

EDITORIAL

Bert knows best

Students' Union business managers have been told recently any comments they make to the *Gateway* must first be cleared through SU General Manager Bert Best.

A policy like this is most certainly not justified for an organization like the Students' Union. Contrary to the wishes of some, the SU is not just a business. It is operated, in theory at least, for the benefit of the students who comprise it. U of A students are the Students' Union. They deserve free access to information about its operation.

Perhaps the SU's current financial mess explains Mr. Best's desire for complete control over what the students know about the SU's operations. The *Gateway* has already gained access to a fair volume of information that Mr. Best would no doubt rather see unpublicized. Are there other embarrassing little tidbits hidden in the corners of the SU's operations?

If there are, students have a right to be informed of them.

The area business managers have the closest involvement with and clearest knowledge of U operations. At best, insisting that information be funnelled through Mr. Best will ensure that its accuracy suffers. At worst, it will mean the information released to students will be filtered to protect the interests of unscrupulous management.

The Students' Union's public relations posters proclaim, "It's your Students' Union."

Is it?

Mike Walker

NASA dumped on

It's little wonder the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) is becoming more militant. Most people would be faced with the type of opposition expressed by science faculty administrators to university vice-president Lorne Leitch.

In times of financial restraint, it is difficult to maintain a sense of decorum as the various departments and segments of the university scramble for money. But the backbiting attitude demonstrated by some people in the Faculty of Science is not an example of enlightened labor relations practices.

Times are tough, but union bashing and lashing out at the low man on the totem pole are not justified. The non-academic staff have some of the most thankless jobs on campus. The least one could do would be to treat them fairly. NASA members are not overpaid; a quick comparison with local pay scales proves this. Having a strong union to bargain effectively would only eliminate this disparity.

To say, as one administrator did, that he "liked the union when they weren't strong" is irresponsible. The union is not there to bargain for the interests of management. To feel wronged because the union has the power to represent its constituents is to deny the purpose of unions.

Anyone who thinks unions are useless and harmful should be forced to bag groceries in a non-unionized store across the street from a unionized Safeway.

This sort of criticism does little to achieve the good relations between staff so necessary to the smooth operation of the university. Thankfully, it will likely be ignored by university administrators.

Keith Krause

the Gateway

If it happens on campus...it's news to us.

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The referee drops the puck and the overtime is underway. Jens wins the draw and gets it back to Alison on the point. It's across to Adrian who slides a pass to Victor on left wing. He's tied up by Candy and Durk. The faceoff to the left of Greg Harris goes to Bob. Bill's fierce checking causes a turnover in the corner. Tom and Ray battle for the puck. It goes to Cathy in the slot who rips a shot past Michael Skeet. The home town fans trudge out. Just wait until Thursday they said.

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Men need liberation also

Alison Thomson's *Aspidistra* (October 9) was excellent. Women are oppressed, and more oppressed than most of us (male or female) seem to realize. I would simply like to add a note of support to the sisters' struggle from the point of view of a feminist male.

There are some men who sincerely want human equality in both social and economic spheres of society. Don't confuse us with those who fall into the "bullshit liberal" camp, paying lip service to some mis-understood "women's lib" and yet not really acting in a consistent fashion in their day-to-day relations. While I realize that men can never take up that part of the struggle for human liberation that women must work at themselves, some of us are trying to co-ordinate our efforts of consciousness-raising throughout society with that of our sisters. Remember, men are fed the obverse of the crock of crap fed to women; we must liberate ourselves from that as well!

I guess the bottom line is to not write all of us off at first glance. Men created this unfair

social mess by action; women, at least in the last fifty years, have aided this travesty by inaction. Try to keep an eye open for men who are willing to co-ordinate their efforts with yours; liberation must become a human struggle.

Lastly, we all should become wary of "wishy-washy" liberals of both sexes who try to rationalize

the status quo. The "Truly Liberated Ladies" ("Feminist is off the wall", October 9) seem to be trying to blunt accurate feminist concerns; hopefully they will confront these issues at some point, and stop trying to rationalize them away. Hopefully, we'll all do the same.

Victor Leginsky
Law III

Cabarets or sock-hops?

"The Dinwoodie Social" has been a highlight of most every undergraduate at the University of Alberta. In fact, it has become a social institution and often represents a relatively inexpensive means of having a good time. However, after having attended Friday (October 3rd) night's engagement, I am left to question the purpose of the Dinwoodie Social.

It seems to me that the facilities and events that are sponsored by our own Students' Union should be used by the students and staff who pay for them. Dinwoodie is often sponsored by the S.U. If not, socials are usually sponsored by a faculty, department or fraternity.

So, why is it that (and I feel I'm being conservative in my estimate) some 25 to 50 percent of the patrons are non-University students? To be fair, it is not my intention to challenge their right to attend a social: after all, their money is as good as anyone's. However, it is my concern when at 9:30 p.m. the foyer is full of ticketless faces from my faculty and others.

Furthermore, the 25 to 50 percent that I have mentioned must have an average age of around 17 (with a standard deviation of 7 months; approx .05). Last night I felt as though I was experiencing a high school dance of four or five years ago.

Being a fourth-year Commerce student and a near-Friedmanite I appreciate the laws of supply and demand. Without the support of these 25 to 50 percent, the less popular socials might experience quite a few empty seats. On the other hand, being packed into a smaller Dinwoodie Lounge and surviving Who concert-like densities is not my idea of a rewarding experience.

Perhaps what bothers me the most is that after having danced with a rather cute representative of the opposite sex I was asked "...so what high school do you go to?" How do you deal with a question like that? I can't remember anymore.

Todd Cristal
Commerce IV

Columnist is a plant

After reading the aforementioned column last Thursday, I began to suspect a prank by the staff of the *Gateway*. Surely, no responsible writer could pen a column with such obviously outdated radical feminist ideas, and expect that it could be taken seriously. Feminist concerns are too important to be treated in such a petty fashion.

I decided to check the meaning of "Aspidistra", and found, much to my pleasure, that it is defined as a "foliage plant with tapering leaves..." (Oxford English Dictionary). In other words, the opinions expressed in the column are not those of any person at all, they are the opinions of a house-plant! Hilarious! *Gateway*, you've done it again! Writing a humour column in the guise of a serious piece of writing was a tour de force. From now on, I will be able to sit back while reading *Aspidistra* and give it the laughter it so richly deserves.

Steve Dunk
Engineering II

STAFF MEETING

Thursday, October 23

The Gateway
Room 282 SUB

A new low

A recent advertisement for a comedy troupe described them as "irreverent". It is a sad statement on the condition of our society when such a characteristic in entertainment is appealing.

While this irreverence appears to be a general trend of late, there is no reason why we should support it, nor any excuse if we simply ignore it. Therefore I have written this letter to protest the perversion of Scripture on the cover of the October 15, 1980 edition of the *Gateway*.

It is impossible to advocate some optimal level of irreverence, but it is certainly not impossible to enforce limits on what must be treated with reverence. There is considerable leeway in most areas of life for humor, but there are also elements that demand respect. In manipulating Scripture, the *Gateway* has exceeded the bounds of due respect and lowered itself.

I am not impressed.

Janice Pasay
Commerce IV