

# Varsity Voices

## Letter writers attack apathy, Gateway reporters, callgirls, and use of force

### Student Apathy

To The Editor:

While circulating a petition which opposed a motion made at Students' Union Council proposing to remove the Wauneita Representative, I encountered students who were appallingly apathetic. Some students not only questioned the worth of Students' Council but violently asserted that they did not care what Students' Council did! In answer to my request to sign the petition they replied, "SO WHAT if she is removed."

My contention is not that they should oppose the removal of the Wauneita representative from council, nor is it that these students should sign petitions for or against anything. What really bothers me is that they have the effrontery to defend their apathy.

Some of these people who were obviously apathetic belonged to fraternities. I assumed, (rightly or wrongly), that fraternity members would be informed about campus politics.

I further assumed that the female fraternity members would,

at least, be aware of the worth of THEIR Wauneita representative, as well as major issues raised at council meetings. To my astonishment, the only issues which concerned these people were those related to the building of the new Students' Union Building. Of all the groups on campus, I always believed that the fraternities encouraged their members to uphold the spirit and tradition of our university. Although many fraternity members did show an interest in the petition I was circulating, they are being infiltrated by individuals who see no danger in the apathy that is creeping into these traditional strongholds of campus spirit.

This same apathy causes our Students' Union president to complain of too few applications from students wishing to attend university sponsored conferences. This apathy also causes less than half of the students on campus to vote at the election of THEIR Students' Union Executive. (Far less than half appear at the polls to elect their faculty representatives.)

Apathy, a sign of weakening democracy, appears to be growing on our campus—a place where no apathy should exist at all.

Are not our universities supposed to be show places of our democracy? Maybe I am too idealistic but should we not be an example to the community in which we live before we are just in criticising it?

Paul Peel  
Arts III

### Pickets and Mobs

To The Editor:

I read with interest the article entitled "Picket Met by Irate Mob" by Don Sellar. Now that reporter has style. He's ready to be promoted to The Journal staff. Such eloquence in reporting—"waves of profanity were tossed at them by a shoving, milling mob." That's poetic.

However one sentence did seem out of place, namely "The crowd smelled of alcohol." Now that is not strong enough. It doesn't have enough emotion to it. Wouldn't this sentence convey the mood much better?

"The sweaty Ukrainian crowd (probably Communist inspired), plastered on vodka and 'cubasa,' ripped the clothes off the defenceless female students." That is a much better job of impartial reporting.

But while we're reporting the facts, let us not mention the proud picketers who came to me boasting "some Uke's got a sore stomach. I sure drove him one." And please don't mention those terrible rumors that some demonstrators weren't clear on what they were picketing about. It couldn't be possible that some of the students were there for the sake of the demonstration alone and not to uphold some moral convictions.

No. Let us just say it was a great day for democracy, whatever that is. I must admit that during the affair the use of the word has become somewhat obscure to me. I guess it has something to do with leading demonstrations to infuriate ethnic groups.

Those poor Ukrainians have some weird idea that if a mayor is selected in a free election (in which everyone voting was aware of the candidate's background) that maybe he has a right to remain in that seat. One can only feel pity for those disillusioned people who don't understand what is meant by "democracy."

But now that our proud picketers have shown us the way, let us go on to bigger and better things.

The commercial firms are bringing in Santa Claus seven weeks before Christmas. Surely we can find some moral issue there. Golly, we could even build a case that Santa is a Commie

and picket Eaton's and Woodward's. That should infuriate those dumb Ukrainians again and once more we university students could become martyrs.

And let's march on the synagogues for "taking the Christ out of Christmas." Again we could become martyrs, this time of that "international Jewish conspiracy."

Yes, it makes one proud to attend this campus, for our enlightened students know all the answers. Here we are—the last defenders of freedom and democracy. Glory! Glory! Glory!

I think I'm going to throw up.  
Another dirty Uke

### Callgirl Attacked

To The Editor:

To what level is U of A in general and The Gateway in particular degenerating? Is it really nothing more than a haven for brazen prostitutes who seek to find a market for their charms by answering Gateway short shorts ads?

When The Gateway stoops so low that the editor will send out

a "callgirl" just to get a story, it no longer deserves the name of a "university paper."

If we, the students, do nothing else this year, we must clear the name of U of A by demanding the expulsion of the reporter who must surely have the morals of an alleycat since she must certainly have done some research for the story.

A Moralist

### Use of Force

To The Editor:

The following should be added to any comment made on police action at the City Hall Massacre:

#### THE USE OF FORCE

Please don't believe

The use of force

Is how we change the social

course;

The use of force

You surely know

Is how we keep the status

quo.

—by John K. Rooke

D. K. Buse

P.S. Does Anthony always make his rules after the game? He certainly knows who butters his bread.

## Adam Campbell



Short and Sour

I was quite taken aback by recent editorials and "Varsity Voices" lamenting the jeopardizing effects of the famous student demonstrations on the "university image."

If a university means anything like a body of scholars, individual minds or individual ideas, I agree that at U of A we have only an image of a university to be concerned about. I think we had better get a grip on ourselves and look at reality.

More realistically I expect that most of us will agree that this "factory" fails to even approach what we could consider a body of thinking people.

\* \* \*

It is little more than a glorified high school; catering to a selected group of snotty nosed juveniles who happen (supposedly) to create a lesser problem here than they would in society at large.

These robots sit in a classroom, make notes like mad, and memorize and regurgitate them upon getting the appropriate cue. Here is the type of answer you get from these Pavlovian reprobates: "Well, according to . . . Freud . . . Darwin . . . Aristotle . . . Jesus Christ . . . Major Hooper . . ."

I'm sure we are aware that we need only read some books (or newspapers) to gain such information. The question is; "What do YOU think?" I'm afraid most persons would be found sadly lacking when confronted with this question.

\* \* \*

Worse still, we are seldom, if ever, encouraged to think on our own. How many of your professors have hypocritically blurted: "Now I don't expect you to reproduce verbatim, everything I tell you this year. I want you to show a little originality. But of course I would be pleased to see that my views are respected."

How too, too familiar are the cries of students who complain of being "swamped" with work and dead-lines to meet. They don't have time to think or read anything that is not on the curriculum. Yet we have the audacity to turn these mass produced automatons out into society to vie for professional recognition. Professional what? Parrots?

Let's hope that the public is not so prone to image worship as we are. Somebody in this society has to maintain his sanity.

## What the hell

by Jon Whyte



I agree, Chief Constable M. F. E. Anthony, that the two groups who have so far seen fit to go to City Hall were unlawful. I agree that peaceful demonstrators can cause riots.

I agree that non-violent protest with permission to parade is provocative. I agree that they needlessly and without reasonable cause provoked other persons to disturb the peace tumultuously.

I agree that it is unfortunate that one man was punched. I agree that you "invited the injured man to lay a common assault charge and he never came back."

\* \* \*

I agree with Robin Hunter that someone slugged him during the riot at City Hall. I agree that Robin shouted, "Hold him! I want to press charges." And I agree that he went back to the police station twice to lay charges.

I agree that if the picketing is legal other charges could be laid against the demonstrators.

I agree that four people can constitute an unlawful assembly. For that matter I could agree that probably one person could constitute an unlawful assembly if someone wanted to interpret the law that way.

I agree that the students should have approached the police before picketing. As a matter of fact, I agree with the picketers that they did.

\* \* \*

I agree, Stan Ross, that the rather childish action of the demonstrators was brought into line by normal citizens of Edmonton.

I agree, Basil Dean and editorial writers of The Edmonton Journal, that the unruly mob, the goon squad as I think you termed it, was a disgrace.

I agree, Dr. Baird, in democracy for democracy's sake, whatever that may mean.

I agree that in a democratic society we should keep quiet when we disagree. And, Adlai Stevenson, I agree with your comments at the top of the page of The Journal for Dissent that in a democratic society dissent is essential.

And I agree with democracy and liberty and freedom and mother and planned parenthood.

How agreeable can you get?

