

The Gateway

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editorial

I'm still amazed, after three and a half years on this campus, when 10 times as many people show up to listen to religious lectures as show up to listen to forums on political issues. All the religious types on campus, it seems, are more interested in listening to Christians reaffirming their belief in creation and denouncing such theories as von Daniken's chariots of the gods or Darwin's evolution than to debate on an issue such as northern land claims, a political question whose implications involve such things as inalienable human rights, aboriginal land rights, Canada's dependent status on the United States, etc.

There were 1,000 people at a forum two weeks ago on chariots of the gods and only 100 at yesterday's forum on native land claims — and that says something to me about the political atmosphere on this campus. It's so much easier to be a Christian and argue the academics of Biblical history than to become involved in a modern dispute which is not black-and-white, which has nothing to do with faith, and which requires clear analysis and careful thought about fundamental human values before any conclusions can be reached. Of course, not all religious sorts ignore the political issues — it is evident that the inter-church group, Project North, has taken a valuable and prominent role in publicizing the issue of native land claims and encouraging debate on the subject. But there are too many people — many religious, many simply apathetic — who think it is sufficient to argue the semantics of anthropomorphic worship, for example, without concerning oneself with the important social issues of the present, those which will be of crucial importance to the future of Canada and, particularly, to the future of our northern natives. And that's why it is incorrect for people to assert we have a democratic Canada; sometimes it looks like we don't even *want* a democratic Canada.

General Faculties Council Executive Committee made a major mistake yesterday when they voted to "request" the press not to print any of the arguments raised in GFC exec. discussions, but merely to print their recommendations to GFC. On first glance, the exec. request — and arguments for such a motion — seem perfectly reasonable. The exec. members felt that because their recommendations were often printed long before they reached GFC, that GFC members felt they were being railroaded into a rubber-stamp position, as if the press had "prejudged" the issues for GFC.

Upon closer examination, however, it becomes obvious that this exec. request implies a major lack of faith both in GFC itself and in the handling of stories by the press. First off, I personally think most GFC members have enough intelligence — and enough interest in university affairs — to judge an issue critically, and not rubber-stamp a recommendation merely because it comes from the executive. Second, I don't think the press very often implies that a GFC exec. recommendation is anything more than a recommendation. The discussion around recommendations is carried on so that people can examine what issues were raised; some GFC members will likely be able to focus on the subject more easily because they have read some of the debate already begun on such issues and thus will argue more lucidly when the issue is brought before them.

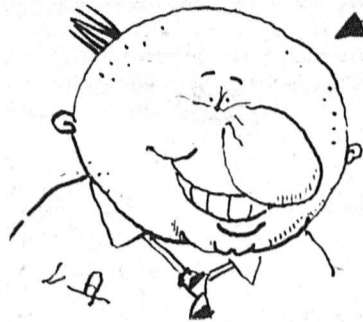
And on the other hand, the exec. motion probably goes against the reason for an executive committee in the first place. GFC exec. acts as a screen for GFC, and if there is no reporting on what types of things are screened out — or not recommended to GFC — there is always the chance that an important, or potentially embarrassing, issue will be shunted aside by GFC exec. and the public will never learn of it. The debate inside GFC exec. is useful if only because it is tighter than GFC's, it sometimes deals with matters which do not appear before GFC, or it sometimes deals with matters which should be discussed *before* they are raised in GFC meetings.

There are no reasonable arguments in favor of this latest GFC exec. decision — and I would hope that GFC members, at next Monday's meeting, will bring a motion to the floor encouraging GFC exec. meetings to remain open to the press. In this way, we will see the free climate on campus continued and hopefully, we will be brought to a time when no decisions are made behind closed doors, and all members of the campus community can at least be aware of the decisions being made and why.

by Kevin Gillese

the WORLD'S FIRST ANNUAL CACTUS BUNS LOOK-A-LIKE CONTEST!

IF YOU KNOW ANYBODY WHO LOOKS LIKE THIS MAN...



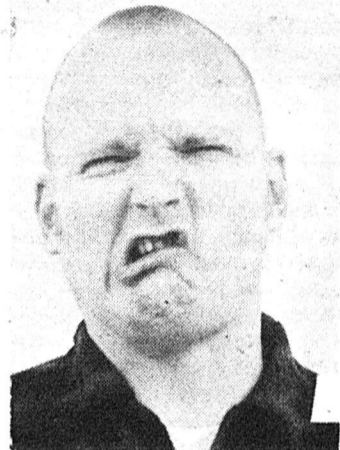
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Here they are folks — the entries to our 1st annual Cactus Buns look-alike contest. The decision is yours — mail your choice to Gateway, Rm. 282, SUB, or drop around in person before April 1st.

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Exposure is not assault

At the risk of adding more fuel to the fire I wish to state my opinion on the value of the campus night watch which is supposed to stop "assaults" (sic) on campus.

First, the only assaults (sic) I have heard of on campus

(through your paper of course) have not been physical assaults (sic) but mental assaults (sic) where some crazy guy runs out and shocks a young lady. I would venture to say that most of these "perverts" are university students and herein lies the problem.

I feel that most of these people are just out for kicks; they flash because they know people will be shocked and they are reinforced by the notoriety they get in your paper. I can remember when streaking was the big thing, did people complain about assaults (sic) then? (This may, or may not have been a fad here, I don't know, but where I was an undergraduate it was).

Because of the attention these people get it is very likely it will become a fad to flash and there will be nothing that the night watch will be able to do to stop it. It will go down in campus lore along with gold fish swallowing (they still do that too), yule log contests, engineering week and all the other pranks that happen on campuses everywhere. And it will be done by sane individuals for a laugh.

Now, granted there are some fruit cakes around who will be violent and rape and murder and occasionally (although we have heard of very few cases) one will get on campus, again, unless the night watch has a person in every dark corner (if that is where they hide), it will be ineffective against any confirmed pervert because even they are not stupid.

The Gateway should stop seeking sensationalism on this issue, as this only encourages "assaults" (sic). The women involved should stop thinking every flasher is a rapist and get used to the fact that men will be boys. I'm sure that the university is a safe place compared to other parts of this city, i.e. Boyle street. If people feel threatened, the only thing they can do is learn to protect themselves, not complain and bitch for more policing.

Lastly, if they are worried about the punishment of those anti-social individuals who wish to parade naked in Edmonton weather, that I think is punishment in itself.

Alex Brown
 Grad Studies

Lister students given special vote of thanks

Thanks—Remerciements

I wish, through this medium, to express my sincere gratitude to all members of the Lister Hall Student Association, for the award which was presented to me during 1976-77 annual award night, 20th March 1977, in the Banquet Room of the Lister Hall. It came to me as a great surprise, more so when I consider my age as being well ahead of that of many students in residence and it looks that fortune appears sometimes purposely to wait for the old age in life, in order to be presented as a merite.

My appreciation of the gesture is therefore heightened

by the fact that the students have willingly made me feel a part of them, all through the year. I consider it a great fortune which youth has bestowed on my age. I must confess that my experience in Lister Hall has been wonderful. It literally lifted the veil of age and I felt great upsurge of Youth, in associating my present experiences with the crowding resurgence of the memories of my past youth.

To students in 10th Henday Hall, I also owe special thanks, since they constituted my most intimate means of interaction with the student population of Lister Hall. I laud their respectful attitude toward me and value the special award from the floor greatly. Now I can with great joy look back on the day I decided to spend the year after retirement at the U of A.

I can also recommend to others who have ploughed through so many years of life like me, that if they ever decided to make the rest of their life an epoch, they must come in contact with youth for the second time as I have tried to do, they will never regret the step.

In conclusion, I must say, that I am proud of all of you—great members of Lister Hall Student Association! Thanks ever so much!

—AMICIZIA VITA ORNAT—
 Rajo Vuksanovich
 Senior citizen, student
 10th Henday Hall

Every home should have one

For only \$15, you can obtain your very own bound copy of all '76-'77 issues of the Gateway. Place your order today in Room 256 (Students' Union General Office).