

Call off the dogs!

I am writing as an alumnus of the U. of A. and that fraternity system, both experiences I value very highly! I don't get a chance to read the *Gateway* very often and when I do have the opportunity I hope to enjoy a fairly good standard of writing. Thus, the "Final word on fraternities" was a particularly disappointing article by both Bernie Williams, the president of Kappa Sigma,

and the editor of the *Gateway* Gordon Turtle. Just as much as the tone of Mr. Williams' letter was vindictive, the editor's reply was equally fanatical. This 'tit for tat' style of expose buried any real and meaningful information on the subject...which I can only attempt to guess was a misunderstanding between Mr. Lear, Mr. Williams, Mr. Rampling and perhaps the above mentioned earlier.

Whether the subject be fraternities or the ski club, the editor's personal feelings towards the organization is irrelevant to *Gateway* readers. In fact, the editor's searing remarks about Mr. Williams and the fraternity system are needlessly inflammatory, especially given the confused situation of 'who wrote what and why!' A succinct clarification by the editor of the apparent misunderstanding would have been a lot more informative and so taken the wind out of everyone's sails, as well as establishing beyond doubt the editor's maturity and credibility.

Might be a long while before I pick up the *Gateway* again.

David Arminas
Arts '77

Languages chairman agrees

I should like to congratulate you on your excellent editorial "Freedom to Choose" of November 14th, 1979. (My letter has been delayed because of a cold.) I could not agree more with what you said. The Provincial Government always assumes it represents "the public." When one probes more deeply, one finds that ministers or MLAs have not heard more than the occasional remark at a cocktail party.

You are right when you say that professors and students must come out and make their opinions known. I am a department chairman and a member of the Executive of the Chairmen's Council, and I can assure you that I make my opinion known wherever and whenever I have an opportunity.

Gerwin Marahrens
Chairman
Germanic Languages

Second Wind

by Alison Thomson

The judgement, if nothing else, of the executive of the Federation of Alberta Students is seriously called into question by its decision to fire fieldworker Ross Campbell.

And their attempt to keep this issue in the closet casts more doubt on this judgement.

It must be said at the outset that there is little doubt that Campbell was not doing as good a job as former fieldworker and present executive officer Lake Sagaris. But as Lake is continually being described by the executive as "a veteran of the student movement," this is perhaps not surprising.

The FAS executive, when they hired Campbell, knew that he had not previous experience as a fieldworker. They apparently hired him for his interest and enthusiasm for the organization, which he still avows.

It seems strange, then, that they gave him no job description and very little instruction. To hear some of those involved talk, the function of a fieldworker is common knowledge. This is an extraordinary attitude to take. The job is an incredibly complex and difficult one, and the executive should have given Campbell all the help they could, rather than firing him for not doing things they had never told him were part of his job in the first place.

The executive, instead of evaluating him after one month as the contract requires them to do, waited until the period of probation was over before telling him they not were satisfied. They then gave him another three weeks to improve, and he did, as even the FAS president admits. It

seems some executive members had made their minds up long before that, though. That three-week period was lip service, a postponement of an unpleasant task. It certainly was not a second chance.

Campbell has been blamed for Red Deer College's decision to leave FAS. There were no such howls for Sagaris's blood when Grant MacEwan quit the organization last year while she was fieldworker. Campbell is in this instance a scapegoat for some serious problems with the organization's credibility to its membership.

At the conference, delegates were told that Campbell had resigned "for personal reasons." At the insistence of several people, his letter of resignation was read aloud, albeit with a good deal of reluctance. If it had not been for this, the incident would have been passed over. The membership is not required to approve dismissals. Pretty convenient for people who want to get rid of staff for political or personal problems.

I believe Campbell was unfairly treated by the executive of the FAS and by the staff who influence their decisions. Such treatment of an employee seems odd from student politicians who avow pro-worker beliefs.

Neophyte authors!

A newswriting seminar will be held on Friday at 3:00 in Room 282 SUB. Come one, come all (even those who think they can write already!).

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