

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

Board tuition policy

an open letter to John Schlosser, members of the university Board of Governors (ex officio and otherwise), and the rest of the university administration:

Dear intelligent people:

When it is your time to submit before The Premier (as surely you all have, will, or would, if you knew what was good for you), please — don't let Him take away your self-respect.

That very quality which gives the mind rest in the midst of Tory totalitarianism, is in your cases, good people, contemptibly close to being forfeited. The latest temptation: Board tuition policy.

Surely it is no sin to want The Premier's blessings, and you people on the Board, you have them. But don't fall over yourselves in pursuit of patronage; much as The Premier wants himself to be feared, He despises weakness in others.

You Board members, you bureaucrats, the university administration from top to bottom, you have been weak. The Premier is thus not interested so much in you anymore, if ever he was after the 1971 revolution.

You have, historically, cried only softly when The Premier does not give you what you asked for and what you correctly deserved by all objective criteria: sufficient university funding to develop "this province's most valuable natural resource — it's people" (an oft-repeated quote from the collected statements of The Premier).

You have not risen in unison and cried loudly so that He could hear you clearly and unambiguously: "Mr. Premier, with all due respect (for there is nothing to be gained in being rude), you're acting like a fool; we cannot responsibly or conscientiously tolerate your irresponsibility as concerns university funding. Shape up or you will be brought to bear," or something like that for starters.

And if that will not move Him, gather your numbers and your many allies and pay The Premier a visit and make him look foolish and irresponsible on national television. And if that will not move Him, go on strike. Close down this institution before it falls about our heads. Do *something*.

But no. You have said you prefer 'quiet diplomacy'. For ten years you have preferred not to offend and for ten years The Premier has shown his contempt by not giving you what you ask for.

So when reason and backroom politics (not necessarily exclusive of one another) would not move Him, you proved you were worthy of His contempt by finding a scapegoat for your own inadequacies: students.

A case in point. This tuition indexing policy you are considering today (Friday, October 2, for readers' benefit): have you considered the alternatives, or is your support for indexing a reflection of the fact it is The Minister's (and therefore The Premier's) preferred tuition policy? Given past conduct, the latter is a blinding reflection of fact, I think.

You would do well, before making any hasty, ineffective, decisions to recall last year's example. Days before The Minister told you how much money he would provide, you meekly asked, "Sir, in case you decide not to give us what we've asked for (and between you and me, Sir, tax benefits for oil producers are much more important than anything including my standing in The Party, if you say so), we'll be pleased to recommend a tuition fee increase to make up the difference."

The Minister, perhaps in contempt but surely in condescension, turned you down; moreover, he didn't give you what you asked for in the first place. Again.

But what's worse, you conceded to use a threatened tuition fee hike as an inoffensive way of lobbying The Government. And you will, in endorsing the tuition indexing policy today, be using students, *again*, as an inoffensive way of lobbying The Government.

With all due respect, good people, you will offend students if by following this course of action you try too hard not to offend The Government. You would do well to remember where your responsibilities on the Board lie — with the university, not The Government or your own personal ambitions or your prudery.

You would do well to remember one more thing: the university *is* students. And either you are with us, or you are against us.

Respectfully,
Peter Michalyszyn

CUTBACKS COMICS



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Help freeze tuition fees

Dear Editor:

The University of Alberta Board of Governors will be making an important decision for you this Friday.

The decision is about tuition fees and what to do with them in the long term. Some members of the Board are proposing that tuition rise yearly, to make up 8-12% of the University's expenditures. To implement this, tuition could increase by 18% or more next year, with similar increases forever after.

Not only does the proposed

policy permanently eliminate student input in an area where we have traditionally and rightly had a voice, the policy was contrived in a vacuum, based solely on a desire to balance the budget. Little consideration was given to the long term effects this policy would have on students, enrollment, and accessibility to post secondary education.

Certainly tuition policy is not the only factor affecting accessibility, but it *is* the only factor the University can control. Your Students' Council

wants the Board to freeze tuition fees until the effects of tuition and other factors on Albertans' ability to attend post secondary institutions are determined, through an Accessibility Study.

We, as students, must be listened to. You will be heard if you attend the Board of Governors meeting on Friday, October 2, 9:00 a.m., Room 3-15, University Hall.

Phil Soper
SU President
Kris Farkas

Student Representative
on the Bd. of Governors

Paranoia, frustration, and anger

Dear Gateway:

Here are some "lowbrow fulminations" (The Gateway, Thurs., Sept. 3) from a "brainless engineer" (ibid).

Amidst the paranoia, frustration, and anger exhibited by those all about me regarding the "Constitutional Issue", I can't help but think that the average person takes this issue a little too seriously.

We seem to have drawn a sharp distinction between what is good for the "Albertan" and that which is good for the "rest of Canada". I think that this division is so ludicrous as to be comical, and yet people see their "freedom" threatened: Why is this?

I hope that there are still those who can see, not only above this Provincial-Federal conflict and the division marking the two sides, but also above the remote differences separating Canadians from people of other nations.

To avoid disaster, we must all see above divisions such as these: I, for one, think that our freedom can be threatened only by our backing ourselves into corners with opinions and imagined differences and barriers between ourselves (Albertans) and the bad guys (Federal Politicians).

I, too, have a paranoid side, and it whispers to me those same people who will scream the

The fear of swimming

Gateway:

We have recently developed a new method for teaching individuals to swim.

The whole concept is based on eliminating many of the major traumas associated with the first swimming lesson. This is done by using snorkel equipment.

If you are an individual who cannot swim and who does not

loudest when the constitution is brought home (unilaterally) will hoist the Canadian Flag the highest when that other great cognitive division "blessing" us comes into play; Wartime.

"Only fools offer opinions", said Krishnamurti: I must be a fool.

Calvin Klatt
Engineering III

like water or has some fear of water, this technique has been designed for you. If you can be free from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, Monday and Friday and would like to participate in this new learning experience, please contact:

Ron Kirstein,
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University of Alberta
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Staff this issue: David Tims, Dave Cox, Diana Taschuk, Bob Kilannon, Garnet Du Gray, Captain Murray Whitby, Mike Walker for his creative Board coverage, John Roggeveen, Tina VanRikkoord, Lloyd Takeyasu, Peter West, Peter Melnychuk, Con Boland, One Mystery Reviewer, Dave Oginski and his political ambitions, and Brent Jeffery all vowed to meet in Room 3-15 in University Hall across from SUB on Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. to Vehemently Protest th Board of Governors proposed recommendation to the provincial government that calls for the indexing of tuition fees. How much crap are you willing to take?