

Editorial



Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words long. They must be signed and include faculty, year of program, phone number, and I.D. number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, double-spaced, or very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

Some thoughts on Students' Council to date...

On Tuesday, Council defeated a motion to condemn a specific group of countries. Two weeks before that they defeated a motion for the Students' Union to endorse "abolition of apartheid." The issue here is not who is right and who is wrong, but whether these issues should be discussed in Council to begin with. It would be nice if Council had time to debate all these problems, but they do not; and since they don't, a list of priorities is in order. Issues like WCT, remission, job placement, et al, should be addressed because that is what Council was elected primarily to do. I find it hard to believe that our Council is so far ahead of the game here at home that they have hours of council time to spend talking about global issues. The External Affairs Board motion is a noble one, but they've got their priorities mixed up.

The SU is looking at changing the Students' Union logo. To date no money has been allocated to this project and it has been sent back to Administration Board. VP Internal Barb Higgin says the impetus behind the change is the present logo (currently to be found on the south side of SUB) is outdated and students don't know what it means. I'll buy that; it's the most unintelligible logo I've ever seen. To me it looks like that battleship in *Aliens*.

Kudos seem in order for some of the vice presidents. Michael Hunter's remission

proposal was approved by the University Senate last week. The gist of Hunter's proposal is that on the first \$4000 of your loan you get no remission. From then on, it's a straight 40 per cent remission rate. This is to discourage those who don't really need the money from applying for a loan and then sticking it in the bank, eventually retaining 60 per cent of it and collecting the interest. The money saved under this scenario, by Hunter's calculation, will be about \$10 million. This money will be re-allocated as a straight grant to whatever group needs it most. Hunter says right now married students with children need the money most. While this proposal would hurt students who need little money to go to school it would go a long way to helping parents get a post-secondary education. In any case, it's nice to see a student government trying to find new ways to allocate existing funds rather than just asking for more.

Also kudos to VP Finance Tim Boston who was one of the principals involved in getting a university placement office started on campus. The office will compliment the existing Canada Employment Centre here on campus. While the CEC works for all students, the placement office will work directly to promote U of A grads. Considering Canada's present economic situation, a little more assistance in the job market for us sure can't hurt.

Dean Bennett

Letters



Women in sports

To the Editor:

Re: Gateway Sports Coverage

Are there any women's sport teams at the University of Alberta? Are there even any sport events/activities occurring at this university which include women? Judging by the coverage given to sports by the Gateway, one would think not!

Are Mark Spector, Dean Bennett, et al ever going to give (gasp) a lead story to a women's team? Okay, maybe I am asking too much. Are they ever going to give any coverage to a women's team? The Sept. 30, 1986, issue seems to clearly outline the sport coverage policy of the Gateway. Three pages are devoted to sport in this issue. The first page (#16) only includes coverage on the Bears' Sept. 27 football game. The second page (#17) is devoted exclusively to the Bears' 27-28 hockey tournament. The third page (#18) includes more hockey and a story on major league baseball! Why? The university doesn't even have a baseball team! Why is it that coverage is included on a male, professional league? Is the coverage afforded this league by the *Sun*, the *Journal*, and the *Sporting News*, et al of such poor quality that the Gateway must come to the rescue and provide us with a good version? Is it that writing a story on the Panda soccer, field hockey and/or basketball team(s) (to cite a few examples) is really that distasteful to Spector and Bennett? Or is it that they would rather write about a male professional league so they can beef up their portfolio for when they apply for a job with the *Sun* or the *Journal*?

Remember, this is not just another letter pleading for fan support. (In fact, this couldn't be just another "fan support" letter — that seems to be an exclusive crying right of the men and this letter deals with women!) I just happen to be interested in women's sport and, since I am unable to attend all events, a little coverage in the Gateway would certainly be nice.

Sandra Kereliuk
Arts II

All this insanity

To the Editor:

Suzanne Lundrigan's "Dear Virginia: About SDI" brings to mind the incredible hypocrisy of Reagan's "means of rendering these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete." According to a CBC Sunday morning program broadcast between 11:00 and 12:00 at the beginning of September this year, the centre piece of present SDI research — the X-ray laser — actually is energized by the explosion of a small nuclear weapon. God only knows how something like this can safely render nuclear weapons obsolete.

Maybe out of all this insanity one can take solace in knowing that the developer of the X-ray laser recently withdrew from the SDI project to return to a university setting. Apparently he felt guilty because of the direction that his research had taken.

I would appreciate it if a talented member of the science department would confirm this situation.

R. Olstad
Arts IV

Representatives?

To the editor:

Re: Gateway Sept. 18

"If you don't stand for something you'll go for anything. We stand against apartheid."

This quote comes from the song "Let Me See Your ID" which is on the *Sun City* album performed by Artists United Against Apartheid. They voiced their opinion. The U of A Students' Council didn't.

Twenty-three gutless wimps couldn't find it in themselves to stand up for what they will tell you they are against anyway. This is hardly an issue where the population is split (for I could never believe that many would support apartheid). Where does the problem arise then? How would council regret such a decision to condemn apartheid?

It is shameful to have so many members sit on their "intellectual" asses, afraid to make a decision or stand up for justice. Why the hell do they want to represent other students? As if we don't have enough conservative people in power making idiots of themselves.

Congratulations to Michael Hunter for the motion he put forth, to Rob Splane who wanted to do even more, and to the other eight members of council who voted "to endorse and support those student organizations which are working toward a peaceful abolition of apartheid." As for the rest, get involved or get out. We ain't gonna play *Sun City*.

Peter Smyth
Arts III

Privilege vs. right

Dear Editor:

I must disagree with Professor Wm. W. Rozeboom's comments on rights vs privileges regarding seat-belt legislation and driving.

Specifically, it is Dr. Rozeboom's definitions of right and privilege that I must contest.

Dr. Rozeboom defines both as something bestowed upon us by governments, the difference being that rights can be withheld only for "due cause under established norms for their curtailment", while a privilege can be revoked "at whim if it comes to that".

Dr. Rozeboom is wrong.

A right exists irrespective of governments, for the simple fact that a human being is a human being. The right to sustain one's own life, to own property, etc., exists under all sane norms of interpersonal conduct. Governments may enact laws to protect the rights of its citizens, but the rights do not come from government itself. Rights may be violated (governments do it all the time), but they may never be withheld.

A privilege, on the other hand, is government or social permission to do something. Said permission may be revoked for misuse of the privilege. If a person cannot drive responsibly, he loses the privilege. If driving were a right, as Dr. Rozeboom states, it could not be taken away.

Human rights are not to be taken lightly. Perception of government as the sole source of rights is dehumanizing.

"Driving is a privilege, not a right"? Darn right it is.

Glenn St-Germain
B.A. Psychology
Class of 1985

P.S. If Professor Rozeboom believes that letters columns are "poor forums for carefully reasoned argument", as he said in his letter, why did he write to one in the first place?

Take a stand... any stand!

To the Editor:

The defeat in council of the second motion concerning international issues leads me to wonder if council is really aware of what their job entails. I'd really like to hear a coherent explanation from the 16 members who voted against the motion as to why they did so.

I'd like to think that it was because the motion is not forceful enough in making a statement. The motion is essentially a blanket condemnation of all countries in categories 3, 4, and 5 of Amnesty International's "Human Rights Violators List". It provides an easy out for council, in that they would no longer have to spend "valuable" time debating an S.U. stand on each and every international issue. In a sense, this motion is a cop-out; it puts council on record as having taken a stand on a variety of international concerns without committing themselves to further actions.

As a member of the External Affairs Board (E.A.B.) which recommended this motion, I am fully aware of the limitations of the motion. Some have justifiably interpreted the motion as a sop to those students who are more directly involved with the issues. However, the feeling on E.A.B. was that no stronger statement would be passed by council because several councillors don't think taking a stand on international issues of civil rights is within their mandate.

I sincerely hope that this is not the sentiment behind the rejection of the motion because this would be wrong and a clear indication of the collective abdication of responsibility by council.

Council is elected as a representative body, which means they should represent all concerns of the student population, not only the administrative and financial concerns of the Students' Union. This means council should reflect the opinions and attitudes of students on all issues. If students here wanted only administrative and economic representation, it would be much easier to simply hire managers and accountants. I doubt if a single councillor was elected for their skills in these areas, and I suspect that their election was due instead to their perceived ability to be representative.

Council has a responsibility not only to students, but also to society to make clear where the majority of student opinion lies with respect to social issues. Council represents 28,000 students who are often regarded as the leaders of tomorrow and society has a right to know what we, as a group, are thinking. Are we responsible? Are we an involved part of society? Do we look beyond our narrow, self-indulgent concerns?

To avoid coming out with a statement on social issues is to say we are not concerned with the issues that concern society in general, and are therefore too immature to be taken seriously by society.

Sort of cheapens the value of your education, doesn't it?

M. Levenson
Arts II

Don't panic!
Greg Whiting's humor column will be back next week with some tips on job hunting.

Gateway

The Gateway is the newspaper of the University of Alberta students. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. All opinions are signed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway. News copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm 282 (ph. 432-5168). Advertising: Rm 256D (ph. 432-4241). Students' Union Building, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2G7. Readership is 25,000. The Gateway is a member of Canadian University Press.

Editor in Chief: Dean Bennett
News Editor: John Watson, Greg Halinda
Managing Editor: Kathleen Beechinor
Entertainment Editor: Suzanne Lundrigan
Sports Editor: Mark Spector
Photo Editor: Rob Schmidt
Advocate: Denise Whalen
Production Editor: Juanita Spears
Advertising: Tom Wright
Media Supervisor: Margriet Tilroe-West
Circulation: George Onwumere

Jeff the question mark led the kids from hell into battle. Dean looked for his riding crop as Kathleen dug around for her labour manuals. "Quick," shouted Stephen Pandke, "let's put the wagons in a circle." "Why?" queried Rob. "C'mon," Tim shouted, "I've seen this on Little House on the Prairie. It really works." Randy McCoy, Nolan Berg, and Alan Small linked hands and ran off humming, "OOOOOOOh the Hills are alive with the Sound of Music." "Yeesh," squeaked Suzanne, "and they're not even entertainment writers." Danny Schnick called for Alex Miller to round up provisions while Emma dug through her portable pasta bar. "Here kids, grab these pizzas and hurl them just like this." Dean, waking from a midafternoon nap, cried, "Hey, I'm the boss. Who are we trying to get?" Jerome Ryckborst snafu-ed Eric Janse and Melinda Vester and ran off, towel in hand, "We're off to get the wizard, the wonderful wizard of Oz." "Oz," screamed Karen. "Oz just isn't in our mandate." Lutful Kabir shrugged his shoulders and Randal Smathers grabbed his pink runners to make a quick getaway. "Look you guys, the Red plague is coming," whined Glenn St-Germain. Besides Sherri promised to bake some cookies and I'm hungry." Todd Lee, searching his pockets for his tickets to Vancouver, looked sheepish and Don, Leif Bruce, and Teo joined him heartlessly. "Good night, kids," belted Frank as Drago Ruiu checked the spelling of his names.