

Redlin replies to Kushner's reply to Hume's reply to Kushner's NUS report

I am writing responding to a message in Stephen Kushner's letter to the Gateway in which he alleges that the "six demands" of the NUS were railroaded through the (FAS) plenary at the fall plenary of the Federation of Alberta Students. This is a completely unfounded allegation and I would like to clear up any impressions your readers may have gained.

Before any major issue is discussed at the FAS plenary or session it is first considered

in a smaller, open group called a workshop. The idea of endorsing the six national demands was extensively discussed in the cutbacks strategy workshop. Each of the demands was considered separately one at a time. There was considerable discussion of each one and before moving on the chair asked if anyone had any objection or amendments.

No one objected. Both Mr. Kushner and his colleague Kaysi Eastlick as representatives of the

U of A were present.

The motions were then considered again at the final plenary session. Workshops recommend policy to the plenary where they are again discussed and voted on. The chair of this session ruled that the demands be considered as a package in light of the reams of other workshop reports which had to be considered that day. This did not preclude amendments to specific portions of the package or debate on them. However

none were forthcoming.

Finally a word about confrontational approach of National Union of Students and by implication the Federation of Alberta Students. In deciding upon a strategy in any student campaign, the term demand is used to identify the objectives of the campaign, i.e. what you want the government to do.

This in no way means that when you approach the government in a meeting or a letter that you pound your fist on the table and demand anything. FAS positions (and I am sure NUS is the same) are put forward politely but firmly. We ask for things, we argue for things, but we don't demand anything.

The Federation of Alberta Students works closely with the

National Union of Students simply because it is impossible to do otherwise. Given the degree of co-operation between the provinces and the federal government on education financing, student aid housing and other issues there is no alternative. Provincial and National student organizations are complimentary. Both are needed if students are to have any affect on their education and their future.

I hope the students at the U of A consider the issues carefully before deciding on NUS membership. Unfortunately with the amount of misinformation prevalent, that may be hard to do.

Blair Redlin
FAS President

Aborted letter

Editor's note:

We received this letter, addressed to "Mr and Mrs Gateway", and we are printing it in this issue. The envelope was marked Mexico and the letter was printed on the stationery of the Hotel DeCima, Mazatlan.

Ignorant American ...

You should call the Democratic Party, THE ABOR-TION PARTY.

I interned in Illinois when a Catholic Priest was thrown in jail as a Democrat, Judge Tom Gibson, for trying to halt Illinois' biggest industry ... the abortion business. This is paid for by Illinois and Federal tax money ... do you wonder why U.S. economy is weak?

I don't know why Democrats are pro-abortion. When I visited the clinic with Dr.

Zavallos and Casper Nighonossian, they were aborting blacks and welfare whites ALL WHOM VOTE DEMOCRATIC. The only wealthy whites were ACLU Lawyers who were assisting in getting the Priest imprisoned. They also had stocks in this abortion chain.

I SEE A DIM FUTURE FOR AMERICA AS IT'S MORALS AND MONEY AND MILITARY CONTINUE TO DECAY. Leaders in it's decay are corrupt politicians as Democrats, Judge Gibson, C. Nighonossian and Hector Zavallos. And thousands of the others.

Do you know I met only a few honest and intelligent politicians all the time I was in the U.S.? They include Sen. Bob Dole from Kansas and also Jesse Helms, Strom Thormond and Dick Schwieker but they will

never be President because they are honest! Howard Baker is a CFR member.

For these reasons, I will never refer a patient to your once beautiful country. Once the "Land of the free and home of the brave" now is the "Land of the Free-Loader and divorced-home."

Dr. Jeanette Peacock

On the back of the letter, this was written:

You Americans like to waste your money on —
wine
women
taxes
(abortion & social security)
WHO ARE THE UGLY AMERICANS?
The Judges who legalize murder (abortion)?
The M.D.'s who perform them?
The politicians who force U.S. taxpayers to pay for them?

Power failure

Today I discovered the true meaning of the word frustration. I had the infinite displeasure attempting (very unsuccessfully) to complete a pharmacy math surprise quiz without that marvel of the space age, the electronic calculator. As a result, my quiz was a bust, my course mark has dropped two stanines, and I may not pass the course.

The secret of writing a surprise quiz, I reckon, is to not be surprised. I was legitimately surprised by this one, however, and forgot my SR-11 pocket calculator.

I was the only one who did. My instructor, seeing my plight, supplied me with a change calculator whose cryptic controls were so scrambled and illogically arranged that I went back to doing my calculations by hand. It was simpler.

I completed about a third of the test.

I was told by my instructor afterwards that his test had been designed so that students without calculators could complete it in the fifty minutes provided. Bullfeathers. There was no scratch paper to do calculations upon, and the margins were too narrow to serve any purpose. Doing the calculations on the back of the pages offered you some room, but then you spent the desperate minutes frantically flipping over pages.

I admit it; in the five years I've used a calculator, I have become dependent upon them to do my basic math for me. Without my calculator, I'm a shuffling, shuffling hopeless case at least in the mathematical sense. The moment I walked into that class unarmed I was

Should I be punished for becoming dependent upon something which our technology in its wisdom has provided? How many farmers could survive today if they had to sow wheat by hand or plow using a wooden horse-drawn plow? Probably zilch.

My classmates all had calculators. I was trying to outrace one hundred little electronic computers with three pounds of grey stuff. So what did my test measure? My ability to solve the problems (I usually get 95% on these quizzes, by the bye) as the test should do, or my ability to outrace a class filled with calculators.

I ask you readers, is this fair? Is this reasonable? Is this whole planet insane? Or is it just me?

To this instructor I must say; hold your next "surprise" math quiz, but deny the students their calculators. If more than ten people out a hundred finish the quiz, I'll gladly eat this newspaper.

L.H. Hashman
Pharmacy

Simon solidarity

The Simon Fraser Student Society has always recognised the need for a national student organization to deal with student concerns at the federal level.

The effectiveness of such an organization increases as the number of its affiliates grows.

The Student Forum of Simon Fraser University (the elected students representative

Letters

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the Gateway, Room 282 SUB, Edmonton, or dropped off at our office. Please include your name, student I.D. number (if applicable) and phone number. Please limit letters to 250 words or less. If you wish to write a longer piece, come to see us. We reserve the right to edit all submissions for libel.

STAFF PARTY FRIDAY (TONIGHT!)
Free liquor (bring your own)
Free food (bring your own)
Free love (take your chances)
AT THE OFFICE FOR DETAILS
(like where it's at).

Deportation laws excessive

In Mike Dowling's article, "Immigration abuse," he made one constructive statement. "How FAS can legitimately cry 'injustice to foreign students' when they violate these laws is beyond me." I agree with you, Dowling, it is obviously beyond you.

Maybe if you could see beyond the end of your nose it might dawn on you that it is excessively harsh to issue a

deportation order for being a few days late in renewing a visa.

I acknowledge that it is the student's responsibility to renew his visa on time. However, let's be reasonable, a visa is issued on a yearly basis, (school year), is it not conceivable that a student could forget to renew his visa on time?

Foreign students are just ordinary people, who came from law abiding homes and who are only able to study in Canada at great personal sacrifices not only of themselves but of their parents and other members of their families.

Narrow minded individuals like you who like to talk about "privilege" and "violate the law" give the impression that the foreign student is here to rip Canada off. I would like to remind you that a portion of the standard of living you are enjoying is due to past and present exploitation of the countries that many foreign students come from.

Jim Young
President
S.F.S.S. Forum

country may be classed as *terra non grata*, or what moral issues may be considered in drawing up policy. Distasteful though South African politics may be, there is no middle road between a policy of totally open investment, or no investment at all, anywhere. The price we shall pay is the successive erosion of minority freedoms by other minorities.

The next point to consider is, why South Africa alone? For too long now, South Africa and Rhodesia have been the focal points for rebels with no other cause. Surely there is a need for genuine concern, but why so selective? Who has asked for sanctions against Russia for its persecution of Jews? Or against Cambodia, or Vietnam? What about Uncle Idi, for the expulsion of Ugandan Asians, or Somoza, or the family clique of Haiti, or Neto's attempt to slaughter the population of southern Angola? A degree of hypocrisy becomes apparent in the selection of South Africa alone.

The urge to do something about the situation in South Africa is understandable, but is a matter for individual conscience alone. If the proposal becomes practise, a highly dangerous precedent of coercion and censorship within a supposedly free body will have been set, with deleterious results for any minority group, and ultimately for us all.

Richard Miller
Grad Studies

Dowling, do you have any idea of the price these students have to pay for this relatively small mistake. The sacrifices they made and those of their parents would have been for nothing. If you had any idea of what it cost to be a foreign student you would not regard the subject so lightly.

Once deported it is extremely difficult to regain a student visa, not only from Canada but for any other country.

Even the individuals ability to travel or immigrate in the future is impaired due to the fact that they were once deported. To destroy a person's future so lightly is too high a price to pay.

Anyway, if the whole discussion was beyond you, try to comprehend one point. Foreign students are people, with the same hope, desires and feelings as you. They have a right to be treated fairly and justly.

Wayne Whitbourne
Arts 3