

Life after grad

The recent economic crises are bound to make us think of our future upon graduation. The pressing questions are: "Will I get a job?" and "How is my university degree going to help me?"

The stock market disaster has drawn attention to the fragility of the world's economy. Now is the time to confront problems which have been put aside. Although the U.S. government has been taking action to inject liquidity into the economy, the causes of the crash have not disappeared. These are the huge trade and budget deficits of the American government.

These problems not only affect Canada's economy, but are shared by our government. Federal finance minister Michael Wilson has to deal with a deficit one-and-a-half times larger than the American deficit. In fact, in the year ending March 31, Canada had a \$30.6 billion deficit, amounting to six percent of our GNP.

Evidently Canada and the U.S. have had a policy in which the people in power are borrowing now so that we, the younger generation, can pay later. This is clearly irresponsible.

The stock market crash has weakened the American dollar and prestige, thus discouraging economic growth. Although it is difficult to determine the final outcome of the crash, the possibility of a recession — or even a full-blown depression — is a real one.

If these negative predictions come true, graduates in the near future will suffer. And not only will the economy in general be weak, but the possibilities of employment will diminish.

As a result of the baby boom and university education becoming more widespread, tomorrow's graduates have a lot of competition. The professions are becoming overloaded; it seems that everyone and his dog wants to be a doctor. Most undergraduates immediately follow the baby boomers, and upon graduation will have to compete with a great number of experienced professionals who are in their most productive years. The economy can only accommodate this influx of educated professionals if it grows — and if a recession occurs, this obviously isn't going to happen.

So how can you, as a student, prepare for this bleak future?

First of all, it is important to evaluate your course of study. It is easy to fall into the trap of deciding that the only way to secure a job is to train in a very specific area. This does make sense, but the competition is bound to be fierce. Besides, students should realize the advantages of a general degree. For example, a general Arts degree is vague — but flexible. If you are unable to find a job in your particular area of interest, the communication skills earned with an Arts degree qualify you for jobs in several other fields.

However, your program of study doesn't matter as much as your attitude. Jerome C. Glenn claims that there have been three periods of history: the agricultural age, in which power was determined by the ownership of land; the industrial age, in which power was obtained by the possession of machinery; and the information age, of which we are now members.

This means that today your power is determined by your access to, and ability to assimilate, information. University is obviously an important source of information. As students, we should tap this source as much as possible to prepare ourselves for hardships outside of the ivory tower.

Elaine Ostry

The Gateway

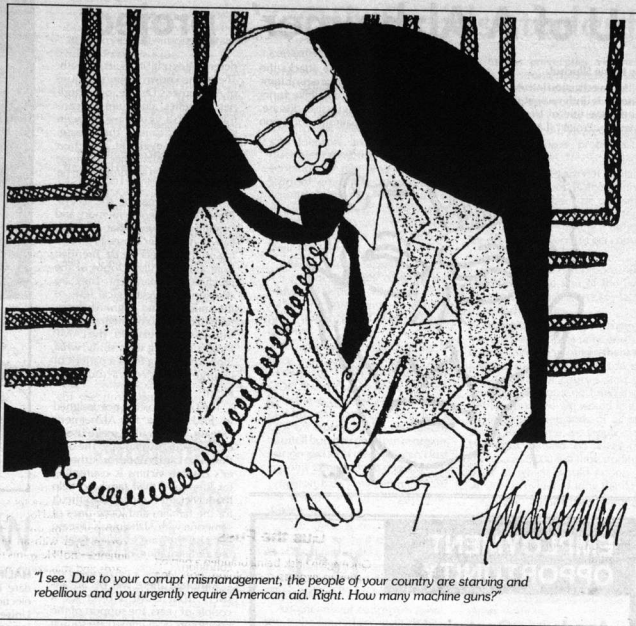
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Letters to the Editor are encouraged and always welcome. If you have a comment which would be of interest to the students of the University, please do not hesitate to send it in. All we require is your name, address, and phone number, and student ID 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 SU8, or drop them at any SU information booth.

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"I see. Due to your corrupt mismanagement, the people of your country are starving and rebellious and you urgently require American aid. Right. How many machine guns?"

Bail's gibberish

Re: "Tory Propaganda"
 After carefully reading Marg Bail's letter in the November 3rd edition of *The Gateway*, I now understand why most feminists aren't taken seriously. Instead of presenting logical solutions, she utters emotional Marxist gibberish. I hate to inform her, but the world does not revolve around idealism. Perhaps, in denouncing the capitalist system, she is admitting her own inadequacies.

A word of advice, Miss Bail: lose the chip on the shoulder.

Murray Kachmar

Tupper misses out

Re: The Political Cartoon Debate
 Right from the start I would like to commend Colin Green for his ability to use satire in political cartooning. Mr. Green's use of satire well reflects his views as well as the views of others (including me).

I would now like to express my sympathy to Mr. David Tupper who obviously leads a sheltered life. It is quite obvious that by admitting he never understood the cartoon, Mr. Tupper has, almost certainly, never read Gary Trudeau's *Dooniesbury* or Berke Breathed's *Bloom County*. There are no doubt other cartoon masters in this world, but I would direct Mr. Tupper to these two in particular to gain an understanding of the use of satire in political cartooning.

I think the idea of the Americans having us Canadians over the barrel on the free trade issue, as well as giving it to us, is very representative of a group of Canadians who wish to remain a distinct country and not to become a part of a North American country. Although this cartoon does, on the surface only, portray bestiality, to see this as the only reason for drawing the cartoon is shallow and ignorant.

I think the people who judge this type of cartoon by the surface appearance and fail to see the "real" meaning are ignorant and lack a great amount of understanding in this form of free expression.

Mr. Tupper, I think that Mr. Green, you, and myself should get together

over a few beers. Perhaps we could enlighten you.

As far as censorship goes I feel that there is no place for it in a liberal democracy let alone a liberal institution of higher education. One of the things democracy ought to be based on is the free competition of opinions. Along with the freedom of expression goes the freedom of choice. I would put this to Mr. Tupper: if you do not like the cartoon, do not look at it! Intelligent people can make their own choices and do not need guidance especially from uninformed persons.

Mr. Tupper claims six complaints. I would hardly say that represents a significant portion of the student body at the U of A (approx. 30,000). The 29,994 left either do not have an opinion or support the cartoon.

Perhaps this debate will spark more complaints but we must remember that these complaints were fueled by ignorant and uninformed people. Does this add or detract from the validity of the complaints?

I am glad for free expression for it allowed me to write this letter, and Mr. Tupper perhaps in the future you might gain an understanding of something before you condemn it.

Darryn Roy

Gateway staff horny

Re: Political Cartoon Debate
 Regarding the free trade cartoon, you may not have received letters of complaint at the time but the cartoon was so offensive I personally reported it to the police with the intent of charging the editor-in-chief with immorality.

Bestiality is against the law. A university newspaper should be held in pride. This cartoon only portrayed the perverse titillations of a horny staff.

I imagine the author (not artist), editor, and publisher do not have sufficient insight but this cartoon was degrading to:

1. sex act; intercourse portrayed as demeaning
2. women; beaver/female being degraded
3. Canada; insulting the integrity of the government VOTU voted in

We should be proud of our university

and newspaper, instead, we are disgraced.

Valerie Ball

No bitchin' new

Re: "Apathy Reigns" (*Gateway*, Oct. 29)
 You say we don't care, you call us lazy, you call us self-oriented, you call us apathetic. You have no idea what University is all about.

University involves an incredible amount of intelligence in time management. Among lectures, seminars, labs, lab write-ups, reading, assignments, feeding ourselves, and catching the odd catnap, the average U of A student looks like he just went through a nuclear holocaust! Asking a student to devote some of their precious time to something irrelevant to his studies is like asking the postal workers to sit in and take notes in your Psychology lecture while you're out on their picket line, protesting. Honestly, who do they think they are?

As for the national and international affairs, it's not like we don't care, in fact, more than a few of us have concerns. Just give us four more hours each day, and we'll spend them on your picket lines. Unfortunately, the rate of the earth's rotation refuses to cooperate. So, where does that leave us? Buried in our books! Of course, we're university students. We did not pay \$132.00 to join a protest group who behaves like my six-year-old nephew who gets violent and throws things when he doesn't get his own way.

To mention the advertising for certain functions is a farce. It seems like the big party bashes are always the ones with the large posters in CAB. I personally keep a close watch on the bulletin boards for upcoming events and I never saw one single postal strike poster. Furthermore, the Student's Union appears to be non-existent on the bulletin boards. As well, I must commend the organizers for Student's Union meetings. Let's have a meeting on the Friday before Thanksgiving, or how about during midterms! Give me a break. No wonder no one showed up. No one was here, and no one had time.

"To make the blanket statement that 'students are apathetic' is unfair," is exactly right. The big protest groups went out with the sixties.