

Total U of A view must be expressed

The meeting of Students' Council on September 28, 1982 bears review. I am referring to the motion to condemn the massacre of Palestinians living in the Chailla and Sabra refugee camps in West Beirut. The main argument voiced against this motion was in relation to the role and mandate of the Students' Union.

I feel some people are suffering from tunnel-vision in regards to the role the Students' Union plays as part of the university. The university is an educational institution in which one can pursue studies of such a diversity that their scope is truly global. This forces one to address the philosophical role of the university in relation to the students. I believe it is the person in his/her totality - this means they are not shut out from events and matters of global significance. I greatly fear the possibility that the Students' Union, as part of the larger

entity, the university, may feel compelled to consider only those things which affect you as a member of a campus located somewhere on the immense land mass known as Canada. This, I feel, would lead to a stunted person. For these reasons I support the motion which was tabled in Council. I feel that through the Students' Union, the vehicle of student concerns, the view of the university as a total being must be expressed.

As a councillor I have been elected to represent the Arts faculty and I feel I would be remiss in my duties if I were to view Council as merely a "business-oriented" being. Council should address those things which touch upon the consciousness of students as this incident has.

Bev Therrien
Arts Representative

Perpetuating genocide

Mr. Wolfman's remarks in the September 30th edition of *Gateway* on the Ammar-Chomyn resolution condemning the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the massacre of Palestinians.

Mr. Wolfman's statements to the *Gateway* imply that the University in general and the Students' Union in particular are above "these sorts of political issues." Indeed, Mr. Wolfman is circulating a petition demanding that the Students' Union remain silent on political questions.

Such seemingly lofty intentions, however, are in fact hollow. If Mr. Wolfman thinks that by being silent for any reason when faced with war and genocide is justified then he is gravely mistaken. To remain silent on such issues as the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the genocide perpetrated against the Palestinians is at best a reflection of blatant ignorance and at worst acquiescence to mass murder.

Robert Whitney
Arts IV

En Garde

by John Roggeveen

I was going to devote this whole column to expressing my disgust with the present Israeli regime lead by Menachem Begin. I was going to point out that this regime appears to be more like Hitler's everyday since, like the Nazis, the Israelis have annexed territory that did not belong to them, they have purposely lied to the world on more than one occasion, and they have attempted to exterminate an entire group of people. I was going to ask why people call the P.L.O. "terrorists," but don't call the Israeli army "terrorists."

But I'm not going to do that. Everybody else has done enough pontificating on the issue. Instead, I'm going to take a positive approach and propose some creative solutions to some of the world's minor problems.

The going will soon clang for the Tegler Building, one of Edmonton's downtown landmarks. A few people say it is one of Edmonton's downtown eyesores (along with City Hall), but these are the same people who believe that the metal and mirror monstrosities cluttering up the downtown skyline are beautiful. The Tegler Building has a certain quaint stateliness that reminds us that we are indeed in Edmonton, not Toronto or New York, despite the momentary delusions and prolonged aspirations of certain civic politicians and downtown business types. Because of this, the building should get a permanent reprieve from the wrecking ball.

But my proposal is not merely to save the Tegler. The creative solution part has yet to be enunciated.

I propose that the City expropriate the Tegler to use as downtown office space. This would give the City the downtown office space it requires without building an expensive new City Hall and without destroying another of our pomposity preventers, the present City Hall. Alas, this will never come to pass. You see, the City will quite remorselessly expropriate people's homes in the river valley to build a park, but it would never step on the Bank of Montreal's toes, due to a long-standing and exceedingly pervasive law: the Law of the Double Standard.

What will happen is this: The City will build a new City Hall which will be torn down about twenty-five years later because it is inadequate for the civic moguls of the time and also because it, like its predecessor, is ugly in the eyes of

the same civic moguls. The Tegler will be replaced by a brand spanking new Bank of Montreal Building that will sit half-empty during the decade or so of depression, only to be torn down and replaced, in time, by a quaint-looking brick building approximately eight stories high, to match the prevailing trends in Toronto and New York at the particular time.

Again, I become negative. It's time to move on to the next creative solution.

The provincial government is in quite a dilemma these days over what to do with all the hazardous chemicals churned out by the province's petrochemical industry and other assorted overgrown chem-stary labs. The people in the town of Ryley voted to have the chemical treatment plant built in their town.

But, the people in the County of Ryley voted against having the plant in their county, and now are mad at the people in the town. The provincial government has never heard of Ryley and wants to put the plant in Hanna.

I, and a few thousand wild geese, however, definitely do not want the government to build any chemical treatment plants anywhere near Hanna. I have noticed that a large proportion of the Mallard ducks around Fort Saskatchewan disappeared when they built the petrochemical plants in the area. I don't want to wish that fate on Hanna or Ryley.

What I propose will probably sound ludicrous when you first read it, so please sit down. I think that the chemical waste treatment plant should be built right here in Edmonton. The perfect spot would be a short distance north of the Legislature. This idea is ingenious because it would cause the government to take an interest in the development of new techniques to better deal with the chemical waste and, more importantly, there would be far fewer cases of chemical spills if the chemical treatment plant were located there than if it were located anywhere else.

Drat! There isn't space to present any more creative solutions so I guess that I will have to wait till my next column to unveil a way to get the Students' Union out of debt at the same time as we fill the vp Academic void left by Mark Hove.

Don't bloc me

After reading Dwayne Chomyn's comments in last Thursday's issue of the *Gateway*, and on the generous assumption that the *Gateway* printed accurate quotes, I get the impression that Mr. Chomyn is attempting to design some sort of analogy between the Students' Union Executive and the Musketeers — one for all and all for one.

More specifically, with reference to the Lebanon motion, Mr. Chomyn was quoted as saying, "...every time the Executive disapproves of something going through Council, they refer to the book and attempt to tie it up in rigid procedure."

The truth is that in Council, one member of the Executive stated his objection to consideration of the

motion. One member's comments are not necessarily representative of the sentiments of the whole Executive. In fact, I support the Lebanon motion, as I had indicated to Mr. Chomyn even before last Tuesday's Council meeting when he asked me.

Mr. Chomyn makes a similar "error" in the article concerning private funding.

Mr. Chomyn's comments misrepresent the position of the Executive. I am not certain exactly what his intentions are for this political grandstanding — after all, the Students' Union elections aren't until February.

Roger Merkosky
Vice-President
(Finance and Admin.)

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