

## Prof attacks tuition policy

Sir:

May I say that some members of the faculty share your concerns re. tuition fees. Generally, faculty members have had more experience with the paying of tuition than any other group, and most of us have had reason to think about tuition policies as they affected us personally, or in more theoretical terms.

I think it helps to separate the financial from the moral arguments that attach themselves to the tuition debate. The university does need money to operate and it is logical that it should acquire funds from those who benefit by its existence.

The public at large benefits directly and indirectly and it seems fair therefore to take money from taxes to help pay the costs of the university. It seems morally correct to tap the public well to some degree; the problem is to know how much may fairly be taken from this source of funds.

A simple but politically unacceptable answer would be unlimited funding; none of us likes to sign a blank cheque. The

traditional response is "no more than necessary," a response that guarantees annual debate and disagreement because it implies that costs must be closely monitored (true), that universities must compete with others making demands on public monies (unrealistic), and that universities must find other sources of revenue. It is this last point which has led to increases in tuition and to the desperate sophisms uttered in their defence.

The best-loved argument to support increases in tuition is the argument that the user, because he benefits directly, should pay a fair proportion of the costs through an annual admissions charge. I have yet to hear a satisfactory defence of this argument and I invite students not to accept it as self-evidently just.

Does the student in philosophy benefit more directly than the private citizen whose life is saved through one or other of the medical discoveries resulting from research within the university? Well, no, but the "benefit" alluded to may lie elsewhere.

Does the graduate stand to earn more money because he has acquired a university degree? Statistics please.

Of course, if it is true that the average graduate earns more, would he/she therefore not pay proportionately higher taxes for the remainder of his life and thereby repay his/her fair share of university costs? If that average graduate pays through proportionately higher taxes and through tuition would he not be paying more than his share? In any case, if a graduate's education has truly "educated" him will he not make a substantial return to society through his talents and knowledge or through his ability to improve the economy?

I think that the arguments traditionally used to make the student pay tuition are arguments which can as readily be used to make the public pay the student a bonus for undertaking a degree programme within the university.

Yours truly,  
Edward W.R. Pitcher, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of English

## Soprano backlash

I am presently in the Edmonton Opera Chorus. I must reply to the review by Peter West, of Turandot.

Mr. West attended the dress rehearsal and presented a critique based on his experiences that night. Singing was mentioned as being uneven. During dress rehearsal, soloists often mark or soften their voices, as this prevents undue abuse to their throats. All the singers were making use of this practice during dress.

Turandot is an extremely demanding role, there are only a handful of sopranos who can make a go of it.

All the principal singers used full voice during the first performance. They were generously applauded for their tremendous performances.

In other words, don't compare singers on dress night.

David Astor was not projecting his voice. True. He had every right not to that night. Mr. Mauro, who does have a golden voice, was singing out more in spots, as he is of a competitive nature and he

tries to outdo the other singers as much as possible.

Ping, Pan, and Pong, were cited as meaning little to the audience, as their "antics" were in Italian. Mr. West, it's an Italian Opera. Ping, Pang and Pong were excellent in an extremely demanding trio. Again, on opening night the audience greatly appreciated their efforts.

I close by saying that I appreciate the *Gateway* reviewing the Opera, certainly it's nice to be noticed as chorus alone has spent months on it under the direction of our very competent director Bill Shookoff.

Give us a chance, come to a real performance when its fair to judge.

Louise Ross  
Special Ed II

## Those Irish sociopaths

I should like to reply to Gossen and Hunter of recent *Gateway* issues; While it may be partially true that the British arrived in Eire in the 12th century, to call history before that as united or peaceful is factually untrue. It willfully ignores both the Vikings, the Welsh, and of course the fact that the Celts themselves were invaders.

I can appreciate that both Hunter and Gossen may have some misty ideas, made easier by thousands of airmiles and decades of misconception, but there are certain facts to consider.

The 1970's showed decreasing support for Britain initially, but more recently, referendum showed a sizeable majority including catholic voters wanting to remain inside the United Kingdoms. Moreover two independent published surveys *this year* show that 70% want to remain inside the United Kingdom including 40% of the Catholic population (up from 33% in 1976).

The true reasons for violence may stem from the fact that statistically the Irish have amongst the highest per capita number of sociopaths (yes there are such studies) and it takes very few of those to engender generations of violence especially when non-involved non-informed people chose to impose their ideas on the situation.

Leave Eire for the Irish, yes. The south has renounced claims to the north in recent times.

Ewan Mosley  
Genetics II

as an aside to (Bobby) Orr - whose name is an anagram for I Whirl Aimlessly.

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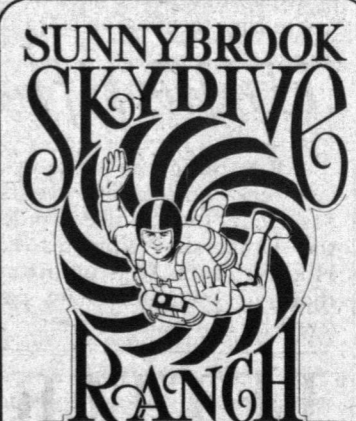
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