

## Boycott boycotts

Violence and oppression cannot be tolerated. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan cannot be watched with only frowns and murmured threats. However, a response to the invasion should not include an Olympic boycott. Unfortunately, Joe Clark has been prompted by a faltering campaign to make an Olympic boycott proposal that could be more damaging than constructive.

The fact that a boycott would be a reflex echo to U.S. threats is bad enough. More importantly though, Clark and many others have forgotten the Olympics are not just games. The Olympics is the last major event uniting all countries in non-violent endeavor. The Olympics were the one event able to create friendly international exchange of ideas for the improvement of mental and physical health.

Of course the games have become commercial and often seem to represent a corporate Olympics. Still one point remains clear. That is, the Olympics exist to find the world's fastest, and strongest, athletes. No single nation has been able to steal the game's significance and place it on its own doorstep.

Of course countries have tried to boost a false sense of superiority with the Olympic's prestige. For example Nazi Germany in 1936 tried but could not steal the Olympic's blind love for the best. Hitler's blue-eyed Aryans did not sweep the games. Instead a black man, Jesse Owens, became the hero, and his German competitors were the first to congratulate him. Hitler's schemes were ruined and his refusal to congratulate Owens exposed him as the leader of a sick philosophy. Unfortunately, the truths made clear at the Olympics are not apparent enough today. Simply, the Olympics show that, under the timer, no race is superior of body or mind. We are of the same collection of cells, hopes, and dreams.

What a mistake to forget that participation in the games is a nation's acknowledgement to living in a world community that does have inflexible barriers. Certainly walls exist, but the means of breaching them should remain intact. Individual freedom is not a guarantee in the East of the West. Still, as long as any form of meeting occurs, even if only at four year intervals, there is hope for communication. Where there is communication negotiation can occur and perhaps peaceful change.

To ignore the game's diplomatic opportunity is to ignore a possibility of peaceful change. Quite simply, the Olympic team is a diplomatic mission and a refusal to send the Canadian is a refusal to send our diplomats. Does Clark, with his impressive foreign affairs record, realise cutting diplomatic ties is often a prelude to war? Does he realise at the least a boycott will represent a slavish alignment with a frustrated and often irrational US reputation?

Perhaps that is what he intends. It may be he, and others who wish a boycott, would prefer non-negotiation and risk global violence. Perhaps the hint or possibility of violence is a spice to take an electorate's mind off economic problems.

In any case if Canada decides to drop out of the games not only a diplomatic opportunity is lost. Canada will lose a reputation as a reasonable and friendly land. Instead Canada could appear like a Hitler who didn't like the way the game was played. Global tensions must be dealt with. An Olympic boycott seems an easy way to pressure the USSR. However, a boycott is clearly more destructive than any of the dubious good it might possibly achieve.

Karl Wilberg

# the Gateway

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Newsroom 432-5168  
Advertising 432-3423

**Editorial Staff**  
EDITOR - Gordon Turtle  
MANAGING - Keith Krause  
NEWS - Lucinda Chodan  
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## Last minute slate assembly

I wish to comment on this Friday's election when some of us, at least, will elect next year's executive committee, and Board of Governors representative.

The two slates of candidates running this year are characterized, as usual, chiefly by the haphazard way in which they were assembled. I do not intend to criticize the individuals involved for what is almost the traditional method of procuring candidates, but rather to suggest that it would be a mistake to suppose that a slate is composed of equally competent individuals or that they will necessarily be able to function as a unified body if elected.

The fact of the matter is that, over the last several years at any rate, slates have been selected largely at the last minute using as candidates almost any person who could be persuaded to run (for those with long memories, no, I do not exclude myself).

An examination of the Thorkelson Slate's campaign literature leads me to the following observations. Firstly, most of the candidates seem to lack relevant experience. Not one of them, for instance, is a councillor. Some have sat on a few Students' Union boards or GFC committees, to be sure, but that is no great distinction, particularly in view of the vacuousness of most of their other qualifications. As for their base of support, it seems to rely far too heavily upon Lister Hall and the Faculty of Commerce.

Secondly, is the overall impression of their platform. They have a few worthwhile ideas, it is true. However, many of their most interesting proposals, such as a differential price structure favouring students at SU outlets, a charity fund, and institutionalizing the Long-Range Planning Committee, are all being worked on by this year's executive. Many of their other proposals have a marked '50s flavour. Their platform indicates

## Support for MLA Nite

I disagree strongly with the Gateway editorial of January 29 on University Night. Its basic premise is that students' interests are contrary to the government's interests. Such an absolute statement is obviously incorrect. For example, a strong Alberta economy is beneficial to both students and government. University Night is an attempt to show the government that its interests and those of students can be the same.

The editorial also suggests that public dissent will be more successful than 'wining and dining' in dealings with the government. No evidence is advanced to support this and the only examples of public dissent suggested are protest marches, mass demonstrations, and a public meeting that would, like other such meetings, attract very few students.

Finally, the editorial suggests that Students' Council has lost the support of many students through its lacklustre approach to governmental relations. Students' Council has lost the support of many students by attempting to represent students on issues that students do not see as being within its purview.

David Roberts  
Commerce IV

to me that they perceive the SU as a glorified Glee Club. Any attention they pay to significant political or administrative issues is obscured amidst trivialities.

As for the Astley State, they demonstrate some of the same organizational weaknesses. However, as candidates, their individual qualifications largely exceed those of their opponents. Their platform seems to me to be less fanciful as well. They at least indicate that regaining control of SUB (of which we can now use about one third) is a priority with them. They also promise some action on the question of fee structures, access to education, and funding cutbacks, issues which appear to be entirely ignored by the Thorkelson Slate. With these considerations in mind, I would urge support for the Astley Slate, with the following exceptions.

It is a pity that the existence of the slate system as it has evolved over recent years, tends to obscure the independent candidates. This year there are two particularly good independents - Darrel Rankin, running for vp academic, and Mary Ann Gillies, for Board of Governors. The qualifications of these persons far exceed those of their opponents on either slate. These positions seem to have been somewhat neglected, in fact. This is unfortunate, for both are of great importance.

Mr. Rankin has been very active in the Arts Students Association for several years,

doing much the same sort of work as would be required of him if elected. I know him to be a very hard worker, and have high expectations of him. The position he seeks is by no means less important than other executive committee positions. The vp academic is in a position to influence the entire academic environment on campus and should be chosen with care.

Ms. Gillies is a member of the Faculty of Arts executive committee. She also served on the Dean of Arts Selection Committee. As such, she has direct experience at the higher levels of university administration which will stand her in good stead as a Board of Governors member. This is far more than her opponents can say. I am confident that what they promise in the way of representing students, bringing the B of G home to us, as it were, and bringing our interests home to them, she can deliver.

I hope I have demonstrated by claim, that electing a full slate is no guarantee of electing six competent individuals, or for that matter, six who can work together at all. Those who wish to confirm my remarks may easily do so by examining the campaign literature, applying the salt as needed.

There is no choice but to vote for those best qualified for the position they seek, and to do so on an individual basis.

Steve Cumming Sci IV  
Science Councillor

## SU services for us

For those of you who missed Halley's Comet, the Grand opening of the all new Brick Warehouse, and Billy Beer, another miracle is in the making. The good old U of A Student's Union is changing.

It started with the dividing of the record store into SU Records and SU Tapes, and, we, the students, are swallowed by the price increase led by Pharaoh Olmstead. Next we have new management for the theatre (and do not confuse new management for new movies). You can (for the same price as in prior years) catch such contemporary hits as "The Apartment," "Gidget goes to RATT," and "Lassie: The Iranian Wolfhound: Go Home." Not to mention such rockers (in the concert series) as Sarah Vaughn, Dale Harney and the Magic Men, Bobby Curtola, and I understand they are negotiating a five figure deal with Sonny Bono. I can't wait.

Next we have the table service at RATT, which is good for two reasons; 1) no one can possibly drink as service is impossible; 2) the waiters look so miserable and confused, we all feel that our own lives can't be as bad as we thought.

Moving down the list, we have music in Friday's. Enjoy breakfast (?) to the mellow sounds of the Pointed sticks, the Stranglers, and AC/DC. While in the evening when you're ready to rock, we have the Mills Brothers and Iranian folk music (soon to be discontinued). One other thing, if you want a captive audience, have the music so you can't ever turn it off. Holy 1984, Batman!

Further improvements are: the waiters and waitresses in Friday's and RATT will be forbidden to wear T-shirts under pain of death. What this has to do with improvement I will never know, but I understand a fashion coordinator is being sought for

1980. So watch for further changes in the SU that you will enjoy (or else!). It is unfortunate that nothing can be done about the price of albums, the concerts or movies we are forced to endure, or SU policy at all.

It has just been confirmed that the Moms and Dads will alternate with Gaby Haas for the entire year of 1980 in Dinwoodie. Are you ready to Rock?

So, sit back, enjoy another cup of Friday's delicious coffee and have another South African beer and be sure that all is well with your Students' Union. By the way, a fund has been started so that some SU employees can pay their Christmas bills as all part-time and casual workers are laid off for two weeks over Christmas and New Year's. You see, our wise and beneficial Students' Union think that those workers don't deserve Christmas pay. Thanks Dean.

Ted Mill  
Arts I

## Executive defender

Regarding your 'Executive Report' editorial, I am sick and tired of these constant attacks by the Gateway on the SU Executive. Reasoned arguments against their policies and programs are desired from and expected of the Gateway. However, the malicious personal attacks on the Executive that culminated in the 'Executive Report' editorial are totally reprehensible. I hope that the editorial staff of the Gateway will exercise better judgement in the future.

David G. Roberts  
Commerce IV