

Thank Santa for morality! Santa knows, without the codes of conduct that Santa wrote himself how would I know how to behave? I, as a human, certainly have no ability to decide on my own morals. Besides, Santa does not murder innocent babies, as God murdered the infant son of David and Bathsheba, nor does Santa condemn those he loves to eternal damnation for any reason.

I agree fully with Mr. Arnold, and I just can't figure out why people don't take me seriously.

Gordon Turtle  
Grad Studies

## Gender Offender

I am writing to express my doubts about the priorities of the University of Alberta. It was reported in the Gateway (Thurs. Nov. 7th), and the Edmonton Journal (Sat. Nov. 9th), that \$50,000 has been allocated to "Faculty Enhancement" to correct "gender imbalance".

Myer Horowitz is quoted (in the Journal) as saying, "It's a kind of affirmative action where we make a real effort to correct what is a serious deficiency."

This seems to be a purely cosmetic initiative. The University will be hiring people solely on the basis of a perceived need to correct a "gender imbalance". Nothing is said about whether or not the faculties involved actually need another instructor; indeed, it seems that the only criterion for hiring will be to correct the effects of past hiring practices. Surely the University, a bastion of progressive thought, cannot have been guilty of not giving equal opportunities to both sexes! Next you'll be telling me there is no Santa Claus!

Dr. Horowitz goes on to say, "The \$50,000 won't go very far, that is obvious to everyone. It's just a start."

I have to agree that 50 grand doesn't go very far - but 50 grand isn't the total cost of this program. This money is intended to pay a percentage of the cost of hiring new personnel (the percentage is not disclosed). Presumably the faculties will be making up the difference between what Faculty Enhancement covers, and the actual cost of hiring new instructors. This only adds to the cost of running the University, and the increase will no doubt be passed on to the student in the form of higher tuition fees.

It seems inefficient, and costly, to hire additional, otherwise unneeded staff, merely to correct an imbalance. While it is desirable for both sexes to have equal opportunities, it is difficult to understand why the students, through higher tuition fees, must bankroll efforts to correct previous hiring policies. Students are constantly being told belts must be tightened, programs must be cut back, etc., and it is hard to justify this cosmetic extravagance when there are programs which could use 50 thou in a meaningful way. (Not to mention the monies saved by the individual faculties.)

Most students, when asked, probably don't care about the gender of their instructors. Their main concerns are the costs of their education and the competence of their instructors. It is generally accepted that the gender of their instructor has no bearing on his or her competence. While my sympathy goes to those whose gender is under-represented on staff, I do not feel that the students must accept financial responsibility for correcting the situation.

If you are going to have affirmative action policies at the University, have the courage to apply them to the hiring of needed staff, where it would show real initiative; or is this, politically, too bitter a pill for the Board of Governors to swallow? Anything else is mere posturing, especially when the real cost to the University, and hence the students, is not disclosed.

M. Levenson

## Good timing...!

Dear Editor,

I am responding to the article about the Bangladesh Students' Association (BSA) which appeared in the November 13/85 issue of the Gateway. Since I am the person investigating this club, I feel there are several misrepresentations I must clarify.

Firstly, the investigation of the BSA did not start as a result of a letter submitted by students of the Bangladeshi community. No such letter has, to my

knowledge, been received. The letter to which Mr. Donnelly refers was sent by a former member of the BSA who is not a student. This individual informed me of several questionable incidents and urged me to thoroughly investigate this club based on the incidents he believed were handled in an undemocratic and unconstitutional manner.

Secondly, only two registered letters were sent to the suspended member (who, incidentally, was not an executive member, but rather an associate member). Allegedly a third letter was sent, however I have seen nothing which proves it was sent by registered mail and the person to whom it was addressed denies ever having received it.

Thirdly, the BSA was not "originally intended to be subordinate to the national association". In fact, no relationship to the national association is mentioned in the BSA constitution. One of the founding members of the BSA has informed me that this club was intended to be totally independent of the national association even though the interests of the two associations are similar. The original purpose of the club was to provide a "service" to Bangladeshi students. This club was to play a supportive role in helping Bangladeshi students cope with living and learning in a different country as well as to provide a social and cultural life as similar to that in Bangladesh as possible.

Fourthly, the allegation that the Students' Union has refused to offer the BSA the specific written complaints which led to the investigation is not entirely true. The letter which urged the investigation of this club was written confidentially. When the BSA initially requested this letter, I phoned the complainant for permission to release this letter. The complainant specified that I was not to give the BSA a copy of the letter, but that he didn't object to my discussing the contents of the letter with them. Therefore, out of respect for the complainant, the actual document was withheld. In order to give the BSA a fair opportunity to defend themselves, I have discussed this letter and its contents in some detail with two members of the executive on several occasions (the second occasion being when three executive members of the BSA appeared before the Building Services Board to present their side of the story). The executive members of the BSA are fully aware of the contents of this letter and have been given several opportunities to defend themselves.

Another concern of mine is the fact that the article printed November 13/85 mentioned, by name, two men who were physically attacked "because of conflicts concerning (BSA's) participation in Heritage Days". Whether these "claims" by a third party are true or not is not my point. My concern is that neither of these men gave permission to *The Gateway*, to David Donnelly or to the third party in question to link their names with these alleged events. Further, I believe that the public disclosure of their names without permission is indiscreet as well as a blatant invasion of privacy. I expect that an apology to these two men will be forthcoming immediately for the embarrassment they have suffered as a result of such a disclosure.

In closing, the Building Services Board will be faced with the task of resolving this issue on November 18. The outcome of this investigation will be decided based on the facts I have accumulated during this long and time consuming inquiry. At this point, I would like to say that all evidence both for and against the club will be given equal weight in the decision-making process and that under no circumstances will any hint of discrimination, racial or otherwise be permitted to interfere with the outcome of this investigation.

Barb Higgin  
Clubs Commissioner

## Future thought...

Dear Sirs:

Why do you insist upon italicizing *The Gateway*? There, you see!! You did it again!!

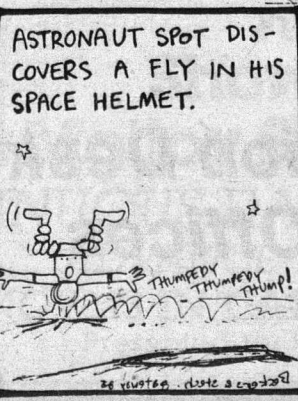
Payton Farquar  
Science Lab

P.S. Where is Ablerta and who is Paul Getty?!

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### Beckers and Stech



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