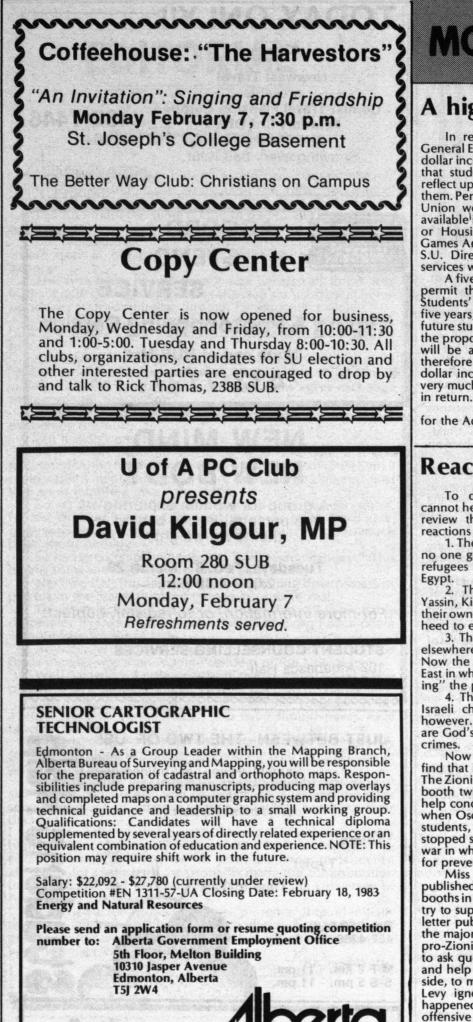
page 6 - Gateway



MORE LETTERS

A high five for the SU

In regard to the upcoming Students' Union General Elections and the referendum issue of a five dollar increase in Students' Union fees, it is our hope that students will take the matter seriously and reflect upon what their Students' Union has to offer them. Perhaps a better way to evaluate our Students' Union would be to look at what would not be available if it did not exist. There would be no Exam or Housing Registry, no S.U. Record Store, no or Housing Registry, no S.U. Record Store, no Games Area, no Dinwoodie Cabarets, no RATT, no S.U. Director and many more businesses and services would not be available.

A five dollar increase in fees would upgrade and permit these services to continue to exist. Our Students' Union has been in existence for seventyfive years; therefore, we owe it to past, present, and future students to keep this organization alive. With the proposed increase in fees, the Students' Union will be able to eliminate its debt by 1985. We therefore encourage students to support the five dollar increase in fees since five dollars isn't really very much when you think of what you are offered

Elizabeth Doblanko for the Administration Board

Reactions in review

To discuss "The Oscar-Hillel' matter, one cannot help but to go back - not too long ago - and review the events in the Middle East and the reactions people in general have taken:

1. The occupation of Arab land in 1948 and 1967: no one gave attention to the millions of homeless refugees who fled to Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and

The persecution and the massacre (Deir Yassin, Kibya, Sammu', etc.) of the Palestinians - in their own land - by the evading Zionists, was not paid heed to either.

3. The operations of the PLO in Palestine and elsewhere were the top reports in the news media. Now the people opened their eyes on the Middle East in which they viewed the "Palestinians terrorizing" the poor innocent Israelis.

4. The war in Lebanon revealed some of the Israeli character, that people could not accept, however. Because they still believed that the Jews are God's favourites and could never commit such

Now look back at the history and look here; you find that mainly the same thing is happening here. The Zionists defaced our posters and shut down our booth twice (once last year and once this year) to help conceal the reality in every way possible. And when Oscar, other fellow students, and some nonstudents, pushed by normal human emotions, stopped someone from trying to justify a genocidal war in which he participated, Oscar was prosecuted for prevention of "freedom of speech.

Miss Audrey Macklin, regarding your letter published in the Gateway Jan. 27, the ASA had three booths in four months, so please state facts and don't try to support your letter by lying. And about your letter published on the above date, Miss Levental, the majority of those who were at the forum, were pro-Zionists and anti-Zionists; the latters attended to ask guestions in order to embarrass the speaker and help those on the fence not to fall to the evil and help those on the fence not to fail to the evil side, to make it harder to know the truth, Colonel Levy ignored most of the questions, and what happened had to happen, keeping in mind that no offensive statements such as "Filthy Zionist Whores" or "Fucking Zionist Bitches" were used. It is apparent that you switched to another channel when you could not tolerate listening to the truth.

So, my friends, let's not ignore inhumanity for the sake of freedom of speech, let us not ignore the Hillel's intention to persecute Oscar for reasons other than freedom. If they really do care about freedom of speech they would have protested the defacing of the posters, they would have protested the shutting down of the booths.

Rami Salah, Science II

For a person who originally comes from the Soviet Union, it is startling to see the similarities between Soviet propaganda methods and those employed by Oscar Ammar and his supporters. Firstly, the Russians have adopted the use of the

word "Zionism" to mask their overt anti-semitism, and the word "Zionist" whenever they mean Jew. Oscar and his friends have mastered this skill to perfection. I have yet to see a Jewish State. As a matter of fact, a great number of gentile people are very pro-Israel. So, let's get our records straight and use the word "Jew" rather than "Zionist" (how many

non-Jews belong to Hillel?). Secondly, the Russian propaganda machine craftily distorts facts to use them for their own purposes. Oscar and his supporters distorted the fact that the A.S.A. booth was temporarily closed down the a Students' Union Executive member and not by Hillel. The fabrication that Hillel shut it down was of course more useful to Ammar, in that he could later cite the incident as an example of Jews trangressing on the rights of Arab students.

on the rights of Arab students. Oscar's tyrannical outburst at the Levy forum was followed by the letters of Gerard Hayes (Gateway, Jan. 13, 1983), who called him "fair and rational; Mr. Black (Jan. 25), who stated that "Hillel can harass the Arab Student Association by shutting down its booth..." and Mr. Walker (Jan. 25), who called the assault a case of simple "heckling". He didn't even attend the forum! None of these gentlemen presented a single piece of evidence to gentlemen presented a single piece of evidence to support their allegations. Perhaps it's safer to rely on

pure rhetoric. Why complicate the issue with facts? Thirdly, the Soviet press has consistently avoided peaceful discussions, favouring instead terror and war. Didn't Oscar refuse a plea from Tom Mueller last year to participate in a peaceful debate with a member of Hillel? He preferred to resort to violence and hooliganism. The questions that come to my mind are: who is

Mr. Ammar, to so perfectly put Soviet methods into action? Who are Messrs. Hayes, Black, and particularly Walker, to provide us with such accurate replicas of Soviet media manipulation techniques? Emil Tubinshlak, Law I

I have stood by long enough and feel it is time to speak my mind on the Ammar issue. It would seem to me that this situation has gotten out of the realm of the proper and into the bounds of the ludicrous. To even consider explusion for the act that Oscar did To even consider explusion for the act that Oscar did is out of proportion. I really wonder what would happen if anyone cheated on an exam or plagerized on a paper. Would the university get the rack out or drag his body across Quad to make him repent for his sins. Sounds a little outrageous, certainly, just as outrageous as expelling Oscar for his actions at the forum. To even consider expelling him will leave a mark on this university that will undermine every ethic and principle this institution stands for. Good luck Oscar, and may principles override the luck, Oscar, and may principles override the pettiness of the human heart and mind.

Christine Baghdady Political Science III



Letters to the Editor should be a maximum of 250 words. Letters must be signed, and include faculty, year and phone number. No anonymous letters will be printed, although we will withhold names. All letters should be typed, if possible, or neatly printed. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length.



SECOND WIND

Second Wind is an opportunity for Gateway staffers to freely express their opinions and thumb their noses at the letters word limit.

Adam Wessel

This campus needs two things — more bar space and people to get off their asses and fill them.

Consider many Eastern Canadian Universities, who by and large maintain a much better ratio of seating space to students. They can't help but have a better ratio than ours — 340 seats to 19,000 undergraduates.

Those universities make real money from that space. Our Students' Union could certainly use a facility that made money right now. Instead, as Ray Conway, VP Internal, says the SU's "priority has to be things like offices and clubs and other organizations."

Someone suggested that it would cost too much to renovate a new bar. That explanation is ridiculous in light of the renovations about to take place to turn much of the curling rink into club space. In times of recession, which is more important? A money-maker most students could get behind or more clubs a small percentage of students use? Right now the first half of my argument is

missing one thing. I said most students could get behind a new bar with some breathing space. I believe that is true, but there isn't a statistic in the

world to back me up.

As Conway put it, "RATT is almost empty after eight o'clock." Deweys looks active a little longer but that's only because most of their patrons live upstairs.

Why can't U of A students get off their asses? I'm not suggesting anyone drink their study hours away. Instead of going elsewhere to drink, though, why not do it on campus? Create an actual campus atmosphere.

We have one of the best rinks in Canada see a hockey game. A couple more of you might also be able to squeeze into Clarke Stadium too for a football game. Sometimes it is hard to spot students there for all those damn seats! When is the last time you saw some good University basketball? I've seen people at the Bears games but how about the Pandas - they're damn good.

Not to end on an upbeat note, this campus should get off their respective duffs and create some semblance of a school atmosphere. The authorities in charge should recognize that we are big boys and girls now. Didn't they give us real liquor in the bars just last year? Bring in some cocktails now and we are all set. Apathy and old-fashioned thinking make University life about as exciting as a funeral.