

editorial

Getting rid of the sludge

So they want to impeach the recalcitrant Council members, eh? Do them in, sort of, teach them a lesson. They're perfectly within their rights to boot the sludge out of Council, and its about time somebody used a firm hand to try and work up some kind of ferment in Council chambers, but my first question would be, what's the point?

If the tactic of hanging reps' memberships over their heads by a thread is supposed to bring its desirable end (a well-packed, active Council) what would a well-packed, active Council do?

Perhaps my consideration of what a political body such as Students' Council (including the more mundane service orientations) would do are somewhat different to what Council itself sees as important in its functions, but from witnessing virtually every Council meeting for just over two years, I haven't come to respect it much for its political actions. I've seen more nit-picking, petty backstabbing and general balking around on Council than on any other university body, and I've seen almost all of them.

If the executive wants Council to be interested and active, what is the point in turfing out some of the only ones who were interested and active enough to take the job in the first place? I submit the number of seats filled by acclamation in Council is very high, what is the point of removing even some of these?

The answer is, I think, that the executive wants more than just an "acclamation" interest in its membership. I suppose what is desired is that Council seats be hotly contested, forcing would-be members to fight for their positions and therefore take more pride in what they do, as there are others who would likely criticise them should the winner prove inactive.

But then again, active at what?

To my recollection Council itself has never, from within the chambers walls, brought forward a really relevant, necessary, just, or supportable motion. What Council members do is give or deny ratification on the actions of others, most often from outside the Council roster. If nobody came in with a representation to Council, or a score to settle, or a motion from some outside body, nothing at all would be done. Council, active or inactive, has never in the past two years done anything on its own. I stand to be corrected. Has anyone got a longer memory who can remind me of some action Council took on its own volition? Please enlighten me.

And I'm not talking about executive motions, I'm talking about fulfillment of election promises in by-election candidates speeches. What "rep" on Council can truly say he/she has done any representation at all other than give or deny ratification to somebody else's work?

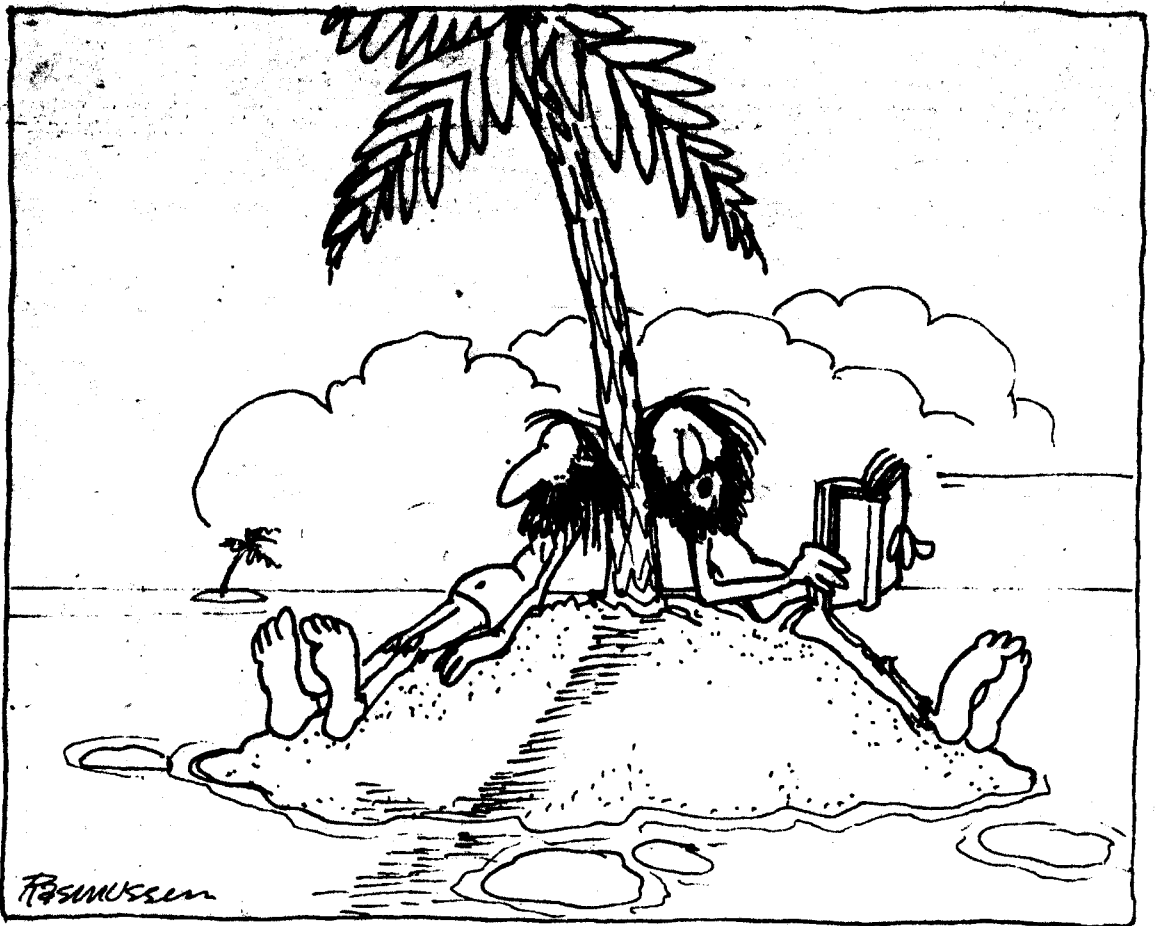
And they talk about giving Council members an honorarium. What garbage. What a joke. The worst spent money in the Students' Union.

Get rid of the people who couldn't care less if they were Councillors or not, but when you do get some interested ones to replace them, require that they show some leadership and imagination, and don't just spoon feed them with proposals to ratify or toss out.

Greg Neiman

The councillors named in the non-confidence motion are:

Gerry Hunt-Phys. Ed.	Len Zoeteman-Ag.
Karin Martin-Nursing(B.Sc.)	Kamil Ghali-Med.
Doug Yochim -Nursing (UAH)	Jim Tanner-Arts
	Rita Zetson-Ed.
	Romona Biollo-Pharm.
	Richard Watchman-Sc.



I WAS BORED TOO, TILL I TOOK UP READING.

The Pig's Pen

Dear Mom.....

How are things at home? Things are fine here but I have found that reluctance to study is reluctance to pass. I don't like that aspect.

But here is a typical day of classes, so you can see what I'm doing here.

On Monday I switch off my alarm at 6:30, get up at 7:30 and run all the way to my Biology class, arriving late as usual. The one class I hate and it's the one I get up to Mon., Wed., and Fri. Sometimes I don't get up.

I had an hour off so I had some coffee before going on to 3 classes in a row: Sociology (How to Win Elections and Manipulate Society), Psychology (How to Win Friends and Manipulate People), and Anthropology (How They Used to Win Friends and Elections, and Manipulate People and Society).

At Sociology, I pushed my way into a seat, and dutifully

took notes for the next 30 minutes on the social connotations of 'shit' 'fuck' (sorry but it's part of the course), followed by 20 min. of Newfie Jokes.

Then on to Psychology, where the class was to be given a questionnaire. But they found they were 100 papers short, so 100 students, (me too) were let out. Very productive.

I had another cup of coffee and came back to the same lecture theatre had just left, for Anthropology. But it was just a rerun of basic genetics which I still (amazingly) remember from High School, so I spent the class in boredom. I fought my way through the people trying to get into the same lecture theatre I was trying to get out of (with 200 per class, you have to be vicious) and went home for the 2 hours before my next class, English. I tried to do some reading, but, well, you know.

I spent the English class writing down a barrage of insane punctuation and grammar rules. When I looked at those notes after class, they were nothing but scribbled gibberish - but it was gibberish to start with.

Some profs are like jets - at times the hot air can blast you flat. Why, oh, why didn't I learn shorthand? Just one of life's mysteries.

But I don't do enough studying and I don't really try. One of these days I must get my library card so I can take out library books. Judging from reports, however, possession of the card means possession of the book in only one out of three cases.

This is your son signing off after, once again, setting your mind at rest. Now you know that your \$100/month is going to a good cause.

letters

Councillors impeached?

To the nine councillors:

After examining the attendance records for Students' Council meetings from April 28-September 8, we have discovered that you are in breach of the Constitution (By-law 100, Section 20, Subsection 2) and are therefore eligible for suspension. This suspension could take two forms.

Firstly, it could mean that you are suspended from Council and your seat remains vacant for the rest of the term.

The other form this suspension could take, and this is the most likely form of action, will be to enter motions of non-confidence in yourself at three consecutive Students' Council meetings. This then means if these motions of non-confidence pass with a 2/3 majority you must then contest your seat in a by-election.

Recognizing that there are no doubt numerous reasons why you or your proxy were

absent throughout the summer months, we wish to give you an opportunity to explain your circumstances to the rest of Council. Therefore, if you are interested in retaining your seat on Students' Council, please give written notice to the Speaker, Kevin Gillese, Room 259 SUB, 432-4236 that you wish to make a representation on your own behalf to Students' Council on the meeting of October 6. If you are no longer interested in the fulfillment of your duties to Students' Council please submit your resignation to the speaker at your earliest convenience.

Failure to make representation at the October 6 meeting will automatically start the aforementioned impeachment proceeding against you.

Please regard this as being your formal warning of a very serious charge.

Graeme Leadbeater
President

Tanner resigns

I have decided to resign from Students' Council because, I no longer see the value in attending these meetings. It is

my considered opinion that the Students' Union of the U of A should be completely changed from its present structure. Its assets and functions should be more integrated with the university and a students organization that would act as real student representatives created or modeled.

The Students' Union has become too large to properly represent the interests of students on this campus. The student reps are too few to fill all the available positions.

Six years ago the main academic decision making body of this university opened its doors to students. It was a time of student unrest all across North America. The U of A under the guidance of President Wyman was the only university in North America to provide students with parity with academic staff on its General Faculties Council!

Now one third of General Faculties Council is open to students.

It was strange that these new positions were not quickly filled. When I returned to this University in 1972, I immediately applied for a seat on GFC, and to my surprise there were plenty of vacancies. I have sat on that body for approximately three

continued on next page