

EDITORIAL

The Duffer falters

A number of prominent Liberals have blamed the Canadian news media for the party's stunning defeat at the polls in the election last Tuesday.

While the media can't be blamed for the destruction of the Liberal machine (or the resurrection of the Tories), the news media should be ashamed of the way they covered the election campaign.

The three major parties were on desperation runs: the Liberals could smell defeat; the Tories knew if they couldn't end the dynasty now, they never would; the NDP was in danger of losing parliamentary status. So all three parties aimed for voters' hearts rather than brains - or even guts.

Every night, our TV screens radiated images of a slick Brian Mulroney, a clumsy John Turner, and a trying-hard-to-be-honest Ed Broadbent. Every night, our newspapers featured eloquent, in-depth analyses on the deficiencies of the leaders: Mulroney too slick, Turner too clumsy, Broadbent too honest (or not honest enough).

The most astute political commentators remarked on how insubstantial the campaign was. And that's where the news media went wrong.

Instead of sitting around moaning, generally apathetic about the future of the country, more intensely interested in the beauty contest of the day, Barbara Frum, Mike Duffy, Jeffrey Simpson, Bruce Phillips, et al. should have taken the initiative themselves.

Instead of watching the leaders argue the price of promises, why didn't they ask if the parties would ever keep any promises? Instead of using the nuclear freeze issue as an illustration of rifts in party platforms, why didn't they prod politicians to state their solutions to nuclear armament?

Realistically, even if the news media had brought up these and other complex points, Canadians would not have flocked away from the Tories, but they might have cast more carefully considered votes. And maybe the 33rd Parliament would not be the "k" in "de-mock-racy".

Summer Silliness

It is going to be a controversial year.

Ever since SU President Floyd Hodgins and VP Internal Gordon Stamp promised to put a bit more zip and reactionary flavor into student politics, the SU building has been hopping with activity. Stamp is on record as supporting civil disobedience as a means of getting the Students' Union message to the public.

Confrontation is clearly the executive's game plan for the year. Too bad they can't temper all that confrontational vigor with some common sense.

While asking for the resignations of several SU support staffers, your executive, with the blessing of those council members present over the summer, decided to sue the University.

The case centered on the University's new policy for registration of new students.

Council authorized the executive to spend up to \$7,000 of your money to challenge the policy in court.

The court dismissed the SU case: it cost the SU \$2,000 for legal fees. But the final cost is greater.

Has the SU executive aided your cause through their confrontational 'trial by fire'?

Is it reasonable to expect University administrators will continue to listen as intently to student concerns?

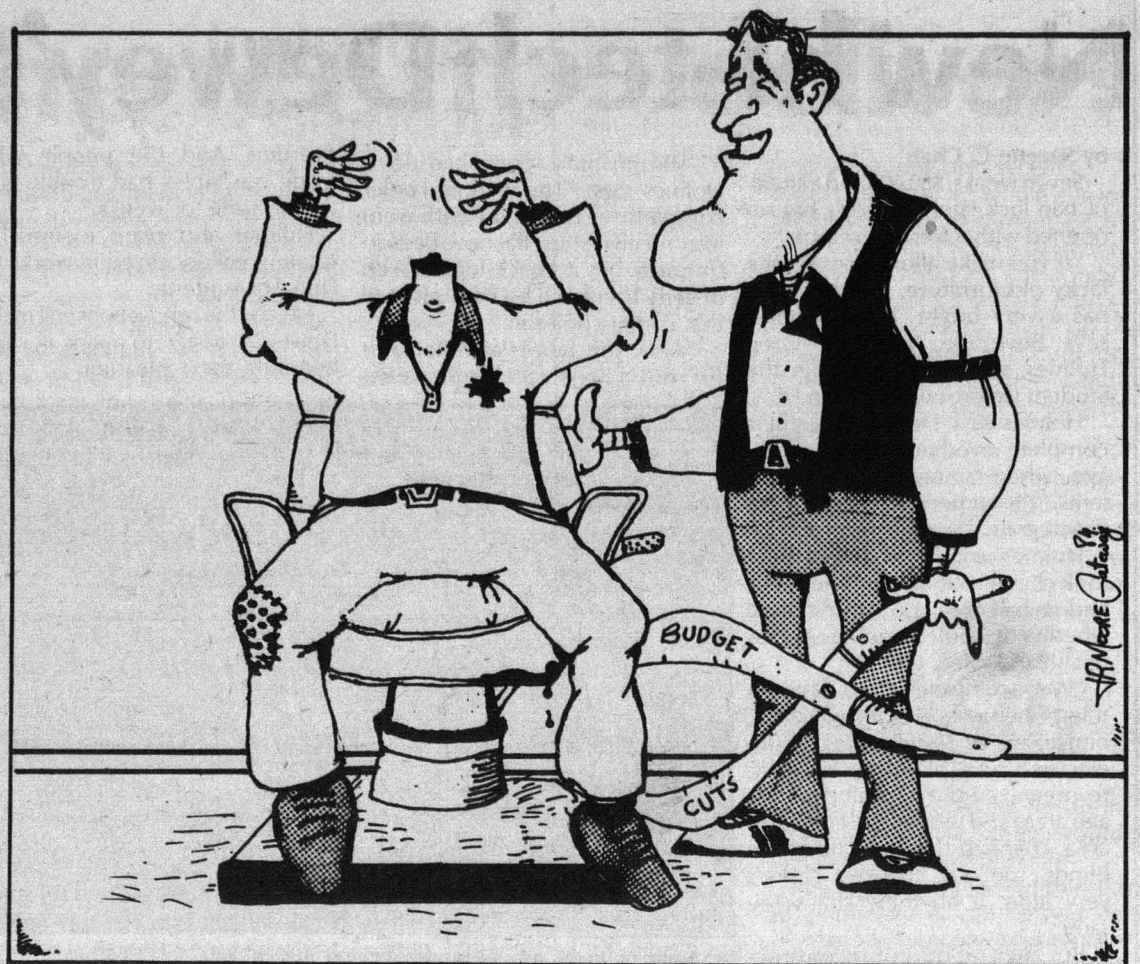
How will confrontation affect the role of the SU VP Academic, whose job it is to liaise with the University's senior administrators?

And let us not forget the issue that provoked all this action.

Do you honestly believe a person with a 65 per cent average in their final two years of secondary education will contribute in a positive way to the academic milieu on this campus?

Confrontation is a suitable strategy for initiating tough bargaining or forcing the opponent's hand when the cards are even. It requires forethought and the setting of clear goals that are both acceptable and achievable.

It is not a strategy for spoiled children to explore on their summer vacation.



There...And you thought it was going to hurt!

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Stamp of disapproval

This letter is my personal response to the article written by Suzette Chan on Page One of the first edition of the Gateway. I am extremely concerned with the inaccuracies of some of the facts (??); also the idea that only one side of the story was written considering members of the Executive were available for over ten hours per day over the summer.

The paragraphs about the firing of our Sub Theatre Manager were only half correct. Since he is no longer with us, I will not drag his name through the dirt.

The part about our Exam Registry Director isn't even close to being true. First, nobody gave him the authority to open the Exam Registry during the summer. Secondly, the S.U. Executive was concerned when wages for the month of May were almost \$800, yet nothing had been done to secure exams from 1983-84. Considering that the Executive had told him that the number one priority of the Exam Registry over the summer was to get all the exams from the previous year, I feel we were completely justified in our decision to clamp down on salary expenses. We also offered to work at the Exam Registry during the days that the Director could not come in, so I consider the part about him having to pay employees wages from his own paycheque to be totally unrealistic. If the Gateway had taken the time to ask, they would have been able to report that Brinton McLaughlin did an extremely good job in August to secure most of last year's exams.

The one-sided bullshit about the potential conflict of CUPE employees being on Students' Council needs a response. The CUPE agreement states "How-

ever, it is agreed that employees shall not become involved in student politics." The three Councillors knew and ignored this, yet I find it amazing that I get slandered with a Don Millar quote when Suzette Chan could have come to my office to get the facts. When you consider that a CUPE member on Students' Council has the power to fire their manager, I see a potential conflict.

Barb Donaldson being taken to D.I.E. Board on a conflict of interest charge was completely justified. As a Central Committee representative of CFS, there is no way she should have voted on June 26 that the students NOT have the democratic right to vote on whether we stay in CFS or not. Since the students will pay over \$90,000 this year to be in CFS and considering that Barb gets her expenses paid by CFS when travelling on CFS business, I feel that there was a conflict by her not allowing students to choose to withdraw from CFS.

I can't see how my attempt to fire the editor-in-chief of the Gateway's attempt to silence Don Millar's opposition. The *Summer Times* had "Thursday" on the top of every edition, yet it always came out on Friday or the following Monday or Tuesday. For some reason, I consider this to be "neglect and incompetence" by the editor. The first edition of the Gateway had September 5 as its publication date yet it was not available to students until September 6. For some strange reason, I am not impressed. I feel that since Gateway staff are paid by the students, they have the duty to be responsible to the students. I am writing this letter on September 10, and there are

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The blinking types, Janine McDade and Linda Derkson, are playing *What's My Line* on the video sets, while the Tooning Trio of Jim Moore, Shane Berg and David Bird scribe their newest opus of life. Michael Shore (no boat this time) and Geoff Brunborg are in the groove with our noted reviewers John Charles, Nate LaRoi, and Dan Watson. Don Teplyske and Warren Opheim didn't have zip squat to say about anything today. Brian Receveur smiled, as his cup runneth over. And hiding in the corners were Brenda Waddle, Sandy Vickerson, and the red-headed girl. And Bosco Chang