

Letters cont. Cult of Law

Letter to the Editor:

Golly, Leslie Jevne (Society Against Mind Abuse), thank you for setting me straight on what exactly constitutes a "cult". You defined the "Mormon" church as a cult because it "trains their members to lie and uses psychological coercion. Their methods include peer group pressure, removal of privacy, disinhibition and financial commitment."

I appreciate those insightful guidelines because I have found a huge cult right here on campus — it's called the "Faculty of Law"!

Unsuspecting law students are expected to commit huge sums of money to their education, and they have to spend most of their waking hours studying in a crowded library with few bathrooms. The Faculty professors use all kinds of psychological teaching and training methods in their classrooms. What is worse, law students are called on individually in class to shed their inhibitions and voice their feelings on legal issues. Peer pressure is all-pervasive, and the Faculty sees its role as a preparation for recruitment into the Law Society of Alberta. (There is one positive note: law students are *not* taught to lie, but then, neither are "Mormons".)

Wow Leslie, looks like you and the cult... er... I mean... Society Against Mind Abuse have your work cut out for you. And after you're done with the Faculty of Law, you had better start on "cults" such as the Boy Scouts of Canada, the New Democrats,...

Randy E. Lonsdale
Law II

Executive inaction

I have been reading several articles in *The Gateway* as well as in *The Journal* on the prospect of 400 students being thrown out of university for failure of the Writing Competency exam. This exam amounts to little more than a form of indirect quota as well as serves to add funds to the university's coffers. While there is a need for a "literacy test" at any university, this is not acceptable.

Another thing that I read in *The Gateway* was Students' Union Vice-President Academic, Caroline Nevin, merely informing the students and council of the problem. The idea of a *students' union* implies that it will act in the interest of students. As the sole students' lobby on campus, the Students' Union and Caroline Nevin should be actively opposing the expulsions resulting from this test.

The original article and subsequent articles have not shown that Caroline Nevin has any plans to do anything about this problem. What is the use of a V.P. Academic that does not do her job to represent student interest?

Students should expect a more active response to this serious problem from their student lobby. Talk and no action will do nothing to change university policy.

Richard Hiran
Arts II

Academic action

There are 400 students on this campus who will be required to withdraw from the university if they do not pass the Writing Competency Test on Nov. 28th or 29th. As V.P. Academic, I am trying to fight this at all levels: General Faculties Council, General Faculties Executive, Academic Development Committee, Faculty Councils and Deans. Myself and the Students' Union Academic Affairs Board brought forward a thoughtful, cohesive policy to Students' Council on Tuesday night - but, despite the pressing urgency of action and the inclusion of a policy in which the Students' Union would offer FREE clinics to students before they write the exam, some councillors felt that they were unable to represent their constituents' views on the matter.

I ask ALL students to take advantage of the follow-

ing options:

- 1) Talk to your council representative;
 - how do you feel about the Writing Competency Test?
 - if your opinions have not been sought before this time, why not?
 - are your Student Councillors representing you, the student?

2) Sign the petition asking Students' Council to act on the Academic Affairs Board's policy for action on the Writing Competency Test (this can be picked up at my office, Rm. 259, S.U.B.).

3) Talk to the Academic Affairs Board, the board proposing the Writing Competency Test policy, on Thursday, Nov. 7th at 6 p.m., Rm. 270A, S.U.B. Do you want to see your Students' Council acting on this policy?

It is important that *all* students voice their opinions. Council must be used as a governmental decision-making body representing the students who voted councillors into a position of authority and representation, not as an arena for baby politicians who wish to play games at the expense of students.

The Writing Competency Test is an issue that affects ALL students; we must treat this matter with urgency and deal with it NOW.

Caroline Nevin
V.P. Academic
Students' Union, U. of A.

What? Not boring?

Dear Editor:

I congratulate you on the editorial that appeared Thursday last under the headline "Color fever." Under such a title I expected to find another lugubrious diatribe against the Pretorian regime, so it surprised and delighted me to discover instead a commentary on the shamefully neglected subject of the colors that our modern-day gladiators carry into battle. The truly deplorable taste in this matter exhibited by so many of the major-league franchise owners has escaped deserved censure for much too long — although, of course, it is easy to understand how the sporting pundit's capacity for outrage can be exhausted by the disgraceful behavior of the Ballards and Steinbrenners. Nevertheless, Mr. Bennett deserves the thanks of every sporting aficionado who has risked color blindness while watching the Vancouver Canucks.

At the risk of sounding fulsome in my praise, I must also congratulate Graeme (is that really how it is spelled?) Whamond (perhaps it is a pseudonym) on the excellent recipes he supplied — "Starvin' student," same edition. The combination of these two excellent pieces provided the most useful and informative issue of *The Gateway* to date. Had there been another outstanding review of one of the "Archie" publications, my happiness would have been complete.

Keep up the good work, *Gateway*! Let's have more of this in place of the unbearably boring shit you usually print — women's lib, South Africa, fag rights, federal, provincial, municipal, and/or university politics, Floyd Hogshead, Nicaragua, born-again anything, et cetera ad nauseum. Can it be that there is someone in your office who really has his/her fingers on the pulse of the student community?

I remain, Sir (Madam)
Your obedient, humble servant
M.F. Murray
Arts II

Motorists' Mayhem

In response to 'Bicycle Boobs':

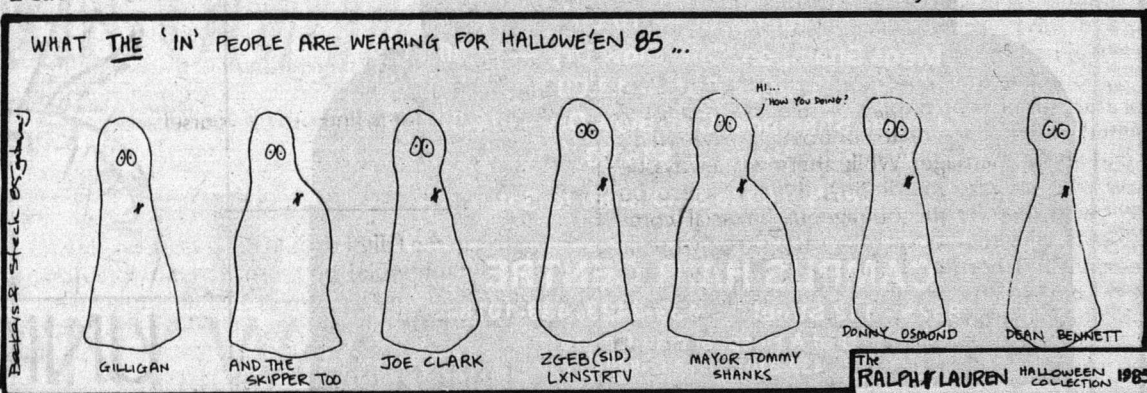
I have to assume that your letter (Wayne Lavold) was not well thought out. I could easily criticize all motorists on the basis of those few who insist on 'scaring' me (cutting me off or beating me to an intersection just for the thrill of forcing me into some action). Don't laugh, it is no fun having a five-thousand pound asshole made of metal trying to kill you.

I agree with many of your complaints (I have some more that you failed to mention as well). But please don't paint all cyclists with the same brush in the same careless stroke.

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