

Distorted credentials inspire questions

Biography revisions needed

A consideration that makes of reporting such a tenuous business is knowing that a variation of the truth of apparent insignificance to the reporter can represent an unforgivable travesty to the people more closely involved with the topic.

Such appeared to be the case when it was brought to the attention of the Gateway yesterday that two University of Alberta publications ran misinforming articles on J. Peter Meekison, newly promoted Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at this university.

In its April 22, 1971 issue, *Folio* University of Alberta Staff Bulletin included a biography of Dr. Meekison that begins with, "J. P. Meekison, Chairman of the Department of Political Science..." and continued further down with "...has written a book *Canadian Federation; Myth or Reality.*"

The New Trail, University of Alberta Magazine, Autumn 1971 neglects to mention the book, but introduces the new Assistant Dean as "...formerly Chairman of the Department of Political Science." *Folio* and *The New Trail* are published by the same office.

As it turns out, Dr. Meekison was neither Chairman of the Department nor author of the book. He was only the acting chairman for the 1970-71 term, and, far from writing the book that bears his name, had only edited it. The first edition of the book contains no writing by the editor other than a three page introduction, and its Second Edition, which he has used in some of his classes, contains one essay written by Dr. Meekison.

Some people in the Department, who prefer to remain anonymous, indicated that they thought the variation between truth and media

representation of special significance.

According to one contact, it is well in line with the way the two "propaganda sheets" fulfill their obligations, "serving the people who want to polish their images in the academic community."

"Anyone knows it's not as scholarly to edit a book as to write it," was one student's response. "For some reason they're trying to put us on that he's a scholar...it's an ambition-enhancing thing." And the person added, "Seen from the point of view of the professors and people who will promote him, the distinction between Chairman and acting Chairman is crucial."

When asked for an opinion on Dr. Meekison's rapid climb up the University's ladder of success, the student merely replied, "It's conceivable that he got promoted so fast because he is competent as a teacher. At least the Student Evaluation questionnaires say so..."

Dr. T.C. Pocklington, professor in the Political Science Department was contacted for verification. He said that the two media quotes referred to were "most assuredly mistaken", but added that he was convinced that these mistakes had nothing to do with Dr. Meekison's appointment, that he had distinguished himself as a competent administrator with the Department.

When interviewed over the phone, Hart Cantelon of Public Relations said that the writer of the press release probably obtained the information from the meeting of the Board of Governors at which Meekison's appointment was declared. However, he added, "we usually check out the story with the Department that wants it publicized...or with the person himself..."

Required revisions not limited to biographies

It is highly irregular that an editorial commentary follow a news story; but, in this case, it seems that the story would not be complete without one.

The point is, that the story above is insignificant compared to the potential story I seemed to encounter in the process of contacting members of the Political Science Department with the very innocent aim of seeking clarification on the above matter.

What impressed me at first was that the very same people who seemed genuinely infuriated at "these particular mistakes" should at the same time be so terribly reticent in talking about their feelings and suspicions.

I myself am a Graduate Student in the Department of Educational Foundations, and from the safety of my vantage point, the Political Science Department seems to be the home of the sort of Great Fear that makes of each resident his own Eternal Policeman.

Some students that I contacted seemed to be reticent even to comment on the reasons for their own reticence. "Something is going on-O.K."

they said—but refused to comment further.

Something is going on in the Political Science Department. Students have been getting screwed by professors left and right—I managed to squeeze at least that much out of some of the "bolder" types.

It seems fantastic that graduate students would stand by quietly while anyone of their number is getting a rough deal due to no other reason than his unfortunate (powerless) position in the Department. It seems fantastic when it's so easy to put the responsible bastards up against the wall.

I deplore the quietness of these grad students, their lack of solidarity, their reluctance to look beyond their own selfish opportunistic interests.

I ask for someone to break with what seems to be a traditional silence on the politics of that Department. If somebody would, I'd be happy to proceed with an investigative news story.

Contact me at the Gateway office.

Winston Gereluk

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SU presented recommendations on bus service to city hall

At least 50 per cent of the 30,000 staff and students of the University of Alberta use buses in commuting to campus, the Office of the Institute of Research and Planning announced this summer. The average staff and student door to door journey to campus by bus is 45 minutes.

With this in mind the Students' Council presented a brief to City Council with several recommendations which should improve Edmonton

Transit System service to campus.

S.U. recommendations included suggestions that City Hall request a five year plan for expansion from E.T.S. that would examine the feasibility and cost of expansion in more frequent service on existing routes, additional routes in the existing network of buslines, additional routes outside the existing net of buslines, and consolidation of short routes in the net work into longer routes.

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