

Lubicon life destroyed

The Lubicon Lake Indian bapd face genocide. To date, both the federal and provincial governments have sat back and let it happen.

The Lubicon Cree have tried to settle their land claim for forty five years. In 1940, Ottawa recognized that the Lubicons were a distinct band, and recommended that they should have a reserve complete with mineral rights, calculated at 128 acres per person. With a land membership of 127, the Lubicon Cree were to receive about 25 square miles. The reserve boundaries were drawn on a map. But a ground survey was required and was never completed because of World War II. The Lubicon Cree are still waiting.

The federal government began actively working against the interests of the band in 1942. A Crown agent arbitrarily struck 30 names from the band list, because he felt they were not pure blooded Indians.

During the early fifties, the province was willing to grant the Lubicon Cree a 25-square-mile reserve between Lubicon and Little Buffalo Lakes. Pressured by oil companies, Alberta issued Ottawa an ultimatum in 1954—the status of the Lubicon land claim had to be clarified within thirty days or the area would be considered provincial Crown land. Ottawa refused to reply.

The ensuing stalemate lasted until 1973 when the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that native groups who had not settled treaties were entitled to a land settlement based on aboriginal claims. The former federal Liberal government acknowledged that 347 Lubicon Cree were entitled to a reserve. But Alberta's Native Affairs Minister, Milt Pahl, argued that there were only a dozen Lubicon Indians and refused to negotiate. Instead the province established a municipality at Little Buffalo in order to undermine the land claim by integrating the natives into mainstream Alberta society.

While negotiations have dragged on, oil exploration has decimated the Indians' traditional life based on hunting and trapping. The province receives \$1.2 million a day in oil royalties from the area, but the Lubicon have no fulfilling means of supporting themselves. Tuberculosis has broken out amongst band members. TB is caused by poverty, poor living conditions, and stress.

Frustrated, they have taken their case to the United Nations; it will be heard this month. Both federal and provincial governments have recently appointed negotiators to settle the claim before international criticism creates an embarrassment at the Olympics.

In the last few years the province has said it would concede 25 square miles of land based on the 1940 agreement. However, the Lubicon Cree have now almost 400 members; they want 69 square miles complete with mineral rights. The compensation they demand seems little in comparison to their lost way of life. Soon the whole world will turn its eyes on Alberta. Let's hope these eyes see the tragedy of the Lubicon Cree.

Rod Campbell



The real Tupper speaks

Re: The political cartoon debate

Two weeks ago, I submitted a motion to Students' Council designed to address students' concerns about a cartoon which appeared in the October 22 issue of the Gateway. Since that time, debate has ensued about the place of censorship in a free and democratic society. It has, however, become obvious that the intent and object of the motion have been misunderstood.

Elected officials of a representative body are responsible for ensuring that the concerns and grievances of their constituents are fully articulated. This representation is the single most important quality of a democracy. Our Students' Union does its best to follow such democratic principles. Each faculty elects councillors that serve the students and address issues important to them. I was endeavoring to fulfil my role as Arts Councillor when I submitted the notion requesting an apology of the Gateway.

Six students had approached me and expressed distaste with the cartoon, asking if Students' Council would respond. I have never been approached by so many people about any issue before, including tuition increases and student fees. People seldom complain, and when one person asserts an opinion to a representative it is a safe assumption that many people share his views. The complaints by six people, therefore, were significant. No matter what my own personal views on the cartoon were, these individuals and the people that they spoke for were entitled to representation.

The motion stated, "resolved that Students' Council inform the Gateway that the cartoon was in poor taste and request an apology." Censorship, as has been noted in previous letters, is undesirable in a liberal society so I in no way desired to restrict the freedom of the press. Instead, the motion was intended to simply express the distaste of the students who had talked to me. A request for an apology was made of the Gateway, and not a demand. The Gateway would have been free to comply with the request or to ignore it, just as it can comply with or reject the demands of any letter to the Editor. The cartoon appeared two days prior to midterm week and students during

this period often do not have time to eat, sleep, or breathe, let alone write a letter. Students' Council was acting as an easy, accessible medium through which student displeasure could be communicated. Just as the Gateway had the right to publish the cartoon, so too did the students have the right to object in whatever manner they found easiest. The complaints were not ignorant and uninformed; they were simply offended. The motion, therefore, attempted to guarantee the freedom of expression of the students without compromising the integrity of the media through censorship.

One further item appears to need clarification, and that is my supposed ignorance about the cartoon, sex, and satire. Aspersions have been cast on my abilities to understand all three of these subjects because of a remark I made in prefacing the motion. I commented that at first I didn't understand the cartoon. I made this statement with tongue in cheek to relieve the tension of the meeting. I did, however, understand the import of the cartoon and the actions depicted in it. My jokes are sometimes flawed, but I'll do better at the next meeting.

I hope that this letter has clarified the intent of the motion. If anyone has any further questions or comments about this issue or any other issue, please call me at 465-5720. I always enjoy sitting down over a few drinks of whatever kind and talking about anything. Without communication, there can be no representation.

David Tupper
Arts' Councillor

Athletics values

Re: Athletic Cuts

As a former Track and Field and Cross-country Panda, I was shocked at the news that these teams had been dropped from the varsity athletics program. With so many successes and numerous positive aspects of these two teams, I can see little if any justification for this seemingly arbitrary cut in support.

University track and field serves as a preparatory ground for many potential international stars. Unlike some varsity sports (ie. gymnastics) where, by University, the athlete is already past their peak, varsity track and field and cross-

Letters to the Editor are encouraged and always welcome.

If you have a comment which would be of interest to the students of the University, please do not hesitate to send it in. All we require is your name, address, and phone number, and student ID if you are a student. We will not print letters missing any of these.

Letters should be no longer than three-hundred words.

Mail or deliver your letters to Room 282 SUHR or drop them at any SU information booth.

country served the crucial function of bridging the gap between high school athletics and major international and national competition. It seems quite hypocritical that the Phys Ed department would support a bid for the 1994 Commonwealth Games and yet cut the central sport of the games from their own University.

It is well known in the University athletic circles that the two aforementioned teams commanded a very small percentage of the monies allocated for varsity competition. Since the U of A is one of only two Western Conference schools to have indoor competition facilities, little travel expenses were involved. Furthermore, the same coaches were responsible for both the men's and women's teams—none of which were employed full-time by the University. Perhaps these two successful teams were cut because politically, it is much easier to dismiss non-full-time staff! If this is the case, these teams were put in a position of double jeopardy. Not only did the teams receive less support when they did exist, but because of this, they were the first teams to loose all support. At best this would be a questionable criteria for dropping support.

Perhaps the most disturbing issue to come to light is the lack of common courtesy and respect the department of athletics has shown for its athletes and students in general. When news of the decision leaked out, a group of athletes, coaches, officials, pros, and parents called together to discuss what had happened. Representatives from the athletics department were invited

The Gateway



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