

EDITORIAL

Service? What Service?

Housing and Food Services is running out of control. No longer content with their policies of overpriced student housing and scrip, these sweethearts have decided to screw everyone - including University departments.

Consider the Department of Athletic Services. The members of this department struggled all year to attract fans to varsity sporting events. Housing and Food Services operates the concessions at these events.

During the recent hockey playoffs, a large crowd appeared for the opening game, which featured the U of A Golden Bears and the University of Manitoba Bisons. The usual movement of fans to the concessions began near the mid-point of the first period. Many were still awaiting service when the second period started.

Within the concession, three harried staffers attempted to serve progressively more irate fans. Only one portion of the stand was open for service. No service was provided at the newly renovated concession stand in the Physical Education Building. Patrons, who had each paid five dollars admission, and an additional two dollars to park their cars, were not amused.

Many did not return for the second game on Saturday evening.

Inquiries by fans for better service fell upon deaf ears. The response from Housing and Food Services was that this additional service would require the hiring of additional staff. So what? Three more staffers, for three hours, at five dollars per hour, plus four per cent holiday pay is still less than fifty dollars.

The odds are that more than ten fans were not in attendance Saturday because of the lack of service provided.

It's these little things, like the failure of departments to cooperate for the mutual benefit of the University, that are turning this institution into a joke.

In the meantime, let's let the clubs on campus run the concessions. They have enough volunteer staff to operate the stands, and any profits can be used for club functions, or donated to charity. If Housing and Food Services can't do the job, give it to the students. They couldn't possibly do any worse.

Supplementary Academics

There was a time when universities could afford to hire the best.

If there were a doctor or a lawyer with his or her own practice, and the university wanted their expertise, they lured them with a "market supplement."

This was more than merely a carrot in front of the horse. The supplement compensates for what a professional would normally earn in the private sector. But instead of writing prescriptions or drafting divorce papers, these "half-breed academics" teach in the classrooms.

And it was mutually rewarding for students and professor. For the university, it was a good way to give practical lectures, such as in dentistry, engineering and nursing.

Last year, the U of A paid out more than \$750,000 in market supplements. The economists would call it opportunity cost. We call it an obscene cost.

Alberta, someone should tell Horowitz and Leitch, is just coming off a recession. The U of A is bursting with students. The last thing we need is market supplements.

For \$750,000 the university could have hired at least 30 lecturers to help alleviate the problems associated with overcrowding due to provincial underfunding.

Alas, the economic times have struck forcefully at the professions. Doctors can't afford to run their own office, dentists are going broke, and lawyers are waving good-bye to partnerships in firms.

What happens then is these down-and-out professionals seek the refuge of the ivory tower. They look to the universities to bail them out.

Yes, they have a valuable education and experience to offer academia. No, they are not entitled to waltz in and expect miracles.

In engineering, there are fewer and fewer external contracts that firms can tender their bids for; in general, there are less of us, less business to go around for more of them, more doctors and lawyers.

One could be extremely cynical and say what would happen if this whole country were composed of lawyers and real estate agents, that is, the service component of society? One could point out Oscar Wilde's advice suggesting to cure our problems, "first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers."

That is not what we're saying.

We are saying the university cannot afford to pay \$750,000 to its part-time professionals if enrolment hovers around 23,000 full-time. There are a lot of professionals out there who would just love to get tenure, even to the point of giving up the market supplement.

Test them.

See how many stick around if the university threatens to cut off the subsidy. And if they all quit, then 30 lecturers could be hired. And if some stay on, offer them tenure or a smaller supplement when times are better.



News Item
Bear Shot!!

Mmmm, Moore Country, not bad!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New approach

Spring has sprung and with it a most refreshing perspective on the question of post-secondary funding. In response to the editorial of April 3, someone is finally addressing the possibility of increased efficiency and productivity within the university itself with what funds have been generously provided. Whose decision is it to cutback enrolment by imposing quotas? Certainly not Dick Johnston's. Could we not freeze the salaries of our university's professors who presently enjoy the highest teaching salaries across the country, and use these funds to increase student enrolment in September?

Let's demand some responsibility for university funding by those who spend the money.

Jennifer Hyndman
Arts II

P.S. The column did not ignore the other half of the story and honestly conceded that "changes are definitely required." Such a fair approach to this controversial issue should be commended - have you room for another editor?

Hark, more insanity

*Managing Editor's Lament:
I wish I had a poem
for every piece of crap
that putrifies and
finds its way
into my weary lap.
Z.H.*

Military puzzles

As a former member of the Canadian Armed Forces I read with interest your story "They'll Look for People to Shoot." Many ex-servicemen would agree with much of Bonnell's story, but there are also some puzzling aspects:

- After 20 years service his biggest disappointment was the fact that less than half his intake made it through training! Would he prefer to place his own security in the hands of people with "physical, mental, and emotional" deficiencies?

- Why would a serviceman with 20 years of peacetime service be considered an authority on wartime patrols?

- Since Bonnell's service was Canadian why was much of the story concerned with details of American experience and tactics in Vietnam?

Stories such as this one appear to confuse anti-war feeling with peacetime anti-military sentiment, which has been around for a long time, though Kipling probably summed it up best:

*While it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that,
an' "Tommy, fall behind,"
But it's "Please to walk in front,
sir," when there's trouble in the wind.*

A. Clark
Industrial and Vocational Education

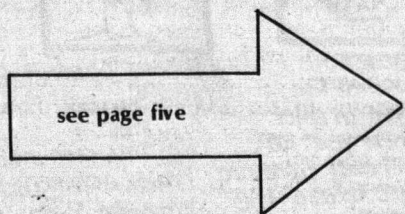
Correction

In Tuesday's Gateway it was incorrectly reported that CJSR receives \$25,000 from the Students' Union. Actually, CJSR only gets \$15,000 from the SU each year.



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