

FORUM FIVE



Course Guide

an editorial

Most of you might feel that the Course Guide is a dead issue now that registration week is a thing of the past.

But for the Course Guide editor this is not true. He holds a year-long job and one of the most important dates on his calendar is a meeting coming up in October.

This is an annual affair in which the editor, SU vice president academic and interested instructors hash over the aims and objectives of the following year's Guide. Ideally, they reach conclusions satisfactory to everyone. Actually, they seldom do. And there are several major questions to be considered this year.

With advanced registration scheduled to go into effect for all faculties by next fall, it's plain to see that Course Guide will have to undergo some drastic changes, if it is to continue at all. At this point there are no plans to scrap it.

One change that will have to be made is the sales approach. Until now Course Guide has made all its sales during registration week. Since sales will be impossible with advance registration, it would appear to be a good idea for the Guide to move legitimately into the realm of bona fide services.

There is a possibility that the SU will forego its tax exemption and accept advertising to help recover the costs of production. In this case it would be sent free of charge to all students indicating that they plan to register in the fall.

Personally, I feel that this is a much better plan than the present set-up. Although Course Guide never expects to make money, to my knowledge, has always ended up in the hole financially, it is apparently not considered a service.

Course Guide presently receives a \$6,000 grant from the Board of Governors and attempts to recover the rest of its production costs from sales. To expect Course Guide to break even under this system is totally unrealistic. This year for example, one of Course Guide's better years financially, each Guide cost the SU \$2.75. They were sold at 75 cents each.

According to estimates by Pat Delaney, vp academic, they managed to sell about half of their 6,000 copies. This leaves them a little more than \$14,000 in the hole.

Another major change that needs to be made is the method of appointing the editor. Presently, the editor is appointed in the spring. The actual planning for the fall course guide begins in the September previous to the appointment, however, so each new editor is placed in the confusing position of finishing off someone else's work. This year, Course Guide started out in almost a complete shambles because of this system.

Although Delaney has said there are no plans to change the type of questionnaire, we can only hope that they will have the sense to style the questions to fit the faculty. Surely the money saved in staff costs (no summer staff if the guide is finished by June, say) can be used for a better questionnaire.

The questionnaires used in the past two years were admirably suited for the arts faculties, and fairly well suited for most science courses, but were sources of frustration to phys ed and fine arts students.

One can also only hope that there will be more co-operation from the academic staff in future. The Course Guide is presently based on an honor system for the instructors who supposedly seal the completed cards in an envelope which is then handed to a student to return to the Course Guide office.

However, there were numerable complaints from students that instructors had read the cards. Students feared that this would affect marks. In one case, an instructor informed his class that they were to sign the cards.

There were also several instances where the instructor had quite obviously marked in "corrections" on the face of the questionnaire. One instructor informed the course guide that she did not give a damn for their honor system.

Although this attitude is not prevalent among participating faculties, it occurs frequently enough to affect the credibility of course evaluations.

Staff and students alike have complained that the Course Guide is nothing more than a waste of time and money. Personally, I tend to agree with those in charge of Course Guide that it can be a valuable asset to students if handled properly.

However, it is next to impossible to produce a worthwhile Guide without the cooperation of all concerned. Student detractors might keep in mind that their petty attempts at "sabotage" will not kill the Course Guide but only waste more of that money about which they are so concerned.

It also would seem that the staff who argue most vehemently against Course Guide are the ones who have the most to fear in terms of honest evaluations of their abilities.

If an honest attempt is made by staff and students alike to aid the Course Guide, which by all indications is an established tradition, perhaps it would be possible to put out a piece of work that would justify the money spent.

Allyn Cadogan

**DON'T
forget
Gateway**

**ROOKIE
NIGHT**



**Rm 282 SUB
6.30
TONIGHT!!!**

ADC rebutted

Dear Angela Davis Club,
What is this round of mishmash all about? Last summer, we at Portrait received an example of the literary prowess of the members of the A.D Club and you have graciously consented to provide the fall session students with more of the same.

What is so bloody awful wrong with feeling good? It seems that anything that happens anywhere in this city affects you with the force of dynamite in a cess pool and the results are similar as well. Most freshmen are going to be here for around four years, during which time, you will have plenty of opportunity to lash out with your senseless and inane propaganda.

Every new communication from you displays your phenomenal ignorance and lack of perspective. You are viewing local problems (real, illusory and downright lies) with blinders obscuring your sight. Your whole world begins and ends with politics. You have forgotten how to laugh.

Is it really that vicious a blow to society to give new students the possibility of a good time to unite them rather than a common focal point for their hatred? We are not stupid. We do know what is going on in the world.

Reality is one of the harping points of your letter: I really wonder if you would recognize reality if it came up and broke both your legs—or healed them.

Keep up the questionable work and while you're about it, see if you can try and mix a little thought (original or even otherwise) with the rhetoric in your next letter.

Paul Cadogan
Arts 1

MacDonald on abortion

Repeal all anti-abortion laws.

No forced sterilization. Easily available birth control, voluntary sterilization, and birth control information.

Women interested in working to win these basic rights should contact the Canadian Women's Coalition to Repeal the Abortion Laws (C.W.C.). The CWC believes that it is a woman's right to choose whether or not she will bear a child.

Members of the CWC organize and participate in public actions demanding repeal of anti-abortion laws. During the next months, the focus of their campaign will be to defend Dr. Morgentaler, a Montreal physician who faces thirteen charges that carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment. Dr. Morgentaler has been an outspoken critic of Canada's anti-abortion laws for many years and has performed 5,000 abortions with no deaths or serious medical complications. Dr. Morgentaler is not a criminal; it's Canada's oppressive abortion laws which are criminal.

Across Canada and in Quebec, there is growing support for repeal of anti-abortion laws. The latest Gallup Poll showed well over 60% of Canadians favoured repeal. In 1971 U of A students voted 80% in favour of deleting the section of the Criminal Code which limits access to abortion. In Quebec, over two hundred people responded to the arrest of Dr. Morgentaler by signing a declaration stating that they had been "accomplices" in obtaining or performing abortions. Many more Canadians have signed petitions demanding repeal of the abortion laws or calling for dismissal of the charges against

Morgentaler.

Despite the sentiment in favour of anti-abortion law repeal, the Canadian government refuses even to debate the issue. Justice Minister Otto Lang has stated that he does not see the need for repeal of the laws. In fact, he has called for a cutback in the number of legal abortions now being performed.

The three major political parties all give verbal support to repeal of the anti-abortion laws, yet nothing is actually done in parliament to allow women to exercise the right to control their own bodies. Women themselves must become active in demanding their rights. They must force politicians to act because of the pressure upon them from a massive public campaign for repeal. The value of public action campaigns can be seen in the U.S. Supreme Court decision to repeal the American abortion laws. In handing down the decision, the spokesperson for the judges cited public opinion in favour of repeal as one of the causes of the Court's favourable ruling. This public opinion was largely generated and demonstrated by the public actions of the Women's National Abortion Action Coalition. With your help, the CWC can follow their example and win repeal in Canada.

For further information about the CWC or Dr. Morgentaler visit the literature booth in SUB or phone Sheila Mawson 439-5361 or Wendy Merkeley 433-8998. All women are welcome to attend the meetings of the U of A Committee for Abortion Law Repeal and the Edmonton Chapter of the CWC.

Charlotte MacDonald
U of A Committee for
Abortion Law Repeal

FEES DUE

The last day for payment of fees is October 1st. If a student is paying in two instalments, the last date for the payment of the first instalment is October 1; the second instalment January 15.

A penalty of \$15 will be charged on any payment made or postmarked after these dates. If payment has not been made by October 15 for First Term fees and January 31 for Second Term fees, registration will be subject to cancellation and the student to exclusion from classes.

If fees are to be paid from some form of student assistance, please refer to the PAYMENT OF FEES information sheet given to each student at registration for advice of requirements to avoid late payment penalty.

Students in the faculty of Graduate Studies and Research are reminded that their fees are to be paid by the date indicated on their assessment advice form.

The Gateway

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. It is published by the Students Union twice weekly during the winter session on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contents are the responsibility of the editor, opinions are those of the person expressing them. Letters to the editor on any subject are welcome, but must be signed. Please keep them short, letters should not exceed 200 words. Deadlines for submitting copy are 2 P.M. Mondays and Wednesdays.

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Yes! The Gateway does need more staff. Some of us graduated last spring and the rest of us aren't martyrs!!