

Counter charges

Scott Thorkelson's decision to bring charges against Nolan Astley and his slate, Darrell Rankin, Mary Ann Gillies and returning officer Sue Savage comes as no surprise. The seriousness and lack of humour Thorkelson showed through his entire campaign have prepared virtually every observer for this post-election drama.

Nonetheless, I would like to bring countercharges against Thorkelson; charges that are much more serious than the losing candidate himself has brought forth.

First of all, I charge Thorkelson with running a campaign so meager, so boring, and so pointless as to attract only 18 percent of the student electorate. Although no worse than the Astley slate in this matter, Thorkelson apparently decided that what the students wanted to hear during the campaign was not policy, not politics, not discussion, but rather trivial little promises.

As well, I believe Thorkelson to be guilty of questioning the decision of the voters. He was defeated handily, as were three other members of his slate, but he refuses to see the writing on the wall. Failing to see the *spirit* of the election results and opting not to accept it for what it was is indeed a serious matter.

Furthermore, I charge Thorkelson with letting down students during his campaign by taking the stock Tory line on cutbacks: throughout his electioneering, he stressed the importance of examining university allocation of funds, implying that financial problems aren't the fault of the government, but of the university administration. That's all students need at a time when more and more of us are being squeezed out by our corporate governors.

Lastly, Thorkelson will have to defend his pettiness, his outright poor sportsmanship, and his inability to accept defeat. He is making things inordinately difficult for the one member of his slate who was elected, Pat Haws. She will have to cope for the rest of the term with the animosity and hard feelings that Thorkelson insists on stirring up.

D.I.E. Board exists to prevent any member of the Students' Union from being treated unfairly or unconstitutionally. It does not exist to insult the voters in SU elections, nor does it exist as a vehicle for expression of frustration or resentment.

If some of Thorkelson's charges are legitimate and worthy of consideration, I hope he wins his case. But the "sour grapes" atmosphere of the entire affair is hard to escape. Although I'm not overwhelmed by joy with the election of Nolan Astley, each day seems to make the decision of the small, small number of students who voted more and more commendable.

Gordon Turtle

the Gateway

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

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STAFF THIS ISSUE: Where the Hell is my staff? — Brad, Mike McKinney, Thanks to Tim Starke, N. Goode, Karlos Hunter, Ernie Lotz, Dora Johnson, Pam Spencer, Garnet DuGray, Martin Chernenkoff, Johnny (B.K.) Reb, Lasha Seniak, Kenny Diskavich, Peter Michalshyn, Mike Walker, Kent (the lettuce murderer) Blinston, Bruce Pollock, Congrats Adam, has anyone seen Kathy's belt?, Jim Mcelgunn, Nina Miller, Keith says he's going to be dead on

Iranian demands just

About three months ago the American embassy in Iran was seized by the students to demand the extradition of the deposed Shah who supposedly was sick and dying. In reality, the Shah was brought to the U.S. under the pressure of Mr. Kissinger and Rockefeller who are supporters and friends of the Shah because of billions of dollars he took out of Iran through many years.

The just demands of the Iranians which were reflected by the action and demands of the students who seized the embassy in Iran were (a) to bring back the money which belonged to the poor Iranians, (b) to put the Shah on trial for his torturous acts and crimes in 37 years of brutal reign.

The western propaganda machine started to condemn the Iranian action by all means. The Shah was presented as a defenseless human being while the Iranians as fanatics, uncivilized, barbarians and people who do not understand and know nothing about international law.

Recently, the Canadian government announced the closing of the Canadian embassy in Iran due to lack of security and chaos in Iran. It is known that there were six Americans among those Canadians leaving Iran who could only leave Iran by forging passports and other documents. Aren't these espionage activities by Canada who was not directly involved in

the Iranian situation an outright violation of international law? Where are the so called "free" responsible western reporters, analysts and human right defenders to freely expose the real faces of the western governments. The fact that the Canadian embassy in Iran could forge documents is a proof of the embassy's ability and experience to do espionage activities.

Why isn't the security council having a meeting now to condemn the action of the Canadian Government in Iran which violated the very dear international law?

The Iranians did not accept the resolution of the security council merely because it is the council of superpowers and by its nature seeks only the interests of them. The Iranians are glad that they are the pioneers to expose the nature of the United Nations and its many councils and organizations that are mostly controlled by the imperialists with the American and Russian governments leading in front.

Historically, it was internationally assumed that Canadians are a civilized, peace loving and law abiding nation. In many instances Canada has made contributions to causes of peace throughout the world by mediation and sending Canadian peace-keeping troops to disturbed areas of the world.

For these reasons the Canadians had privilege to travel all over the world and a Cana-

dian passport was sufficient enough for one to be welcomed in many countries.

Recent incidents in Iran, especially forging of Canadian passports for non-Canadians and taking the side of the American government in the conflict with Iran will cause unreparable damage to the integrity and dignity of Canada throughout the world.

Iranian Moslim Student Association
Univeristy of Waterloo

Classes not what counts

We would like to assure the Gateway staff that the cancelling of Pharmacy classes on Monday was not uppermost in the minds of Pharmacy Staff and Students upon hearing of Gerry Van Petten's death. In his short term as Dean, Dean Van Petten initiated many improvements in the Faculty and we all feel a great loss.

In the future perhaps you could show greater respect and responsibility in your reporting.

Heather Sorensen
Pharmacy IV
Judy Smordin
Pharmacy IV
K. Nelson
Pharmacy IV
and 23 others

Time for Pugwash Canada

I am writing to ask for your help in establishing a new national student organization.

As you may know, the Pugwash Movement was sparked by a manifesto issued by Bertrand Russell and Albert Einstein in 1955 calling upon the scientists of the world to meet at a conference to discuss and appraise the threat of nuclear weapons. The first of these conferences was sponsored by Cyrus Eaton, and it took place in the small town of Pugwash, Nova Scotia, in 1957. Since then, this informal movement has grown considerably, and its perspective has broadened to include the sources of international conflict and the responsibilities of scientists in society.

Last June, I was the sole Canadian to attend the first Student Pugwash Conference on Science and Ethical Responsibility held in San Diego. I was inspired by the enthusiasm of the student and faculty participants and also by the theme of the conference. In today's world, the scientist often plays a pivotal role in social change, yet the moral responsibility of this role is frequently overlooked. Work that might pose ethical problems for the scientist ranges from recombinant DNA research to designing nuclear missile guidance systems, from the development of new pesticides to drafting intelligence tests. Among students, there is great scope for a discussion of these ethical issues. With the support of the senior Pugwash organization in Canada, I decided that I would encourage this discussion by establishing a Canadian Student Pugwash group.

The goals of Canadian Student Pugwash are:
— to establish a network of young social and natural scientists across Canada who are concerned about the ethical issues relevant to their work;
— to promote an educational

discussion of these issues between young and older scientists through correspondence, workshops, and conferences; and
— to encourage scientists outside the organization to consider the ethical implications of their work.

As part of a program to establish a network of contacts, this letter has been mailed to department heads, senior administrators, professors, and students throughout the Canadian university community. I hope that you can pass the word

along to those students and professors who might be interested in participating in Canadian Student Pugwash, asking them to forward their names and addresses to me.

In one or two months, I will send a letter to all those people who have expressed an interest in Canadian Student Pugwash with information on possible future programs and funding, and details on the response to this campaign.

Fraser Homer-Dixon
Student, Political Science
Carleton University

Ed students can't rite

We are embarrassed. As students of the Faculty of Education, we are disappointed with the low standards of performance exhibited by many of our colleagues. No wonder Education has received distinguished merit for being a "bozo faculty"! Let us cite some examples.

The following is an excerpt from a critique written by a third year Education student:

"State goals clearly as to whether it was descriptive words they sought or a specific drawing or what. If it was thier intention to use descriptive words why were some suggestion ignored? Thier lesson was basicy a good idea"

Count the spelling errors! "Wheather"? "Discriptive"? "Thier"? "Basicy"? You won't find any of these words in any Webster dictionary. Count the grammatical errors! This person is a prospective teacher!

Not only is the grammar atrocious; the quality of thought is poor (or lacking) as well. For example, during a recent class discussion on attending job interviews, one student asked (direct quote), "Do you think that we should be well-dressed

and well-groomed when we go for our interviews?", completely ignoring the fact that this was pitifully obvious! If you think that is bad, read on...! When one prof announced an upcoming test, she said that there would be five questions. One student promptly asked, "And then would you expect us to respond?" (The prof was dumb-founded.)

Please do not consider these as isolated examples; situations such as the aforementioned occur daily. Like we said before, we are embarrassed to be members of this faculty.

Measures must be taken to upgrade the entire program. Perhaps setting a quota would be a good starting point. A language competency examination prior to entry may also prove beneficial. Finally, a greater challenge should be incorporated into certain Education courses.

It is time to instill pride in the faculty members and to give Education a worthy respect.

Val Loov,
Education II
Joan Schell,
Education II