

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

Take along a little perspective

On your way across the river Thursday afternoon give a thought to all the money we're going to get once Peter Lougheed realizes we're serious about our education.

While you shiver on the steps of the Legislature passively expressing opposition to cutbacks and underfunding and tuition increases, think of all the new books, test tubes, and highly qualified professors, not to mention administrators, janitors and international students which that money will provide.

Free tuition. It'll be great. And a grant-loan system (i.e. more grant than loan) to help pay rent and living expenses will help make our education just a little more complete. No more book shortages: we'll buy half a dozen of each new title, and keep the library open until midnight everyday of the week. Gee, then we'll be able to look private donors in the eye, as it was, and say smugly 'We want none of your self-serving corporate-capitalist blood money here,' thank you. It will be the ultimate in living payola for genuine democratic educational egalitarianism open the doors to all good people (egalitarians think all people are good enough); quoth the sage: 'if it's warm, it worth expressing itself.' Send them all over and we'll educate them highly and forthwith they will build a better society.

Perhaps I will stop just short of shortshrifting the institution primarily charged by society with being concerned about its past values and future hopes," according to our university vice president academic Dr. George Baldwin.

But the consensus seems today to be that we must responsibly perform this noble task by grinding out more graduates. Our performance might well someday be judged not by the number of degrees thus conferred, but the quality of the degree-holders, and in this, my idea of declining education stems from quite different assumptions than our highly motivated, well-meaning, and seemingly ubiquitous student movement leaders.

I would make two points: first, to be sure, the institution could use more support, and nothing but good will come of our defending our interests, but at the same time we take too little credit for our own miseducation.

Second, if we continue to dream of an egalitarian society where everyone benefits directly from higher education, we will either consume resources which ought rightly to go to more worthy causes (for which we will argue there isn't enough to go around) or we would as well stop calling what we get here post-secondary education.

University president Myer Horowitz said at Convocation last summer:

"Does this province want to have the University of Alberta at the very highest level along with Oxford and Cambridge, Harvard and Stanford, Toronto and McGill? Why not? I suggest that if our primary principle is equalization and if our goal is to have all of our universities on the same plane, we shall probably succeed in achieving that goal, but at a very high price because... none of our universities will be judged to be at the very top."

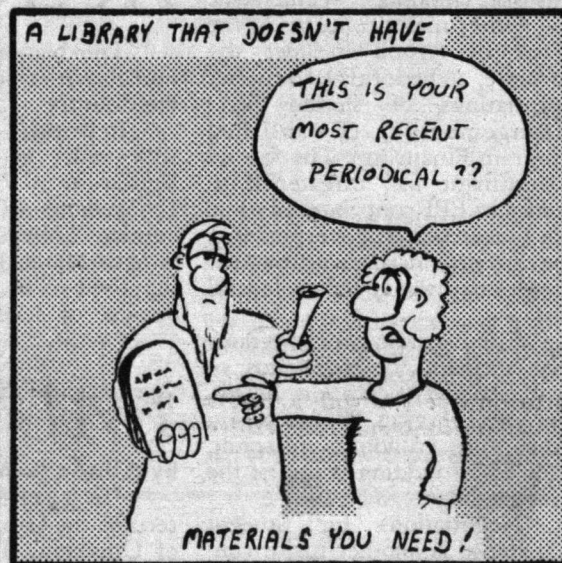
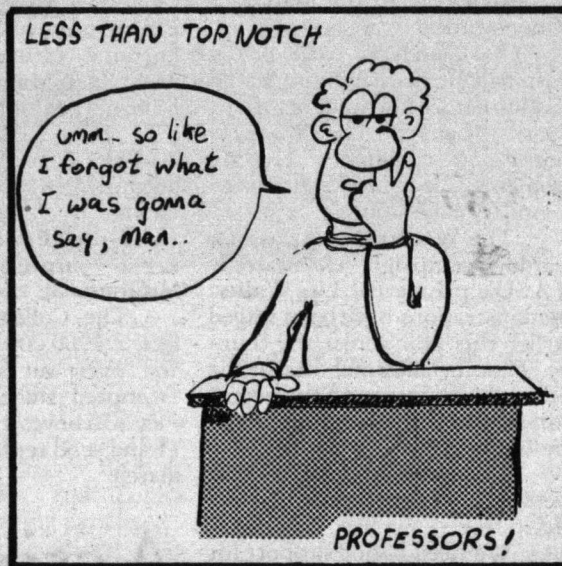
Now, I would not wish to take Dr. Horowitz out of proper context, nor to presume that we agree on all things, but I sense a certain parallel here, and I think it is right-thinking. To flesh it out, I even have a (politically unfeasible - it's a measure of integrity) simple plan.

We would begin by imposing challenging entrance requirements to the university, either from high school or after a post-secondary one-year probation, and eliminate roughly one third of the present student and staff population through attrition. We would eliminate tuition fees and provide assistance to those in need. Entrance would depend solely on academic standards, not ability to pay. Students might even be paid (through scholarships) for outstanding work, and the competition would be fierce.

If all of this sounds logical and fair, but elitist, and if you're still with me, then you're on the right track, or at least you're willing to listen.

Peter Michalyshyn

REAL GOOD REASONS why you should march Thursday



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lunney advocates student march

Dear Editor,

I am writing with respect to the General Faculties Council's recent decision to cancel classes on Thursday, March 11 between 12:30 and 3:30, so that staff and students may participate in a march on the Provincial legislature. The vote in GFC was 41-27 in favour, indicating significant support within the academic community for this event. I urge

ALL students to participate and NOT to take undue advantage of this support.

If you have a class during this time period and the instructor has not announced that the class has been cancelled, then ask. Should the instructor refuse to cancel your class please contact me at 432-4236 or in SUB 259.

Those students who are unable to participate, due to prior

commitments in the clinic or student teaching, are encouraged to sign an Anti-Cutbacks postcard at one of our information booths.

Whether it be marching or signing a postcard I encourage you to participate in your Provincial Day of Action within the National Week of Student Action.

Sincerely Yours,
Elizabeth Lunney
Vice-President Academic, SU

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject, regardless of how much you normally run off at the mouth. The fact that you are hot under the collar doesn't impress us in the slightest. Also, spastic, disjointed and semi-intelligible writing is pure migraine to read, and should be saved for your professors, who deserve it. Thirdly, the statement "I think" is just a theory, and considering the evidence - 3,877 predictable letters on every subject - a rather dubious theory. Finally, we reserve the right to hack, chop, or shred any windy, illiterate, or defamatory correspondence. Furthermore, if you persist in sending us such diatribes, Gateway special assistants Vito and Ernie will take whatever extralegal measures as are necessary to insure that you bother us no more.

Cavity in dental funds

Due to prior commitments to patients, which have been booked months in advance, the members of the Dental Undergraduate Society cannot participate in the march on the legislature on March 11, 1982. Therefore we would like to use this opportunity to voice our opinion on the level of funding of post-secondary education.

As students who are required to provide professional services after four years of training, we cannot afford a cutback in funding. These cutbacks affect the quality of our academic and clinical staff and a reduction of supplies and

materials. This compromises our training and the level of future dental services in this province.

In conclusion, the Dental Undergraduate Society heartily endorses the policies and stand of the Student Union and the Anti-Cutbacks team of the University of Alberta in the National Week of Action Campaign. We wish them well in voicing our concerns as students to the Government of Alberta and the Government of Canada.

Sincerely yours,
Neville Headley, Pres.
The Dental Undergraduate Society

EDITOR - Peter Michalyshyn
MANAGING - Mary Ruth Olson
NEWS - Wes Oginski and Greg Harris
PRODUCTION - Robert Cook
ARTS - Jens Andersen
SPORTS - Andrew Watts
PHOTO - Ray Giguere
CUP - Richard Watts
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CIRCULATION - Mike McKinney

The Gateway is the official newspaper of the students at the University of Alberta. With a readership of over 25,000 the Gateway is published Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter session, excepting holidays. Contents are the responsibility of the editor; editorials are written by an editorial board or signed. All other opinions are signed by the party expressing them. Copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. The Gateway, a member of the Canadian University Press and of CUP Media Services Ltd., is located in Room 282 Students' Union Building, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7. Newsroom 432-5168; Advertising 432-3423.

As Anne Stephen croaked, "I am not an animal. I am a Human Being." Micheal Skeet, Kent Blinston, and Jim Miller began to herd her towards the legislature grounds. Marianne Nielsen, Dave Cox, Murray Whitby, Geoffrey Jackson, and Beth Jacob joined the march. Peter West and Martin Beales stood in the background encouraging Ken Tsai to follow, as Peter Jarvis, Mike Ekelund, and Chanchal Bhattacharya shamefully snuck away for a coffee. Allison Annesley, Teri Paulgaard, and Allen Young arrived at the provincial steps to only meet the horror of Jordan Jackson and Richard Corrigan selling apples and oranges. Amidst all this, Jim Miller looked on.