

English on faculte, too?

by Tom Wilson

Response to the recently published article in the *Gateway* about French Canadians on campus has been overwhelming.

Most of the response has come from students at the Faculte St. Jean, since that is where the majority of French Canadians attend their courses. For the most part, people expressed their pleasure with the article.

Both French and English students, alike, were enthusiastic about being included in something associated with main campus, namely the *Gateway*.

There were, however, a few who were less than thrilled by the article. The malcontent voice was that of the Students' Council at the Faculte St. Jean. They felt that the article misrepresented the Faculte and its objectives; and to a certain extent they are right.

It seems that in talking about a minority, the French, the majority, the English, was overlooked. The Students' Council feels that people will get the wrong idea about the purpose of the Faculte. This wrong idea stems from the fact that the article focused on the life of French Canadians at the Faculte with no mention of the English.

It was mentioned in the article how the Faculte is a starting off point for French students coming to Alberta. It was not mentioned that the Faculte is the starting off point for many anglophones on their way to a bilingual degree. Hopefully the most important point made by the article, concerning involvement and a sense of belonging, is clear. Regardless of the language spoken by the student expressing these two wishes, the message is clear: we want in.

The English students feel as strong about this as the French do. The reason they were neglected in the first article is that they can

express themselves on these subjects with much more ease than the French can.

The Faculte St. Jean is not only a school where French Canadians come to learn english, it is also a place where English

Canadians come to learn french. This fact is probably already known by the majority of students at the University of Alberta, but for the sake of the sometimes easily flappable students' council, it is one worth clarifying.

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selective in its condemnation which represents a political bias.

Another council member claimed that this type of motion was outside the authority of the SU since there was no way a true sampling of students' opinions could be obtained.

Robert Greenhill does not feel the defeat of this motion could lead to any dangerous insularity

on the part of Students' Council.

"Even though the administration of the Students' Union is time consuming I don't think we'll be relegated to a mere administrative body, I think Council acted responsibly and there are a lot of concerns on other campuses in Canada which will take Council's focus outside our own campus," said Greenhill.

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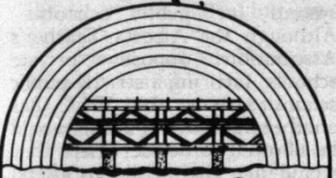
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