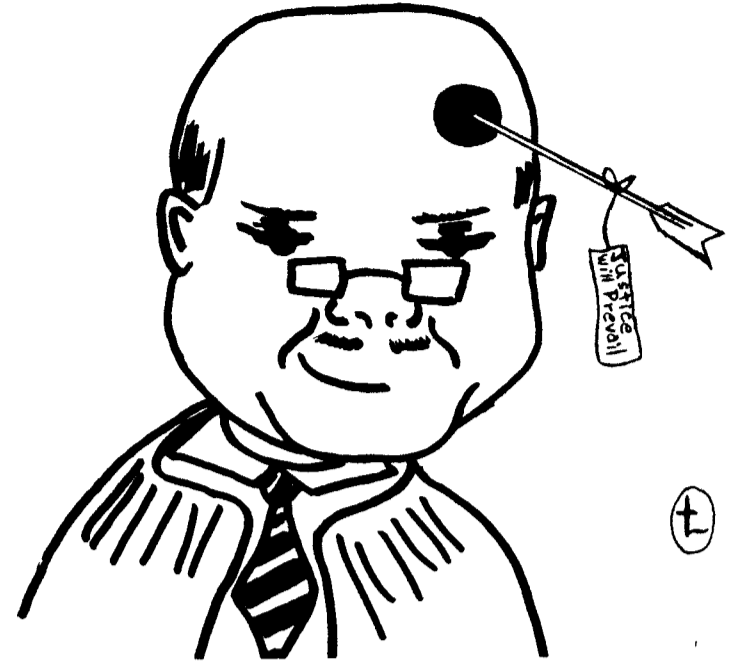


a comment today on the recent casserole feature about Canada and Quebec. also, some letters on Vietnam, skiing, track coverage, u of c (Calcutta, that is) involvement, and a single, solitary thank you note from a successful candidate in the recent students' union elections.



... don't know the answer, eh, Johnson??

letters

humor?

Many people voice their opinion about the horrible "things" that occur in Vietnam, but in the midst of horror, there is always humor.

Recently a friend of mine, who was wounded, asked a fellow recuperating buddy how he'd been injured. His reply was as follows:

"Well, when I first started out over here, I asked my sergeant how to tell the difference between those rotten Viet Cong and the honorable South Vietnamese. He told me to yell 'Down with Ho Chi Minh' whenever I saw one, and to wait for a response.

"So, I came across a little guy one day in the jungle and I yelled, 'Down with Ho Chi Minh' and he yelled back 'The hell with LBJ'.

"And as we were shaking hands, we got run over by a Chinese tank."

Humor—maybe not, but at least they were shaking hands; could the end be near?

Craig Karpilow
med 1

ski bums

In reference to Gateway March 8, Speaking on Sports, Mr. Rybak asks, "How many university students and Edmontonians will give a few moments of their precious time to support amateur sport?" To him, I pose this same question.

The Gateway has run articles on, or closely followed the sports of football, basketball, hockey, wrestling; and more recently, boxing, bowling, soccer, curling, and of all garbage, bobsledding. Both inter-collegiate and intramurals are widely publicized.

However, how many times has skiing been mentioned in The Gateway? To my knowledge, twice: once when the U of A Ski Club submitted an article and once when a reprint of an ancient Gateway article on co-ed skiing was published.

The intramural slalom race was held on Feb. 24. Why has there not been a report on it by The Gateway? Skiing is popular on campus; the Ski Club has over 800 members. Are not these people worthy of some acknowledgement?

We have been denied snow by the powers above; we have been denied UAB support for a racing team; and we have been denied coverage by The Gateway.

Are skiers really bums?

Eric Carstens
U of A Ski Club

sports goof

Upon reading your Feb. 23 edition of The Gateway, I was impressed with the coverage you gave your intervarsity sports. However, I was somewhat disappointed when I read your article on the WCIAA championship track meet.

In the last paragraph you stated that "As expected, the talent-laden UBC squad, considered the best uni-

versity team in Canada, took the meet".

Well, UBC may have been favorites but they are not the best team in Canada as they lost the meet by one point to the University of Saskatchewan team.

I trust the error will be corrected. Keep up the good work.

Rodger Williams
Saskatoon, Sask.

thanx

Many thanks are due to all my campaign workers, to all those who supported me at the polls, to The Gateway for its part in publishing the platforms and to my campaign manager, Marty Kay.

For everyone, especially Mitch and Peter, I invite you to discuss any aspect of the students' union with me so that we can all contribute to its well-being and progress.

David Leadbeater
vice-president-elect

better image

I have just read the copy of The Gateway of March 1. The headline "Calcutta has 5,500 students for each prof" promises to be a sensational news but without the full truth.

The error might be due to the misinterpretation of the term "professor". In Calcutta, only the heads of the different departments of different colleges (the number of colleges under Calcutta University was 124 in 1962-63) are known as professors.

The 31 professors, as has been referred to in the news item, are the heads of the different departments of the "graduate studies" alone. Hope this will give a bit better image of that great old institution.

Amit Kumar Saha
grad studies

involvement

I am very confused as to the exact sentiments of the SDU movement—and not because I haven't listened to them (repeat the same new clichés over and over). The more I listen, the more alienated I become.

It seems to me that there exists more condemnation than constructive criticism (although, to do them justice, constructive ideas are not completely lacking). Their quarrel seem to be with the administration—do they really understand it or just think they do?

Their idea of student involvement is a larger voice in decisions concerning students, but in the things that are available now for students to voice opinions (Model Parliament, students' council elections and some referendums), the majority of students do not vote—many because they are not interested in these things (that's their business), some

because they feel unqualified to make a decision and prefer to leave it up to those who may have a better understanding.

Among those who do vote I'm sure some just vote because "it's there" and they feel important—although they do not understand or do not attempt to understand the issues.

A greater student voice in administration would not, in my opinion, increase involvement. The same number of people would vote.

Besides this, involvement to me means the work involved in running the university not only the decision-making. This decision-making might mean more awareness (which would probably be a desired goal) but not more involvement.

Education is not just the classroom and the books, but neither is it decision-making. Extra-curricular education is important too and has just as large a bearing on the society we will be entering.

Administration, I feel, is most efficiently dealt with by a few. I think students should be more interested in their interrelations with others, which more directly concerns them.

For people who are not afraid of work, or who are interested in being involved, the students' union provides many opportunities. Personnel booklets are made available so the student knows what is offered. Positions exist to suit a variety of interests and the people on students' council, I'm sure, aren't a bunch of ogres ready to leap on

hapless Joe student and say "Aha, you dare to cross this threshold?"—just ask some of the average students who have had guts to do this. Most involved people were once nobodies.

As for others who do not want to be thus involved, they are involved in the diverse special-interest groups—inevitable and desirable where there exist so many thousand people.

In regard to education itself and the advocacy of more seminars and discussion type, with more emphasis on learning what one wishes to learn, I have to agree—at least from a personal point of view. But for every one of those who now opts out of classes because they are merely lectures, there would be one to skip classes in the reverse situation. I know of people who dread discussion groups—not because they are less intelligent by any means, but because they can express same better in other ways than talking.

In summary: I would not like to be on council and take the s..... they have to take. It must be a thankless job to get four or five hours of sleep a night, make decisions, prepare briefs, staple booklets (as well as write them up) mimeograph bulletins, provide extra-curricular entertainment, pay to

have it publicized and have a poor turnout (e.g. Santos Anonymous).

Sure the council makes mistakes and could be improved, but it needs encouragement and help from the students at large. Why not for a change tally up what is done for us instead of just the failures? Just because they don't stand up and shout "We've done this and this and this; aren't we great?" doesn't mean they should go without recognition. Maybe they should let it be known more of what they do—but wouldn't they be criticized for trying to be martyrs?

I'm not involved and this is my first year on this campus. Next year, I'm going to be involved because I found that it wasn't that difficult to meet those active people—smile at them and they do the same (except Glenn Sinclair; he sort of growls). Ask a stupid, naive question and you generally receive a satisfactory answer.

Let's help to build the students' union, not tear it down. After all, we are part of it, and let's be interested in those things that affect us not only as students but as people. We will be people in society for a lot longer than we will be students in university.

Gaye Abrey
arts 2

long live the spirit of 1867

With the risk of being labelled as arrogant, bitchy, uneducated cavemen from Quebec, we would like to present a more rational Western view than that presented by the anonymous WASP in last Friday's Gateway. We decline to refute the childish nonsense displayed by the WASP's arguments which seem worthy of only a "Stone Age" audience.

The choice for Quebec consists only of independence or equality. The former would present the dual catastrophe of economic ruin for Quebec and inevitable absorption of English-Canada into the United States.

We say English-Canada because without the French-Canadian cultural duality, Canada is a non-entity which is culturally and economically homogeneous with the American republic. With separation rejected as an impossibility, we can turn to the only other solution: a special status for Quebec that will be the premise for equality across Canada.

Quebec deserves some special status in Confederation since it is the home of 80 per cent of the French-Canadian cultural group. Such rights as broadcasting, university research, immigration, international cultural agreements and regional economic development should be immediately granted.

However, Quebec should not be given powers that would make it a separate economic entity from Canada since the federal bond would then

become meaningless. Limited special status at home would provide a firm bastion for genuine bilingualism and biculturalism.

By this, we do not mean that English-Canadians must learn French. All that is desired is a legal realization of an existing situation in French-Canadian communities outside Quebec. The old compact spirit of 1867 must be re-established so that a French-Canadian can feel that he is at home anywhere in Canada.

He wants his minority rights across English-Canada recognized in the same way that English-Canadian minority rights are in Quebec.

If he can feel that Canada as a Whole is his home, and not just Quebec, there will be a lesser tendency to separate since Canada will again be meaningful to him.

The first Canadian nationalist, Henri Bourassa, said: "The homeland for us is the whole of Canada. That is, a federation of distinct races and autonomous provinces."

It is a federation that is required, not an amalgamation like in the huge American melting-pot culture.

Surely, this is a more reasonable solution to Canada's current French-Canadian question.

Bob Motut
arts 3

Terry Cook
arts 3