

On your mark, get set . .

As the campaign begins for yet another Students' Union General Election, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all students of their role in this election. I encourage each of you to hear the candidates at the forum on February 9. Classes are cancelled from 12-1 p.m. If your professor refuses to cancel class for this time period, please contact the Students' Union Executive Offices, 259 SUB, phone 432-4236.

One further reminder: Candidates are now putting up posters and distributing campaign information. They are not to be torn down or tampered with in any way. Please respect the time and effort that went into these materials, and leave them in the form for which they were intended. Thank you.

Glenn Byer, Chief Returning Officer

Kiss of death

When I read "Sight for Sore Lips: Herpes and the Common Canker" (Gateway January 18, 1983) I was surprised to read how innocuous herpes simplex virus is. Since I had read Time's article "Today's Scarlet Letter - Herpes" I decided I would "take the media with a grain of salt."

I found an independent reference regarding herpes in a professional magazine, *Laboratory Management*. The articles were called "Herpes Simplex: Diagnostic Methods" (June 1981) and is intended to describe identification of and laboratory handling of the herpes simplex virus (HSV).

It describes the effects of herpes. "... herpes simplex must now be acknowledged as capable of manifesting itself in a number of ways, ranging from subclinical infection to severe or even fatal disease." In describing the "Clinical Aspects of HSV Infection" the virus is "...implicated as possibly causative of carcinoma of the cervix and certain behavioral disorders, but more research is needed..." It is also "... the most common cause of sporadic fatal encephalitis (infection of the brain) in the United States and the cause of the second most frequently detected venereal disease, and can be devastating to immuno-suppressed patients and those with malnutrition. Beyond these effects herpes can cause a viral conjunctivitis (infection of the eye) that may lead to blindness."

Herpes is especially dangerous to newborns of mothers who have the disease. "Herpes infection during the first 4 weeks post-partum can be life-threatening to the newborn. In confirmed cases of neo-natal herpes, the central nervous system is the most commonly affected system; about 50% of such cases are fatal. Disseminated HSV-2 infections in neonates are usually fatal; with permanent defects of the central nervous system and eyes not unusual in infants who survive."

According to this article herpes can be serious and possibly fatal to those infected, especially to babies. Sick, old and run-down persons are also endangered by herpes.

This contrasts rather sharply with the impression one gets from article "Sight for Sore Lips." Herpes is "...not exactly serious...and the risks to well-being are not insurmountable." I think that the Gateway did as poor a job as *Time* did in representing the facts of the matter.

John Adria, Science IV

Assassins purile Gateway yellow

As a spectator at the C.O.S.S. meeting at which the *Assasins* (sic) were discussed, and as one who has had previous dealings with Dr. Sartoris, I must strenuously object to the very one-sided front-page editorializing that put the yellow back in journalism.

Perhaps, for the sake of the record, it should be noted that the Students' Union, and NOT the office of the Dean of Students was perhaps remiss in the failure to inform their clubs of the possible difficulties with certain activities. Conway appropriate to the SU the position of Sole Arbiter of Campus Values as a Horowitz-ordained right. If so, recent events have shown the SU to have been irresponsible in its exercise. Had they properly been exercising it the *Assasins* would have gotten these things cleared up before these recent measures were deemed necessary. By the way, some of us are getting together to form a Rapists and Child-Diddlers Club. Its seems that the SU should have no objection, on principle.

How nice and socially responsible for them who play at murder (Look Thelma, they use toy guns at University! I wonder what form of higher learning that is?) to be giving their proceeds to charity. As if that justifies their pretense at crime. And my understanding is that until they were questioned by Dr. S., the monies were destined for no more lofty and noble a purpose than the self-aggrandizement of their purile club.

My heart bleeds that the evil Dr. S. should have been so crass as to (shudder) break protocol. Unspeakable! It seems that someone was asleep when Dr. S. gave his very good and sufficient reasons for doing so in the C.O.S.S. meeting. In his estimation (and, it appears, not his alone) time was of the essence since the game was about to begin and any later action would amount to closing the door after the bull was out. The problem is that the bull did get out. And remember you read it right here first, in the Gateway.

Stripped of its thick brown covering, the whole episode is seen best as an attempt by the smallness that resides in the SU to make some sort of misguided political powerplay on the office of the Dean of Students.

Mark Kowalsky, Law II

ME Note: Three sections of obscene personal abuse were deleted from this letter for legal reasons.

Conservative conversation

by Gilbert Bouchard

"We spoke earlier about some of the natural difficulties of bringing the Conservative party together. Those problems are more acute after a leadership convention: a leadership convention calls forth these differences. The differences are emphasized rather than the common purpose, and you spend a great deal of time tidying up afterward. I spent a year and a half last time. We don't have a year and a half to waste this time."

-Joe Clark in an interview in the January 31 *Macleans*

Needless to say Mr Clark's opinion changed last Friday when he stepped down as leader of the PC's and called for a leadership convention. Even after receiving 66.9% of the review vote Clark felt that his mandate was not strong enough.

Ray Conway, SU VP Internal and a non-voting observer at the Winnipeg convention was just as concerned with the change in the party's leadership review mechanism that slipped by in the turmoil of Friday night's bombshell resignation.

"A motion was on the table for a leadership review after every general election. Pat Nowland made an amendment to the motion so that a review can only be held after a losing election." Conway doubts the rationality of the move since most of the delegates were still very emotional from the night before. (Ironically Joe Clark was one of the forces behind the introduction of the secret ballot leadership review in 1966.)

Conway stressed that "a review of the leader is essential on a regular basis" but that the review system adopted over the weekend "is such that it would be possible to go for long periods of time without reviewing the leadership."

Disillusioned by the situation Conway believes that this change puts "more emphasis on winning than on leading" and that "the Liberals could dump Trudeau even if he is prime minister but the Conservatives cannot dump their leader unless he loses a general election, it doesn't matter if he propagates the good of the party or not, it only matters if he wins or not."

Hence the importance of ideology and the competency of the leader pales before his ability to win elections.

The message to future leaders is "to win, no matter how."

Turning our attention to the matter of the leadership review itself, Conway began by stating that "the review was not simply a matter of numbers."

The 33% of the delegates opposing Clark were actively opposing him. A leader can stand fast with 2/3 of the party passively supporting him and 1/3 of the party passively opposing him, but Clark's 1/3 was a bit too vocal in their protests."

The party's "duty is now to elect a competent leader," but Conway cautions that "good candidates could be afraid of getting involved in the slimy politics surrounding the leadership convention. It could be difficult for a really good candidate to make a stand."

As to the rumours that the Liberals are thinking of calling a snap election while the Conservatives flounder for a leader, Conway believes that "you don't call an election in such a malicious fashion, the Liberals have a better chance if they act like gentlemen."

Overall Conway is still confident that the Conservatives will overcome. "The conservatives may have weakened their chances but the situation can still be turned to their advantage if they can give the impression of a ground swell, and if a charismatic leader could create a tidal wave of support."

Clark's decision to call a leadership convention was controversial as it was expensive. As Grant Notley commented the day after, "Clark could have made a good cause for staying in office." After all, Clark could have taken the 66.9% and run, perhaps with the loss of face but all political moves involve some loss.

Clark's move could cost four or five million dollars (the price tag on a convention) added to the three million dollars blown on Winnipeg. Tack on seven or eight million dollars for the up-coming general election and you have a very heavily indebted party.

The leadership convention will not act as a magic wand unifying the fractured party. Nope, the PC's need more than a band-aid solution.

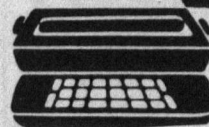
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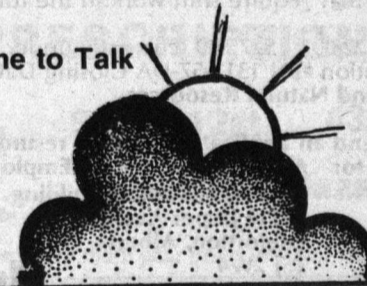
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M-F 8 am. - 11 pm.
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Student Help

SU ELECTION



NEED SOME EXTRA CASH?

The Students' Union requires staff for the General Election on Friday, February 11. Help us out and earn \$5.00/hour at the same time. For further information, please contact the SU Returning Office (Room 271, SUB) or the Receptionist SU Executive Offices (Room 259, SUB).