

Opinion

IN A JUST WORLD ...

Mike Spindloe

Sleaze exposed



Finally. The election is over! No more sleazy campaigning tactics for another four years. Now we can get back to the usual sleazy governing processes.

Our 1988 federal election has, however, exposed the deficiencies of our electoral processes more startlingly and clearly than ever before. There are three areas that especially need attention.

One is the election of Scott Thorkelson in Edmonton Strathcona, home riding of a large percentage of university students and staff. Thorkelson was elected after receiving a mere 33% of the vote in our riding. This means that 67% of the voters *didn't* want Thorkelson to be their representative in parliament; 67% who are now, effectively, unrepresented. The reason for his victory was simple: the opposition vote was split between the *three* other parties who were actually in the race, destroying any possibility we might have had for decent representation.

The second was the emergence of free trade as the overwhelmingly dominant issue on which the election was fought. As important and historic an issue as it is, what happened to the still-ballooning federal deficit and the host of environmental issues which will likely have much more impact on our lives, eventually, than free trade will. What about abortion; when will women not be forced to travel to the U.S. or Toronto for both *therapeutic* and voluntary abortions? (I know someone in the former category.)

The third was the gutter-level rhetoric which the leaders of the major parties, especially John Turner and Brian Mulroney, engaged in throughout the campaign. If only half of the things they said about each other are true then we are being governed by an incompetent bunch of white collar criminals who only give a damn about themselves. Actually, when you think about it, it makes sense; we probably are.

In the midst of all the doggie-do, to put it politely, that flies around during an election campaign, it has become clear that our government is really nothing more than a big lottery for a chance at patronage appointments, political favours and feeding at the public trough.

Our so-called representatives seem so far removed from the mundane realities of our lives that it is no wonder that the government is regarded by many people as an adversary; a giant bureaucratic nightmare that we try to avoid dealing with but sometimes must.

Despite all of this, we have, by most accounts, one of the most effective and truly democratic systems in the world. We can still be proud to be Canadians, not because of our government, but because we have the freedom to criticize it.

Although, of course, they're probably opening a CSIS file on me right now.

The Gateway

Editor-in-Chief: DRAGOS RUIU
 Managing Editor: ROSA JACKSON
 News Editors: KEVIN LAW, JEFF COWLEY
 Entertainment Editor: MIKE SPINDLOE
 Sports Editor: ALAN SMALL
 Photo Editor: ROB GALBRAITH
 Production Editor: RANDAL SMATHERS
 Circulation Manager: TERI CLARKE
 Advertising: TOM WRIGHT

CONTRIBUTORS

GEOFF HAYNES, PAM HNYTKA, RACHEL SANDERS, JENNIFER LAMB, MICHAEL TOLBOOM, JASON BODNAR, CHAD ORYDZUK, ROSS GRAY, DAVID DUDAR, DOUG JOHNSON, ERIC BAICH, NOLAN BERG, ERIC JANSE, VAN LE, GRANT WINTON, LLOYD ROBERTSON, BRAD HOWARD, DARREN SALYN, GREG POHL, TERESA PIRES, MARTIN LEVENSON, JON ROMALO, RANDY PROVENCAL, CAROL KASSIAN, PAUL MENZIES, COLIN NORTHCOTT, CLIVE OSHRY, BRUCE GARDAVE, TOM WHARTON.

All materials appearing in *The Gateway* are copyright and may not be used without written permission of *The Gateway*.

The Gateway is the University of Alberta students' newspaper. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. All opinions that are signed by the writer do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Gateway*. Copy deadlines are 11 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: 282 SUB (phone 432-5168). Sports and production offices: 230 SUB (phone 432-5068). Photos printed in *The Gateway* may be for sale. Call the photodirectorate at 432-5168 or come by Room 235 SUB. Advertising: Room 256D SUB (SU Executive offices) phone 432-4241. Mailing address: Room 256D Students' Union Building, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta. T6G 2J7. Readership is 30,000.



Letters

Letter contradictory

Re: Basics forgotten (Nov. 22)

As a future teacher, I am concerned about how teachers are viewed by the public. Siobhan Muldowney in her article shows that Educators alone are not only ones who are concerned about the future of Education. She brings up many of the common fallacies believed by people who do not study in the education field and at the same time, she demonstrates a typical attitude towards teachers. I believe her interpretations of educational philosophy warrant clarification.

First, Ms. Muldowney raises the old argument about returning to the "basics" of education. Teachers now focus on *both* the process of learning as well as the product. Therefore, the philosophy of teaching has changed for the better.

Second, Ms. Muldowney indicates that grammar is no longer taught in the schools and that teachers are just trying to maintain students' interest by doing more creative work. Nothing could be further from the truth. Students learn better if the task is relevant to them and teachers are now trying to capitalize on the student interests to make topics like grammar less "dry."

As to Ms. Muldowney's experience that Education students "almost consistently" score poorly on spelling and grammar test, her sample is too small to reflect tendencies in the population of 3086 full time Education students. I believe that most people in the Faculty of Education are here because they want to become teachers. Unfortunately there are those few who are here for other reasons. The Faculty of Education is preparing for the implementation of a quota system in the near future.

My only complaint with Ms. Muldowney's letter is that she contradicts herself. She states that "we should be instilling a greater respect for our teachers in our kids," yet she undermines the confidence of teachers in her article. If I had any questions

about the philosophy of teaching, I would go ask a professional in that field of study. In other words, I would not comment on the effectiveness of teachers without first providing teachers with an opportunity to respond to them.

If you are truly concerned about respecting teachers, then come visit us at the Educations Students' Association and find out what the Faculty of Education is really doing to address the many issues in Education. I look forward to meeting you.

Brent Kisilevich, President
 Education Students' Association

SOMAFCO open to all

I'd like to thank you for the wonderful article you printed on November 17 about Rock Against Apartheid 2. To use my current favourite word, it was swell, except for one small thing.

The article stated the SOMAFCO (The Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College) works toward the education of exiled black South Africans. That is true, but I'm afraid that it gave the impression that SOMAFCO is open to blacks only, and nothing could be further from the truth.

Like the African National Congress, SOMAFCO is open to South Africans of *all* colours. After all, it would be quite absurd for a South African who did not wish to live under the prejudicial horrors of apartheid to then go to an institution that practised racism!

I hope I don't sound too picky, but I felt that that needed to be cleared up. All in all, the article was enjoyed and *greatly* appreciated. Thanks again.

Todd Flintstone
 Production Manager
 Rock Against Apartheid 2

Photograph biased

Re: Nov. 15 ad in *The Gateway*

I am confused as to what qualifications you are seeking in the new

photo editor. Are you looking for someone with credibility, experience and knowledge of photography, or are you seeking *ONLY* a male with these qualifications, or, are you hoping that any male will fill this position? Judging from the accompanying photograph in the advertisement, you're obviously hoping for the latter. Do you not think the photograph is a little biased and a lot discriminatory? Maybe by having a more tasteful AND relevant photograph, you would not be offending the majority of the population, and you'd probably attract a larger pool of qualified applicants.

D. Grinevitch
 Faculty of Business

Christ spoke truth

Re: Cure unproven (Nov. 10)

Mr. Hussein, I feel compelled to respond to your article because you asked me a valid question and I believe that there is an answer which is equally valid. Why do I "assume" that Jesus is the only cure for sin, and what proof do I have. You had stated that there was "obviously none" since God can't be "quantified empirically". Well, I have to agree with you — to a point. There aren't any formulae or equations that can measure, weigh, or "prove" God. But that's just fine, because God wouldn't be God if you could perform experiments on Him in a lab or confine Him to a beaker. Perhaps I can't scientifically "prove" God in the manner which you are asking, but God can be proven through His words, the Bible, which were just as true and valid and applicable 2000 years ago as they are today.

It never has been and never will be my purpose to force you or anyone else to believe as I believe. My purpose and every Christian's purpose is to point you to the irrefutable Word of God, the Bible, and have you choose for yourself.

Galyne Howard
 Education II