

## The Gateway

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## editorial

Let's suppose, just for a moment, that the Alberta government declared that any person moving into this province *must* be educated at an English-speaking school, that all children of such "immigrants" *must* be educated at an English-speaking school...and that it would be against the law for anyone to do otherwise. We'd all think that was a pretty fascist piece of legislation, wouldn't we? We'd certainly be pissed off if we had decided to attend College St. Jean or J.H. Picard, for examples, when the government said "no way, you have to study at an English school." It would be, we would argue, a violation of a basic right. Yet that's what the Parti Quebecois government is now proposing for Quebec and it gives us a clear indication of how democratic that government will be in its determination to see Quebec separate from Canada.

I studied at Laval University for a time and I met many separatists (very few of whom I would classify as "radicals" or "fanatics"), and my personal belief is that if the *Quebecois* feel the best way to save their culture is to separate from Canada they should have every right to do so.

But this latest move is not even worthy of being called, as the *Globe and Mail* described it last week, separation without a referendum. This is outright fascism. The PQ government should no more dictate where people shall or shall not study than dictate where they shall or shall not shop. The PQ government here shows complete disregard for the wants of the people and, what's worse, encourages the type of parochial and biased thinking that has already rotted too much of our society's sense of moral worth. The PQ government must not be allowed to legislate where people will learn or from whom, or where they will buy, what, how much and from whom.

There must be an immediate public outcry against the type of legislation Levesque's government has proposed for Quebec. Even if Quebec were *already* a solitary nation, it would be wrong of it to pass a law depriving people of a fundamental freedom of choice. If enough people wish to learn the French language, if the PQ make Quebec's economic environment amenable to French-speaking people (which it likely already has or is in the process of so doing), if Quebec has faith in its own people and the people who wish to live there badly enough to immigrate, then there can be no need for such restrictive legislation.

Anybody who is interested in seeing democracy in action should have attended Monday's protest rally against differential fees. The protest itself was orderly, if poorly organized. But basically there was simply a small group of people who gathered together with some signs and marched across the High Level bridge, singing a few songs and chanting a few slogans. All nice and quiet and probably not something you'd pay a great deal of attention to, especially if you were an influential MLA interested in the mass of voters and not the vocal minority.

In any case, the protest proceeded on this semi-orderly note until it ended at 2:30 p.m. and some of the protestors tried to go inside the Legislature to sit in the public gallery and listen to the upcoming debate on differential fees. Surprise, surprise, all the doors of the Legislature were locked! And try as the protestors did, no one could get inside until a FAS organizer arranged with the Social Credit party for passes for a dozen people — still leaving about 100 people outside the door. The argument of the Legislature people was that the gallery was filled with school children — an obvious lie as I found out when I went up to the press gallery and saw the public gallery only half full.

But it wasn't the lie so much as the gesture of petty annoyance that bothered the protestors so much. Here they were, members of the public, asking to be allowed into a public building and not only being denied entrance but being denied entrance by among other members of Edmonton's police force, the people we would normally turn to for help in such a situation. Yes it all proves once again that in Alberta if you don't rock the boat, you get treated right. But try to stage a public protest, draw attention to what you perceive as a major mistake by the government, and be prepared for small and major acts of outrage against you. It can be locked doors, jail, abuse at the hands of the police — any one of a number of things. This was a small thing — but yet another indication from our "responsible" government of how they will treat public protest.

by Kevin Gillese

## AND DA WINNA IS...

Ta da! Laadiees and gennulmen...the *Gateway* is pleased to announce the winner of the world's first annual Delainey and Rasmussen Cactus Buns look-alike contest. By 227 votes, Department of Entomology chairman George Ball has been awarded the prestigious first prize! By a mail-in vote of 219, engineering student Bernie Brodeur has been awarded the magnificent second prize! And with 165 votes,

somebody or other supposedly named J.A. Beck Jr. has been awarded the lovely and gracious third prize! (All prizes awarded by the *Gateway* Nihilist Club — the prizes consist of philosophic dissertations on nothingness.)

FIRST PRIZE



SECOND PRIZE



THIRD PRIZE

## Aggies toasted for entertainment

It's springtime again, the season when the lets-make-the-Aggies-look-like-simpleminded-hicks crowd seems to be at its most vocal. But this latest slur is a bit much; to imply that our menfolk are all glassy-eyed sex fiends who use any excuse to leap on any unsuspecting 'piece of meat' is a little dramatic, and shows unwillingness to understand the real issue.

Yes, Mr. Elves (and his unidentified friend), it was done in a spirit of "good, clean, fun." Whatever "you" may choose to call it, a peck on the cheek does not constitute sexual assault, and as for the discrimination aspect, our male Club President has been similarly "sold" to the highest female bidder. The incident was part of the Club's promotion of the Western atmosphere of Bar None Week, and if your friend did not wish to participate, she should have said so.

Our club is one of the few associations on campus that welcomes any and all students to participate in its meetings and events. Our record of academic, social, and community involvement speaks for itself. Where were you stone throwers, when the Agriculture displays in the Students' Union's Community Involvement Week far outnumbered those of all the other faculty associations combined? When several hundred observers were entertained by our square dancers in Edmonton Centre? When over 30 per cent of our faculty gave blood in the December drive? When public seminars on agriculture were

financed by the Club nearly every month?

These achievements, especially given the fact that membership in the Agricultural Club is less than 200, are considerable. Having put in uncounted hours myself in organization of Club activities, explaining to the public what is being done with some of its tax money, and making campus life a little more entertaining, it irks me to see our efforts reduced to the status of "an alcoholic grovel." The labels come too glibly, and from those who seem to be in ignorance of our activities.

Granted, we're all here to get an education, and for this, every student has invested time money, and hope for the future. But does

it all have to be in such deadly earnest?

For those who seem to think that a university education consists of covering the required course material and occasionally voicing support for whatever social or political issue is fashionable at the time, all I can say is I am very, very sorry for you. You've not only missed the point, but you've missed some great opportunities.

Helen Newsham  
Agriculture 2

Ed. Note: Shucks m'am, ain't nobody on the *Gateway* ever said them terrible things about Aggies (specially the Club members). Well, hell! we know's they're good folks... even if their boots do smell a bit funny.

## Aggies are good "clean" fun

Once again the aggies are out in force heralding the arrival of spring with their square dancing, barbecues, tug-o-wars etc. on campus.

Just as regularly we have the critics of the events standing around with their collective noses in the air declaring the festivities as "obnoxious indulgences" which are "repressed adolescent fantasies."

We would like to ask these self-professed paragons of virtue what they feel faculty weeks are for? Heaven forbid that they should generate any pride or camaraderie in the university. It is

much safer for these people to protect their reserved lifestyles by criticizing those who wish to enjoy campus life.

We imagine they feel this apathetic outlook on life is viewed as "cool." We the undersigned will drink a toast at Bar None to the aggies in thanks for a damn entertaining week that must have required a lot of organization and effort.

To the deadbeats - Screw 'em if they can't take a joke.

David M. Lewis  
Commerce  
James Hamilton  
Engineering