

Editorial

Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words in length. They must include your signature, faculty, year of program, I.D. number, and phone number. Requests for anonymity are at the discretion of the Managing Editor, but the above information is required regardless. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

Getty leaves a lousy legacy

Don Getty's conservative government recently announced a 3% cutback for the Advanced Education Ministry. On first hearing this it may not seem too drastic, but when one considers that this province's universities have already been playing catch-up economics for years, it spells doom. The cumulative effects of cutting corners has already taken its toll on our overcrowded, understaffed institutions.

Since we have seen a steady decline in quality education with minimal yearly increases, one's worst nightmare can only be realized with cutbacks. It's a hole we may never climb out of.

Even remaining on par with last year's budget would be a serious blow to the quality of education, but a roll back will be devastating in many respects. Cutbacks are synonymous with tuition increases, larger class sizes, fewer course offerings, and reduced student aid, just to name a few. The bottom line will be a lesser quality education at a higher price.

Granted, in tough economic times everyone has a responsibility to tighten the belt a little and try to be more resourceful when seeking ways to fund one's own education. However, some of the figures that have been bandied about, such as 15-20% tuition increases, may be a reality that has justifiably caused a lot of concern among students.

As it stands now, a first and perhaps even second year Science major may never see a class with less than one hundred and fifty classmates. Some courses have as many as five hundred students. How comprehensive can a class realistically be at such a size?

In subject areas of high technology, the definition of state-of-the-art can change before one has finished the phrase. How can labs be furnished with equipment for adequate instruction, not to mention research, with less than the bare-bone financing they have already been receiving? One just has to take a stroll through the labs in the Chemistry and Physics buildings to see the effects that budget restraints have had. The adjective *archaic* would not be out of line in some instances.

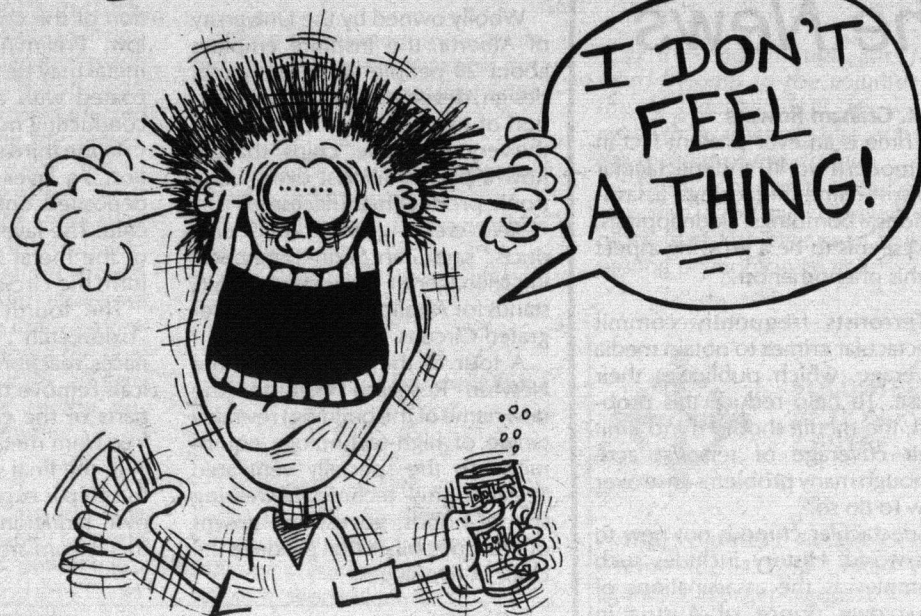
The question of adding new courses to keep up with the pace should be an academic one. In the light of restricted funding, this may be unrealistic.

Is this the legacy we want to leave our children? Do we want to force Albertans to leave the province or perhaps the country in search of adequate education? Unfortunately this has been the recent trend; the cutbacks will only speed up the process.

The Getty government would have us believe that we cannot avoid budget cutbacks. I say there are some things you just cannot afford to scrimp on - our future is one of them.

Juanita Spears

DOLT COLA!



FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO TAKE ON LIFE LIKE AN ON COMING FREIGHT TRAIN!!! THIS IS THE SOFT DRINK FOR YOU!!! "DOLT COLA," ASK FOR IT BY NAME!!!

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-GATEWAY-

Letters

Our Prez anti-ACT?

To The Editor:

At present, Student Union policy supports 0% tuition increases. At the Monday night Students' Council meeting Dave Oginski, Students' Union President, forwarded a motion proposing a change to that policy. This motion supports a tuition increase of up to 30% over 3 years. This motion also supports the provincial government proposal to cut back funding for education. If this motion is passed by Council at the next meeting, it would send a direct message to the government that students support cutbacks and are willing to pay the price. Since the Students' Union has already approved funding to the Anti-Cutbacks Team to fight these government cutbacks, this motion is inconsistent. This motion divides us and weakens the voice of the students. The Students' Union should retain a position supporting 0% tuition increases.

Charny Porsild
Arts IV

Nice capitalist venom

To The Editor:

I was absolutely horrified to read Alan Small's column of Jan. 8. It was one of the most racist, hate-mongering, red-necked, paranoid pieces I have ever seen in the Gateway. Mr. Small's guru must be Don Cherry.

And, by the way, the opposite of "communist" is "capitalist": not "democracy".

There is no doubt that underground capitalism is alive and well in the Soviet Union as can be attested to by anyone who has visited that country. Still, the kind of venom spewed out in "Nice capitalist rubles" is totally uncalled for and dangerous. It is the type of attitude that can only serve to exacerbate an already explosive world situation.

Laura Winopol

Despicable vandals

To The Editor:

Irresponsible vandalism and mutilation of library material have become an irritating aspect of scholarly life on campus.

In particular, it is virtually impossible to find complete copies of the *Far East Economic Review*, *Asia Week* and *South China Morning Post* (Hong Kong). In fact, the *Far East Economic Review* has been removed from normal access and will only be available upon request in Rutherford Library.

In future, I would like to see these updated irresponsible activities cease as information about Pacific Rim may not be always available in our Great North.

Ken Hui
Science II

Why must I drink?

To the Editor:

Non-drinkers are not welcome at many campus parties. I only realized this when I quit drinking on Jan. 1st. I didn't quit drinking entirely, of course. I only quit drinking alcohol, and only for 1987.

I did this only after earning a reputation for rapid and excessive consumption of copious quantities of various alcoholic beverages.

Since making this decision, I have been to two organized public parties on campus. At the first party, organized by the Lister Hall Students' Association, no non-alcoholic beverages were supplied. I had to bring my own. At the second, a Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity party, pop was available, but when I asked for a glass of pop, I was told, "Sorry, we're saving it for mix." I was allowed one glass of pop for the entire evening.

To be fair, I have to mention that the Dekes didn't charge me for the pop. And if I had complained to one of my friends in the fraternity, I'm sure they could have provided me with more. But I shouldn't have to pressure friends for a pop.

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Although I'm sure it is unintentional, the implied message is that non-drinkers are not welcome. This also discourages designated driver programs.

Party organizers and hosts should remember that some people do want to socialize, but don't want to drink. Therefore, non-alcoholic beverages should always be provided whenever a social gathering is planned.

K. Graham Bowers
Arts II

Apologize ya jerks!

To the Editor:

I have just had my opinion of engineering students confirmed — a large majority are ignorant jerks. I don't care whether or not it is Engineering Week; that is no excuse for the behaviour displayed in the foyer of TL 11 and 12 Tuesday morning. The class I was attending was continually interrupted by a large gathering of engineering students outside the lecture theatre doors. Their attempts to force the professor to end the class a full forty minutes early so they could occupy the room were distracting not only to the professor, but also to those trying to hear what she was saying. Her attempts to quiet them were only met with laughter and louder chants.

The lecture finally had to be stopped as the professor no longer had the voice to shout over the noise. The engineering students then flooded into the lecture theatre making it nearly impossible for the dismissed class to exit. Not only had they been drinking in the foyer, but they entered the lecture theatre with beers in hand, some of which was spilt on myself and possibly others. What I resent the most is having a lecture I have paid good money for interrupted so a bunch of drunk, inconsiderate engineering students can act like fools. I'm not saying it's wrong to have a good time, but when such fun interferes with the education of others, it is no longer acceptable.

Perhaps once sober, those engineering students involved (which was by no means a small number) will show some integrity and apologize to the class they disrupted and the professor they were disrespectful to.

Furious
Arts III

The Gateway

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