



point

Wasting time

The intrepid Gateway man-in-the street interview team of Terry Taylor and photographer Bob McIntyre confronted YOU, the student, with the question: "What do you think of government film censorship?"



You don't like it; you don't watch it.

Don Sinclair
Eng



It insults my intelligence

Bob Burghardt
Arts



I don't think there should be any censorship at all.

Margaret May
Arts



I don't agree with censorship, but I would approve of a rating system.

Judith Wiens
Sci



I think the censorship boards are too strict right now. I don't think movies should be censored at all

Carmen Maksylewick
Ed



We elect the government and they should make sure that we don't get too much of what we're not supposed to get. I'm thinking mainly of smaller kids. I'm for government censorship.

Reinhold Edelmann
Ed



They shouldn't change the artist's work. I don't think there should be any censorship at all.

Rick Johnsen
Ed



Most kids 14 and on know everything about sex so why not let 'em watch it?

Harold Fedoruk
Sci



I think the people should be allowed to see what they want to see.

Andy Huntly
Sci

Last Friday's meeting of the board of governors could provide editorials from now until Christmas.

It's hard to know where to begin. The arrogance of the board as a whole? The condescension with which it treated new members, and particularly student members? The conduct of the chairman? The practise of closing the meeting for all but the most mundane of matters? The lack of discussion before items are placed on the confidential agenda? The reluctance of the board to consider matters of policy?

Although not all of the blame for these can be laid to the responsibility of chairman F.T. Jenner, the board's tolerance of his actions while in the chair provides a good focus for many of the other issues.

In fairness, one must acknowledge that board members spend a lot of time in meetings, and are probably grateful for a chairman who conducts them efficiently with a minimum of time wasted.

But the crucial question must be answered by board members as to what constitutes a waste of time? Is it a waste of time for the board to provide its new members with a brief guide to procedures in B of G meetings? Apparently it is, for this was taken care of with a few brusque words from Jenner "Let's stop here. We've gotta' stop this right here," he said of Gerry Riskin's quite innocent assumption that issues might actually be discussed at the meeting, rather than simply being read aloud and voted on. "Now I don't want to have to go through all this again. . . I cannot let the board's time be taken," Jenner snapped. "Get your typewriter out and put it on a piece of paper," was his patronizing suggestion to Riskin.

Is it a waste of time for board members to present their views to fellow board members without the interruption of badgering questions and cross-examinations from the chair? Apparently it is, from Jenner's behaviour toward a number of speakers, unless you're as long standing and outspoken a board member as Dora McCulloch, who was never interrupted.

Is it a waste of time to suggest, as did Burke Barker, that the board actually discuss and formulate policy? Apparently if that policy is not in the form of twelve typewritten pages of prepared recommendations, it is. Jenner is not prepared to "waste" all morning on such discussions.

It is delightful after the infuriating experience of seething through that meeting to see the Grad Student Association put forward their recommendations on the future of the board (see story page 3).

The GSA has suggested that board members be paid for the time they spend on board business.

The grudging concession of time evident in the attitude of the acquiescent board members, the noble martyrdom of the public servant who freely (but he'll have you know, at considerable pain and expense to himself) gives of his time to the University community (which damn well better be grateful) would become an empty act.

The bullying chairman who justifies intimidation of members by saying that he's saving their time, will have no place.

Finally, the grad students suggest that all board business be conducted in open meetings. The "opening" of the board meetings several years ago has become a farce, with any business which the secretary of the board thinks "might be embarrassing to the board" considered behind closed doors.

It's time the board reconciled itself to its role as a policy-making body and accepted the responsibilities which the democratic process places upon them in reaching those decisions in a democratic way. Only on these grounds can the question of what is a "waste of time" be decided.

Meetings behind closed doors and between closed minds intent only on making their way through the agenda are truly a waste!

Terri Jackson

Letters to the editor on any topic are welcome, but they must be signed. Keep them short (about 200 words) unless you wish to make a complex argument. Letters should not exceed 800 words.

The Gateway is published bi-weekly by the students of the University of Alberta. Contents are the responsibility of the editor. Opinions are those of the person who expressed them.

Staff this issue includes: Allyn Cadogan, Kimball Cariou, Leroy Hiller, deena hunter-arts, Terri Jackson-editor, George Mantor, Bob McIntyre-footnotes, W. McKenna, Colleen Milne, Les Reynolds-headlines, Arthur Savage, C. Savage-news, Terry Taylor, T. Townshend, Ron Treiber-production, Brian Tucker, ernie vilcsak -features, Diane Wedman-typesetter.