

EDITORIAL

Bucks for books?

Remaining members of CFS will no longer be the only issue students have a direct influence on this February. Students' Council decided on Tuesday to add a second question: should the SU have a policy restricting racist and sexist events? The second referendum is on the wrong issue.

The protection of minority rights from the whims of the majority need not be reduced to the simplistic "my rights are being taken away if I can't exploit a few people" argument that prevails every time the issue comes up. Rather, the second referendum should have been on council's misguided \$100,000 gift to the library. The grant is not necessarily wrong, but should only have been made after the issue has been explained so students can decide if they are going to cover government shortfalls. Perhaps if this year's executive could muster the energy to direct an information campaign on some of the issues affecting this university vis-a-vis underfunding, it would be clear the SU should do what it can to help the situation. Perhaps if the executive would have taken the effort to do just a little planning, they would have realized the enormous potential they had with this idea. Instead, at executive behest, council threw money at inaction.

And they threw with haste. The issue was resolved after only 10 minutes of debate. There was no documentation presented to councillors (i.e. the executive did no homework), yet council acted. There was no provision made for the SU to receive any type of account from the library as to how the money will be spent, yet council acted. There was no guarantee the government will match the \$100,000, yet council acted. On what basis did council reach this important decision? That is unknown. What is known, however, is that it was not based on hard facts, it was not based on informed debate, and it will not result in heightened awareness. Rather than generating discussion about the serious problems of underfunding, students will be treated to discussions equating freedom with the right to degrade others.

What could have been done with this idea? A referendum campaign would have given the executive the opportunity to explain to those they purport to represent why it was necessary to make the donation. It would have allowed for more publicity to be generated on the matter of underfunding; it would have allowed representatives of the government to answer for the serious shortfalls; and maybe it would have generated more interest in the SU election. Granted, a chance to further exploit women or minority groups may generate a record turnout, but is this what council should be working for?

More discussion would have allowed some of the points raised at council to be studied further. For example, as VP Finance Christine Ens pointed out, the SU just received \$130,000 from the Board of Governors. Does it make sense to give the money back? Will the SU ever be eligible for another grant? These questions will go unanswered and unnoticed. Perhaps the government will interpret the SU's generosity as an indication students are prepared to pay more for their education through higher tuition. This was the point VP External Paul Alpern raised but which will also go unnoticed.

Should the money go for books only or should periodicals also be bought? SU President Floyd Hodgins thought just books, although there was no explanation from him as to why no periodicals should be purchased.

In a very short debate, some issues were touched upon. So did council table for further consideration, for examining other options, for considering a referendum? No. Except for two thoughtful councillors, Arts rep Todd Rutter and Arts proxy Sarah Wright, council supported the idea wholeheartedly. Oh, there were some abstentions (suggesting indifference to giving away \$100,000?), including the two vice-presidents who raised legitimate points, but big deal. Council should have spent a little more than 10 minutes on this and they should table or defeat motions they are uncomfortable with. Abstaining is rather useless.

Council's opportunity to demonstrate the essential and urgent necessity of its generosity towards the library gave way to the sport of watching minority groups explain why they too deserve to be treated fairly. Goodbye \$100,000, goodbye informed debate, hello racism, hello sexism.

Peter Block

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Christmas is the spirit of giving



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Preppy coture

Upon reading the Gateway, it gets really tedious having to put up with a bunch of bleeding heart artsies whining back and forth about the evils of nuclear war.

So much ink is being wasted on this that a much more serious problem right here on campus is being ignored.

If the student body wasn't so clued out with apathy maybe they'd open their eyes and realize a menace far worse than nuclear war is threatening our society.

Of course I'm referring to schleps, some female though largely of the male persuasion: The junior accountant types with calculator watches and brown wallbees (and white socks). Even worse than the stereotypical "nerds" that have become so trendy, schleps are worse in that their sheer numbers are overwhelming. Not a minute goes by on campus when one doesn't run into someone who forgot to change clothes after high school and still thinks sideburns and flares are real cool.

We should be proud of what's left of our image as young moderns and strive to maintain it.

You may not always care how you look but we do because we're the ones who have to look at you.

Do try harder.

Skip Lauren
Commerce III

YCL irks

I was quite interested by the Young Communist League's platform of fighting for my various rights. The last time that I looked, my fellow Canadians and I all had the right to any job which we were qualified to do, if there was a position to be had. I have never had any problem getting access to education, and no one in Canada is forced to do without at least a high school education. If they wish to further their education, those Canadians who have demonstrated their abilities to learn in high school, generally have no trouble gaining access to a post-secondary institution in Canada, and even if they haven't the money to pay

for it themselves, there are enough scholarships (some offered by capitalistic big businesses) and government loans available, that most people can somehow pay for their educations.

At least, this was the case the last time I checked. As well as I can remember, no one was ever denied access to any of our country's various cultural or sports facilities on the basis of just not having the right to attend, and in addition to the expensive events (dinner theatre, professional sports) there are plenty of free events (most amateur performances and contests).

Supremely ironic however, is the pledge to fight for my right to live in a world free from the threat of nuclear war, coming from a political group whose roots are in a nation which possesses one of the two largest nuclear weapons arsenals in the world.

Before condemning capitalism as "the unjust and wasteful system" perhaps the YCL should explain the communist-governed USSR's intentional starvation of millions of Ukrainians just in this century. After that, maybe they would care to explain why communist Ethiopia has no trouble getting military goods from her 'good buddy' and ally Russia, yet in a time of horrifying famine, Ethiopia is forced to turn to the "unjust and wasteful" capitalist countries for aid, while the USSR's contribution consists of sending MiGs to try to blast the supply trucks off the roads before they are able to reach the areas in need.

In case Anne and Danica haven't already guessed, no I am not planning on joining, or in any way supporting, their group until they demonstrate anything even remotely "workable" about their alternative.

Kevin Erker
Science II

Thank God

I think a caveat is in order concerning your editorial in the November 29 Gateway. The title of the editorial ("Nukes for Jesus") would suggest that you identify the material you quote with the teachings of orthodox Christianity. In fact *The Plain Truth* magazine is published by the Worldwide Church of God, founded by Herbert W. Armstrong and promulgated more recently by his son, Garner Ted Armstrong. In

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