

## Irrelevant

Mary MacDonald's article on "Adjustment hard for foreign students" is full of incorrect information and rather questionable assumptions.

Her statement that approximately one-third of the population on this campus is composed of foreign students is wrong. In fact the figure is closer to one-tenth, which is in line with the total foreign student body in Canada (and I may add the total number of Canadians who study abroad and are thus foreign students).

Her next assumption, that there is a great culture shock both on arriving here to study and on returning home after studies is based on the comments of one student. Although some students may experience difficulties this is certainly not the norm.

I would like to point out that since 1972 the Immigration Department does not leave the option of staying in Canada open to people on student visas. Regulations state that they must leave Canada upon the completion of their studies and they cannot convert their student visa to landed immigrant visa during their time in Canada. Therefore people entering Canada on student visas expect to return to their countries and we have no reason to assume this is a particularly traumatic decision. It should not come as a surprise that many people want to return home and do not see staying in Canada as their ultimate goal.

Our experience has been that foreign students, like any students, cannot be categorized and Kaur's comments (the Indian student) are relevant only in as much as they apply to her.

Ruth Groberman  
Foreign Student Adviser

## Coroner's jury

A recent news item relates that a teen-age girl was held in a private institution in this province without due process of Law, and that she hanged herself after repeated attempts to escape. She had informed her captors of her intention. The Coroner's Jury recommended that the "Detention Room" be not further used, and questioned the advisability of the girl's period of detention in the "home".

I am thankful that we still have Coroners' Juries composed of concerned citizens, rather than leaving this area to functionaries for whom it could be a mere employment. The recent Kirby Commission made an ill-advised recommendation, to dispense with Coroners' Juries. I wonder if they could have read the Brief which I submitted to them, warning and explaining why they should not reach such a decision. It is to be hoped that the provincial government will now reject this Kirby Commission proposal, and will ensure a constant high quality of Coroners' juries, by requiring that such juries shall come from various age groups and walks of life rather than from "a convenient source."

A prisoner is entitled to fair and humane treatment even when not, as in this case, being unlawfully deprived of personal liberty. A young person, despairing and near hysterical,

requires, not to be locked in a detention room in solitary confinement, but needs the strong arm of compassion and understanding.

The public should be concerned. Delegations from citizens groups, Church and other, should regularly visit all places of detention to ensure that imprisonment and treatment is in accordance with our laws. I am not concerned here with vicious and unrepentant murderers, nor with hardened criminals, though even the latter should be redeemed if possible by humane and even handed justice. I write of those who may be locked away without appearing before any court and without the condonement of Canada's Law for their incarceration.

## Ignorant

Once again it seems people argue ignorantly on what they know little of. I am speaking of Mr. Geldart's letter "Move to France". It is rather unfortunate that a non-Canadian wrote the report on the situation of Franco-Albertans. Nevertheless his conclusions were rather accurate. Mr. Geldart is quite right that no one can possibly ask for more than equal rights. However when has this policy ever been in use. Moreover I firmly believe that it is imperative that unilingual French schools be available. English speaking people in Quebec have for many years benefitted from totally English programs. As far as I can see,

motions presented by the Students' Union Executive.

First, Executive recommended that Students' Council voice its approval of the BAC building in the Arts Court. This discussion has been going on for the four years I have been here, and I personally thought the student position had been laid to rest when a referendum was held a while ago. The results of the referendum showed clearly that the students did not want BAC building in the Arts Court. Yet the Executive felt that the wish of the students should be ignored. The motion to Council was defeated after presentations of several students-at-large and the reminder to Council of this previous referendum.

Last Monday, a similar

essence the SUB Expansion Fund, except on paper, ceased to exist. The money in the fund just wasn't in our hands; it had been spent on HUB.

Last Monday this Council with its great number of appointees (including myself) and members elected by a small minority of their faculty, ignored the voice of the students in the referendum and voted the SUB Expansion Fund out of existence.

Whether this fund would ever have been used for expansion of SUB is immaterial. That Council could ignore the expressed wish of the students on campus is a subversion of the democratic ideal and of the money we spend on referendums.

I really wonder why even as many people bother to vote as do! Your voice won't be heard, or if heard, it will be ignored.

HUB is a loss in every way. There must be a way to get rid of its drag on our revenues, and this method is certainly not by giving more funds to the pool. Students have already expressed this wish in a referendum.

How can Council continue to ignore this? I don't really know.

Gordon Mills  
Med. Rep  
Students' Council



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## Unethical

Who can a student trust these days? Where can one turn to be treated justly when one supposedly ethical organization, namely the VCF have proved themselves to be a university-funded syndicate of rip-off artists. They dare to hide behind the name of Varsity Christian Fellowship!!!?

In September of this year, I left five textbooks with them, believing that because of the exposure and popularity of my old texts, that they would be easily sold. Due to uncontrollable circumstances I could not return on the specified days, amazingly they kept all my books, no money refunded!

I made a vehement attempt to find out what had happened and what could be done about my situation. Why? Like most university students, I needed and still do need the money from the sale of these books. Had I now been in such a bleak financial situation I would have kept these books for references!

I also felt that being a Christian Fellowship, they would understand my situation, as any understanding organization would.

After my appeal they informed me that:

1. Had any of my books been sold, they would keep 33% of the price rather than 20%.

2. Since my books were not sold, they were keeping them all - plain and simple!

In addition I feel it necessary to point out the difficulties involved in raising funds through operations such as a massive first week book exchange. However, where these funds are spent and if these practices must be invoked to raise funds for the VCF, then I must publicly challenge them to prove that my books were not sold. If they cannot, I feel that my books should be returned immediately.

In closing, I appeal to other students, who may have been similarly affected, to do the same.

Dan Skarllicki  
Commerce 4

French culture has never jeopardized the intellectual development of English speaking people.

As for Mr. Geldart, I feel it is imperative that you study the history of Canada, more specifically, the B.N.A. Act. There are ONLY two official languages and cultures in Canada. Other minority ethnic groups just have to abide by the constitution and if they want to continue their traditions it's totally up to them.

It's about time English speaking Canadian got out of their shells and realized that learning French, the other official language, will unite Canada, contrary to the previous absurd observations.

Marc Piauquier

## Students ignored

Referendums?

Why bother!

In theory, referendums occur when Students' Council feel they should ask the opinion of the students-at-large on matters which they don't feel competent or at least don't want to deal with without the students' guidance.

Let us consider two recent

question came before Council. Should Council transfer the SUB Expansion Fund to General Revenue? All of us know this money will go to our "World's Longest White Elephant": HUB.

Just a little bit of history; Students' Council here at the U of A has entered into a unique venture. Both in its concept and its magnificent failure. This year alone, HUB is budgeted to lose over 178 thousand dollars. Not too bad, but unfortunately it has been worse in the past and will probably be just as bad in the future. This does not in any way consider the capital costs of HUB or all of the money we have already lost; this 178 thousand is just what we are continuing to lose.

A few years ago, the Executive and Council went to the students with a twin barreled referendum, one to give the union more money via fees for HUB, and the other to allow Council to transfer monies from SUB Expansion Fund to the General Fund.

First, the students increased fees, but due to lack of trust in that Executive and due generally to a wish to quit pouring funds into HUB, the motion to transfer funds from SUB Expansion to General Revenue was defeated.

That Council got around the problem by loaning the funds to HUB from General Fund and in

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