

gateway

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EDITORIAL

What democracy?

On Tuesday of this week a new vp Academic was selected to represent students' academic concerns.

Yet, how many students had the chance to ask the candidates questions or actually be in the selection process?

Surely the students of this campus have the right to decide for themselves who should be in the student executive. But aside from the thirty or so council members, no students were given the chance to address the candidates as to how they were going to attack the problems of the academic's job, or how they were going to represent students. Let's face it, there should have been an election.

An election would have allowed all the students of this campus to openly scrutinize the people running for the position. An election would have thrown open the opportunity to all students to run for the position. An election would have been fair. An election would have been just.

I don't give a damn about how much time would be lost. With a well organized, concerted effort by council and the executive an election could have been over by late October. Earlier in fact. If the application deadline for this process was last Friday, October 8th, then could not the same deadline have been used as such for nominations? Using this week to campaign and hold a forum, the election itself could have been held early next week. What's the big deal?

But if the election was so foreign to council members then the opportunity should have been afforded students to involve themselves as much as possible. That means that every student who wanted to, should have been allowed to apply and be interviewed for the job. Now, every student was allowed to apply, but not every student was to be interviewed by council.

The selection went like this: the Students' Union collected applications and then sent them on to a screening committee. This committee was to interview the applicants and from those select three candidates to be interviewed by students council. Does this give the entire student body the chance at the job? Admittedly this cuts down the number of people to a workable number. If one thousand students applied then council would be overloaded. But that is the ridiculous bordering on the Python. An election would have easily solved the problem.

Where does council get the idea that they are so eminently qualified to choose the person for this position? Are their egos that inflated? Are they simply that naive?

Twenty-nine men and women picked one person whose actions as vp Academic could affect twenty-two thousand. Never have so few screwed up so much for so many.

If an election had been called and properly advertised students would have been made aware of the issues facing the academic office this year. An election could have included the referendum on Students' Union fee increases proposed for next year. As it is, the referendum will be held later on this year and cost the students' union money that could have been put to better use right now. As it is, the new vp Academic is now assuming his duties without the students knowing how he intends to tackle the issues. For council to think that this is responsible government is simply indicative of how little they think at all.

Last year, the soon to be president Greenhill, campaigned on the promise of returning the credibility to students council. By this last charade of democracy, I would say that last year's campaign promise by Greenhill is something he has quickly forgotten.

Andrew Watts

Better football

College football would be much more interesting if the faculty played instead of the students, and even more interesting if the trustees played. There would be a great increase in broken arms, legs and necks, and simultaneously an appreciable diminution in the loss to humanity.

H.L. Mencken

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RE: STUDENT PAPERS
 DEBATE WHO
 TO BOYCOTT!

WELCOME ALL
 "C.U.P." REPRESENTA
 (PLEASE DO NOT THROW FULL BOTTLES)



I'D LOVE TO BOYCOTT THIS MEETING, BUT WE'RE HOSTING IT.

« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

Gateway low-quality also

On the issue of the decline of the *Edmonton Journal*, I agree with Messrs. Flater and Gurlock (in their letter of October 7). The *Journal* cannot, and indeed should not be compared to a tabloid newspaper like the *Sun*. I only wish to add that if readers at the university want to read a newspaper which is not plagued by sensationalism, as are both the *Journal* and the *Sun*, there exists an alternative in the *Globe and Mail*. Admittedly, the *Globe and Mail* cannot serve Edmonton as does the *Journal* because it does not cover local news, but it is the only newspaper in Edmonton which adequately reports national and international news.

Perhaps it would be interesting (and more constructive) to compare these newspapers using some statistics, like the ratio of news to advertisements, or the percentage of pages devoted to sports, local news, national news and international news. If comparisons are going to be made, at least use some facts, rather than poorly defined colloquialisms like 'cheekiness'.

The second point I wish to make concerns an editorial by Mr. Miller called 'Righters or writers'. He chided the *Gateway's* 'naive' readers for pointing out 'a variety of sins' and 'technical errors'. Mr. Miller, you blew it. Not only is your column barely readable, but its sloppiness undermines your argument. If some of the major functions of a newspaper are to inform and to communicate ideas accurately, expressively and with

Congratulations

Allow me to congratulate you on your report of the Human Evolution Symposium appearing in the October 7th issue of the *Gateway*. You managed to capture the essence of the symposium very well, and copies of your report will be sent to each of the symposiasts.

I appreciate the interest you demonstrated in reporting the symposium.

G.H. Sperber, Chairman
 75th Anniversary Symposia

congruency (your words), then it should mind the technical aspects of its pages. Bad grammar is not just a minor technical detail, it is a handicap. Information requires communication, and the conventions of the English language are practiced in order to facilitate communication.

Woe betide the university which puts aside good grammar (or good journalism) because it is merely a technical skill which interferes with students' creativity. If ideas are what you wish to relate, Mr. Miller, then please give your readers the idea that you are aware of some of the basic skills necessary for successful communication through journalism.

Ammar leaves association

RE: Presidency of Arab Students Association.

Having been notified of the events currently taking place in students' council regarding the motion put forth by Ammar and Chomyn we would like to clarify certain misconceptions.

1. Mr. Ammar ceased to be president of our association as of September 28, 1982.

Saviour of mankind?

A MESSIAH HAS APPEARED. Someone who will save all the persecuted people around the world. Who is this demi-god and how will he do this? Our hero is Oscar Ammar and he will get Students' Council to write letters to the *Edmonton Journal*.

I figure that since Oscar started with Israel in Lebanon, he can move on to USSR in Afghanistan, then to USA in El Salvador, and Argentina (or is it Britain?) in the Falklands, etc. etc....

When Oscar runs out of countries to worry about, (to keep David Marples happy) he can bring up motions to write letters about Clifford Olson, Charles Manson, Mark Chapman, etc. etc.... Maybe if Oscar gets a letter written to the Tylenol killer(s?), the psycho will give himself up and

Finally, I should point out that if the *Gateway* is having trouble attracting writers for its staff, it might be because this 'fine production' is so poorly edited, written and proofread that many students feel it is not an organization to be taken seriously. A newspaper builds its staff, readership and future from the interest of its contents, from its ability to entertain, and from the quality of the final product.

Gentlemen, judge yourselves.
 Michael Antolin
 Zoology

P.S. I find your attitude toward reporting lax, and your coverage of news less than minimal.

Mr. Ammar's membership in our association has expired and will not be renewed.

2. The Arab Students' Association now consists of a new executive.

Thus any motion put forth by Oscar Ammar does not have any ties with the Arab Students Association whatsoever.

Edward Shihadeh, President
 Ali Najim, Vice-President

Also Oscar, for Don Davies to "create a heightened sense of awareness which may thus influence events," we would like to see motions to save baby seals, to stop bullfights in Mexico, to save the whales, etc. etc. etc....

Finally, I don't see why Robert Greenhill "forced" Oscar to resign as President of the Arab Association because of possible "conflict of interest". After four months of Student Council meetings, our martyr has only brought forward one motion and that was to condemn Israel. Since Oscar is not interested in the students, I do not see how there could possibly be a conflict of interests.

Gord Stamp
 Science III

Staff this issue: The amazing Peter Block, the great Stacey Bertles, the omnipotent John Roggeveen, the astonishing Tom Wilson, the splendid A. Bushkowsky, the transcendental Renee Boileau, the versatile Jack Verme, the natty Nate LaRoi, the valourous Valerie Gislason, the impeccable Heather-Ann Laird, the warm-blooded Warren Weber, the concupiscent Karl Schranz, the marvellous Margo Schmitt, the pervasive John Algard, the terrific Terri Lynn Paulgaard, and last but not least the lamentable Bruce Pollock.