

The Gateway

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editorial

In these times of government financial austerity, it seems almost sacrilegious, somehow unpatriotic, to ask the university to offer more and different courses. Yet it is becoming more and more obvious that an important area of study we should and as yet do not have on this campus, is journalism. (I should mention here that I will only publish the first 100 letters to the editor which agree with this point, specifically in reference to my own writing.)

It seems to me that students should not earn their degrees *in spite of* their work on the *Gateway*, but *because of* it. To try to gain some practical understanding of journalism, a student on this campus is automatically forced to work for this newspaper. Such work is usually such a burden in addition to normal course work that either the course work suffers or the student drops some courses, or both. Yet it seems if we had courses in journalism, one could beneficially combine both academic and practical work. (I, of course, do not imply practical work is learning picas and point sizes, as some college journalism courses seem to think, but rather would be the teaching of writing and editing skills, the study of political, social, economic and historical analysis, etc.)

This, I think, would result in a number of benefits: (1) the community would have a better newspaper, (2) students would not be academically penalized for their work on the paper, and (3) society would have better media analysts when the students who have taken such courses graduate.

With regards to the first benefit, it is easy to see that the one thing all campus newspapers suffer from is a lack of continuity. Student papers go through cycles—one year the experienced, motivated students on the paper graduate; the next year the paper begins to build again, with new students learning everything from scratch, again. With courses, new students would be able to learn from professors, there would be a ready supply of people available each year to work, and there would be more newspaper workers around to pass on their experience each year.

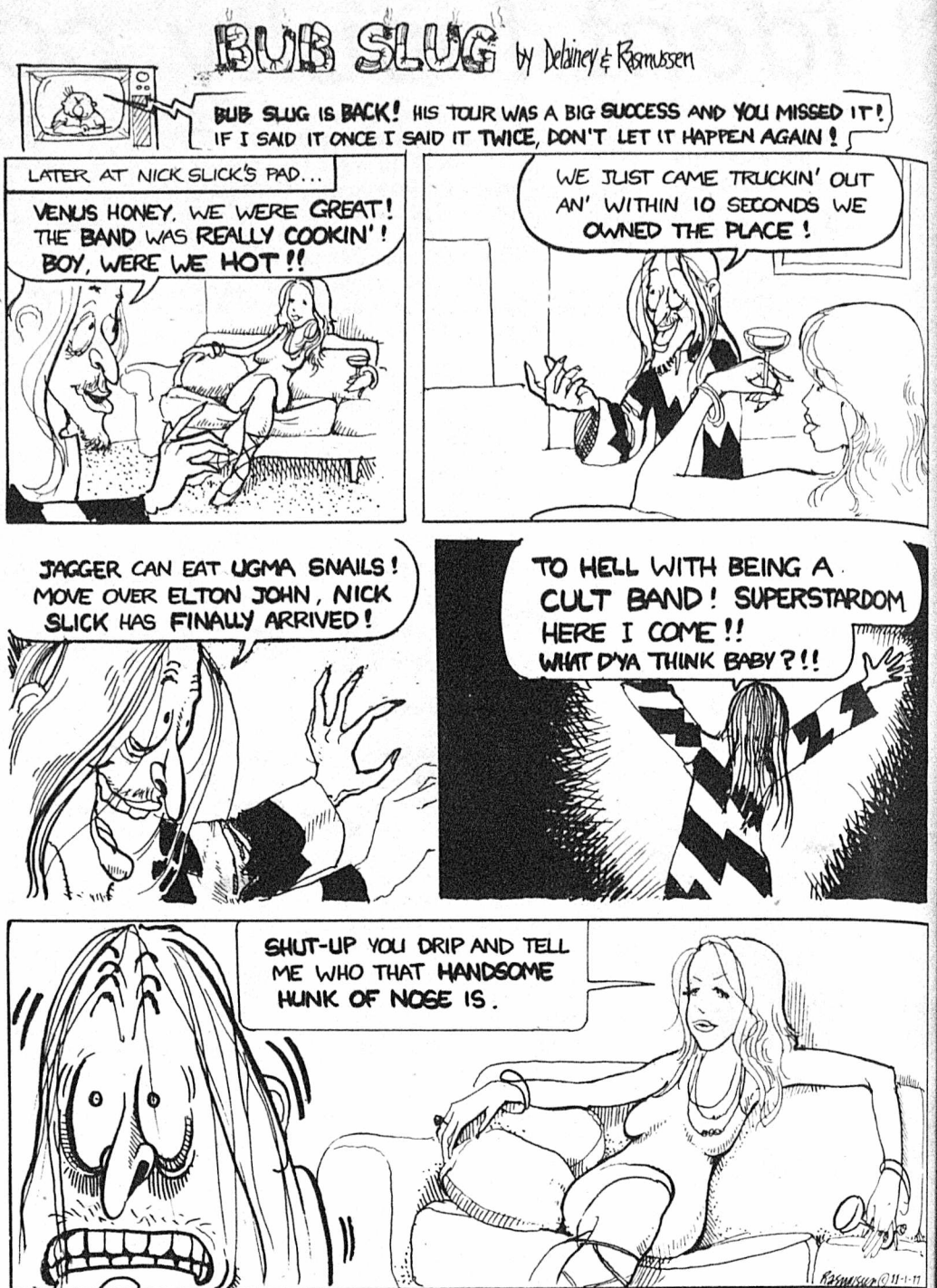
With regards to the second benefit, removing the academic penalty *Gateway* work currently places on students would (1) attract more students to work for the paper (most students now tell us they can't work on the paper because of time constraints) and (2) ensure a higher quality in the paper. To know that a professor is evaluating performance with each particular article in the paper (and thus will be giving a mark on assignments at the end of each term) should improve our quality, if the university's current mark-granting structure is any indication of methods to ensure performance.

With regards to the third and possibly the most important benefit, trying to work journalism into this university's academic curricula will mean better-trained, better-thinking media people for the future. People constantly refuse to recognize the importance of the media; it has become quite acceptable to mock journalists as hacks and gimmick writers (although writers like Aldous Huxley, George Orwell, George Bernard Shaw, Ernest Hemingway and Hugh McLennan might disagree with that generalization). Indeed, it is true the average qualification for Canadian media jobs is not high (even though many intelligent, competent people work in Canadian media). Most Canadian media people receive their training either at universities in classes where they are schooled in esoteric, academic communication and students newspapers where they learn the basics of media analysis by the seat of their pants or in colleges, where they are largely taught *production* techniques, and not the *how and why* of what they are doing.

If they do learn something about journalism, they have either gone to American schools of journalism (which are as hard to enter as medical or law schools) or have been schooled in the east, at one of Ontario's three university-level journalism schools. Most have not. Those that have often complain they have received inadequate training in understanding *what* they are doing when they select and analyze "news," make value judgements about such things as news placement and headline sizes.

If these people have spent four, or possibly six, years of their lives studying these points of mass media communication and still say they don't know what they're doing, how can we expect our own media—from the *Gateway* to the *Journal* to *Maclean's* magazine—to understand why and what they are doing, and then expect them to do a "good" job.

by Kevin Gillese



Rendition rankles Ross

The U of A can be proud of Kevin Gillese. He has earned a place in literary history. In fifty years Mr. Gillese will appear in a PhD thesis footnote. The theme of the thesis will be this: in the latter half of the twentieth century Canadian literary careers, reputations and incomes were controlled by hack journalists. There was no single leader, and no conscious plot elaborate strategy on the part of the journalists, but that made them more difficult to combat.

Since the thesis will deal primarily with Canada Mr. Gillese will be mentioned. He himself is insignificant (or so the thesis will argue), but he is representative. The footnote will document the way in which Colin Ross, as an undergraduate, was *forced out* of his student newspaper. Idiomatic titles to Mr. Ross' contributions and a junior-high-school-level malicious mockery tried the young writer's patience, but Mr. Ross persevered because he believed in the potential importance of the student newspaper (or so the thesis will argue). Finally, when Gillese and Co. took the editorial axe to Mr. Ross'

article on the Energy crisis, reducing it from a carefully thought-out, economically-argued thesis to a succession of confused assertions in journalese, Mr. Ross could stand no more. Momentous day! History in the making!

Mr. Gillese, I regret that will receive only a footnote, it's a direct consequence of way in which you squander meagre talent and abuse your considerable power.

Colin Ross
Comment

Home Ec. awareness spreads

We the undergrads of the faculty of Home Ec., want to spread a little Home Economics awareness around. Home Economists today are found in all aspects of society. They are professional people deeply involved with daily living. They care about people. Through their many roles in all walks of life they aid the community, the consumer, and the people of today, with their many needs.

As Home Ec. students we know what our faculty is about, what Home Ec. involves and what we can do as career oriented people. This knowledge is not widespread through the University or the community at large. Through public promotion and activities we can spread this

information.

Contact increases public awareness. The public can be informed in a great many ways. H.Ec. Days '77 is a small beginning. It began on Saturday with a display on "Home Economics Today" at Londonderry Shopping Centre. The display will be up at the Home Ec. Building all week.

The whole week is full of exciting events a hockey game with the CHED Good Guys Wed., a Greaser Dance on Thursday and a Walking Rally on Friday. Saturday will wrap up the week with the Home Ec. Formal. Look for details of these events in *Gateway* footnotes.

Home Economics
Undergrads

Why no curling playdowns this year?

Why are there no curling playdowns this year?

In past years the U of A has been represented in the Western Canadian University Curling Playdowns. This year the Phys. Ed. Department took it upon themselves to stop participating in this annual activity without letting the student body be aware of their actions. It seems the only reason given is financial.

I find it hard to believe that the university can pay for either

basketball, hockey or football teams to go on trips just about every weekend but they cannot send eight people (one mens' and one ladies' team) to Lethbridge for one weekend.

Curling is not a dead sport at the U of A. There are many students involved in various leagues throughout the week. Also last year there were approximately thirty-two teams in the mens division competing for

the right to represent the University of Alberta.

Finally, the U of A will be the ONLY university in Western Canada not represented at playdowns in Lethbridge this year. This seems particularly strange for a university that cannot be able to participate.

Therefore, I believe the curlers of the University of Alberta are getting a raw deal.

Disappointed Curler
3rd year Mech