

No answers from Tories

The April 1 issue of *The Gateway* quoted comments made by a Progressive Conservative MLA, Rollie Cook. Mr. Cook claimed cutbacks in funding to universities were an attempt by government to force reforms in areas like the Tenure System. When I raised questions on the issue in the Legislature on April 2, Advanced Education Minister Horsman quickly repudiated the backbencher's position.

I am still not satisfied that there is not some truth in the remarks of the Tory MLA. The government has never provided an adequate explanation of its policy of cutting funding to

universities and its refusal to review the Student Aid System. I will continue to do what I can to force the government to account for these policies.

Dr. Walter Buck, MLA
Clover Bar

Music please

The University of Alberta Monday stage band will be playing in *The Ship* tonight at 8:00 p.m. If you're planning on drowning your sorrows properly, be there.

The Gateway END OF YEAR PARTY

Friday, April 11

Check Room 282 for the sordid details . . . be there!



Quixote

by David

Marples

Back in September, when I was asked to contribute a regular column to *The Gateway*, I had very little idea of what this would entail. For one thing, I was unaccustomed to such exposure. For another, all my previous writing had been aimed at "reasoned debate," in which fence-sitting was the customary outcome. Finally, distant as one's kinship sometimes seems, I wondered if it was rather presumptuous for a Brit to be shooting his mouth off in a Canadian student newspaper. On all three grounds, I had some reservations about this weekly column.

Looking back on the early weeks of the Christmas term, two things stand out in regard to "Quixote". First, there were the unending attacks of one Charles Farley, an archetypal right-wing bigot, who seemed intent on slandering whatever I happened to write. It took me two weeks to discover that Farley was a fake, but almost six to find out that the letters were written by two jokers, Dave Liverman and Colin Mackenzie (Are they all Nazis in Geology?). I've noticed that I am not the only one to have been fooled by Farley letters, which proves perhaps that the characterization is a credible one.

The second incident which springs to mind concerns the Engineers. I will say now that I still have no time for their Handbook (a few weeks ago, the *Journal* more or less repeated my comments about it), but on the other hand, I have to admit that if every group on campus responded to attacks the way the Engineers do, then student apathy would be a thing of the past. All the same, I think the opinions expressed missed the point. I don't claim to be a saint and I am not averse to drinking beer and looking at foxy ladies myself, but that doesn't mean that women should be treated as objects, or in any way regarded as inferior.

One should not always measure a column by its response, although the latter is rewarding. For me, the year has also been a learning process. I know far more about this country than I did last September, simply because I have felt obliged to read up on issues such as Quebec, Native Rights and the Oil Companies. On Canadian issues, I have concentrated most strongly on foreign control, because it has always been incomprehensible to me how Albertans (from the Premier downwards) could attack Ontario and yet fail to see that all their resources are heading southward.

Of all the topics covered, the only regret I have is the issue of abortion. I decided against writing on capital punishment for the sole reason that it would degenerate into the same sort of arguments, whereby emotions get the better of logic. I later discovered that the same points of view crop up in *The Gateway* almost every year. My intention was to examine a subject I knew little about. I have to conclude that it was an exercise in futility.

My main intention in "Quixote" has been to provoke the reader and to make he/she think about various issues. I have never thought that university should be seen as a means to an end, a stepping stone to a career. It should be a time of inquiry, debate and protest. We should question our society, its politics, the media, international events and religion. We are fortunate to live in a wealthy province, but this should not blind us to the fact that the world is a mess and we are not responsible. So should we be content to accept the status quo?

Sometimes, this column has been tilting at windmills, but that is not always a bad thing. Over the year, I have been grateful to Gordon for giving me so much freedom and to Lucinda for her constant encouragement. And to you guys on campus: thanks, it's been a real privilege.



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