

Aid speaks louder

I was extremely pissed off when I read about the motion that was going to be entertained (?) in Students' Council on Tuesday night. This motion was brought forward by Oscar Ammar and Dwayne Chomyn who happen to be Faculty of Arts representatives. I feel that they are abusing the power given to them by Arts students and that they should resign so that more competent people can represent the Arts students' interests. I cannot believe that Students' Council is actually wasting their time to consider this motion.

If you, as students or as people, would like to send a letter to the Gateway or to the Edmonton Journal to publicly state your condemnation of the events which have recently occurred in West Beirut, that is your choice. However I feel that in the best interests of Students' Council, the Students' Union, and the students, that you leave your world-wide protests out of Students' Council and that you do them elsewhere. If the motion was to send Students' Union money or volunteers over

Lebanon (and on, and on...)

to Lebanon to help rebuild their city then maybe there would be a reason to bring this motion up in Students' Council.

If Students' Council decides to condemn Israel and friends for the atrocities which have occurred in Lebanon, why stop there? I am sure that Students' Council will spend 24 hours a day condemning different countries around the world for the atrocities that these countries do to our fellow human beings. In a short while, Students' Council would be doing absolutely nothing for the students at the University of Alberta.

The point that I am making is that if you, as student representatives, can do nothing to fix the problem or to ensure that it will not happen again, you should not waste Student Council's time when there are problems that you can do something about.

Gord Stamp
Science III

Begin to blame

Andrew Watts' comments on the massacres in Lebanon were on the whole well-taken. It is worthwhile pointing out, however, the distinction, frequently overlooked, between Israel and the Israelis, and the Begin government. The latter must indeed bear the ultimate responsibility for the massacres. But there is little evidence that the atrocity was supported by the

Israeli people, many of whom have voiced their displeasure in open demonstrations against the Begin regime.

In no way do I wish to detract from the horror of such cold-blooded killing. There do, nonetheless, seem to be two dangerous tendencies taking place on the world stage.

First, the equation of the actions of the militant Begin with the Jewish people in general, which is leading to outbreaks of anti-semitism, in Europe in particular. Second, perhaps because of the dominance of the U.S. media over public opinion, the Israelis conduct their activities under the most careful scrutiny. Every step is carefully monitored. Similar massacres in Central America are dutifully ignored.

Whereas the Jewish state has always been surrounded by hostile neighbors, El Salvador and Chile are ruled by dictatorships that have ruthlessly purged their own people, a civil genocide.

By all means then let us condemn Israel, but let us not forget that Jews throughout the world have also condemned the Begin regime. And finally, let us not forget that the states of the Middle East have always been hostile to the existence of Israel.

Jews as much as any people know the threat of extinction; the events in Lebanon represent an over-reaction to that same threat, whether real or imagined.

Brian Cohen,
Grad. Studies

False headline

I was most disturbed to see a letter sent out by myself informing students of a motion coming to Council, to be misconstrued as my own personal motion. (September 28th issue). It is most unfortunate that your typesetter cannot actually print a letter the way it was received. Also, Mr. Andersen's efforts at writing

headlines are pathetic.

I apologize to students who believed that I was putting forward the motion. I hope that the Gateway also begins to treat the letters that they receive with a little more respect.

Teresa E. Gonzalez
SU Vice-President
(External Affairs)

Managing Editor's note: The headline in question ("Council joint in condemnation") was absolutely and unequivocally wrong. Council in fact had not met, and was only about to consider a motion of condemnation. While I didn't actually write the headline, the letters page is ultimately my responsibility, and as such I must don sackcloth and ashes and give my humblest apology for the error.

Secondly, any alterations in the letter are also my responsibility, not the typesetter's. Teresa Gonzalez has informed me that the alteration in question was the jamming together of her introduction, the motion, and her con-

cluding invitation to attend, which were clearly separated in her letter.

Since the motion began with "MOVED THAT", however, (the rest of her missive was in upper-and-lower case letters) I submit that there can be no mistaking where the motion starts.

Where the motion ends is admittedly unclear, but I believe no damage can come from continuing the invitation to attend as being part of the motion.

I apologize for having let the motion and the invitation run together, and creating confusion as to which is which. But I think it is clear that if Gonzalez was seen to be the mover of the motion, the reason is that nowhere in her letter does she state who the movers were.

Why only Beirut?

We as concerned students note that there are serious problems and negative consequences that will arise with the passage of the Oscar Ammar/Chomyn motion asking the SU to publicly condemn recent events in Beirut (Man. Ed. note: this motion has been tabled until the Tuesday, October 12 meeting).

The SU constitution states:

Article II - Object
The object of the Students Union shall be to provide for the administration of the affairs of the students at the University, including the development and management of student institutions, and the promotion of the general welfare of students consistent with the purposes of the University.

First and foremost, it is clear that the above motion has no relation to any of the constitutional objectives of the SU. There is a question as to what extent, if any, the above motion affects the SU internally, i.e. Should the SU devote its time to international politics in favour of actual SU business?

It may be argued that only a small portion of time is taken for such matters, however resources will now suffer and the SU will face obvious problems of credibility. If the motion is to pass, the SU will have become selective in its decision to condemn a certain international incident. *This must never happen.*

There have been untold numbers of atrocities that have occurred in the recent past. Hamah, Damur, and Tel Zatar are examples of massacres where thousands perished. The SU has not felt it necessary in the past to even discuss these events let alone condemn them, but with the passage of this motion the SU will in effect be saying, the lives lost in the Beirut

massacre are more important than the lives lost in any other tragedy in the past.

Individuals are allowed to express their opinions on any issues, but the SU which represents all students, must not imply in any of its policy that its members have a specific international viewpoint.

In summary, though there are many pressing questions dealing with the recent massacre, it is essential that personal feeling and emotion not camouflage the questions and serious problems that will arise and have been presented in this letter.

Alan Robinson, Science
Brian Wolfman, Arts

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. . . and the list goes on.

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