

MORE LETTERS

Farzad and Chad ace

I find the art and political insight in "Farzad and Chad" quite appealing. Keep it up boys!
Farzad's Dad

Quebec only gets fair share

Re: "Quebec too Powerful" letter by Russell Connors (March 17).

With the exception of the immigration issue, Mr. Connors paints a completely misleading picture of Quebec's situation. Here is a point-by-point reply to his letter.

- Quebec does not see itself as more of an independent country than a province, since the people of Quebec voted 62 percent against sovereignty-association in the 1980 referendum.

- Every province has the right to opt out and create their own pension plan. Quebec decided to opt out in order to implement a plan that covered more people than the national one.

- Every province also has the right to administer their own taxes. Most other provinces do not collect their own taxes because of the cost involved. Quebec residents also fill out a federal tax form as well.

- In terms of job-creation and other federal monies, the province of Ontario has just as much if not more political clout than Quebec, and is also in the habit of receiving too big a piece of the pie. It is curious that no hostilities are pointed at Ontario.

- The province of Quebec, in addition to all the federal laws, has a civil code of its own, in the Napoleonic tradition. Because the Quebec civil code is unique and extensive, three supreme court judges from Quebec are required in order to handle such cases. By convention, the province of Ontario is also represented by three supreme court judges, and they do not have any statutes so unique as the civil code.

- Through the Meech Lake accord, all provinces will have the right to submit a list of candidates for vacant supreme court and senate nominations. Quebec gets no special treatment in this regard.

Quebec residents also pay a much greater amount of income tax than most provinces; they do not get any more transfer payments than they are entitled to from the federal government. Anything they get extra, they pay for.

Quebec does not receive any special treatment, and I don't believe it should. It simply exercises more of its options. As for the language issue, the Quebecois take it to heart and soul, and it deserves better treatment than it gets. If anyone wishes to clear the Quebec fog, I suggest they speak to a Canadian History professor or a prof. at the Faculte Saint-Jean, rather than accept Mr. Connors' letter or my own as the truth.

Philip Prville

Gateway biased

Your bias is showing.

While I commend the staff and volunteers of the Gateway for producing a student newspaper which has been much more responsible, ethical, and on time this year than in many years previous, I do have a concern with the paper's coverage of the recent Students' Union general elections. Your selections of which stories to write, the printing of unsubstantiated and scandalous letters, and editorials which blatantly attempt to injure the credibility of candidates, were neither responsible nor ethical.

My concerns focus on the 15 and 17 March issues of the Gateway. I draw your attention to the following:

- in the March 15 Gateway, editors chose to print six (6) letters in support of or in defence of Paul LaGrange or otherwise injurious to the Pallister Slate. There was one (1) letter potentially injurious to the Together slate;
- in the March 17 Gateway, Editors chose to print two (2) letters directly attacking the Pallister Slate and one (1) letter "incensed at the publicity machine working for LaGrange's slate";

- in the 15 March Gateway, Rod Campbell, Editor-in-Chief, wrote an editorial injurious to Board of Governors candidate Steve Twible;

- in the 15 March Gateway, Rod Campbell wrote a front-page article in defence of the Together Slate and its battle against "homo-

phobic propaganda". All candidates were subject to such abuses. Why was the Together Slate the object of Mr. Campbell's news story?

I'm disappointed. It was my understanding and my hope that the Gateway was to remain neutral during this student election and not allow its pages to be used as campaigning tools.

My interest is in equity and impartiality. The Gateway has a responsibility to U of A students to print the facts in ways that are fair, comprehensible, and entertaining.

Once the Gateway assumes the role of advocate and opinion-maker, once the Gateway enters the political arena, once the Gateway ceases to be fair, whose interests are being served?

As reporters and editors, your individual opinions and biases are irrelevant. I rely on the Gateway for well-researched and balanced coverage. As you manipulate the various pages of our paper for whatever reasons, you do us all a disservice.

Ed. note: The Gateway coverage of the election was neutral, and never endorsed individuals or slates.

Music criticism insipid

I am sure that many people were as offended as I by Randal Smathers' rather 'insipid' interpretation of what makes music great. According to Smathers, it must be lyrically inane and contain numerous references to sex, motorcycles and drinking. The European groups referred to as 'bullshit' (U2, Europe, Eurythmics) in his review of George Thorogood and the Destroyers latest album have one thing in common: they are extremely talented and successful.

What I found particularly offensive was the inclusion of Eurythmics on his hate list and his unflattering description of their music. It is true that electronics make up a lot of Eurythmics music but that in itself is not justification for his comments. People listen to Eurythmics because they enjoy the sound of Lennox's "... sensuous and high-powered vocals..." (Graftiti); a voice that "... twists and turns dreamily around itself." (Rock Express). Their latest album, *Savage*, is in fact "... a

showcase for Lennox's astonishing range." (Rolling Stone). This is the stuff of great music.

I am sure that this provincial hippy-artist-music critic can find other ways of glorifying his rock idol (even going to the trouble of drawing a picture of Thorogood to accompany his review) without making comparisons to groups producing obviously different genres of music.

Ken L. Benoit

Referendum wrongly worded

The WUSC Student Refugee Program may very well be worthy of support from the students of the university. That is not the issue. The issue is the freedom of choice, of each student, to support or to reject this charity. The wording of the referendum was wrong because it could not ensure that freedom.

In the event of a "yes" majority, the freedom of choice to reject this charity would be denied the "no" voters. The wording would allow them only the freedom to disagree with supporting the charity; they still would be forced to support it. Further, the freedom to choose to support or reject the program would be denied new students enrolling next year.

Conversely, it is worthwhile noting that in the event of a "no" majority, the "no" voters' freedom to choose to reject would be upheld, the freedom of new students to choose to support or reject would not be usurped, and the "yes" voters would still be able to support the program.

The wording on the ballot should have read to the effect, "I agree that each student, during registration, be given the freedom of supporting WUSC..." Otherwise, no referendum should have been held.

The WUSC Committee and any other group planning similar programs ought to heed these points. Paul LaGrange, who mistakenly believed that his support for holding the referendum would protect everyone's freedom to choose or to reject WUSC, should heed them too. True to his campaign slogan, he now has an "incentive to be better."

M. Peterson

First Year Frog

All these books and no sign of Compus Security!

RATHER OF LIBRARY

All these books and no one to stop me!

BUZZZZZZZ

GOTCHA!

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