

Ad in bad taste

This letter is in angry protest regarding the jean ad in the September 27 Gateway. There is nothing humorous in knowing that there are starving people in this world. It is bad enough that we turn our backs to campaigns to raise money for starving children, but to make tasteless jokes about these people is reprehensible. Why doesn't the Gateway print worthwhile material that would reflect the maturity of the students.

K. Tkachuk
C. Dow
M. Wood
Fines Office Cameron Library

A serious headline for a change

Regarding Doug Roche's talk here recently, I think he would be more credible if he were known to have accused the Soviets of continuing the nuclear crisis as well as the Nato Nations.

It seems that never has he protested directly against the Russians and if his goal is legitimate, he should make equal protests. Or maybe that's not what he wants to do. Maybe that's why they call him the Red Tory.

Bill Belta
Arts II

Gonzo Braithwaite III, it does have a nice ring to it.

Hello. Under normal circumstances, I would not be writing to the university's top newspaper (opting instead to conserve precious energy used for much more important activities such as sleeping), but the recent controversy concerning one Ernest Braithwaite III has finally roused me from a restful coma.

First, Ernie-baby, you have hurt my feelings by calling me one of the fish in a sea of iniquitous decadents. Now granted I wear faded jeans (non-designer), T-shirts, beat up Nikes, tend towards long hair, have never owned or worn a suit, and enjoy rock music. This doesn't mean I do not appreciate fine classical music, literature, dramatic performance, etc. And, I am sure I am not unique in this manner, or are you just too self-centered to be able to admit to yourself that we members of a lower evolutionary scale can also enjoy the same things as you?

Another thing that picks me is your little Military Training Club (for which you seem to have already made yourself Commander-In-Chief-For-Life). While I have no objections to the armed

forces, I do not believe it has a place on campus. Regarding your two years of military service for every male, that's a pretty good joke. Now before you call me a spineless traitor, let me tell you that I am probably one of the most nationalistic persons that this country has ever seen and I would not hesitate to defend my country in the face of a direct threat from an enemy aggressor, such as an invasion by a dealy horde of reindeer from Greenland. In any other situation, I see no need to don any uniform other than that of a hockey team.

Oh, Ernie, Ernie, Ernie, I feel so sorry for you that you were born in the wrong world, but I'm sure that Bonzo and his friend Watt-me Worry would gladly take you in any day to their narrow-minded world. But wait, why should I say all these nasty things about you, after all you can't really be blamed for anything. Why would I say this? Because I know what the cause is for the intense pressure on your brain which has caused you to have such a uniquely warped mind. Frankly, the answer is your name. Ernest Braithwaite iii? Really. You'd be such a nicer little boy if your parents had named you something simple like Spot or Sue or Gonzo or.....

(Oh yes, I exist too!)

Arty Poodle
Science III

Then I guess you won't be reading this ?

I have been a faithful Gateway reader since my undergraduate years commenced in 1967. Over the years, I've seen the good, the bad, and the ugly of various issues of the Gateway. In the Tuesday, September 27th issue, however, I found something so SICK I doubt I'll ever read your newspaper again.

I am referring to the phoney Foster Jean Relief advertisement found on page 12. I can not believe you intellectual (?) people would publish such disgusting, hateful and sick an item as that.

Obviously, it was created by some very deranged people in the US. Why you felt compelled to publish it is really quite beyond comprehension.

A very classless, distasteful act, sir.

Sandy Rennie
Grad Studies

News-writers

All present, former and potential newswriters should attend this meeting today in the 92 Avenue lounge in HUB Mall between 3:00 and 4:00 o'clock.

Staff Meetings

Gateway staff meetings are held every Thursday at 4:00 PM in Room 282 SUB. All interested students welcome.

THE BLADE

by Dwayne Chomyn

While listening to the news this summer I heard Andrew Watts, SU VP External, state that he would like to see Dick Johnston, Minister of Advanced Education, help maintain "good communication between his department and student government." At the September 13 meeting of Students' Council, Ann McGrath, Education Rep, argued that "Council should be more open to its constituents."

It strikes me as odd that two councillors, one to the right of the political spectrum and one to the left, who probably couldn't agree on anything both speak within a paradigm which either explicitly or tacitly states that the assembly in the Council Chamber constitutes a government.

Since our concept of the process of which we are a part undoubtedly structures our political behaviour, it is perhaps fruitful to explore this issue further in the hope of determining what the nature of the students' organization is.

The Canadian political scientist John H Redekop defined government as "the office holders in certain institutions who, by whatever means, have to be recognized as bearers of ultimate power within a polity and whose main role is the authoritative allocation of resources and values in that polity."

Assuming first the Students' Union is one of the "certain" institutions alluded to above, consider if the rest of the definition is operative.

To clubs, the SU is probably a bearer of power within a strictly defined polity but the problem is, is that most students don't belong to clubs. Secondly, while most students would concede that a primary role of the SU is to allocate scarce resources few would find the terms used entirely appropriate. Is the main purpose the authoritative allocation of resources and values in the polity? No, it strikes me that the language is much too broad.

Consider a term which incorporates some aspects of the term "government" but is much

narrower in scope - namely the obvious term "union."

In its' political context Khan et al. defines a union as an association "specifically organized to represent group interests to other organizations in the political system."

Further, he states, "they are distinct... because they are formed specifically to articulate interests in a political manner."

In such a definition unions are seen to be explicitly interest articulators treated as part of the political system and accepted as legitimate political bodies by society as a whole. While it is obviously not inconsistent for there to arise a major and fundamental economic function (read: SU business enterprises) in order to supplement the members' dues, it is equally true that if this economic function is pursued above all others - namely the political function closely associated with interest articulation - then, by definition, it ceases to be a "union" and is now better described as another creature.

If the SU is a union or is desirous of being truly a union then clearly an attitude transformation must occur.

It is safe to say that because of dynamic and very capable individuals in certain positions of authority a view of the student union has come to predominate, which, while not inconsistent with the functioning of a union is surely detrimental. In short, the political agenda of this association has been circumvented, being replace with the view that Council is a government, and, strictly speaking, governments "allocate resources."

I think that as students we need a well defined organization capable of effectively articulating the concerns and interests of students to other bodies with the social formation.

This can not be viewed as just one of the SU functions among many, it is the fundamental purpose of the association and must be pursued with imagination, vigour, and efficiency. To accomplish this the organization must clearly expand its resource base; it must have a diverse business holding to expand my \$50 fee through prudent management. But this cannot overshadow all.

Frankly, I need a union - not a McDonalds.

Tuition Fees

If fees are still unpaid after October 17 a student's registration is subject to cancellation for non-payment of fees and the student to exclusion from classes.

Students who expect to pay their fees from federal and/or provincial government loans are referred to Section F of the Registration Procedures booklet or to Section 15.2 of the University Regulations and Information for Students Calendar.

Fees are payable at the Office of the Comptroller on the 3rd floor of the Administration Building.

Office of the Comptroller
The University of Alberta

The Faculty of Arts

presents

a lecture by

University Professor

Dr. Leslie C. Green

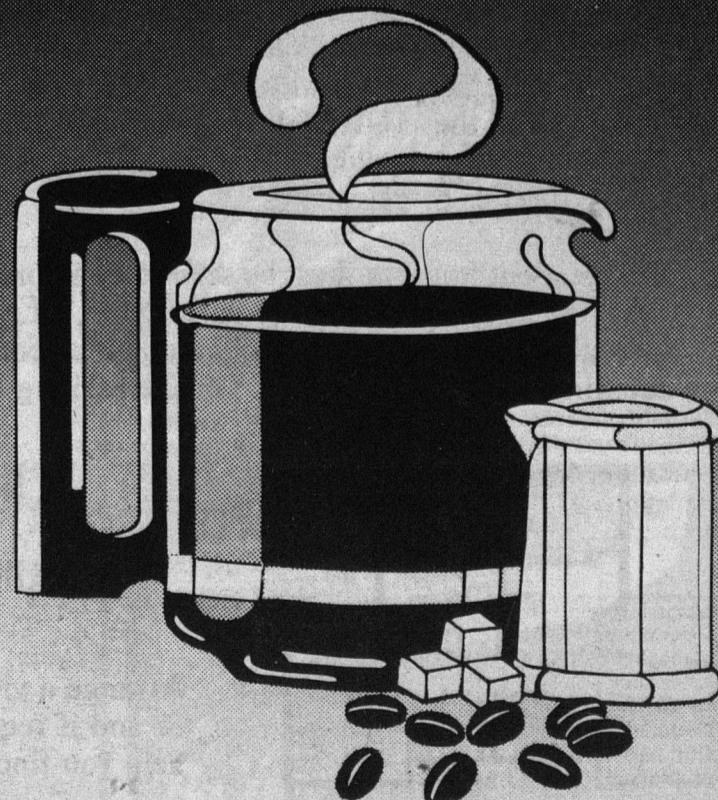
Department of Political Science

"Extradition, Expulsion, and Kidnapping"

Wednesday, October 12, 8:00 p.m.

Lecture Theatre 3
(Audio-Visual Wing)
Humanities Centre

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