

letters

Dispose of excess lives?

I would like to congratulate those who organized the recent seminar on the steady-state economy and the problems of growth. These are issues which we must face squarely in the present, and in the decades to come; the seminar was a good beginning.

However, I am disturbed by some of the 'ethical' thinking at the seminar. Dr. Hardin made some rather indirect hints concerning the possibility of disposing of individual human lives if the "carrying capacity" of the earth was exceeded. There seems to be a school of thought among ecologists which makes "carrying capacity" the new word for the Nazi "Lebensraum". It is all too easy for humans to adopt "ultimate solutions" to their problems; in this case, to suggest killing or "allowing to die" the very people who are suffering most (starving third-world citizens) or those whom we are pretending to protect (the unborn).

The number of people the earth can support varies with such factors as the standard of living that is deemed minimal. Until we have done everything possible to correct the injustices presently enshrined in the global economy, it is irresponsible to think in terms of death as an acceptable means of population control. If someone believes the earth is absolutely, too crowded, perhaps the ethical thing to do would be to commit suicide, rather than murder.

Encouragingly, most people seemed to dismiss these extreme suggestions, and to concentrate on more positive options. It is not ethical to give up at this early stage in our awareness.

Fletcher Stewart
Chaplaincy Office

Savard returns

Those of you out there who have been awaiting with bated breath my first letter of the 1975-76 academic year may now breathe freely. Here it is!

I would like to touch briefly here on several topics of importance. 1) Much had been written and said last year about the impending need for enrolment quotas. Yet, University building is winding down; and that is too slow for some, who complained that the B of G or other University authorities are engaged in some sort of "empire building".

The right amount of space for a University is enough space for all qualified applicants - no matter how many there may be. The size of the University should be limited only by the number of available students.

Alberta is a rich province. Foreign aid, as such, is a Federal matter, but increasing the size of this province's educational system so that we can take care of more than our share of foreign students would be something constructive that is well within the jurisdiction of the province.

2) During the last two Federal election campaigns,

David Lewis had spoken at great length concerning the need for making corporations pay their fair share towards the tax needs of the government.

I agree. But what is the fair share of a corporation?

On one hand, income from stocks, corporations owned, and the other sources available to the wealthy businessman should not be taxed differently from other sources, but instead should be taxed as if identical to and indistinguishable from "income from employment as per T4 slips."

In other words, the final and absolute closure of the "tax loopholes" available only to the wealthy is what is needed.

But on the other hand, taxes upon corporations themselves, as opposed to the personal incomes of their owners, should be abolished entirely. Corporate taxes are a fraud: they claim to be the taxes which burden the riches elements in society, when in fact, they are really only a disguised form of sales tax, passed on to the consumer, and, thus, like all sales taxes, hitting the poor hardest. Corporate taxes should be abolished - but the corporations should also be forced to pass on the full benefits of this measure to the consumer. One thing this would do is make Canada more competitive on the export market!

3) A while back, an article in the *Journal* about a meeting between welfare authorities and recipients in Montreal was entitled "Women claim sex sought for welfare". Several women alleged that male social workers had asked them to be "friendly" in order to get their money; to "work" for it in a way that was only too obvious. The article ended: "Louis Guibeau, regional welfare director, cautioned the women that they were making 'serious accusations' and that proof was necessary."

When accusations of such a nature are made against welfare officials, the accusations themselves should constitute sufficient grounds for an investigation, using undercover policewomen as fake "welfare applicants".

It is only too bad that such creeps, when caught, would suffer little more than dismissal. They ought to get the same sentence as rapists should get: at least ten or twenty years.

John Savard

No transfer

Copies sent to:

Minister of Education
Don Getty, M.L.A.
Peter Bawden, M.P.
Ched Radio
Gateway

There seems to be an inconsistency in the grading systems used at the Universities of Alberta. We the students would like to know why courses passed at one university are not acceptable at another university, especially in the same faculty program, eg. arts, science, education.

Are not all universities in Alberta on the same level of educational standards? If not why are they all called universities?

The honorable minister should realize the cost in time and money to taxpayers involved, as well as to the students, eg., student loans, students not available for the labor market, repetition of the use of resources. Education is the biggest business in our province.

LOOK at our Literary Supplement



For the many short-story writers, poets, and playwrights on campus, and for the students who like new literature, *The Gateway* is pleased to announce the birth of its Literary Supplement Program.

The supplement will be published more or less on an ad hoc basis, depending on the amount and quality of manuscripts we receive for publication.

A selection committee comprised of local writers and editors will read the manuscripts and announce those to be published. The committee also will be advised and assisted by well-known author Rudy Weibe.

A hundred dollars in cash is up for distribution in ten entries to the supplement.

If you're interested in being published in your own newspaper please send us a manuscript to *The Gateway* office room 282 SUB or mail it to us, same address.

We cannot assume responsibility for all manuscripts we receive, so please keep a copy yourself.

Surely to God, we have to have some conversion system between provincial universities. I look at the world and see the countries that can't get along and ask why. Well, take a look at ourselves, we can't get along in our universities.

I hope this matter will come to your immediate attention. I have documented evidence to substantiate this matter and a lot of students will back me up and are in the same position I am in.

J.B. Black

Run your butts off

This year is to witness the staging of the first Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity Charity Run to be held between Red Deer and Edmonton. The beneficiary of the September 27th run will be the Winnifred Stewart School for the Mentally Retarded. The run shall be held in connection with the fraternity's public service functions and will see the participation by the brothers and, especially, the prospective members of the Fraternity.

The Run is to introduce the new members of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity to one aspect of the Fraternity's credo, social service to the community.

It is to the students of the University of Alberta that the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity appeals for support to ensure the success of the Run and to ensure our commitment to the students of Winnifred Stewart.

Should you desire to help the Fraternity and brothers meet this commitment please contact the Fraternity at 439-7955 or contact the booth set up in SUB.

The brothers of Phi Gamma Delta wish to thank you for your interest and support in this a worth while undertaking.

Mike Owen
Run Committee

College registrar disappears

Despite pre-registration a number of students experienced the joy of registering in person this year. The process

provides limitless possibilities for getting into shape: sprinting from the departmental authority's office clutching a sacred piece of paper with his signature on it, you arrive at your Faculty Headquarters just in time to stand in line for an hour before receiving approval of your program; then you can wantonly throw yourself into an orgy of line-ups, cancelled classes, modified class schedules, missing computer cards, cards for courses that don't exist, and even missing registration officials.

Not that anyone would actually kidnap a registrar, for he wouldn't even draw a beggar's ransom - but some officials were indeed missing, in particular, those supposedly representing the College Saint Jean. Commencing Thursday, September 4 at 2:30 p.m., they disappeared from sight and were never again to be seen on campus, having retreated to the enceinte of their distant institution. A prominent college official explained that all faculties received notice Thursday that when in-person registrants became few and far between, course registrars could retire to their faculties and deal the cards from there. In nearly all cases this change in procedure made little difference to students registering.

However, those wishing to take a course at the College had the pleasure of negotiating the 6 mile trip from the campus to the college and back again, sometimes for the sake of one little computer card. Some people will go to any lengths just to make we students happy!

Nevertheless, one obviously unbalanced student did not see the fun in skipping over to the college and back and so he phoned the administrators in charge there to tell them. He suggested it might be more convenient if someone gave the cards out on campus.

Talk about splitting hairs! Some people will complain about anything!

Of course the illustrious administrator did not hesitate to put the uppity student in his place. "My time is too precious for this kind of rubbish," said he, and that was that. You see, he knows how much we students enjoy a pleasant little detour along the registration route.

Bob Simpson

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