

UAB strains democracy

I strongly disagree with the arguments attributed to Sue Savage (*Gateway*, April 3) that the referendum in favour of the athletic fee hike indicates that the increase is needed.

This is the last straw! I voted against the increase mainly because of the irresponsible distribution by the UAB in last year's budget. Fully 78.2% of intercollegiate/intramural expenditures was lavished on intercollegiate sports; 51.7% alone on intercollegiate, and the major part of that on the "big three" (talk to people in the running and wrestling teams).

Rather than spend the money developing the basic participatory skills of the bulk of students on this campus, the UAB last month proposed to increase 1979/80 expenditure on intercollegiate sports by 13%, allowing intramurals' slice of the pie to fall from 21.7 to 4.1%. Despite the UAB's bellicosity that this was only a preliminary budget, their intent can clearly be seen.

Certainly, intercollegiate sports are important in bringing prestige to the U of A but not as much as sending graduate

students to read research papers at prestigious scientific conferences. Quite rightly, the student body is not expected to finance the latter so why should they be called upon to lavish further cash on a tiny featherbedded minority?

Because of the government policies, the whole of tertiary education is facing crippling financial problems, and athletics funding should be used as another lobbying point with Lougheed. Otherwise, if it is the turn of intercollegiate sports to face cutbacks in order to maintain general and intramural standards then so be it.

Furthermore, the "Vote Yes" posters were dishonest in threatening students with cutbacks without mentioning that the bulk of the huge increase was never intended to improve the facilities of the majority of students. As a regular user of the overcrowded weightroom, swimming pool and running track I am frustrated at the ludicrously few hours and inadequate facilities allotted to us plebians, and I urge the new Students Union executive, the GSA and all plebians and democrats on

the UAB to institute a policy of dividing our athletic fee so that a guaranteed percentage is allotted to general, intramural and intercollegiate expenditure. This way, more people will be allowed to participate in sports and make direct use of the moeny they contribute.

Finally, the most disturbing aspect of the referendum was the elaborate (and expensive) poster campaign. During the recent NUS referendum, pro and anti committees were recognised by the SU council and limited to spending the same amount of money on publicity, whereas this time, "Vote Yes" propaganda was everywhere on campus with no alternate position available to the student. I would like the UAB to state exactly how much they spent on the campaign.

This kind of "democracy" is redolent of a banana republic and I strongly urge the new students' union executive to fight for a more standardized and democratic procedure for future referenda amongst the student body.

S.P. Goff
Grad Studies

Second Wind

Gordon Turtle

Rumor has it that a lot of people around here are a touch worried about my ability to write editorials next year when I'm editor of this paper. Now, while I can perfectly understand apprehension about my writing abilities, I think that most of this concern stems from people's misconceptions about my *subject matter*.

You know, it's funny. I've written over two hundred stories for *The Gateway* over the last few years, but it seems that when people remember my name at all, it's usually for one article. For instance, I know that many think that I live in the past, (whatever that means), and that all of my editorials are going to be about things that happened a long time ago which no one cares about anymore. These people, likely, envision something like this:

It was only ten years ago today that US President Nixon sent in his paid mercenary pigs to shoot down the innocent students who were peacefully demonstrating at Kent State against his recent move to move the Vietnam war into Cambodia. The relevance of this tragedy must not be forgotten....

Don't sweat it kids. Though subjects of this sort interest me, I have been led to understand that other students don't share this interest, so it will be largely ignored in the paper. Maybe...

Then there are others who think I'm a commie rabble-rouser, out to destroy all that is sacred in this fine country that is known as Canada. Look. I'm going to level with you right here and now: I hate Peter Lougheed, his cabinet and his haircut, I hate two-toned suited businessmen, and briefcase-packing salesmen. I hate American TV, (well, most of it), I hate right-wing wimps, I hate short haircuts, and I hate blue ski jackets. But, hey! That doesn't mean my editorials are going to sound like this:

My funny bone was aroused again today when it was discovered that Lougheed apple-polisher-on-campus **Len Thom** will again file a nomination form to run for president in this year's SU general elections. Students who were here last year will remember that this notorious **tory blimp** ran a fringe, Eddie-Keen style campaign in his first bid for office last election on a platform opposing anything requiring even a modicum of moral firmness...

While I hope to offer some comment on student politics, don't worry; I won't simply reprint what I say in the cafeteria at lunch time.

I've had a lot of trouble this year convincing people that everything I write is not a bunch of ripped-off Bob Dylan quotations. These people think I'm a fanatic, and that my editorials will be merely a string of Dylan lines:

How many roads must a man walk down?
I asked president Olmstead, but he didn't reply because he'd never been *where the home in the valley meets the damp, dirty prison, where the executioner's face is always well hidden*. This happened yesterday, with *darkness at the break of noon* when I sought to interview Olmstead about *The kingdoms of experience*. *In the precious wind they rot*. The idea came to me *early one morning when the sun was shining, I was laying in bed*. But Olmstead dodged the issue as usual, for he *never has to think too much about Desolation Row*. Business as normal down at the SU offices...

And I'm not into intellectual editorials either:

The angst of isolation and fragmentation that has plagued modern man through the twentieth century is not a new sensation for university students: note Lougheed's recent announcement to raise tuition fees. Lougheed's prognostication that the campus needs to move, to lessen, to abate the influx of cross-cultural influences seems to be the metaphorical isthmus to his recent superficial conviviality...

Generally, then, I don't know what the hell my editorials will look like next year, but there's no reason for anyone to get excited, because the last thing I want to do is *anger* anyone...

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of the three ornamental banners which were stolen from Humanities Centre during Engineering Week is asked to contact Students' Union President Dean Olmstead with the information. No questions will be asked.

were stolen by three first-year Engineering Students during Engineering Week and were subsequently returned to the door of the Engineering Students Society. They were again stolen by persons unknown, however.

Anyone with information is asked to call 432-4236.

The ornamental banners

Savard solves world problems

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Jack Horner (that traitor to the people of Alberta, who have consistently voted to resoundingly repudiate the Trudeau party) recently voiced concern over anti-boycott legislation in the province of Ontario that he felt might be a threat to jobs.

Some time back, two professors came to the campus to talk about the problem of the Arab boycott of Israel in terms of how it infringed on Canadian sovereignty. They claimed that ignoring the boycott would not be too great a handicap to businessmen as when a company produces a product that is needed badly enough, most Arab governments are willing to cast the boycott aside.

That's fine for some

businesses; but what about when there is plenty of competition from different countries?

Nobody seems to have approached the question, however, of how to prevent Canadian businessmen from participating in such a boycott without causing some of them to lose business, by placing them at a competitive disadvantage (a disadvantage does not have to be insuperable to be a disadvantage) with respect to businesses in countries that do not have anti-boycott legislation.

It is very simple. Canada can't do it, but the U.S. could. Inform those European and Asian countries without such legislation that they had better frame such legislation in a hurry ... or face an all-out economic war.

You can't fight a boycott by doing nothing.

Of course, this could provoke another oil embargo ... and we still trade with South Africa because of need for its metal products, a less obvious need than that for oil: so it is not likely that we will fight back: and if our businesses hurt enough, we may forget such principles as we have and repeal the anti-boycott legislation.

There is another solution. Bring liberation to Iran and Saudi Arabia. Then, when we approach the new Prime Minister of one of those countries for oil, she will not be disposed to turn us down.

John Savard
Grad Studies

Reader Comment

Preserve precious past

Regarding your article, "Assiniboia may be destroyed," the *Gateway*, March 30, 1979, please allow me to make the following points.

1. I feel that an argument in favor of demolition, based on concern over expenditure of public funds, is very weak. Throughout history and throughout the world, much money and much human effort has been spent on preserving the past. Otherwise, we would not have today the treasure houses which we call museums. Indeed, if concern over the expenditure of money was the deciding criterion, then all of the historical treasures of ancient Luxor would be lost to history.

Another point that applies in this instance is that I refuse to believe that we are so poor that we cannot spend a few dollars to preserve our past in its proper perspective. If we can afford to build wasted space into the Central Academic Building, and to place on the Quad wooden blocks which can best be described as stumbling blocks, then surely we can afford to give serious consideration to preserving our past. A society which does not keep itself apprised of where it came from can hardly lay claim to knowing where it is headed.

2. One of the arguments put forward in favor of demolishing Assiniboia Hall was that the sandstone blocks in it have deteriorated much more than in the other two buildings (Pembina and Athabasca). I am not at all knowledgeable in the behavior of construction materials, but I would like to be informed why the sandstone in this building has undergone greater deteriora-

tion. Was it from a different quarry, or perhaps being situated farther north than the other two buildings, it was subjected to more severe weather conditions.

3. The argument that Assiniboia is not of the same architecture as Pembina and Athabasca (and therefore should be demolished?) is of course not relevant at all. This world would be most uninteresting if all the buildings were of the same architectural design.

4. The point that it is blocked by the V-wing of the Physics building is interesting. For just as it applies to the Assiniboia Hall, so does it bring into question the wisdom of placing the V-wing in the Quad in the first case. After all, Assiniboia Hall existed long before the V-wing was built, and if we had been concerned with the esthetic appearance of the campus, then we would have preserved the Quad in its entirety, and not placed the V-wing in its present location and form.

5. The question of whether Assiniboia Hall has the same sentimental value should be left to the many prominent Alberta, and indeed Canadian citizens who spent many long hours working in that building on their way to finding their place in society.

In closing, may I suggest that the question of whether Assiniboia Hall should be preserved or demolished should be based on one point. This point is that jointly with Pembina and Athabasca, Assiniboia Hall is a part of our very precious past.

Fred Ustina
Mathematics