

"Ombudsman" responds to allegations

I have just received a letter from Professor Ronald Davey, chairman of the department of Art and Design, in which, referring to my January 11 column, he asks me to "take steps to repair your errors of fact, omission and interpretation both privately and publicly." When the Gateway called Dr. Davey to ask this letter could be published in my name to undertake this repair publicly, permission to do so was declined, and all further questions were met with "no comment." As a result, I shall simply have to quote the relevant portions of Dr. Davey's memo in order to make these repairs.

Discounting personal biases, the bulk of Dr. Davey's concern, which goes on for two pages, seems to boil down to the following:

Your article contains not less than eight errors - each one of them significant in the development of what may be called your argument. Furthermore as both you and I know, your article omits information that you had in your possession. I do not propose to detail all your errors of commission and omission; to do so, while appropriate in the case of an undergraduate graduate student, scarcely seems so in the case of a colleague holding a doctorate in the sciences....

By building an argument on data that is substantially false, by purporting to investigate a matter when in fact you had out none of the most elementary inquiries, by suppressing information which you did have to hand, you have

mislead (sic) as many students as read your articles, you have gratuitously discredited a number of University employees whom you have never met and about whose personalities and work habits you have no knowledge, you have brought discredit upon yourself, and by reflection upon all other academics who form the community which provides with the platform from which you can speak freely."

Well, I guess he's entitled to his opinion; which seems to be shared by the present chairman of that department, who made essentially the same charges of inaccuracy and gratuitous distress to me in a telephone conversation. Unfortunately, neither was able to tell me what errors I had made.

I know of one - I said that students in music, drama, and fine arts are given the BFA: in fact, this degree is reserved for fine arts students. Both Davey and Haynes appear also to be distressed by my failure to mention the fact that their department has instituted an advanced drawing course for non-BFA students, to be given in the Spring and Summer. (I think that is the "Error of omission" Davey has in mind, although his repeated "no comments" make it necessary for me to guess about this.) I didn't mention this because I thought it about as relevant to Wendy's case as mentioning that Parks and Recreation or Extension

offer drawing courses. As long as spring and summer study is seen as being separate from one's regular program as it now is - in view of the fact, for example, that the Loans Office virtually demands that students work for money over the summer, rather than study art because they can't get those courses during the regular session - this option simply has very little to offer the regular student. Anyway you, misled reader, know of it now.

More significant that Davey's and Haynes' unfounded accusations of inaccuracy or wails at my having offended their virtuous secretaries (I didn't really call them "bitches" by the way: all I said was "There's no law to prevent secretaries from being bitches and God knows many have ample cause for it") - more significant than any of that is, I think, the fact that neither Davey nor Haynes seriously countered Wendy's contention that the instructor in 231 had informed the students that non-BFA students do not get higher than 7. Although I pressed Haynes on this point, the best he could come up with was that all students in that department are graded severely; so severely, he complained, that they often are denied scholarships on grounds of their grades. This not only does not answer the question of discriminatory grading procedures, but I wonder whether it is even true.

Thus, during the five years between 1970 and 1975, the average grades (over the year) given by the department in Art of Design in junior courses ranged from 5.5 to 6.0. In English, they ranged from 5.3 to 5.5. In senior courses in Art and Design, they ranged from 5.9 to 6.3; in English, from 5.9 to 6.3. Similarly, the percentages of 8s and 9s given in those years, ranged from 5.7 to 10.7 in junior courses in Art and Design; from 7.8 to 9.0 in English. In senior courses, they ranged from 10.5 to 20.0 in Art and Design; from 13.4 to 20.3 in English. Except for the last, it is difficult to see much difference in the returns for Art and Design students than for students in what is one of the four busiest departments (mathematics, Psychology and Sociology are the others) on this campus.

Finally, Haynes and Davey are annoyed that I did not "investigate" my facts. But I did: in the Calendar, with Wendy, with her instructor. I tried Haynes but couldn't reach him; I called Davey as next best bet. Significantly, neither then nor now has either of them been able to give me any facts that in any way disagree with my statements or arguments - except for Haynes' insistence that Wendy should have talked to his personal secretary who would have been happy to schedule an appointment for her. This overlooks the facts that a) since

both the instructor and his relevant superior had reached their decisions their seemed to be little to be gained by talking to Haynes, other than further embarrassment and b) Wendy repeatedly tried to get to both him and his personal secretary, but was, apparently, blocked by the other secretaries.

Haynes also suggested I should have called him in Wendy's behalf, but this seems as far-fetched as Davey's insuring that a copy of his letter went to my chairman presumably as some form of attempted intimidation. Apparently Haynes does not realize that in a real sense students' problems are not my responsibility (Wendy did suggest to her Dean, whose responsibility it might be, that he contact Haynes, but by that time it was too late to do much good), just as Davey apparently does not realize that what I write in the Gateway has nothing to do with my academic or administrative duties within my department.

And the sharp distinction Davey draws between students and faculty, in the paragraphs cited above, seems to me perfectly symptomatic of the sort of elitism I thought I sensed in that department. Apparently this is so deeply engrained that the former chairman does not recognize it even when he writes it down in black and white.

And so on; and so on; and so on. -dls

Rug stolen, but happy ending

A new oriental rug was stolen from my house, 109 St. 89 Ave. at a party on Saturday, Jan. 15. It measures 5' x 9', and is largely white with some blue and white. If anyone is aware of who suddenly acquired a rug matching this description, I would very much appreciate a phone call or a note in any relevant information.

This was a rather large party, to celebrate the recovery of a former housemate from a severe viral infection, and a serious operation. Everyone in our house put in effort, and money, to make a good party. And just about everyone who came enjoyed themselves, and were well behaved.

Some uninvited early morning "guests" took advantage of my hospitality by stealing a rug from my house possession. If you could be planning a large party,

beware of this happening to you. To some people, offering food, drinks, and hospitality is an invitation to a rip-off.

Jim Ryan
Grad Studies
Entomology

Ed. Note: There is a happy post-script to the above letter. Ryan came to the offices Wednesday to tell us the rug had been returned.

His P.S.: *This afternoon, three days after the party, the rug reappeared in our porch. I'm happy, and lucky, and consider the matter closed. The way I see things, a sober person needed more courage to return a stolen rug in broad daylight, than a drunken one needed to take a rolled up rug on a stranger's porch, late at night.*

BACUS newsletter is "racist," "sexist"

Business and Commerce Undergraduate Society
Faculty of Business and Commerce
Central Academic Building.

Mesdames and Gentlemen:

This letter is to voice my objection to the racist and sexist portions of your "BACUS Flasher" of January 14, 1977, said publication being made available to students who frequent CAB.

First of all, your reference to Montreal as "The Frog Bowl" if the CFL went to the bowl system, is racist and offensive to any person with any sense of good taste. The term "frog" used against French-Canadians is no

less derogatory and demeaning than the hateful term "nigger" applied to Blacks.

Secondly, your article "Women - A Chemist's View" is sexist and offensive in the extreme. Here you portray women as being irrational, not very intelligent, useful only as ornaments, and general playthings of patronising, amused males. The sexist comments in that article are far too numerous for me to mention all of them and still maintain a reasonably brief letter.

If some commerce students want to bandy their racist, sexist views about, they have all too many opportunities to do so verbally among themselves. They

should not insult others by making such foul views public.

I feel that those commerce students with some sense of decency (I imagine they exist) should publicly make it known that they resent an organization that represents themselves using its facilities to spread such racist and sexist balderdash. Further I feel that if such views are as rampant among the future executives of Canada as they seem to be, it is a reflection on capitalism itself, and those who support it.

Especially at this crucial period for Canada, responsible people who are concerned for our country should stand up against the racist and sexist bigots who are tearing us apart, and not join them in their warped version of "fun."

The points of view expressed in this letter are my own and do not represent, nor pretend to represent, the views of the Department of Mathematics or anyone else in the Department of Mathematics.

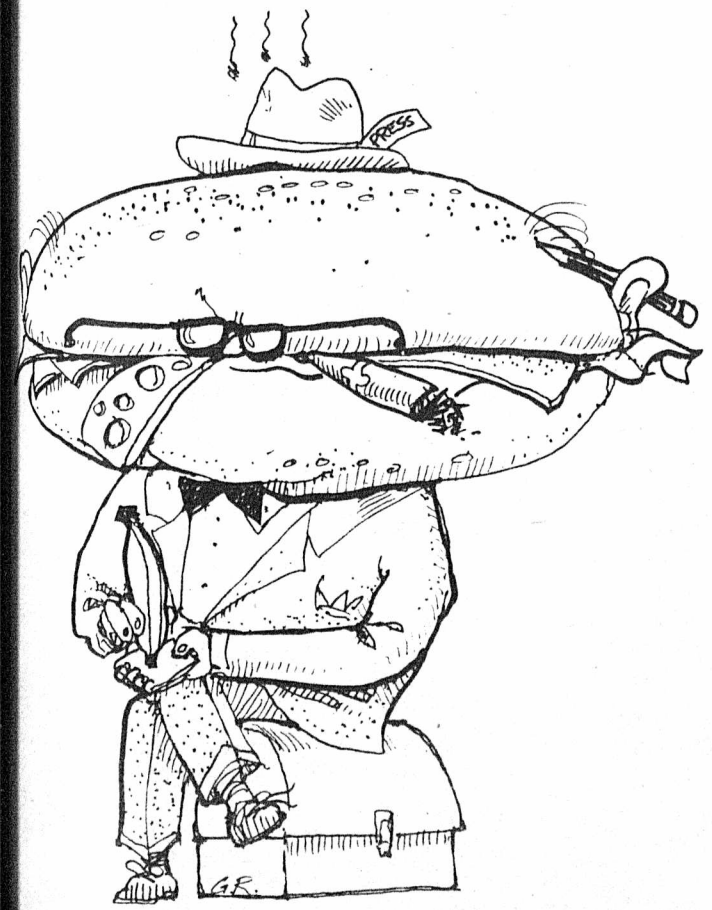
Walter G. Aiello
Sessional Lecturer
Dept. of Mathematics

Ed. Note These are the offending sections:

WOMEN—A CHEMIST'S VIEW
CHEMICAL SYMBOL: WO (of course)
ATOMIC WEIGHT: 120 (more or less)
FOUND: wherever Man is found
PHYSICAL PROPERTIES:
-Generally round in form
-Boils at nothing; may freeze anytime
-Melts when treated properly
-Very bitter if not used well
CHEMICAL PROPERTIES:
-Very active
-Possesses affinity for Gold, Silver, Platinum, and Precious Stones
-Violent when left alone
-Able to absorb great amounts of exotic (expensive) food
-Turns slightly green when placed beside a better looking specimen
-Ages rapidly
USES: - Highly ornamental
-Catalyzes the disintegration of wealth; probably the most powerful income-reducing agent known to man
CAUTION: HIGHLY EXPLOSIVE IN INEXPERIENCED HANDS!!

Can you imagine—if the CFL went to a 'bowl' system?
Montreal: The Frog Bowl
Toronto: The Toilet Bowl
Vancouver: The Fog Bowl
Hamilton (the Steel City): The Stolen Bowl
Edmonton: The Snow Bowl
Regina: the Flat Bowl
Ottawa: the Red-Tape Bowl

CHARLES LUNCH



My stand at the First Minister's Conference last month (which was actually a desperate attempt to let the Prime Minister know that I couldn't find the men's room), has brought in some interesting response from readers. Here are just a few of the comments:

Fred Barknee - Gimli, Manitoba: "Your actions were daring, bold and dramatic. They helped to emphasize the plight of the Canadian journalist ... Any chance of your speaking at our Optimist's meeting next month?"

Martha Gimli - Barknee, Saskatchewan: "I really enjoy your show, Mr. Gzowski, but when can you make it to Saskatoon? My son-in-law will drive me in to town, but you have to let me know soon because he says he's not driving all that damn way for nothing."

Peter Lougheed - Edmonton, Alberta: "Ha ha ha ... Really cute, Lunch ... Yes sir, you sure made a fool out of us premiers!! ... ha ha ha ... a million laughs ... ha ha ... stupid bastard."

Margaret Trudeau - Ottawa, Ontario: How could you do this to me? Pierre is so mad at you and Southam that he's refused to let me sell those pictures of Sacha's toilet-training to the Canadian magazine. I hate you! (well, actually, I have too much love in

my heart. I just dislike you intensely.)"

Myrtle Lunch - Ottawa, Ontario: "Will you try to remember the Kraft dinner? Last time you brought home Catelli and you know that it ruins the taste of the weiners!"

Robert Stanfield - All-Washed-Up, Nova Scotia: "Good work, Chuck! Glad to see you make a fool out of Trudeau. If I'd been P.M. (which could have happened if they'd only given me a little more time) I would've let you sit anywhere you wanted ... Really ... I mean, no shit ... any more iced tea, Mary?"

Charlie Farquharson - Crabapple Corner, P.E.I.: "Yer sher doin us proud out here in yer boondocks, Charlie. Ethel down ta the post office says yer Numero Uno at the Saturday Mornin Coffee Clutch (exceptin it aint coffee no more with them bean prices — does that make em has-beans?) GUFFAW GUFFAW GUFFAW!!!"

Dr. W. R. Templeton - Ottawa, Ontario: "I think these letters have gone on long enough, Charles. You just come over to the couch here and lie down. I'll get your pills ... No Charles, people really do think you're big and important ... Yes, Charles, you can take Little Rabbit Foo-Foo up to the Press Gallery."