

SECOND WIND

Second Wind is an opinion column for Gateway staff

by Ben Yee

In an age where progress, technology, and mass production are supreme, universities attempt to spew out graduates like McDonald's does hamburgers.

University is producing good doctors, lawyers, accountants, nurses, and engineers; but is it producing men, or machines?

Behind the cloud of degrees, higher degrees, scholarships, and examinations, muffled by the loud demands of industry, professions, and business, the true purpose of university education is all but obscured. Universities have become a factory producing specialists!

What then should its purpose be?

Ponder this question whilst you herd toward your lectures.

University should stimulate growth, self realization, and self determination. It should be a preparation for life, rather than a stepping stone to a career. A university education must encompass more than a mere specializa-

tion.

Thus I assert that an education is functionally incomplete without a broad exposure to the liberal arts; literature, history, philosophy, music, math and the pure sciences.

You scowl defensively at my assertion, remembering that you suffered a "4" from Professor Morpheus in your last humanities elective.

"No one", said T. S. Eliot, "can be really educated without having pursued some study in which he took no interest in—for it is a part of education to interest oneself in a subject which we have no aptitude".

The value of liberal education is immense, providing you with a wealth immeasurable. (No, you fool I didn't mean \$\$\$\$).

Liberal education not only increases your mental capacity and mental agility but it frees the human mind from ignorance and dogma. Being educated is to have the freedom to disagree, or to agree.

Liberal education also deepens intellectual quality and general understanding, which along with grace, wit, and poise are qualities exemplified by leaders among men. (Note: general understanding as opposed to the pedantry of specialists.)

Most importantly, it enables an individuality and independence of thought which is so lacking in our conformist society. (Yes, I know you're individualistic, though, you carry a different color of briefcase.)

If the sole purpose of educating men and women in this society were to make skilled hands, industry would do it themselves. Education should be a purpose in itself.

"What but thought deepens life, and makes us better than cow or cat."

Emerson

Now for these reasons, my fellow students, in your years of study, endeavor to pursue an education, not just a vocation.

Ireland: battle continues

A belated reply to the facile and inane comments made by Robert Orr on the Irish question (*Gateway*, October 1). Only a hardened Scottish Presbyterian mind could conceive of Ulster as "a democracy," or for that matter claim that the Unionists are in a majority and thus their wishes must be respected.

Ulster was conceived after the First World War as a political abortion by Lloyd George, who devised the partition of Ireland in such a way as to keep the protestants in the majority. As a result, they have continued to dictate policy to the rest of the population, and, over the past decade, have received warm support from the British army, ostensibly dispatched to Ireland (by Harold Wilson) to protect the Catholics.

It matters not one whit whether the protestants have been in Ulster since 1600 or 600 BC. Paisley and his ilk have survived through exploitation of the Irish people. The Irish protestants are the last survivors of the old British Empire. It is as exploiters rather than settlers that they have to be removed from their position of eminence.

Mr. Orr's premise that 50 million Britons should be able to dictate to 3 million Republicans is ipso facto Fascism; might is right. No doubt he would wish to repaint the map red or organize an invasion of Africa.

One can't go around giving orders to countries simply on the grounds that they are fewer in population.

Margaret Thatcher, says our sabre-rattling Scotsman, has been instrumental in defending democracy. First, it is doubtful whether there is any democracy to

defend now that three million of Britain's workforce are roaming the streets, jobless and virtually penniless. Second, Mrs. Thatcher has personally exacerbated tension in Northern Ireland, with cruel policies devoid of human sympathy.

If Mr. Orr has so much affection for the Wicked Witch of the West, I suggest he goes back to his utopian society. It is easy to crow from the comfortable confines of Alberta.

Brian Cohen
Arts IV

Increase O.K.

After reading the *Gateway* concerning various articles on tuition fee increases, I would like to reflect on the subject for a moment.

The B of G plans are to index tuition fees with inflation, about 10% (barring graduate studies). Now what's so bad about that? The cost of operating a university, paying profs and personnel as well as expansion, are all increasing and must be compensated for.

There will be no cutbacks in existing programs just a decrease in projected programs, programs we haven't had a taste of yet.

If we don't expect an increase in tuition, how can we expect higher education, greater variety of programs, increase of library material, or a more qualified staff?

I expect a raise in wages with inflation, so I realize tuition, rent, food, gas, beer and skiing will go up also. Just to remind everybody, this has been happening since you were born. It's as predictable as exponential growth.

Being from a Saskatchewan university, I paid \$825.00 for tuition last year, and in the same program at U of A I pay \$689.00, boy what a great deal. That's a decrease of about 16% from last year!

I think we should direct our bitching and complaining to inadequate parking on campus or the outrageous price of books.

Now aren't the price of books silly...or even the price of beer...Hey, life must go on.

Murry Vogt
Science II

LETTERS

Letters to the *Gateway* should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters should be typed, although we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Gateway*.

Christopher Warner
Irate Science V
S.E. Comish
Arts III
Travis Huckell
Law II
and eight others

From anti-cutbacks to cabbage

Dear Mr. Koch,

With regards to your letter (*Gateway*, Oct. 6), I would like to say that I and countless thousands are ecstatic to learn of your return to these distinguished pages. I'm sure I speak on behalf of the *Gateway* as well in welcoming you back to these hallowed halls.

I am saddened to hear of the fates of your cohorts, but I am confident that you can bear the brunt of the burden singularly.

Pen in hand, I join your campaign against cutbacks. I, too, am angered at the Alberta Government's total disregard of this province's educational system. The fact that some of us have emerged from "the system" with some degree of literacy is astonishing in itself considering the calibre of instruction we have been exposed to. I have known students who have not been as fortunate. The extent of their vocabulary renders them capable only of reading "The Sun." I fear my education can progress no further in wake of the desperate lack of funding.

I am in a French class that consists of forty students, all fumbling through 18th and 19th century French Canadian literature, with one professor trying to meet the needs of all. I haven't had the opportunity to speak once this year. Ideally, a language class should have no more than ten students.

Hopefully, all the French language ever demands of me will be limited to ordering in a restaurant and discussing the weather.

There were also two anthropology classes I had planned to take this year, but both were cancelled. Darn!

Profanities aside, I understand that you, Mr. Koch, may not regard the loss of a few "artsie" courses as important, but for those of us who were not intelligent enough to get into Engineering, it is a major concern indeed!

I'd also like to comment on another stupid blunder — this on the part of our Students' Union. Whatever possessed them to rechristian a popular (if not financially successful) watering hole to "Dewey's"?

Now seriously, who can enjoy a drink in a place called Dewey's? Are we to anticipate the opening of a "Hewey's" and a "Lewey's" as well?

I demand that Phil Soper submit his resignation. He clearly did not have a mandate to proceed

as such. President Soper's arrogance and tyranny reduces our Students' Union to a mere dictatorship; equalled only in stature to that of the federal government's. To impose such a decision is un-Canadian (eh!), if not downright communist!

Before I close, I would like to voice one more concern. I am questioning the instance of the cafeteria staff in CAB to serve Portuguese Vegetable Soup on a regular basis. Personal surveys have shown that this is not a popular choice.

I realize this country's efforts to achieve a harmonious, multi-ethnic nation have been vast, and I personally have nothing against

the Portuguese people, but to repeatedly serve this brew (composed essentially of cabbage, cabbage and more cabbage) is disgraceful, and probably unhealthy. Surely it would prove more profitable to serve something edible.

I understand, Mr. Koch, that our efforts to erase the injustices of our system are, on the most part, quite futile. Let it be said, however, that we gave it the old college try. I look eagerly to future thought-provoking, and intellectually stimulating correspondence on your behalf.

Sincerely,
Louise Riopel
Arts III

Some humor not funny

The first cartoon issue of the *Gateway* was most revealing. It should be very encouraging to the NDP, Liberal, PC, and Sacred Organizations on campus to know, that if they draft their political statements into cartoon format, and submit them to the *Gateway*, they will be able to state a political message as easily as the author of *True American Atrocities* has done in the October 14th issue.

Under the guise of comic amusement *True American Atrocities* has made it to print,

regardless of the authors motives and affiliations or an "Unbiased" attitude of the paper. No one can support disrespect for humanity, which may be exported by any world power. But there is a time and a place for such political imagery, and the comic issue is certainly not it. It was a humor issue. Humor is seen in comedy.

We, as readers, can see where humor stops and misuse of print starts

Richard Zukiwski
Arts

SOUTHERN COMFORT

Its special taste made it famous.

