

Voting explained

The problem with the Board of Governors' proposed field trip to the Bamfield Marine Station in June is not that it is expensive, or unnecessary. The problem is rather the open-endedness of the invitation to board members and the fact that the trip is completely at the university's expense.

Mostly it galls me that the Finance Committee which saw fit to grill student representatives over their requests for U funds earlier this year (over amounts of money no larger than the greatest possible expense for this trip) has not made one protest over this proposal. In fact, chairman John Schlosser entreated all board members to attend if possible, and did so with the blessing of Finance Committee Chairman Ted Allan.

Of course \$3000 isn't much. But it represents tuition fees and books for five students. And when CJSR needed an extra \$5000 or the Art Gallery an extra \$2000, and when student reps provided documentation and personal interviews to defend that need, the Finance Committee balked at establishing dangerous precedents in times of fiscal restraint.

In times of fiscal restraint, then, it is in poor taste to offer *carte blanche* research trips to board members when students with sound cases for extra funding are turned down.

The Bamfield Marine Station is undoubtedly a worthwhile project; it is undoubtedly in the best interests of the board, as its patron to observe the operation from time to time. But if the board wants us to take its cries for restraint seriously, then — and this seems so elementary — it should be more careful in the management of its own funds.

I'd like to support the suggestion of student rep Randy Read. He is planning to forward a motion at the next regular board meeting to limit the expedition to Bamfield to two board members. The trip — which includes return airfare to Vancouver (at \$150 each), at least one evening's accommodation (at \$50 each), food (at \$30 each) and miscellaneous travel expenses — would still cost the university about \$500. This is a reasonable and prudent amount, I think, for such a venture.

The experience of the designates could then be made more meaningful for the entire board if a report was made following their return.

Surprisingly it is not painful to find my time as editor running out. It's sad of course; so much is coming together now, near the end, that it seems futile to have to begin all over again. And then, there's a natural unwillingness on my part to let go.

However, I am encouraged by the prospect of Gordon Turtle taking this (my?) paper into the Eighties. In his six years on campus, Gordon has proven himself to be conscientious *Gateway* staffer, an enthusiastic participant in student politics, a capable manager and even a good student. He has plans for next year that are both innovative and sound.

If, as I hope, the foundations are solid, then Gordon's modifications will be improvements, and this will directly benefit all *Gateway* readers. But every editor encounters frustrating limitations: the deadlines are always there. So since it's probably true that there's really nothing new under the sun, at least next year you'll be seeing it all again from a fresh perspective.

And as I'm preparing to leave I know that's a good thing. Give 'em hell, Gord.

Loreen Lennon

the Gateway

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If it happens on campus...it's news to us.

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P.S. Staff Party Feb 22 Call Loreen for info.

As Returning Officer for the Students' Union, I feel obliged to address myself to the controversy surrounding voting procedures in the recent SU General Election.

Being responsible for the hiring and supervision of poll staff, I was dismayed to learn that certain individuals had violated the right of voters to a secret ballot. For the information of Mr. Lambrecht and others who are justifiably concerned, the Returning Office has not changed its policy regarding secret balloting procedures. It appears that there was a rather serious misunderstanding

between myself and the people working at the Rutherford poll. (To the best of my knowledge, this was the only poll where the examination of completed ballots occurred.) In retrospect, I'm not altogether sure that the Returning Office could have done anything further, short of posting a third party at every poll to supervise the staff (not a particularly satisfactory or practical solution, in my view), to anticipate or avoid this particular situation. I feel that the poll staff was given as much supervision, instruction, and opportunity for clarification as practicably possible.

I would also like to clarify the issue regarding the piling of completed ballots beside the ballot boxes. It was the intent of the Returning Office to exchange empty ballot boxes for full ones as it became necessary. However, in some instances, it was not possible to switch the ballot boxes before they had been filled to capacity. When such a situation arose, the poll staff was instructed to place the completed ballots (folded) into large manilla envelopes, which were to be sealed when reasonably full and placed under the ballot box until someone from the Returning Office came to collect the ballots. Admittedly, this is not the most desirable method for handling ballots, but under the circumstances, I feel I dealt with the problem in the most reasonable manner possible.

It is rather unfortunate that one cannot be omniscient and anticipate all of the problems that can and do arise, in spite of the best intentions and precautionary measures being taken. In dealing with those situations, it is often a matter of choosing the lesser of evils. Nevertheless, I do acknowledge and accept responsibility for organizational flaws in the election, and would like to apologize to those who feel they were unjustly treated as a result. This election was a vast learning experience for me, and I anticipate several changes will be made before the next one takes place. I would appreciate hearing from people who have constructive comments and/or suggestions to make concerning elections, and may be contacted through the Returning Office, Rm. 271 SUB.

Thank you.
Susan J. Savage
Returning Officer

Abortion arguments

The students' council's failure to endorse the International Campaign for Abortion Rights can be viewed as a step backward in the advancement of human liberties. An even greater blow to human progress is

evident however, in the realization that some of our students' council members have escaped the general evolution of humankind. Our VP Academic, for one, appears to be living in a bygone age, when social values regarded a woman as being merely the property of a man; a commodity to be used and exchanged at his pleasure.

Ekelund objects

As an English major, I am concerned about the article Friday regarding Student Council and the abortion issue. One quote (I know, since it was my speech) contained the first two sentences, and the final sentence, of a speech of considerably more than three sentences. The quotations about my moral beliefs, and that Student Council should not be taking a stand, are correct. The middle section, beginning with "there are a lot of people who feel the same way about it as I do," and concerning Student Council alienating itself from a minority (or possibly a majority), who have very strong feelings on this issue, is missing.

That is fair comment; one must be responsible for all of what one says. But leaving out the ellipses ... that is grounds for rejecting an entire essay — as far as we are told in English classes. But then, maybe a university student newspaper is not a place where academia or scholarship could be expected to play a part.
Michael Ekelund
Arts I

Ekelund, in stating that "A woman's choice is made before the abortion," apparently denounces the value of sex as the mutual interaction between two equal participants, man and woman. One can only conclude that Ekelund views sexual experiences as being man's pleasure and woman's responsibility.

Regardless of Ekelund's "religious and moral" convictions on the issue of abortion, I suggest that he make it his duty as an elected representative of the students, to seek out and represent these students, rather than espouse his personal opinion. Personally, I find it contemptible that a prominent member of the students' council should take the liberty to make an adamant denouncement of such a controversial issue.

In closing, I would like to suggest that should Ekelund, in his future political career, decide to appeal to the voters under a pseudonym truly representative of his ideological stance, employ CAVEMAN rather than STUNTMAN. How could he lose!

C. Graydon
Arts III

Fifth column flounders

Dear Lady:
What's all this I hear about you guys selling some damn magazine called Fifth Column supposedly a collection of the best columns from *The Gateway*?

Nobody told me about this damn thing! Here I am sitting at the end of a goddam pier fishing for my dinner, and that damn **Don Truckey** is back at home milking money from my name.

Let me tell you, it's just like the old days at *The Journal* when **Art Evans** used to try and cheat me at crib. It got even worse when **Keith Ashwell** showed up, because he always needed money for support payments. **John Neville**.

You'll have to pardon my language, but this damn thing has me damn mad. Why, if I hadn't retired to this semi-tropical paradise, I'd march right over to that campus and punch **Loreen Lennon** right in the editorial snoot.

I'm coming home as soon as I sell enough flounders to buy an airline ticket.

Frank Mutton
Cap Ferret, France

Morality not inhibitory

I would like to reply to Ken Graham's "even more chic" letter of Feb. 15. Mr. Graham finds a timeless morality objectionable because it is based on the idea that man does not change. He advocates a "floating morality" which is based on the idea that "man's mental and physical attributes as well as his circumstances, change constantly."

While it is true that men must constantly adapt to new situations which give them new perspectives, there are aspects of human nature which do not change. The primary motivations (of love, hate, greed, lust, curiosity and jealousy, among others) do not change, and men's fundamental responses to these stimuli do not change.

In maturing, individuals learn how to best react to these stimuli in the fashion that will

maintain both a socially responsible and a personally acceptable lifestyle.

Rules of morality and ethics have evolved from maturing societies and individuals and are guidelines to behaviour that will aid in this maturation.

As such, morality is neither "old-fashioned" nor "inhibitory" as both the advertisement and Mr. Graham claim. It is this element of the advertising to which I object.

Gateway has regularly published ads for prophylactics that were not objectionable because they stuck to describing their product. This ad concentrated on putting down moral standards to which a sizeable proportion of the people on this campus adhere.

Ross Smillie
Science II