

EDITORIAL

Me, myself and I

I'm considered right-wing, politically speaking. After three years of trying to decide where I stood on the political spectrum someone told me that I was right-wing and the label stuck.

Of course, being considered right-wing in an atmosphere considered left-wing naturally has its disadvantages. But labels can be deceiving.

It seems to me that as soon as you start working for a university newspaper you are immediately thought of as some sort of subversive who secretly builds bombs in the layout room. That of course is not true. I don't think that anyone around here, even the true left-wingers, knows how to build a firecracker let alone a bomb. But a student newspaper is supposed to be left-wing and the label has stuck. So, I think you can deduce that if someone is considered right-wing amongst the left-wing (and there are a few) that person is constantly subjected to left-wing doctrine. It's funny, but the zeal with which people espouse political philosophy lends one to believe that they are trying to save you. I really don't think that I need saving from anyone.

One thing that really bugs me about *true* left-wingers is that if you're considered right-wing then you're considered naive and silly. It sort of comes with the label. If, however, you are left-wing in your thinking it appears that you have seen the light and are on the straight and narrow. Only smart people are left-wing, politically speaking. Personally, I really feel uncomfortable when someone tries to pin me down on my political philosophy. That's basically because I have no true political philosophy. That, I can tell you, is the worst thing to admit, for if you don't have a political philosophy then, to many, you're not considered all there.

I have been to alot of parties that I like to call 'ist' parties. Let me explain what I mean: At these parties everyone stands around laying claim to some sort of political philosophy. A large group of people will stand around in a group and one by one say: "I'm a communist," "I'm a self-determinist," "I'm an individualist," "I'm a socialist," and perhaps this is my all-time favorite, "I'm a victim of fashion."

If you noticed, all the labels those people clutched to their hearts end in the all important 'ist'. That is why I call them 'ist' parties. They're frequently boring and almost always volatile. I avoid them whenever I can.

You see, I'll walk into one of those parties and instead of being greeted with a friendly, "Hi, how are ya?" I get someone who stares intently at me and asks, "Hi, what are your politics?" I really hate that question. Now, I simply tell them I'm a Nazi and mutter something about death to all Jews after breathing zeig heil as I walk by them. This either leaves them too stunned to say anything or so enraged that they feel if they do respond they'll hit me and no self-respecting left-winger likes to admit they're violent so they stay quiet. That suits me just fine.

All university students are supposed to be left wing and on the verge, leading the way really, of the new political utopia. Hell, James Adams and John Geiger of the Journal and Sun respectively say as much and we're supposed to feel ashamed because a Progressive Conservative took this riding in the election. The student body, according to Geiger, is considered flabby. I said they thought right-wingers naive but I think Geiger's metaphor is applicable. How dare we stand up and call ourselves university students and then go vote Tory in a provincial election. I have one thing to say to both Adams and Geiger: go eat the substance that comes out of the tail end of a cow. That's what I mean about true left-wingers.

I can tell that I'm going to get complaints from people over what I have said. After three months in this position I have learned to judge that pretty well. But they just come with the label. It's something that you have to endure when you're considered right-wing.

It's just that, when someone slaps a label on you there's usually enough glue on it to make it stick. That's the real curse of having no real political philosophy to speak about.

Andrew Watts

The life of crime

House burglary is probably the poorest paid trade in the world; I have never known anyone to make a living at it. But for that matter few criminals of any class are self-supporting unless they toil at something legitimate between times. Most of them, however, live on their women.

Dashiell Hammett, 1920
'Memoirs of a Private Detective'

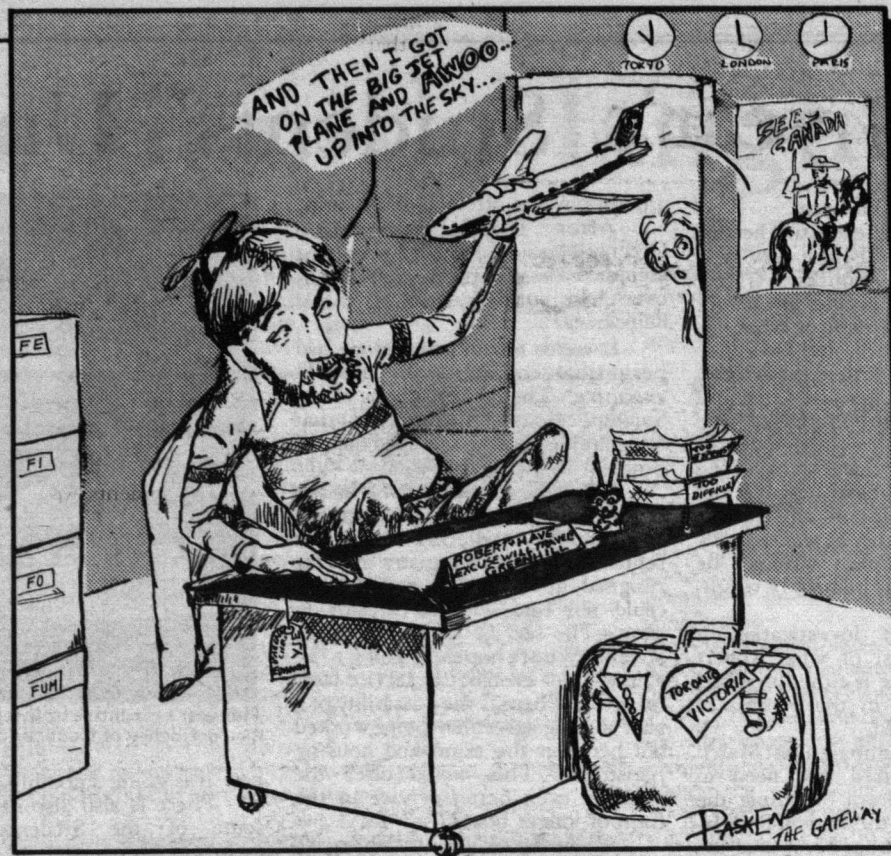
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Staff this issue:

Clerk Tom Hayward calls the court to order. In the trial of Roggeveen, accused of being a liberal, Zane Harker, prosecuting attorney, has called witnesses Martin Beales, Bill Inglee, Benoit Robert, Alain Lauzier, Bruno Couture and Mark Roppel. In defence, Teri Lyn Paulgard has called Dave Marko, Keith Krause and Grant Littke. The jury deliberates. Is Roggeveen guilty? Martin Coutts, Jim Gerwing, Ken Lenz, Heather-Ann Laird, Gerard Kennedy, Beth Jacob and Aaron Bushkowsky all vote 'yes'. Judge John Algard pronounces sentence: "Mr. Roggeveen shall mend his ways by reading, in their entirety, the collected works of H.L. Mencken, Alexander Haig, and William F. Buckley. So help him God!"

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« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

Students' Union biased

It's impossible for us to ignore the blatant biases of the S.U. In spite of Robert Greenhill's pledge to protect the reputation of the S.U., it has indeed become a "laughing stock".

Subsequent to the defeat of the Ammar motion condemning the Israeli government and Christian Falangists for their responsibility in the massacres of Sabra and Chatilla, the S.U. recognized that there was insufficient information on the Middle East available on campus. While the rhetoric is encouraging, the follow-up activities have been disappointing, to say the least. For evidence of this, we can point to two examples.

Ray Conway's move, on Wednesday November 10, to shut down the Arab Students Association's information table is extremely suspect. This information table represented a conscientious attempt on the part of that association to provide the larger student body with some much-needed education on the Palestinian nation, the invasion of Lebanon, and the Middle East in general. Mr. Conway, however, failed to carefully review the materials before acting on the accusation, brought forth by two individuals (both members of the Hillel Jewish group), that the literature displayed was "racist" in nature.

As a result of this, the information table was shut down pending a review of the display material by the Building Services Board. While it should be noted Mr. Conway later recognized the inappropriateness of his actions and cancelled the Board review, we simply cannot ignore the serious implications of his irresponsibility. Although he undeniably has the authority to censor and restrict materials publicly displayed on S.U. premises, we implore Mr. Conway to exercise some discretion and good judgement in the future.

The S.U.'s second failure to follow-through on its rhetoric is more subtle, but no less deserving of criticism. The S.U., in conjunction with the Political Science Students Association, invited a P.L.O. representative to speak at a public forum scheduled for noon, Wednesday, November 17. While this event was intended to provide students with a more balanced view of the Middle East, the absence of publicity — as of 6 p.m., Nov. 16 there were no visible ads, announcements or posters on campus — has completely undermined the intent. Given the track record of this S.U., it is very difficult for us not to suspect this action, or more precisely lack of action, was deliberate.

A common thread of ignorance has clearly woven its way through S.U. Council chambers. Much worse than the biased misperceptions of our elected representatives, however, is the power they wield to impose those misperceptions on the rest of us.

Marlene Hamdon
Scot Morison

Education is the best

I was incensed by the ignorance of the artist and/or author responsible for the cartoon slandering education courses in the Nov. 16 issue of the Gateway. For the past four years myself, and before that my peers have been subjected to insults and ridicule directed at our course of study and our ability. This abuse comes mainly from individuals who know nothing about the four-year program that is necessary to obtain the Bachelor of Education degree.

It is time that some of the content of these four years is brought to the attention of the "holier-than-thou" types running rampant on campus. First: we are one of the few faculties that receive any practical experience in our field and our performance in this area is rigorously graded. Second: the majority of Education students take courses in: physics, chemistry, history, biology, drama, math, computing science, etc. and a great many of us have strong backgrounds in child psychology, and child development. We study as hard, as long, and as diligently as the dedicated students of other faculties. We are NOT dumb bunnies and our courses are NOT crap, as was implied by the cartoon.

The basis of my anger lies in the attitude of the people on campus and the attitude of the people in society toward education students and teachers. As the educators of your children we are THE most important profession on campus and in society. It was the efforts, knowledge, encouragement, support and concern of teachers that

enabled you to attend this institution today and become the lawyers, engineers, doctors, psychologists, nurses, and dentists of tomorrow. Furthermore, the situation will not change until our peers and society change their attitude toward teachers and education students and recognize the importance of the role we play or will play in society.

Valerie Gaetz
Special Education IV

Managing Editor's note: Aaron Bushkowsky, who composed and executed the cartoon, is an Education student.

Biz-commies are the best

Re: Gears vs. Artsies

One of mankind's longest running battles has been between those bearing technical minds, the fact seekers, and those whose yearnings tend towards greater philosophical depths, the creative thinkers....

Everyone is aware of the age-old sport of faculty wars, and as always, the major rivals are those on the Engineering/Science side opposed to those of the Arts/Education persuasion, as recent Gateway letters have indicated.

Generally speaking, it's a question of who is better, those who study the world of facts, or those who study the world of ideas. The answer is to find a happy medium between the two. Enter the Commies, the epitome of combined factual knowledge and ideology.

In a Nov. 18 letter, it was stated that "...the sun may rise on the east end of campus, but it sets on the west end." Thus it reaches its pinnacle of success, casting the most brilliance over the Central Area Between the masses along the east/west boundaries.

One can only conclude, that the chosen few in the centre of campus have really found the "place to be."

Brad Anderson
Commerce II

Engineers, scientists best

This letter is directed towards U. Deis. I have no idea which faculty you are in, but it is obvious your left shoe is more worn than your right. You seem to think that the Capitalist way is to "sell our soul" to a foreign multinational, and work for them for ever and ever, never once thinking an original thought. I wonder where you learned about our secret of passing courses - the old "memorize and regurgitate" technique. Did you learn this from an angel coming down to you in your dream? You have obviously never taken a course in the applied sciences or engineering. I strongly object to your implications that I will sell my soul to, let alone work for, a foreign multinational. You see, the great thing about free enterprise is that I can work for whoever I want. In my case, it's for myself. Free enterprise means that if you can contribute something to the marketplace, and think you can do it more efficiently than the "foreign multinationals", you can set up your own company, and compete with them directly.

Another thing I fail to comprehend is your inference that a professional association and a union are essentially the same thing. A professional association is a self-governed body, whose purpose is to ensure that all its members carry on their activities in a professional, ethical manner for the protection of society. A union, on the other hand, is interested solely in the maximization of material gain for its employees, and to hell with society. A professional association will kick out a member who proves to be incompetent. A union, on the other hand, will protect him to the utmost, and then offer him an executive position if his employers DO fire him.

You say that we (engineers and scientists) don't know how to think. If that was true, I'd like to see what your standard of living would be right now. You'd be living in a log house (if chopping down the trees didn't hurt your poor, delicate hands) and riding to school in a horse-drawn carriage (if you were a filthy rich, bourgeois capitalist), or on your aching socialist feet. I have a vague suspicion that we engineers and scientists have done more to create our present standard of living than our Arts and Education friends.

I have nothing against the principle of a faculty of Arts - learning for learning's sake. What I DO object to is that your education is subsidized by MY tax money, and