

# The Gateway

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. It is published by the Students' Union twice weekly during the winter session on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contents are the responsibility of the editor, opinions are those of the person expressing them. Letters to the editor on any subject are welcome, but must be signed. Please keep them short: letters should not exceed 200 words. Deadlines for submitting copy are 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Main offices are located in Room 282, SUB for Gateway, Room 238 SUB for Media Productions. Phone 432-5168, 432-5178, 432-5750, Advertising 432-3423. Circulation 18,500.

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## editorial

Ho hum...the Students' Union elections are over and a progressively conservative campus seems intent on neutering the Students' Union political vitality by electing a Board of Directors to maintain the SU's corporate *status quo*.

Friday's general election proved at least one thing—students don't vote on issues anymore, they vote on image. And there is no doubt that Jay Spark's image was the blandest, least offensive in the election.

The Spark slate won, with one of the most low-key non-issue-oriented campaigns this campus has seen in six years. When compared to campaigns like David Leadbeater's in 1969, Spark's platform was a combination of the most inoffensive generalizations and least controversial topics possible. This bland, generally-conservative image was not the only reason for Spark's election, however, as the powerful political machine he and his slate had at their disposal obviously produced a great number of votes. It is interesting that this machine was nearly an exact duplicate of that which elected the Zoeteman slate last year; that machine was also duplicated by the Reynold's slate which, however, lacked the enthusiasm and energy of Spark's organization.

The rule in SU elections as Zoeteman and Spark both realize is not what you say, but how you say it. And it's not so important who you say it to, as how many people you can say it to and with how much "professionalism." The rule in outlining platforms in campaign literature is not what it means, but how it looks on the paper of the pamphlets. The rule for public showings is not what you say as how you look when you say it. And so on. All those things intelligent voters presumably *don't* vote for put people into power on our campus (if you suppose the Students' Union executive possess power—which they indeed do).

However, what little Spark committed himself to during the campaign seems to indicate he and his slate will provide some effective leadership next year. Spark's stand on tuition increases is not "in favor if justified," Spark said Monday, but against them under any circumstances. The same for differential fees. Spark also believes one of the most effective ways to lobby the provincial government is through the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) of which he was a member this year and this too bodes well for an executive with the potential to speak politically for 20,000 people.

So, depending on how much attention and criticism the students bring to bear on the Spark slate next year, there may be the leadership, the political initiative, the independent voice for students that is now needed in the Students' Union executive.

But if the students are content merely to allow Spark to manage the SU, they should also be content to see the university's autonomy dwindle; they should also be content to see fewer foreign students and a consequent increase in parochial sentiment on campus. They should also be content to see their own tuition fees rise.

Because, ultimately, it is the individual student who is responsible for ensuring that he or she is being properly represented by their elected officials. Let us hope that the vote on Friday was not a vote merely to remain with the *status quo*, a vote against change and interest on the part of students. If it was, next year will be a hard year for students. And if it was, the Spark slate can quite easily be expected to remain placid in the face of further government encroachment on university jurisdiction.

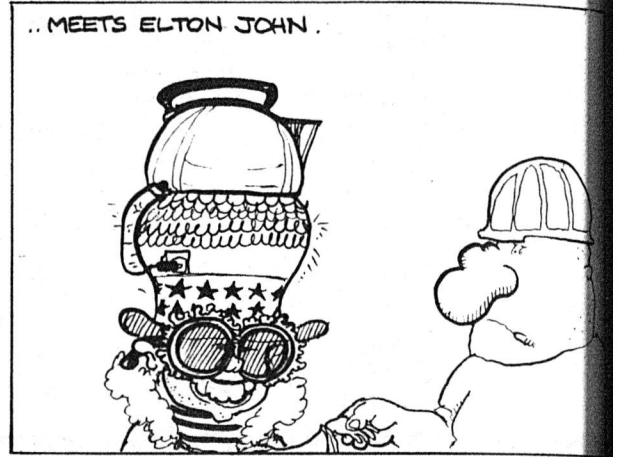
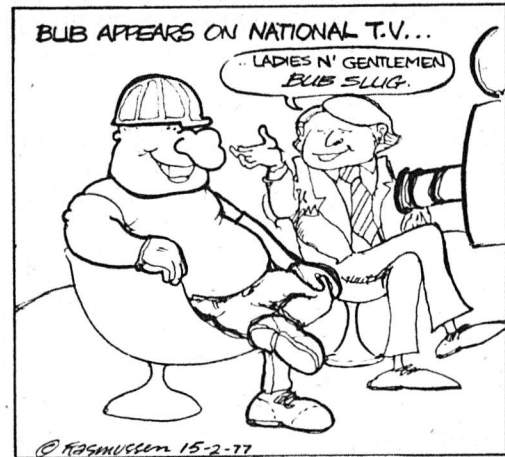
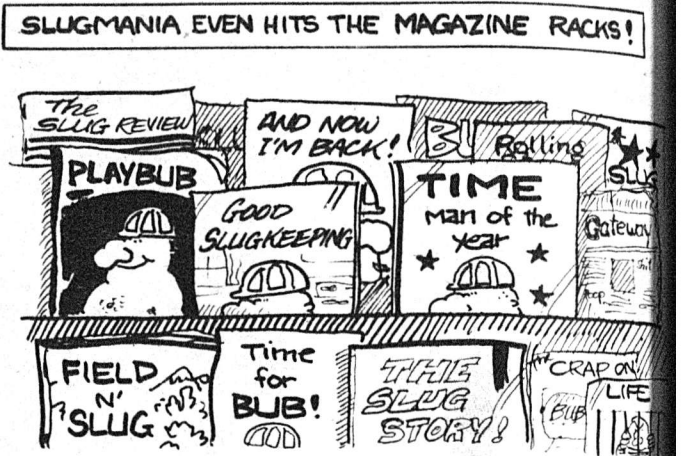
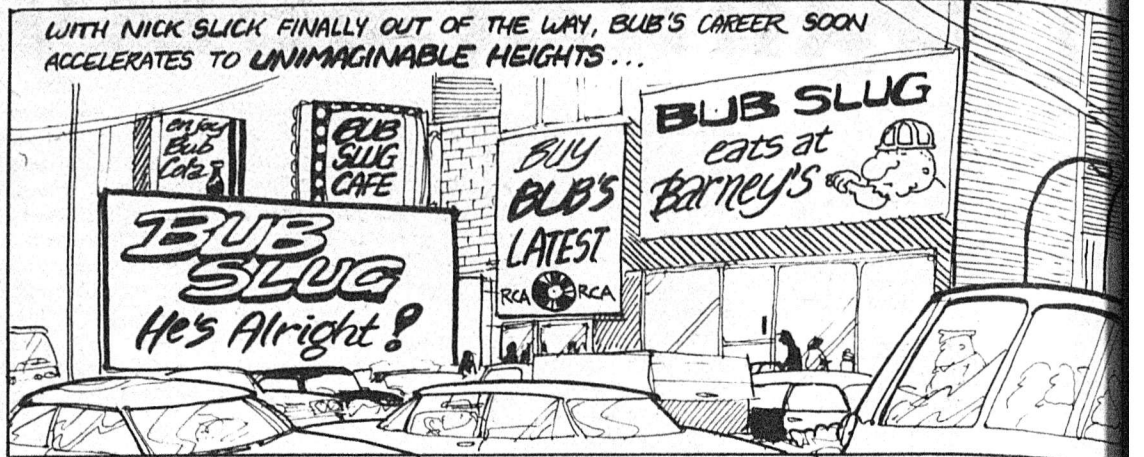
There seems to be some confusion here. The Board of Governors have now debated the issue of foreign student differential fees twice, and twice they have voted against such differentials. Alberta's advanced education minister Bert Hohol is still not ready to listen.

The senates at every Alberta university (composed of public-at-large along with academic staff and student representatives) have voted against differentials. District labor councils, academic bodies, student bodies (including FAS and each of the U of C, U of L and U of A students' unions), Peter Savaryn — the leader of the Alberta Progressive Conservative party, church groups — all have voted against the differentials in the last six months. When confronted by such reaction, Dr. Hohol has fallen back on his safe, "grassroots" support — "it is the public will."

It's too bad they've discontinued the trans-Canada passenger trains through Edmonton — maybe Bert could make sure they ran on time.

by Kevin Gillese

## BUB SLUG by Debinney & Rasmussen



## YSers do not understand

The other week someone accused the Young Socialists of endorsing Stalin's mass slaughter programme whereupon the Y.S. replied that they didn't and that one could be a socialist without endorsing such policies. Now it may be quite true that the Y.S. do not explicitly endorse mass slaughter or similar measures, but this is because they, and others like them, do not grasp the full import of their ideas on human rights and the nature of government.

In any totalitarian state, be it socialist, fascist, Communist or Nazi, the primary function of government is to control the activities of the subjects and dispose of the products of their efforts in accordance with some plan. Irrespective of what rationale is used to justify such a procedure, the fact remains that in such a system no human being has any rights. His life and his efforts are not his to enjoy but must be surrendered to the state.

The principle that all men must be subservient to the whole has as its corollary that the "whole" or their representative may dispose of the individual as "they" see fit. Any amendments added to this principle must ultimately give way to it for, if a social system is set up so that fundamentally each man can do

only what society gives him permission to do i.e. so that he exists by permission and not by right, then the permission to live can be revoked at any time. The subject has no recourse for he exists solely by permission.

On the principle that men exists only by permission from the state, there is no principle to stop the state from revoking the permission to live, and killing as many people as they see fit. Any such killing(s) can always be justified by asserting the principle that all men are subservient to the whole and the whole may dispose of them as they see fit.

So, while certain groups may claim that they do not explicitly endorse things like the Stalinist slaughter of the kulaks, or Mao's slaughter of revisionist, or Hitler's slaughter of the Jews, or whatever; by maintaining that a proper society is one where the

individual men are subservient to the whole and that this whole may dispose of the individual's life and efforts as they see fit, they are endorsing the principle that anyone may be killed at anytime if it is the will of society.

For some unfathomable reason, people of this persuasion call themselves "humanitarians" and claim to be concerned with people. Operating on such a principle that "justifies" killing humans at will, I don't see how this claim is substantiated. Advocates of murder, mass or otherwise, for whatever reason do not deserve the title "humanitarian." For proclaiming a view of such moral repugnance they deserve nothing less than the fullest and most exacting condemnation.

Jack Adams  
 Grad Studies

## Editorial was wrong

The editorial by Kevin Gillese in the Feb. 10 Gateway certainly did attempt to gloss over what is really a very important issue. Whether or not the concern shown was "unjustifiable"; whether or not *Le Devoir* misinterpreted "humour"; whether or not the whole affair construes a national dilemma; is totally irrelevant. The point is that French-Canadians felt slurred by what is clearly racism.

To attempt to dismiss the whole issue by labelling one Engineering statue (depicting a frog on a lily pad shooting at a beaver beside a maple leaf) as "bigoted, in some less-than-viscious manner" is ludicrous. Bigotry is bigotry, whether it is expressed by sculptures against French-Canadians or by differential fee hikes against

foreign students. The Gateway has constantly campaigned against racism on campus in all areas and must be applauded for doing so. However, the inconsistency demonstrated by this editorial has, in my mind, certainly damaged the credibility of the stand.

Dean Chiasse  
 Med

## Put my head at top

I find it incredible that there is so much opposition to the foreign student fee hike. What are all the headlines about those students at U of A supporting the well deserved tuition fee differential? Put my name at the head of the list.

L. Kaplan  
 Eng