

editorial

Students returning to an institution such as the university or perhaps arriving here for the first time are usually faced with some surprises. Education students will no doubt be a little surprised to find their elections to students' council last spring were improperly conducted. According to what was reported at the last Students Council meeting, the ESA elections were advertised with only one "stragically placed" poster and a number of handouts. It's rather surprising that the ESA election organizers could assume such advertising could be considered sufficient.

It is not surprising the Students' Union executive decided to let the four education councillors, who filled their seats by acclamation, stay on to represent the faculty over the summer, even though, as SU speaker John Ferris mentioned in council, if the improper election procedures had been reviewed by the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement (DIE) board, the councillors would have been refused their seats. True, there can be no fair rerun of an election when all of the voters are leaving for their summer vacation. And besides, summer is usually already packed with reruns.

It is really very surprising, however, that the Students Union has not as yet called a re-run of the ESA election now that students have returned.

SU president Jay Spark said the councillors have good records, and to make them go through a by-election would be defeating the purpose of encouraging student participation.

The implications of president Spark's terming the members "good councillors" are far reaching, to say the least.

Does he mean the councillors have attended each and every meeting, or have they bent over backwards to ensure the smooth efficient running of Students Council, or does he simply mean that the Four ESA councillors have lots of Brownie points with the SU executive?

As to the statement another election would defeat the purpose of encouraging student participation, first, it can not be determined whether or not the four ESA councillors were elected by acclamation because of apathy, or because of poor advertising. Second, one of the most effective ways to encourage interest and participation is to establish credibility. No one really wants to work for an organization that tends to side step difficult problems and fails to correct mistakes.

The constitution does not apply the advertising and election guidelines used in the Students' Union General elections to Faculty association elections. Therefore, neither the ESA nor the Students' Union is required to hold a re-run of the last election. The only thing that can really be effective in convincing them to do so is the realization that an error has been made and that they have an obligation to correct it.

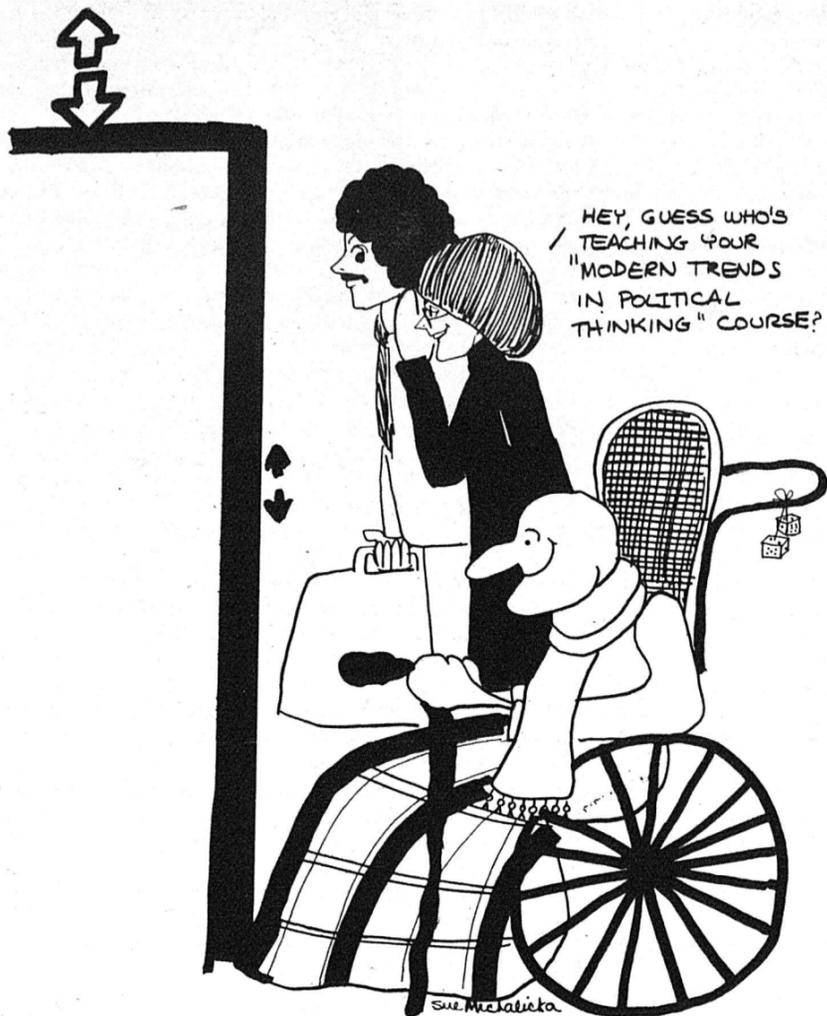
Allen Young



Gateway

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Down the Institutional Path, Now

Once more the start of a new session and once more we observe all kinds of autumnal farmyard scenes at the bookstore. The casual passer-by will marvel at the lines of eager-faced people clutching impressive piles of canned learning. This annual ritual must surely rank close second to Registration for the Student Hassle of the Year Award.

The keen crowd at the check-out have swallowed hook, line and sinker, the system of recommended texts for courses. Their faith in their instructors to give them keys to examination success in this way is quite touching. Obviously they've forgotten the stock of just as expensive books they bought last year — most of them as good as unopened.

Even if the recommended texts are relevant, the system that their use generates is completely inconsistent with imaginative research and learning. No book perfectly covers, or even covers adequately, the wide range of material presented in a university

course. Students are given little encouragement to research topics with reference to a variety of sources in a library. A situation further aggravated by the fact that only a few instructors quote the origin of their lecture notes.

We should consider how we would like to learn at this university. The choice is between a hectic, narrow-minded, superficial acquiring of facts and an

enlightening understanding of concepts, implications and theories in our studies. If we require the latter, we should press for a system that has time for and encourages personal research with a broad base for creative student

Andrew Brennel
 Grad Studies
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Technocratic Realism

One phrase of your initial editorial in *The Gateway* of 7th September is worthy of rescue from oblivion. You mention: "the farcical nature of student politics in the seventies." Of course you only said it because it's true.

The sixties, as we all remember, was an era of student activism, protest and radicalism in a vain attempt to amend the status quo. The sound and the fury have all passed away.

So what's for the eighties? Let me guess.

In climactic frustration with a Price System that does no work, students will try Realism. Increasingly they will expect and demand a social system that will produce results commensurate with the physical capacities of America; an objective design for technological age; the full potential of science to provide an age of abundance and a full life for all citizens of North America — Technocracy.

You could start now. Are you here. Why not?

Walt Fry

To Hell with Politics

I believe there are many students on this campus who do not want to add another \$15 onto our SU fees (a hefty 23.3 per cent increase) to satisfy union demands, especially for part-time students.

We, too, can use more money and would be willing to work for minimum wage and to hell with politics and bargaining tables.

Therefore I believe the time has come to recruit non-union oriented students, for the benefit of all students, rather than allowing a few union-oriented

students to take another \$15 a year from us.

This solution should also be looked at for the permanent employees. It seems they are quickly becoming a luxury we cannot afford.

M.W. Ekelund
 Cm Engineering IV
 and part time university employee

P.S. Congratulations to Manfred Lukat on his appointment, and on his serious approach to the responsibilities of the job.

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