

Second Wind opinion column for Gateway staff

by Gunnar Blodgett

The complaints voiced by the students of the U of A resemble those of a rich child denied an extra ice cream cone. Comparatively, we are coddled. American Universities levy tuition and fees at about \$10,000 in American funds. Of course this includes residence and food. But residence and food at Lister costs \$2,000. That doesn't quite compare. Furthermore, grants and loans here are exorbitant. A high school student here graduating with honors in grades 10 and 11 gets about \$800. Include Grade 12 honors and you've got \$1,200. That's more than I earned in summer of 1981.

All this is beside the point. The essence of our complaint is the quality of education. The government ministers who

tell us that we can afford our education are right. I for one would not feel myself robbed if I paid \$1-1.5 thousand for tuition. All that I ask is that the quality of education be improved. My point is this: that while the present ministers may, as they claim, have paid completely for their own education, they did not suffer the under-qualified, underpopulated staff, the overcrowded classes, the deficient libraries and the lack of essential courses.

This cannot be denied. "Decreasing the level of increase in funding is equivalent to cutback. Professors are receiving a level of salary that is a national joke. This means that the only instructors we get are here because they can't be anywhere else. And any of those with any

talent are being cut because they require a level of salary that goes beyond the budget.

Those professors left must teach mainline, typical courses which don't lead to the personal development of any truly dedicated student. That is, of course, the function of a university. Not to be an area of technical training, or of professional instruction, but to be a vanguard of theoretical and spiritual development of mankind as a whole. This is also what led to the development of tenure. Tenure is used to protect the job of a developing theoretician rather than a mediocre instructor. The award is being violated here and elsewhere as the level of learning and research deteriorates due to governmental and provincial apathy.

This is not the environment in which our honorable ministers were educated. The University of Governor Rutherford was an institution of pride. Fine and Applied Arts, theoretical Science, and Interdisciplinary Studies, once areas of international repute are mere shambles compared to their former glory, while Engineering and other technical areas receive increased funding.

This state of affairs is one that will continue as long as the present attitude towards funding continues. It will continue so long as the Conservative party retains its present stranglehold on the Alberta government. Only a conservative attitude with respect to human potential and the environment rather than political Conservatism will succor this province.

Preventing a futureless existence

Dear Sir,

The increasing possibility of a nuclear war makes me shiver. During the last war in Germany I was still a child but I was old enough to be frightened to death every single day as long as the war lasted. The horrors of that time had such a tremendous impact on me that even now, almost 40 years later, I cannot listen to the noise of an airplane without experiencing feelings of discomfort.

Wars are man-made and there is no excuse whatsoever for anyone on earth to force his fellowman into a war, which this time would be a holocaust that exceeds anyone's imagination.

Individuals like you and me, who live in a democracy where free speech, the right to assemble and to demonstrate are part of our freedom, have the responsibility to do everything in our power to prevent war.

The way to do it, in my opinion, lies not in arguing about the bad Russians and how we can show them that we don't intend to give in. People in Russia as a whole want a war as little as we do, and they too are dependent on their leaders.

We should think of constructive ways in which to prevent a futureless existence for us and our children.

A long term goal was implied in a speech that a political scientist from Stanford University, Robert North, held at the U of A (*Gateway*, February 17, 1982). Mr. North "has spent the last 35 years studying and writing about the causes of and alternatives to war."

As I see it, the consequences from what Mr. North said are the following:

1. The inflexibility of our state apparatus in which we are caught has to be changed. The responsibilities cannot lie with the leaders alone. Each citizen has to have the possibility of taking on responsibility (i.e. more democracy where it is possible, for example in small communities,

more decentralization, etc.)

2. Our natural longing for a higher standard of living (the cause for conflicts within our society and among nations) should express itself in a desire for increased quality of life. Instead of always thinking in quantity, which also leads to destruction of our natural environment we may improve our lives on the cultural, social and political level.

3. The help for underdeveloped nations (to help themselves instead of exploiting them) has to be increased in order to diminish conflicts.

The last and most important as well as urgent task is helping to prevent a war, in my opinion is to show politicians in our country, and elsewhere, that we support them in their goal to reach disarmament:

1. Talk to friends, colleagues, politicians.

2. Write to politicians.

3. Demonstrate.

If there are no nuclear weapons they cannot be used (this seems unrealistic but let's not forget that our way of thinking determines our actions.)

Now is the time to get active before it is too late.

Yours truly,
Heidi Stoyke
Arts



Letters to the Editor should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, although we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Gateway*.

Non-marchers dubbed jam-tarts

This letter will no doubt be one in a line of many you will receive with reference to the march which was staged March 11, 1982.

The reason I am writing is to express my support for the march, even though I wasn't able to attend for reasons I don't care to go into.

I do not mind paying for an increase in tuition if the quality of my education is in keeping with what I am paying. However, this is not the case.

Several of my friends pointed out that tuition at Harvard is ten times what we pay. I would like to point out that their tuition commensurates with the quality of education they receive.

It was brought to my attention recently that some professors would ask students if any were participating in the march. When a few indicated they were, the professor would remark that they "were crazy!" Perhaps when this professor's brain connects with his mouth, he could make an intelligent statement rather than display his gross ignorance. After all, we are doing this for your sake as well as ours. Keep in mind, if your job isn't cut, you are here for a longer period of time than we are.

In addition, as I made my way through HUB Mall, I was greeted

by fellow students who participated in the march. It wasn't difficult to spot them since they were coated with snow. Several of them made such comments as "jam tarts", "apathetic students" and a few comments which I'd rather not mention.

To these students, do you really believe that a march is effective? Do you really believe that the Lougheed government will keep the protest in mind when the provincial budget allocates funds for post-secondary

institutes? You would be foolish and naive to think so.

At this point it should be obvious that a march is a futile attempt to make the government listen to us. It didn't work in 1978 and it won't work in 1982. Perhaps a more effective message would be a different government in the legislature rather than a re-election of the inept, contemptuous politicians who have nothing to offer us. After all, government is for the people. Remember?

Elizabeth A. Hdlicka
HE2

peoples
pub

THIS WEEK'S
ENTERTAINMENT
PATCH

**RENFORD
INNS**

10620 82 (Whyte) Ave.

• No cover Mon-Tues
 • Wed. is Ladies night &
 U of A Pub Night
 (Admission free to U of A
 students with I.D.)

The Quinlan Sisters

An a cappella adventure



Time & Date:
Tuesday, March 16, 1982
8:30 pm

Place:
Centennial Library Theatre

Admission:
Adults \$3.50
Students & Seniors \$2.50

Tickets at Woodward's

Edmonton
Public
Library

Alberta
CULTURE

dewey's

HUB MALL

14 domestic beers and cider
14 imported beers also wine

Mon. - Thurs. 3:00 - 11:00
Fri. - Sat. 3:00 - 12:00

Express

gourmet coffees • deli sandwiches

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Win \$200.00

Design A Logo
For
Campus Recreation

- Campus Recreation needs a logo to symbolize participation in recreational activities (intramurals, non-credit instruction, sports clubs & fitness activities). Will be used on t-shirts, posters, notice boards etc.
- Open to everyone
- Deadline for submissions: Wed. March 31, 1982

To
Logo Design Committee
Campus Recreation
c/o Dept. of Athletic Services
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alta. T6G 2H9