

## MORE LETTERS

### Another useless course

Here I am in yet another lab science course. Giving it a shot. "Oh, it's only a minor inconvenience." So I'm supposed to think. One dinky little credit to ensure my education is adequate to meet the challenge of modern life. They must really take us for idiots.

I'm majoring in Art and Design in a B.A. General, minoring in English. I'm nearing completion of this program and would like to start using my knowledge to be an artist and a writer. So what am I doing desperately figuring out mathematical formulas, trying to program a computer, or comprehend the chemical composition of some rock? This may show me what the scientific world is all about, but it seems to me I studied science in school for 12 years.

I also studied art and English, and after 12 years I felt I had a right to pursue specialized studies.

I'd like to know what purpose these lab sciences serve. All I can conclude is that they are there to ensure nobody gets a free ride to a degree. Having tried to complete three of these courses with a conditional pass one and two withdrawals in others, I may just "scrape by with a 4," as the saying goes, in my current subject. Four times I've submitted to the powers that be that force me to broaden my knowledge where I don't want it to be. My only honour is to try and forget this nonsense as soon as I'm done.

Artists are real people, you know, and they usually have unique and valuable contributions to make. Why pollute the purity of our work with some useless exercises that force conformity to a standard that some unknown rulesetter thinks is important for a college graduate. I am just one student with a tale of woe to tell but I suspect there are others with similar complaints. I thought a college was a place to pursue truth and wisdom, instead I found a policy that insists on hypocrisy and conformity.

Just to add fuel to the fire, I managed to score a 73 percent in a philosophy of science course at another prestigious Canadian university 10 years ago. That course was at least ten times more challenging and interesting than the weather maps I'm currently studying.

Michael Garfinkle

### Education undervalued

I have attended this university over the past four years, and I have been fortunate enough to receive a quality education from the University of Alberta, at such a low cost (compared to the rest of Canada). I would like to see the University continue its tradition of quality education (some of it taught by world-class professors) by providing it at a reasonable cost, both to us and to future students.

The announcement made by the provincial government to Alberta universities, to put a three percent ceiling on tuition

increases, without sufficient funding (from elsewhere) to cover the reduced amount of dollars, jeopardizes our reputation of quality education. The University has made cutbacks in its budget in the past years, and it appears that we are destined for another one. While it is unfair for us to be subject to significant tuition increases, this alternative, in the long run, may be better than having to cope with a possible deficit in future years (\$2.7 million projected in 1988-89, about \$100 per student). Another cutback in our budget will mean that less graduate students will be attracted to our university in the future, because of less research dollars, and lower salaries for professors.

Consequently, I believe that there may not be a better way to make up for the reduced funding at the University of Alberta, than to increase tuition by enough to make up for some of the reduced budget. Either that, or encourage businesses to make contributions to this university. I also realize that the Getty government has made cut-backs in post-secondary education (and other government departments) in recent years, but we also have to realize that we are living in a province which is under the influence of a (depressed) world oil market. Until our economy recovers, we, the students, may have to bear more of the financial burden on post-secondary education.

Rhys Davies

### Curling a great game

(Re: Curling article, Gateway, March 15)

Gord, you have obviously not done your homework. There is cheating in this game, and any is too much. Intentional distractions by an opposing member may break a throwers concentration, garbage is dropped in front of a rock to slow its speed when a rock may not stay to count, the ice surface can be warmed by sweeping in a specific location to alter the path the rock will follow, vulgarities are exchanged and rocks are "accidentally" moved. However for the most part curling is a clean gentlemanly sport.

My final concern is with the power the media has in influencing the public's opinion and its use and abuse. To you Gord the article may have only been a silly little jest-smirk, smirk, but it is just such journalism that caused the backslide in curling sport which destroyed the curling opportunity for a generation of individuals. Reports of old crocks in cute hats and slippery bowling shoes on precious ice surfaces which could be better used for hockey, severely set back (among other reasons) the one-time booming game. The sport is now regaining fervor only to again meet the Gord Stech's of the world. It is such ignorance that caused the gold medal in women's curling in the 1988 Winter Olympics to go virtually unnoticed, such ignorance which led producers to show one shot or two between commercials during the hockey game shown opposite this gold medal film.

Karen Hudson

### Gateway fair to all

I have to disagree with Paul Alpern's assessment of the Gateway's coverage of the recent S.U. elections as a biased effort. First of all I'd like to pose the following question: If the Gateway is a student service, shouldn't the students have the opportunity to address any issue that they are concerned about? The election, which drew 24.3 percent of the students to the polls, obviously had a lot of people excited.

The students who took the time to write a letter to the Gateway should be encouraged and not criticized for their efforts. The fact that my brother, Paul LaGrange, had so many letters in the paper defending him may be the result of the infuriating wording of the "No side" posters. The intelligence of thousands of people was insulted and a natural backlash occurred.

People had the opportunity to write material for the letters page in support of Mr. Alpern's roommate — Paul Pallister — but they didn't. Because no one wrote a letter in support of the Pallister Slate doesn't mean others lose the right to voice an opinion in favor of Paul LaGrange.

I do not feel that the Gateway "manipulated its pages" but rather printed the letters they received and reflected the mood of the students on campus. Paul Alpern goes to great lengths to tell us that the Gateway should be unbiased and completely neutral during elections. A Utopia like this can never occur since it is impossible to assess what is "injurious" and what is "supporting". Craig Cooper seemed to feel that the "No side" posters were okay while some people thought they were "injurious"; those in the know found them ridiculous.

The fact that the Gateway printed a letter or two reflecting students' concern over the election propaganda doesn't mean that they endorse one or more candidates. The story dealing with the Together Slate's battle against "homophobic propaganda" was legitimate news and deserved to be covered in the manner it was. The Gateway approached the Together Slate and not the other way around. Whomever circulated the material against the slate obviously had some motivation for doing so and it backfired in that the Gateway exposed them.

Even candidates at the national level are subject to such abuses by foes and they are also subject to defense or criticism in the media — the U of A is no different.

Mark LaGrange

### Architectural anarchy

As a past graduate (Arts 1971) living in foreign lands I was pleased to return to the old sod for an all too brief visit during late October. While my short visit was people rather than places oriented, I did return to the campus where I first lived in professional housing and later studied.

I was very deeply shocked! Just what has been done to the campus? Nearly every becoming view of the campus, the older buildings or the few new ones with the architectural merit their location might demand, have been blocked off by pre-cast edifices to architectural ego. In my opinion the integration of the different building designs and their complementary placement on campus appear to have been regrettably restricted by the vacuous imaginations of the university officials, planners and architects involved. I am drawn to the conclusion that in someone's mind there must be an indirect relationship between quality of location and aesthetic architecture.

Alberta's campus had been a mixture of architectural styles in the mid 1950's when I first became familiar with it, and was destined to maintain that image. I can accept that. Blocking off the beautiful view of the old Arts Building or building the concrete backdrop behind Rutherford House are major travesties. Other injuries to the beauty and elegance of the campus unfortunately abound.

Does the yellow building, which I suspect must be called Buttercup Hall, change colors with the seasons like a grain field? If this architectural failed cry for help started a friendly visitor like myself during the autumn, what might be its impact on other visitors in other seasons? The ugly wartime drill hall come hangar at 114th and 87th may have been more appealing. Perhaps I exaggerate, for Buttercup Hall may have been intended to serve as a landmark to assist those in difficulty find their way out of the Jubilee Auditorium parking lot during winter blizzards.

Dr. Jim Parr, once a professor of metallurgy and now chairman of the Ontario Science Center, wrote to the Gateway about the Lister Hall food commissary during the mid 1960's. He asked if having a food services building which looked like a cadaver? Where his words were then found humorous, it appears they have been all too prophetic.

Just how long are we expected to remain silent in the hope there are others who have learned not to judge books by their covers?

George Hough


### Thanks for the memories

Congratulations to the Together slate and other election winners.

I would like to thank all of you who supported the Pallister Slate and its endeavors.

This year, over 24 percent of the student body voted, a significant increase over years previous. As it was our goal to increase campus spirit, even in defeat I am extremely pleased with the turnout at the polls and hope that such spirit and involvement will continue to grow.

Paul Pallister



Too your horn  
Write a letter to the Gateway  
We need a laugh

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