

Not in Alberta!

The article entitled "The strange, skeptical mood of the Campus," which appeared in the October edition of *Saturday Night*, revealed some surprising statistics about the thoughts and concerns of Canadian university students.

A survey of 840 students was conducted at ten Ontario universities to find out what students were thinking about leadership, the future of Canada, political involvement, and other general questions. The survey revealed that:

- Seven per cent "of the students polled claimed to have a great deal or a fair amount of confidence in major corporations."

- The most admired people in our society are Edward Kennedy, who is admired by 92%, Jane Fonda (92%), Linda Ronstadt (90%), Johnny Carson (89%), and Pope John Paul II (88%). At the bottom of the list were Joe Clark (34%), Henry Ford II (9%), and Ronald Reagan (7%).

- J.R. Finlay, the author of the article, pointed out that "though 94% of ... students feel there are no leaders in business, politics, or social fields whom they would consider joining in a particular cause, 95% still feel that it is important for an individual in today's society to have a sense of commitment to some larger cause than his or her own personal interests."

These are all interesting statistics, but I doubt whether similar statistics would be collected at the University of Alberta. Maybe I'm a touch cynical, but I can't imagine 95% of the students here claiming to have any interest in "larger causes."

Faithful readers of the letters to the *Gateway* are probably aware that a lot of letters published so far this year have dealt in some manner with the irrelevance of social issues to university students. Many students, it seems, are indeed much more concerned with themselves than with others.

A prominent suggestion in our *Gateway* Readers' Survey, (the results of which will be published next issue), was that we deal more with campus items than community, national, and international affairs. One engineering student replying in the survey said "You are too busy trying to save the world. Why don't you tell us what's happening on campus?"

Well, I don't know if the two are mutually exclusive, but the fact remains that at least one person out there thinks nothing is important except what is happening immediately around him or her.

As unofficial as our survey was, its results seem to contradict the magazine survey. Heavy percentages in the *Saturday Night* article distrusted businessmen and politicians, trusted doctors, felt that fundamental reform was needed in the House of Commons, and that major corporations are also in need of basic reform. Does that sound like our campus?

If these results are indicative of Canadian students' thoughts, then maybe Alberta is a social dinosaur, and perhaps our university is a mass of self-serving anachronisms. There doesn't seem to be much call for reform of any sort coming from this campus.

And that's disturbing.

Hollis Brown

the Gateway

If it happens on campus...we'll probably miss it

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Newsroom 432-5168
Advertising 432-3423

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Peter Michalyszyn, Nina Miller, Robin Wortman, all the best Pete and Annie, Jeff Moore, Brad Martowski, Peter Birnie, I'm alright mum. Rony J. Bliggins, Nick Danger, hi Marilyn, Betty-Jo Bioloski, Ken Meyers, Thank You Joni Mitchell, Lasha Seniuk, Marni Stanley, Judy Fisher, turn the porch light off Pam, Gary McGowan, Allen Young, Bob Kilgannon, ha ha we scooped you again Singer, hi! Danny Nakamura, Derek Drager, Phil Rizzuto, Dora Johnson, Sue get the leaves out, Hollis Brown, Brad Keith, Rick Lawrence, thanks for the quote Grant, S. Atan, Happy Birthday Ken, N.F. Goode, Maxine Murphy, Janice Michaud.

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Jobs aplenty for students

I would like to inform Mr. Turtle and the *Gateway* cartoonist who criticized (sic) Peter Michalyszyn's letter about a few obvious facts. Firstly, the average wage of skilled and unskilled labour in this province is the highest per-capita than (sic) any other province in Canada. Along with this the Alberta government has suggested that there will be a substantial shortage of workers as of next spring. Secondly, I would also point out the poor level of teaching in some of the undergraduate courses at this University and this year paper endorsed only a few issues ago (sic). If we take these two truths into account I think we can shed a different light onto (sic) Mr. Michalyszyn's letter.

I would like to ask you gentlemen what you do over the summer other than profess the same type of philosophy as you expressed in last Tuesday's *Gateway*. To obtain more knowledge on this subject than your paper provides I picked up the *Journal* classifieds. In it I found a job for a dishwasher at \$5.75 an hour. On the basis of an 8 hour day and 20 working days a month for four months I estimated an individual would have just under \$3,700.00 allowing for \$120.00 rent, \$1,400.00 for books and tuition and roughly \$90.00 a month for food even I could live quite comfortably working at this meagre job over the summer. This might seem quite low for some students but supplement this with a government loan or a part-time job, both of which are quite easy to get, and it will seem a reasonable estimate. Also might I add that the availability of much better paying jobs in this province would increase the amount even more. Hence (sic) for you people who really desire a higher education my suggestion to you is try working over the summer.

With respect to Michalyszyn's discussion of a "Liberal Arts" education and students' lack of interest in their subject, may I suggest that this is

not the public system's fault but the University's. I can't begin to count the amount (sic) of classes I've sat through courses at this institution without writing a single full page of notes for the sheer irrelevance (sic) of the professor's discussion. Although I don't guarantee this as a remedy (sic), just maybe by raising the tuition fees we could pay these 'educators' more and thus obtain a higher level of teaching. In the business circles of this country it is implicit that higher salaries provide an incentive for harder work and more dedication.

To summarize this brief statement of fact, if people such as Peter Michalyszyn can go to

University in a more comfortable state that others, great! I would not envy him nor would I criticize him. His suggestion to raise tuition fees, however, is about the most reasonable suggestion I've seen printed in your newspaper since I've been at this University. Not only could most students afford it in this prosperous province but it might improve the quality of education we're receiving. One final comment, for the foreign student who wouldn't be able to stay on here if his tuition fees were raised, since the government pays 90% of your tuition financed by the tax payers (ie our parents and in future us) (sic) may I suggest you go back to where you came from and let some 'deprived' Canadian student take your place.

Brad Pierce
Arts II

Slobs in residence

Dear Lister Hall Residents (a.k.a. -imbeciles)

Upon our arrival back to this shithole (literally) on Sunday we were greeted by: broken windows, paper all over the lawn, toilet paper in the trees, broken walls, broken beer bottles, soggy rugs, juvenilish graffiti all over the new murals, and not to mention one litre of upchuck in a Henday elevator. Is this mess to be treated as just another episode in the diary of a resident's life?

Back to the subject — crap — the elevators are so screwed up they now rest on fifth Henday, another joy bestowed upon us.

We don't want to sound like we're bitchy or that we don't appreciate the attempt to renovate this place into PUNK ROCK CITY, but, in comparison, the Cuckoo's Nest is

sanesville.

It is hard to believe that these so-called ADULTS are actually allowed to behave in a manner which would otherwise have them arrested in the "real world."

Who ever said "Thank God for weekends" never lived in this bottomless shit hole.

J. Espersen
B. Vickerman

University not for poor

Gordon Turtle's "Let's get everybody into University" editorial (Oct. 23) was undoubtedly nobly inspired but with all due respect I must classify it as rot. The poor do not attend University for a very good

reason: they are, with damn few exceptions, too dumb. Remember the bar scene in *1984*? Having worked on an assembly line, as a letter carrier, in a newspaper composing room and driving taxi I can assure you that Orwell's portrait of the average botched prole is completely accurate. For the few exceptions to this rule Student Financing and part-time work are far more desperate issues than tuition fees. Indeed a general tuition fee increase at inflationary rates would benefit these people if the

proceeds went towards an increase in scholarships, grants and loans greater than inflation. Such a scheme would have the added advantage of being self-financing as long as well-to-do students predominated at University (i.e. forever). I can think of no better way of taking from the rich and giving to the needy poor.

An additional comment on Sally McLean's letter of the same issue: attacks on society and personality do have a place in Art criticism. H.L. Mencken's "Sahara of the Bozart" and Mark Twain's "Fenimore Cooper's Literary Offenses" come to mind as delightful examples. A good critic always swings a baseball bat at the deserving enemies of Art. After all, these people are the identifiable felons in identifiable crimes.

Jens Anderson
Science II

Unfair professors

I am presently an education student at this university and would like to relate some experiences I have had as a student of this faculty.

I am now taking an Education psychology course. My professor asked his classes to perform an exercise in the a.v. station which consisted of approximately 3 to 4 hours of work with video tapes and tape recorders. The professor gave us three classes off to complete this task.

Now this appears to be a perfectly reasonable request; however when going to do this some things came to my attention. First of all, this work could not be completed during class time, mainly because there were few machines and several students. It, therefore, took many hours besides allocated class time to complete. Second, this task is worth absolutely no credit to the course but the final tape has your name on it to show proof of completion. Third, the tapes will be used to enhance the professor's own research.

When I realized these irregularities I tried to consider what it was my duty to do. I tried to see the Dean of Education but one might as well ask for an audience with the Queen. Because of the nature of the situation I feel that absolute confidentiality for myself and other students is necessary so I am reluctant to speak to the

chairperson.

I'm sure many other students have felt the same frustration with professors before and will in the future, but how to deal with these problems of injustice is questionable. There are several organizations on campus which are very helpful and supportive to students with problems such as this; however, their power is limited. We are led to believe that special committees are set up to deal with such problems as well as others and yet they are given very little if any power.

After reading sections of the GFC policies manual I was convinced that while there seems to be extensive writing on a code of student behavior there seems to be little written restrictions for professors.

If any student has ever complained to a professor about some aspect of a course and found as I have that they tend to take an uncaring, defensive and arrogant approach, to the point where you feel like you are incompetent, then you should examine exactly what rights you have and make them clear to the professor or at least make them known.

Due to my wish for anonymity I will not sign my name, but if anyone would care to comment (faculty included) please feel free to do so.

Name withheld