

EDITORIAL

DIE board follies

The election is long since over. The handshaking is finished. The banners are down. The posters are gone and the thousands of pamphlets have been trashed.

For most of you who voted, the election is just a memory. Whether your candidate won or lost is immaterial at this point. The executive committee has been elected. It is up to those people to assume the responsibility given them by the voters, if not, immediately, the duties of their respective offices.

At this point, what that responsibility entails is accepting what the voters have decided. It is unfortunate, then, that some people wish to try and betray the democratic process by prolonging and endangering the establishment of a committee voted in by the people. Melodramatic as that sounds it does not sway from the truth.

By the time this paper hits the stands, DIE board will have convened and, most likely, heard all the complaints against the Greenhill Team and the Therrien Slate. Regardless of DIE board's decision, the entire process leading up to the meeting last night was unnecessary, extremely divisive and pathetically petty.

There are few left who feel DIE board can be a useful body. For the most part it is used in a most vindictive manner by people of similar ilk who cannot accept defeat. These people have no business running for office or being involved in the Students' Union.

When anyone competes in an election the possibility of losing at the polls should not be considered while running. It should, however, be accepted if it becomes reality. DIE board has nothing to say at the ballot box and should be used afterwards only in the event of a severe transgression of the rules.

If DIE board performed a strictly judicial function, if it was used solely for the purpose of explaining how someone (slate, team) had breached discipline, I would applaud the process. The manner in which it's being used now, though, exemplifies all that is rotten in the Students' Union.

To use this board for no purpose other than to get back at someone because you lost, betrays the trust of the voters and is a horrible injustice upon DIE board's members. To go to DIE board because in your peurile, childish mind, you can't take defeat is to remain the child. It is just as well for the Students' Union that you lost. You do not deserve office.

To lead or to be involved in the bringing of complaints to DIE board against people you will be working with next year is just plain stupid. It serves no purpose other than to create bitterness, division, mistrust and a complete lack of respect. This is not what you were elected to accomplish. The motives of both the Greenhill Team and the Therrien Slate in launching complaints at DIE board must come under question.

It has become something of a tradition to prolong an election at DIE board. In this sense, DIE board has been reduced to nothing more than a vehicle to try and disqualify a candidate or overturn an election.

I feel for those people who sit on DIE board. They have an extremely difficult job. They invariably meet during only one period of the year and are pressured to make the right decision.

Once they have made their decision there is no longer the guarantee it will be accepted. We are now seeing the decision of DIE board concerning the confidentiality question and Robert Greenhill being appealed outside the Students' Union to the university disciplinary board. Superceding DIE board is flaunting the autonomy of the SU in our own face and it is not the way to achieve anything.

The people who sit on DIE board do so for their own reasons. It is not for others to try and manipulate these people for petty, personal, political gain.

Andrew Watts

The nature of arguments

I never saw an instance of one of two disputants convincing the other by argument. I have seen many, on their getting warm, becoming rude and shooting one another.

Thomas Jefferson, 1808

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Staff this issue:

The moon was bloody red, the snow glowed green, and the Gateway ran sixteen pages, as Jack Vermece and Cathy Hrynchysyn stood in the center of the sacred circle while Martin Coultts, Nate Lakoi, and Gilbert Bouchard held sceptors in agreement with Charmaine Roux and Heather-Ann Laird, then Gren Little in trance reaches the spirits of John Roggeveen, Bill Inglee and a recently deceased Gordie Roberts, with Mike Skeet, Marianne Nielson, and Martin Beales looking on in horror as John Algard proclaims Tanya Morrison as highlow queen of the upperlower blackwhite Heckfire Club, with the moon blushing purple, the melting green, and the Gateway still running sixteen pages....

The Gateway is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief; opinions and editorials are signed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway. Copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm 282, Advertising Dept.: Rm 256D, Students' Union Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7. Newsroom phone 432-5168 (5178), Advertising - 432-4241, Ext. 28. The Gateway is a member of Canadian University Press. Newspaper readership is 25,000.

gateway
VOL. LXXIII NO. 39



« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

Extinguish Greenpeace

Greenpeace, a radical group of environmentalists, has gained alot (sic) of support in the past decade; how or why I do not know!! It is famous for using the media to illicit (sic) public sympathy, usually at the expense of a smaller group of people. For example the Newfoundland seal hunters are now poorer than before because Greenpeace has used the media to manipulate and misconstrue the facts involved with the issue. I do not believe that seal hunters are barbaric animals nor do I believe that seals are an endangered species. I do believe that baby seals are cute and I do believe that Greenpeace has used this cuteness as well as the media to sway public opinion. Let's get one thing straight right now, these seal hunters are not the Montreal Expo's (sic) out for a little batting practice, they are poor fishermen trying to capitalize on a lucrative market.

The latest Greenpeace fiasco is occurring off the coast of B.C. where Greenpeace members are gearing up for yet another sympathy-evoking stand. Greenpeace has decided that the Pacific Aquarium in Victoria should not be allowed to capture two young killer whales. Does Greenpeace feel that no animals should be taken out of it's (sic) natural habitat? Yes I think that is their point and yet I do not see Greenpeace members boycotting my local pet store or any pet store for that matter, these guys want headlines (sic). The Greenpeace stand against the Pacific Aquarium is absurd. Killer whales are plentiful off the West Coast. What is the harm in exhibiting these magnificent creatures for the public to enjoy? I found the show at the Pacific Aquarium to be a learning experience that dispelled many of the myths that surround these killer whales.

Finally, I believe that Greenpeace should be disbanded or at least put a stop to their attention getting schemes. Extinction is the fate of every species that has ever existed on this planet. Extinction is a natural process that Greenpeace cannot stop!

Colin Halley, Science III

An apartheid analysis

As an Asian South African, I am pleased to see the Gateway's interest in the inhumane episodes of deaths in detention (Feb. 17th). On the other hand, I am disappointed to see the Gateway's support of Apartheid; by their publishing of De Beers advertisements. On campus, the South African political framework seems to be the source of fierce controversy. The following are just a few of the atrocities I've witnessed while living in South Africa.

The white South African government takes a perverse delight in criticising, attacking and even overruling it's black population. This exercise of authority on the black race induces an aversion to free criticism by the victims of apartheid. Although the South African government should be in a state of emergency, it rejects drastic reforms in police since they believe this would be counter-productive and harm the economy. The South African economy does after all thrive on cheap black labour.

Many South Africans fighting for basic human rights are condemned by Section 6 of the Terrorism Act which is a synonym for mental torture and inhumane treatment. With the homeland policy, the natives of South Africa are not only deprived of their land but are forced to make a living on arid pieces of land and give up South African citizenship. As the South African plans for separation become more 'sophisticated', they are succeeding in a policy designed to create labour pools for the white economy while denying the black workers political, social and economic rights in the so-called white areas of the country.

This is Apartheid no different to that of thirty years back. This objective, allied to the determination to separate the black people themselves on ethnic lines, resulted in mass removals of people from one black area to another or from 'white' areas

to an ethnic 'homeland'. With the continuance of such uncivilized racial separation, South Africa will reach the day when there would be no black South Africans; ie. no black person with South African citizenship. Just to quote an example of the homeland policy: Kwa Zulu, the home of the Zulu people crams more than three million people into 3.5 million hectares of land and the population growth is amongst the highest in the world.

The perpetrators of Apartheid are committing an unnecessary evil and are leading innocent civilians down the road of a bloody revolution. It is unfortunate that the South African government lacks the foresight to bring about changes; genuine changes, unlike the cosmetic window-dressing they are not involved in. However, I still see the small chance for peaceful change, but time is running out. I look forward to seeing more discussion on the racist South African policies, on campus.

Seelan Naidu, Science I

Try you make sense, eh?

Re: Letter to the Editor, February 15, 1983 - "Only Israel Tries Its Own," by C. Davison and Max Pinsky. The PLO may be a terrorist organization; Israel may be a dove in the middle of a nest of vipers!

That makes average gossip for idiots, but it spells poor taste, and it shows below-standard maturity and common sense, as well as a shameful lack of analytical coherence in the presentation of arguments.

Mr. Pinsky, and Mr. Davison would be well advised to pay attention to their studies.

The loss to learn more about the events in the Middle East, that Mr. Pinsky and Mr. Davison (and indeed all concerned people), have incurred, following the disruption of an open forum last December 3, 1982, must not dominate over the more disastrous loss of two academic years in law school, following which, they are still unable to communicate without confusion, and without fuzziness their thoughts to the public.

Al Mansoor, Special Student
P.S. Lest there be any misunderstanding, the writer emphasizes his repugnance to any attempt at muzzling people's right to speak their minds in a decent manner.

Compulsory mugshots

I found your recent article on the unfair hiring practices at the Faculte St. Jean "interesting". May I take this opportunity to point out that all applications for the contract residences (Lister and Pembina) administered by Housing and Food Services must have a "recent" photograph attached. Last spring when concerns were expressed as to the fairness and equity of this procedure, those who questioned were told by employees of Housing and Food Services that no application would be processed unless accompanied by a photograph. Even those persons living in contract residences had to submit a new application and a photo must be attached. The assumption on the part of re-applying residents was that a picture was already on file, why was another one needed? However, to get the applications processed, pictures were obediently submitted.

I question whether the submission of a photograph on any type of application is in accord with the Human Rights Commission?

K. Penney Sanders, Faculty of Education

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should be under 250 words. Letters must be signed, and include faculty, year and phone number. No anonymous letters will be printed, although we will withhold names. All letters should be typed or very neatly printed. We reserve the right to edit or delete letters for reasons of space or libel. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.