

Mideast letter debate becomes redundant

Since the first week of Sept/81 we have witnessed many people indulge in a debate on the Middle East through this newspaper including myself.

I for one, made an honest attempt to give an objective view of the situation. Others made foolish statements to manifest their likes and dislikes. If that isn't enough some even twisted the facts around in order to argue against them in a hypocritical fashion.

Since it is my belief that the Middle East dilemma is a very serious topic to discuss and I see this cannot be done constructively at this university I'm forced to withdraw from this arena. I will no longer be a part of this "diatribe".

By writing on the Middle East I had hoped to bring the issue out in the open thus getting non-Arabs and non-Israelis involved so that they would have a better understanding of the situation. Perhaps I succeeded for a while. Many Canadians showed interest but the issue has now gotten out of hand.

In the last letter by Thomas Mueller I was misquoted and I categorically disclaim any statements made on my behalf.

Illustration: A). Thomas Mueller states, I claim to be a moderate. This I'm not. Realizing how much the word radical alarms the North American Society I owe it to truth to say that I'm a radical. I claim this with a proud

forehead.

B) Mr. Heuller goes further saying that I think Yasser Arafat and Farouk Kadoumi are ridiculous in thinking what they do. This is a typical example of false statements. I sincerely believe Arafat and other heads of the P.L.O. are heroic in doing their best to defend the Palestinian masses. Ooops! I said masses, will I be labelled as communist? if so a Marxist, please.

C) Indeed I agree that Eastern Jews have a right to the "Holy Land" as they did in 1948 under a democratic flag of Palestine. Mr. Mueller seems to think I believe those of European origin have the same rights, this is not true. Clarified!

It is sad to know, I could not escape your tongue, Mr. Mueller yet I can easily avoid your eyes.

I forbid you or anyone else from prejudicing my entity as an Arab.

I would ask you, in virtue of your unfailing kindness, if not condescension towards me, not to perjure yourself and libel me. I assume that you are smart enough to realize that you are treading a very shaky ground indeed.

Possibly Mr. Mueller portrayed me as a moderate in order to persuade me to accept the invitation to his residence. If I may quote you Mr. Mueller, you stated that you are a "Pro Palestinian Zionist" I must say its rather unique. Its like being a devoted member of the Ku Kluk Klan yet

a lover of Blacks. Statements of this calibre fill me with much reluctance to join the "Israelis" for a discussion at your residence.

Is the Middle East problem a hand of poker or a game of soccer so that we join hands and discuss it warmly at your residence? I don't believe so, it has a much more serious tone. Therefore, I graciously decline.

Think what you will. Nevertheless I'm ready to debate the issue on university grounds in a professional manner with anyone under the sun. The

Arab Student Association is more than willing to debate with members of Hillel house in a Public forum.

If you are driven with much eagerness, Mr. Mueller; you could arrange for a well established discussion on campus in broad daylight with no cheer leaders.

I'd like to say this letter is not a put down of anyone, on the contrary it is an attempt on my behalf to clarify the issue at hand. If anything I would hope to see all parties involved in the Middle East debate study their writings

carefully before submitting to this newspaper. In the future my spare time will be spent reading good essayists, maybe you could all do the same leaving hope for future encounter.

I implore you all, for the sake of all human lives being lost daily in the Middle East to refrain yourselves from abusing this very touchy subject.

Oscar Ammar
Political Science
President of the Arab
Students Association

Budget approval for money spent

Just a brief letter of clarification regarding the Gateway articles (on the front page of the Thursday November 5 edition) concerning the University Athletic Board. The UAB is not attempting to raise "fees by 15% without any input from students."

The majority of members on the UAB are students, four of whom also sit on Students' Council.

At present the UAB is allowed to raise the UAB fee by one dollar per year without going to a student referendum. However it must be ratified by the University Board of Governors. This one dollar increment amounts to only a 3.7 per cent increase which comes no where near the rate of inflation. The UAB, therefore, requires the ability to raise the fees in accordance with actual cost increases. This does not mean that the fee will be increased by 15 per cent, only that it will be a more realistic maximum figure that will allow maintenance (not expansion)

of the high quality athletic programs (intramural, intercollegiate and clubs) at this university.

It should also be noted that Students' Council was never told "No" to seeing the budget for the athletic programs. Rather they were told that it was not possible for them to have input into this year's budget as it is already in its operational stage. The council was told that their input would be requested for next years budget.

Another incorrect statement is that no information is available regarding student attendance at intercollegiate events and student participation in the intramural programs. Information on students attending intercollegiate events is readily available and the intramural programs keep elaborate statistics on participation.

The Intramural councils of both the Men's and Women's programs are made up entirely of students and can initiate any

changes that they feel will improve their programs.

Finally it should be mentioned that the changes we are suggesting for the UAB constitution are not an attempt to evade accountability but rather to bring the constitution up to date with changes that have occurred in the administrative structure over the past twenty years or so. The intention is to increase accountability.

These issues will be discussed in more detail at tonight's (Tuesday November 10) meeting of the Students' Council. If there are any further questions please feel free to contact either of us through the Athletic Services office (W1-34 in the Physical Education Building or phone 432-3365.)

Yours truly,
Dickson Wood
President of Men's Athletics
Chairman of the Univ.
Athletic Board.
Tracy David
President of Women's
Athletics

Student election info needed

I would like to add a few comments to Roy Van Hooydonk's (Nov. 3, 1981) article concerning the by-election two weeks ago.

As a person who believes that it is a duty to vote, I would very much have liked to have voted.

I didn't vote because of two reasons. For one, I was not well-informed that there was even an election being held. Secondly, when I did go to the booth, I had no idea of who the candidates were and what they stood for.

The lack of information was not an error on my part; it was due

to the very limited publicity given to the event. One cannot be expected and, indeed, should not be allowed to vote unless he or she is well-informed.

If the university wishes the students to participate in any elections, let us be made aware of the candidates and the issues in question.

I am absolutely appalled with the "couldn't-care-less" attitude with which important events are often treated around here. I sincerely suggest that the university pull up its socks!

Christine Baghdady
Pol. Sci. II

Longer coffee breaks

Hey! Here's a great idea. Amazing nobody came up with it before. OK, here goes: (You better be sitting down.)

You've all got to agree that there's just not enough time between classes. There's hardly time to see all your friends, catch up on the news, or even get a good cup of coffee. Right?

Well here's a real simple solution: We just have to exchange the class times with the

break times. Most Profs only say about ten minutes of important stuff in any lecture anyway. Then we would have fifty minutes to see everybody, catch up on all the gossip, and get our coffee. (I mean like, Java's a long way from Tory!) The keeners would have lots of time to bother the Profs too.

Incredible this hasn't been done already!

A Concerned Student,
Somewhere in HUB.

Let spectators pay for the gold

I would like to comment on the proposed 15% hike by UAB of its chunk of your money and my money. (Gateway Nov. 5)

Dean Hengel seems to be

Loyalist

I would like to congratulate and thank you for the excellent articles that you wrote, printed and accept credit for on the front page of the November 5, issue of the Gateway.

These articles were informative, interesting, complete and precise. We, the students of the University of Alberta are indeed lucky to have you as our spokesman.

Should you feel that this letter is not complimentary enough, part II is in the mail.

Andrij Samoil
(loyal follower)

missing the point. The point is not whether inflation warrants a 15% increase but rather that thousands of students at this university are forced to financially support a program (Inter-Collegiate sports) which they have absolutely no interest in whatsoever.

My reply to his comment that "Travel costs for intercollegiate teams are rising rapidly" is: Let the spectators to these games pay the travel costs.

In these times of budget cuts and financial belt tightening too much money is being spent on a program that too many people just could not care less about. It is time for these people to stand up and say 'Golden Bears?, Golden Pandas?, Golden touch?, Golden whatever, We really don't care!'

Let the ones who are interested in Inter-Collegiate sports be the ones who pay for Inter-Collegiate sports. For the rest of

us it is a wasteful luxury? that we simply cannot afford.

Darrell Makarenko
Grad Studies

Repondez

En reponse a votre question de la physique, dans le "Gateway" du cinq Novembre, ce n'est pas possible a resoandre le probleme a cause du fait que vous navez donne ni la masse, ni la vitesse des nuit premiere ministres.

In answer to your physics question in the November 5th edition of the Gateway, it is not possible to solve the problem as you have not given either the weight or speed of the 8 premiers.

J. Cretin

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