

the greatest effort to speak french outside of classes happened to be either Quebecois (whose mother tongue was french and who were playing the role of radicals) or English Albertan students who really wanted to learn the language. In the lounge area, two or more french-canadians would meet, address themselves in english and carry on their conversations in english. In the classroom, a number of courses were taught in french and the students had little or no problems communicating and, I judge by their marks, no problem understanding the material. In other courses where the option was up to the student, english was so much easier, it required no special effort, so students communicated in same. Several times, meetings were held to discuss this subject. It seems that apathy prevails just as well in french as in english (one more reason for bilingualism) as very few people showed up and out of those who did, few voiced opinions or dared to commit themselves to a stand on the issue.

It is my opinion that the main reasons why the CUSJ has not been a smashing success are as follows:

1. damned laziness on the part of the franco-albertans in the development of vocabulary and of use of french as a language of communication.

2. general laziness in all aspects of study and intellectual growth, no matter what the mother tongue was.

3. very little if no publicity from those who have enjoyed the atmosphere at the College or from those who have genuinely benefitted from the occasions given to them to become more fully bilingual.

Therefore, I tend to say, judge not the college administration (which has faults like administration anywhere) but, rather the ingratitude of students who have been given the great opportunity, not afforded to everyone, to be bilingual, and who have been too damned lazy to grow intellectually, culturally, or emotionally through their experiences.

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Bacc. es Arts  
Ed.1



Were we to search for an illustration of the axiom "Don't believe everything you read", it would be difficult to come up with any more suitable than those priceless vignettes which the editorial staff (sic) of the *Gateway* seem intent upon pandering off onto their readers. Marc Piauquier's article of Thursday last on College Saint Jean has the dubious honour of ranking foremost in this class of articles noted more for their meretriciousness than their literary quality.

If we consider first the tone of the article, we find so pessimistic an attitude on the part of the author that reconciliation is possible only by assuming nihilism to be his aim rather than constructive criticism. Were we to be guided solely by the tone, we could but assume that College Saint Jean is the worldly representation of Hell, a cesspool of profligacy whose libraries (sic) "give suck to a legion of devils", "where all things turn to fair that eyes can see"; truly an abysmal vision worthy of Milton as well. This is unfortunate for, regardless of the fact that he points out several problems whose existence it would be ludicrous for us to deny, the vituperation which so pervades his work is sufficient to render nugatory any observation on his part of a falling on ours.

Consider now the means by which he attempts to arouse interest on the part of the reader. We are first given a picture of the students' total and the pejoratives he invokes in their description. Abruptly, he shifts to a stance in which he appears to be pleading the cause of those whom he has just finished vilifying. (?) He seeks to

## Attendance

I think that your Jan. 10 article on G.F.C. student attendance records paints an overly gloomy picture of student representation on General Faculties Council.

First, the attendance records are not entirely accurate. For example, my record is 6/8 meetings. The two meetings that I "missed" were actually occasions when I arrived late and did not sign the roster.

While the records of some representatives(?) is disgusting and one wonders why they bothered to get elected at all, a number of student members are really trying to do a good job. We speak up in debate and try to present the students' views to the staff and administration of the university.

Moreover, many delegates put in a considerable amount of labour on G.F.C. committees. Using myself as an example (again), as student rep, on the G.F.C. executive, I have worked to advance student interests at all 13 of its meetings.

Thus, while I agree that student representation isn't nearly as strong as it should be, it is a mistake to tar all members with the same brush. There are a fair number of reps, who actually are doing their best to further student interests in G.F.C.

Sincerely yours,  
Gary Draper  
Student G.F.C. rep.



I read with interest the summary of attendance of student Councillor's since the beginning of the present term of office, as carried in a previous issue of the *Gateway*.

The motive of those responsible for such a summary and the goal achieved thereby is certainly commendable. The table provides at first glance a record of which factions on campus, whether faculty or otherwise, has been represented in meetings and the consistency of this representation.

However, it should be pointed out that the record of

elicit pity for these and their plight, poor hapless wretches as they are, "dragged from deception to deception." As though this completely incongruous switch in attitude were not enough, he concludes by reverting to his original disdainful position, once again casting aspersions upon the moral fibre of the student body. This vacillation suggests an unclear conception of the tack he chose to follow in his argumentation.

If we now pass on to content, we find that the author, rather than attempt a collation of data and facts, has based his arguments on what constitutes nothing more than opinion, much of which is supported by hearsay. As evidence of this we have the averred student-prof ratio of one to one. Any slight attempt at research would have revealed the ratio to be precisely 8.3 to 1. We need not be of a particularly censorious disposition to find other such discrepancies in this work.

I find it extremely disturbing that he always speaks in terms of "just about every student", or "the students", from which we may opine he means all, as most of those I know, as well as myself, have opinions divergent from those which he would attribute to us. I therefore find that we are cast in the roles of ethereal phantasms, invisible, and intangible in form, perhaps doomed to remain unheard and our presence unknown as we stalk the shadows in hallways for our allotted term. Yet would the author support his claims by reference to "a minor survey". The respondents to this alleged "survey" have heretofore eluded lassitude and made to feel the aura of intellectual stagnation and sterility which seems to

one faculty representative, namely the Law Faculty, is not accurate nor may anyone responsible for the summary justifiably claim it is accurate.

The Law Faculty was purportedly not represented at any of the summer meetings of council. The summary shows a record of consistent absents for these months by the Law representative. However, the summary does not present the true picture.

At the start of the summer, I as the newly elected representative, appointed by telephone from a considerable distance Norm Conrad as the Law representative for the summer. As Mr. Conrad was no stranger to Council, having been the previous Law representative, he agreed to attend the meetings and he carried out this agreement. However, a nit-picking councillor, whose name I shall not disclose, bearing in mind that mud-slinging of this sort does not justify a return of the mud in retaliation, pointed out to council at a summer meeting that alternatives for the summer must be appointed in writing, pursuant to the by-laws of the Students' Union. And right he was.

So upon this technicality Council seized upon an opportunity to declare the Faculty of Law unrepresented for the duration of my absence. Mr. Conrad was not given representative status and thereby the Law Faculty was denied a vote for the duration of the summer.

Obviously then, the situation is not that which it appears. The Law Faculty was represented - Mr. Conrad was able to provide me with a significant amount of information concerning the affairs of the summer. It is only in the minds of the Students' Council that the Law Faculty was not represented; in all other minds it was an act of Council which deprived the Faculty of representation.

Then perhaps the Faculty of Law is justified in feeling aggrieved by this act of Council. One may scarcely make a case for such a feeling by Council.

Yours sincerely,  
Greg Perreault  
Law 2

overhand the hallways like a funeral pall. The author's contempt is made clear by the gulf which he would place between himself and his subjects identification. We are therefore left several possibilities, two of which are: 1. that they, unlike the author in question, have no particular desire to have their names associated with a pack of lies, or 2. that they quite simply never existed.

It is true that Mr. Piauquier's text is replete with errors, but we at College-Saint-Jean prefer to put such points in their proper perspectives. We have a firm belief that anyone of deficient compositional ability has a God-given right to criticize us. We further believe that people apparently incapable of writing a grammatically correct sentence are doubtless imbued with powers of perception far exceeding our own and that it would be a fallacy on our part not to allow authors, who apparently have no conception of what a paragraph is, to participate in the organisation and setting forth of the purposes of an institute of higher learning.

The intellectual calibre of students attending this university is quite naturally brought into question when the campus newspaper is given a free-hand in the distribution of such rubbish. It must seem imperative to all that, if this is the quality of writing which we may in the futur (sic) expect of the *Gateway*, it's (sic) association with the student body be terminated immediately. Let it take it's (sic) place among the great tabloids of our times, for surely even "The News of the World" would find difficulty in compiling such an array of rumour and gossip, coloured by so insipid a wit.

Loren Chabot



editorial

## Vignettes

There has been a minor storm in the world press with the recent publication of parts of the book *The Gulag Archipelago* by Soviet author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. Sunday, the newspaper *Pravda* announced that Solzhenitsyn deserved the fate of a traitor.

The probably result of this will be that Solzhenitsyn will be jailed for his 'crime'.

Solzhenitsyn is therefore either very brave or seeking martyrdom. The point I am seeking to make, however, is that there will probably be far more of a hue and cry over Solzhenitsyn if he is apprehended by the Soviet officials than there was for Daniel Ellsberg, who acted in a similar manner in exposing U.S. military practices in Vietnam by publication of the Pentagon papers.

Solzhenitsyn's book deals with prison camps and purges in the Stalinist era. Isn't it unfortunate that the press in North America is so ready to condemn the Soviet Union when most of the conservative Bible belt papers in the midwestern United States and most of Canada were not overly hasty in condemnation when it was discovered that Ellsberg's conviction had been obtained by breaking into the office of his psychiatrist for damaging evidence.

It is this writer's opinion that the only way acts of aggression against those bold enough to speak the truth will be halted is for people all over the world to speak with a firm united voice against persecution, be it in the Soviet Union or in the United States. The most convenient vehicle is the United Nations. Whether the UN will be innovative enough to resist world power pressure and speak out remains to be seen.



It is a well known fact that sometimes newspapers are so short of news that they will run anything on the front page. At times, however, this works out quite well.

Our local contribution to Canada's metropolitan dailies carried a story about a young lady who was arrested in Britain for 'cruelty to prawns', as she had ben killing them by frying them instead of putting them in hot water.

A National Lampoon touch was added when a master chef said that both methods were gastronomically incorrect, that prawns should be plunged into boiling water. hers said that the prawn has no such thing as a pain center. The Gastronomic expert concluded by saying that there are crueller ways of killing shellfish; for example, crayfish are gutted live before being dropped in boiling water.

Others said that the prawn has no such thing as a pain center. The Gastronomic expert concluded by saying that there are crueller ways of killing shellfish; for example, crayfish are gutted live before being dropped in boiling water. 'They writhe in agony, it must be a horrible way to die', he added sympathetically.

Satya Das

## The Gateway

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. It is published by the Students Union twice weekly during the winter session on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contents are the responsibility of the editor, opinions are those of the person expressing them. Letters to the editor on any subject are welcome, but must be signed. Please keep them short, letters should not exceed 200 words. Deadlines for submitting copy are 2 P.M. Mondays and Wednesdays. Main offices are located in Room 282, SUB. Phone 432-5168, 432-5750 or 432-5178. Circulation 18,500 Subscription \$5 annually

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