their representatives, and not just a few selected by the Students' Union. Invited MLAs who accept the offer to come to a "town hall" meeting would be those who are interested in the operations of universities and the success of students, and rather than bribing them, we would be able to discuss issues with them face to face.

Protest marches and mass demonstrations might not be the answer to our problems. But neither is a weak-kneed University Night. What is needed is meaningful discussion and a strong show of support from students and affiliated interest groups. Students' Council has already lost the support of many students through its lacklustre approach to governmental relations. Student involvement is the key, and student involvement must be won back through positive action.

Any politician who can be convinced of the error of his government's ways by a dinner and a tour will soon be dismissed by Lougheed anyway. So let's not waste any more time and money, okay, Council?

Gordon Turtle

the Gateway

VOL. LXX NO. 32
TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1980
TWELVE PAGES

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. With a circulation of 18,500, 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.

Newsroom 432-5168
Advertising 432-3423

Editorial Staff
EDITOR - Gordon Turtle
MANAGING - Keith Krause
NEWS - Lucinda Chodan
Portia Priegert
ARTS - Bruce Cookson
SPORTS - Karl Willberg
PHOTO - Brad Keith
PRODUCTION - Mary Duczynski
CUP - Allison Thomson
FEATURES - Julie Green
ADVERTISING - Tom Wright
MEDIA PRODUCTIONS -
Margriet Tilroe-West
CIRCULATION - Ken Daskewich

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Sue Trekkie, I mean Techie, Russ Sampson, welcome to the fold Andy Mackay, Mary Ketchko and Ian Harper — BRAD, Peter Michalyszyn, heal thyself Alexandra, Shaune Impey, Dick Hancock, Ernie Lotz, Doug Gilroy, Mike Walker, Nina (are they really longer?) Miller, Gord (Shit on the Tracks) Turtle, we miss you, Linda Thompson, Gerard Kennedy, bless his heart, and welcome back, Willie-boy.



Foreign students not gluttons

We, the members of the African Association of Alberta (AAA) join all those who in honour of objective truth, and, in recognition of the fact that foreign students are not mercenary educational gluttons, have condemned CTV's unfortunate *Campus Giveaway* program.

We feel very embarrassed by the possibility of public resentment towards the foreign student. Those of us who are here on inter-governmental exchange programmes or foreign aid programmes feel like a guest who was falsely accused of having drunk the baby's brandy by his hosts.

Campus Giveaway's basic argument, amongst many other inexactitudes, is faulty. It

generalises from a particular "Incident". It can be graphically summarized as follows:

Student in Toronto failed to enter into the pharmacy school, despite her good grades. The class she had been refused admittance into had some foreign students. Therefore: *Campus Giveaway* foreign students are overcrowding all our Canadian universities.

If you don't believe this, look at their exclusive: games, cultural activities where they feel as relaxed as if they were at home. It is as if "there are two campuses at our university". Perhaps this is sound reasoning!

We only hope that this aggressive misinterpretation of factual truth, this exercise in the grotesque and the hyperbolic

which educated etiquette many wish to condemn rather than condone, is not a reflection of popular thinking but rather of CTV's particular parochial perception and crude presentational tact.

Bryma
President
African Association
of Alberta

Paper not consistent

I am disturbed at the *Gateway's* lack of consistency concerning your editorial staff's stand on sexism. My personal definition of non-sexism includes equality of sexes, whereas your's seems to include sameness of sexes.

This brings to point a few recent issues:

A radio station proposed an advertisement containing a torso displaying a T-shirt, to be worn in the same manner; the object being to sell T-shirts. The torso happened to be that of a female. Would the *Gateway* have denied the ad if it had contained a male torso?

One of the major attributes of quality journalism is the ability to edit an issue without altering the theme. The *Gateway* provided adequate coverage of Engineering Week yet somehow your coverage of the facts did not portray exactly the facts that existed, i.e. "... the *Gateway* prefers to highlight the non-sexist aspects of Engineering Week." Is this not a form of prejudice? How am I to believe other stories in the *Gateway* of which I am not familiar?

There are pages within the *Gateway* for the presentation of editorial views but please let the rest contain the facts as they happen. I think perhaps the TASS news service provides the world with a sufficient amount of irresponsible journalism.

C.D. Smith
Engineering 2

Advocate off base

In the January 22, 1980, Advocate column, Mr. Colin Wong asks a number of true/false questions concerning students' rights. The first such question reads: "If a professor has given you adequate advance notice, he can examine you on materials in the syllabus even though they have not been covered in class." Mr. Wong advises students that the statement is false, in other words, that they cannot be examined on syllabus materials not covered in class. Mr. Wong further notes that this information is based on "a position taken by the Dean of the Law Faculty."

Whether or not this statement accurately represents a position taken by the Dean of Law, students should be aware that there is no University-wide regulation restricting examinations to materials covered in class. For example, in the Faculty of Arts, while class lectures and discussions normally bear some overlap with assigned readings, the amount of overlap varies from one course to another. Students can be tested on those portions of the syllabus required for a particular examination, even though these materials have not been covered

in class. It is expected that quality education goes beyond the materials covered in the classroom. The assignment of required readings is part of the professor's guiding and instructing role. While this requires some degree of intellectual initiative and independence on the part of students, it is also recognized that these qualities one might expect to find in an educated person.

The Advocate column serves an important function. Students should be informed of their rights. However, the accuracy of the information provided in that column should be carefully checked prior to printing.

Baha Abu-Laban
Acting Dean of Arts

Engin-art

I was delighted with the additions made to the Gary Jablonski-Jones sculpture in C.A.B.

I wonder if the engineering students who assisted the artist do the same things to the black velvet paintings they hang above their sofas.

Leslie Sharpe
BFA IV