



Yes, you should vote

Two things.

One, there's a by-election from October 11th to the 13th.

Two, vote in the damn thing. It'll take maybe two minutes and unlike most elections, your one vote might actually mean something.

To learn why you should participate in the election process, read this little story that I like to call "Vote Yes."

Imagine a galaxy far, far away where a small group of usually well-meaning individuals control the money of the inhabitants (or the student fees of a rather powerful institution, if you prefer). Anyway, to ensure that the usually well-meaning individuals use the money in the best interests of all of the inhabitants, there are various safeguards set up. A good example of one of these safeguards would be, oh I don't know, say, a newspaper.

So, if these usually well-meaning individuals lose their focus and try to dash with the inhabitants' cash (or student fees, if you prefer), the newspaper would be there to break up the party and set things right.

That's the way it's supposed to work, anyway.

Or, if the usually well-meaning individuals did something that was just plain stupid, the newspaper could step in and throw some enlightened advice at them, maybe get them to do something that the students (I mean inhabitants) want.

Now comes the tricky part.

Remember how the usually well-meaning individuals control all the money of the inhabitants (or student fees...)? Well, imag-

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ine that the usually well-meaning individuals figured out that they could severely handicap some of the safeguards (like, say, the newspaper) by eliminating their funds. That way, the usually well-meaning individuals could more easily pass their own agendas, even though it may be to the detriment of the galaxy (or institution).

For example: even though the planet and its inhabitants may really want a newspaper — and thus gain a watchdog, an educational and informational tool, as well as means to directly communicate their views with everyone in the galaxy and beyond (or, on and off campus, if you prefer) — the usually well-meaning individuals may opt to discontinue partially funding the paper.

But you know what?

There's a way to put the power of the newspaper in the hands of all of the people, instead of just in the hands of the few (usually well-meaning) people at the top.

And it's really simple.

Picture this: If the inhabitants (or students) vote Yes to a delicately-worded referendum question, they are saying that they want a certain allotment of money (which is the same amount as the year before and the year before and the year before) to go directly to the paper. Not through the select hands of a few (usually well-meaning) people, but directly to the paper. That way, if the usually well-

meaning people get annoyed at what is printed in the newspaper (even though it may be the truth), they can't arbitrarily pull the funding. Don't scoff at this. It has happened before at other universities, and if you sit back and let it, it could happen at this university.

But you, YOU, have the power to eliminate that possibility.

The paper should answer to everybody, and not be subject to the whims of just a few people.

Balance the power.

Vote Yes to the Gazette.

SAM MCCAIG

OPINION

Frats not all bad

OK, the amount of times I have heard, "You're in a fraternity, ...ugggh," is just ridiculous.

For those of you that do not know me, I belong to Sigma Chi Fraternity. And yes, I am very proud to be a Sig. And I get asked all the time why I joined, or what I get out of it. I have also heard, "You are paying for friends." Now, I know that everyone has seen Animal House, or heard about parties getting out of control, or that fraternity guys are all womanizers. And I know that everyone heard about the beating at Phi Kappa Pi last year. Well, I would like to clear up some mysteries for you.

Probably most of what you hear is absolute garbage and heresy.

Mystery one. Sure, some of the guys may be known as womanizers, but I am sure that you know a lot of people who are not

involved in fraternities or sororities who are a lot worse. I know I do. Why do we have to be characterized as exactly the same? In fact, if anything, fraternity life on campus helps us learn restraint, because whatever we do, we know will reflect on the other members of the fraternity. So maybe you should get to know some of the people involved before you characterize everyone that belongs to one organization.

As for parties, well... for anyone that attended our events in the last few weeks, you would have found them well run, with few disruptions. Everyone comes for a good time, and they are all in university, not high school. The parties are generally peaceful, with few complaints about the crowd or the noise. As for parties that get out of control, I am sure you have been to a party

...cont'd on next page: "FRATS"

LETTERS

Self-hating Ontarian

To the editor:

I regret your decision to print Andrew Kizas' opinion piece. Never before was a person's opinion so inappropriately made public. Come on, Joe, do your job.

Mr. Kizas, do not put down your triangle and take up a pen. The article was replete with ignorant generalizations. Convention requires one to keep personal experiences in the first person singular.

You use the word "overall." Wow man, how many courses did you take there to arrive at such a universal conclusion? Secondly, what do you know about research at U of T? What do music profs. research anyway? Ivory towers! What an old, tired cliché. And, just to bug you, when you wrote "most students..." are merely seen as a number," did you mean that all fifty thousand students are seen as one number or do they each have their own number? If it's the former, then it must be really confusing at U of T.

It pains me deeply to hear that you did not enjoy your time at U of T. Maybe you were the problem. You lie in the bed of your own making. What kind of self-righteous person

are you to assume that a whole institution sucks singularly because you were not happy there? Oh, if only we could be so fortunate to have you go to all Canadian universities and complete a similar study.

Of course, you would have to compare each university to Dalhousie to reassure us insecure masses that this place is actually all right. Maybe that's why you felt the urge to share your opinion with us. Do you feel proud when telling your Toronto buddies that you go to Dal and not the New York School of Performing Arts? Or do you think it's cool to be a self-hating Ontarian?

Len Delicaet.

Puerile foolishness

Dear Joe,

Your column is the most puerile piece of foolishness we've ever read.

It's not that we disagree with what you say. It's that you make so many sweeping and unsubstantiated generalizations and take so few pains to be clear and define your terms, that we scarcely know what you've said at all.

We suspect that you don't know what you've said either.

J. Rioux and J. van Kessel

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