

editorial

It's enough to reaffirm your faith in people. Friday the Board of Governors was faced with a difficult decision and, accepting the ethical burden placed upon them by their role within the university, voted to reject differential tuition fees and to oppose the provincial government's latest threat to university autonomy.

The Board voted against the fees for a number of reasons: because they recognized the role of a university is to be, in a sense, "universal"; because they recognized Alberta's responsibility to developing countries; because they recognized that the added administrative burden of differential fees would virtually negate any increased revenues; because they recognized the two-tier tuition system advanced ed. minister Bert Hohol has proposed is morally and pragmatically wrong, ill-thought out, and viciously discriminatory to those students (from Third World countries) who need our educational facilities the most.

All the fallacies concerning the foreign student issue were brought out and discussed at length in the meeting. The facts show clearly that foreign students are not over-running our campus (there are only 4.6 per cent), that they contribute to the university's international stature (over 15 per cent of the grad students on campus are foreign), that people most severely hit by a tuition increase will be students from less-developed countries who need advanced education the most (and also that an increase will not affect the numbers of foreign students so much as the *kinds* of students who attend the U of A), that foreign students return to their own countries when they complete their Canadian studies, that they do not take jobs away from Canadian students while here (because they cannot obtain work permits), etc.

The Board is not composed of altruistic fools who are merely voting to subsidize foreign students limitlessly. Instead, it is composed of compassionate thoughtful individuals who have recognized the major flaws in a discriminatory proposal and have been strong enough to oppose the provincial government realizing that by doing so they run the risk of having the full weight of the provincial Cabinet brought to bear upon them.

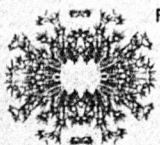
The Gateway questionnaire results are all back and tabulated, filed on the feature pages of the paper today and undergoing closer inspection by members of the Students' Union executive. For all those people who returned the questionnaires, thank you for giving us a good response and lending at least a little bit of statistical validity to the "survey." For all those folks who told us on the questionnaires how little work we did on the questionnaire and other Gateway work, maybe you should be told how much work it was to put together that survey.

The idea of having a questionnaire was developed about two months ago when it was decided at a Gateway editorial meeting that we should try to gauge reader response to the paper and the SU this year. We went to the SU and told them they could develop questions for their part of the questionnaire and then went to friends, profs, and the people at Institutional Research to find out how to run a questionnaire that we could easily tabulate. After creating the format of the questionnaire, we developed the wording of the questions and tried them out on friends, rewrote the questions and decided where we could place drop-boxes for returned responses. The SU exec. placed all the drop boxes for us and made public announcements about the questionnaire to improve response. Back at Gateway, we had the questionnaire typset and decided on a layout that would be attractive enough to solicit responses, yet functional enough to provide easy access to the data.

The day the questionnaire was published, Gateway staffers began to take responses from the drop boxes and to collate the material - coding the responses and placing them on cards that keypunch operators could work on. 742 questionnaires, with 79 responses each, were placed on to the cards and sent over to computing services for keypunching. The raw data was run through on a "canned" survey program and then Gateway people and SU people sat down to decide which correlations should be run on the raw data.

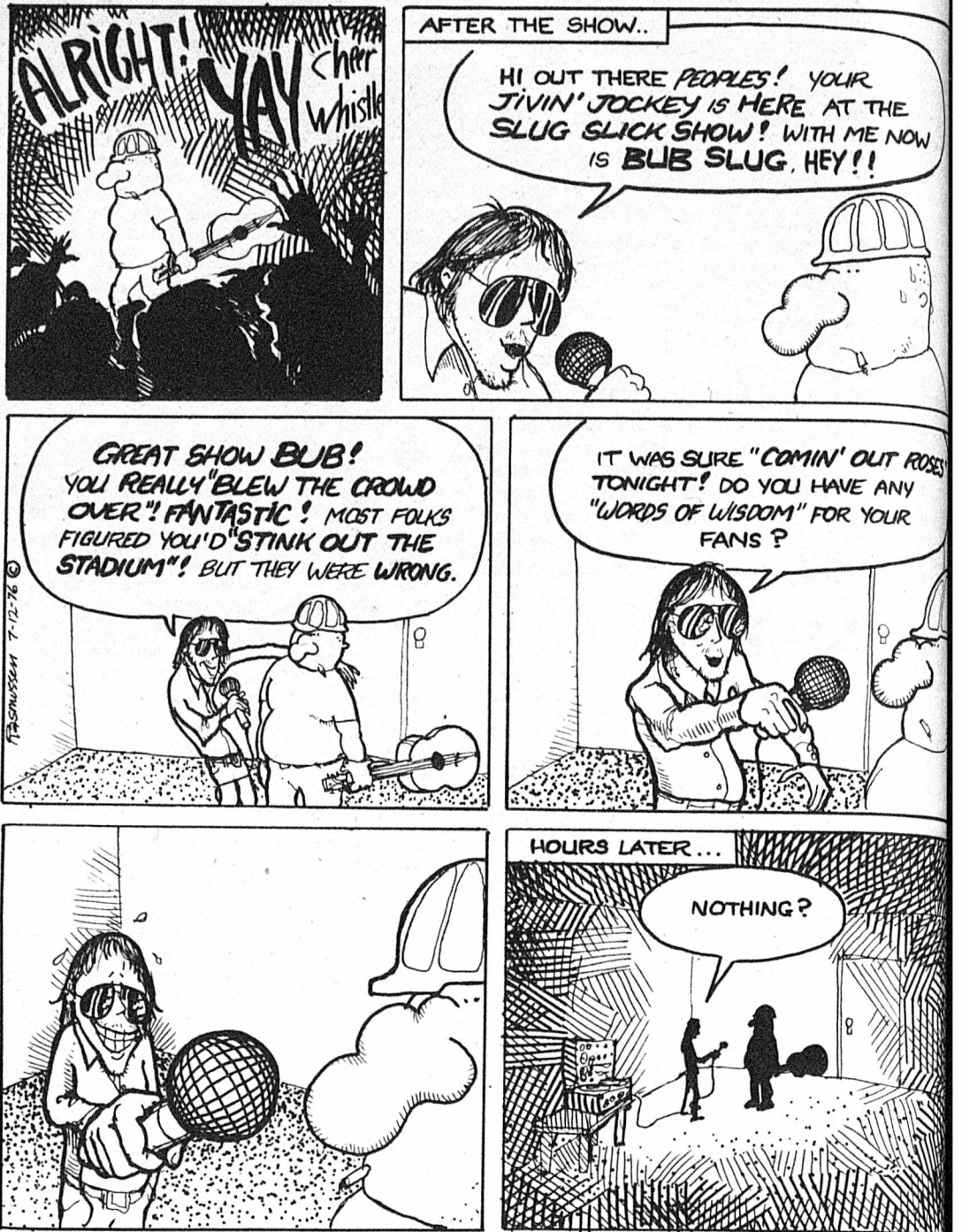
The correlations were decided upon and run, then the data that couldn't be coded was taken from the questionnaires and printed out manually. The correlations and raw data were then written up as a feature on the questionnaire response and published in today's paper. So much for the lazy assholes in Gateway and the Students' Union who never do any work and always turn out such garbage. Thanks to Dan Precht in the dept. of computing services and George Zaharia in the dept. of institutional research for their help with the survey.

by Kevin Gillese



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Black sheep replies

In her letter of Dec. 2, Mary Glenfield takes me to task for the "abysmal ignorance" of my claim that a "suffocated professional drama" existed during the heyday of the Dominion Drama Festival. She states with adamance that there was no professional theatre in 1951 - an arbitrary date of her own choosing.

Ms. Glenfield makes her point with eloquence, but with little regard for fact. There were several professional theatres in

1951 and I am surprised that Ms. Glenfield has chosen to forget them. Perhaps she has never heard of Murray and Donald Davis' Straw Hat Players, predecessor to the Crest, or Arthur Sutherland's International Players. But has she actually forgotten the work of Mavor Moore's New Play Society, which produced a good number of new Canadian plays, as well as the annual revue, *Spring Thaw*? As I took care to refer to drama, rather than theatre, I will also revive the memory of Andrew Allan's CBC Stage series.

In regard to the larger problem of my attitude to Watterdale Theatre Associates, I can only say that we are dealing with a problem of ideology. My reference to a colleague's remark, along with my statement that it is too easy to write a scathing review of such an inept production as *The Innocents* was designed to suggest that the production did not deserve a review on its own merits.

Rather, I feel that the responsibility of a critic is to examine the

most significant aspect of a production. Perhaps I can do my stand by quoting the critic Hans Mayer, who wrote that "only a crazed buff would argue that a bad, superfluous theatre is better than none at all."

Alan Filer
 Grad Stud

Student questions humor

With great interest and enthusiasm, I filled out the questionnaire on the back page of the Nov. 23 issue of the Gateway believing that *maybe* this was a serious attempt by the Students' Union, the Gateway, and the University to gauge students' feelings. Wonderful - an attempt to get feedback. Most of the questions were, surprisingly enough, intelligent and well thought out.

Then the shock came. The credibility of the whole questionnaire was shattered by two questions. These concerned the sexual habits of Frank Mutton, and the political aspirations of Bub Slug. Really Sir, there is a time and a place for humour, and a *serious* questionnaire is neither the time nor the place.

Leo Donlevy
 Commerce 1

Ed Note: two questions out of nearly 100 - well, we can only be serious 97 per cent of the time.

Shape up or ship-out

Re: Mark Lasby's letter Gateway of Nov. 25.

Far be it for me to attempt counter Mr. Lasby's personal prejudice as revealed in Thursday's Gateway. As a Canadian and classmate however, I do object to deplorable use of English attempting to put his across.

Allan
 Civil Engineering

The Gateway

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