

# Opinion

## Dragos Ruiu WCT a wash-out



At the General Faculties Council (GFC) meeting Monday, the WCT will probably be declared void. No doubt, a lot of people will cry their hearts out.

The fact of the matter is that everyone hates the WCT. The professors hate it because it doesn't test anything except how well students take the WCT. The students hate it because it is a pain in the ass, and you have to pay yet another fee for the privilege of taking it. The high schools hate it because the WCT is a no-confidence vote from the university.

So the poorly planned and poorly executed WCT will go away. The political pressure against it has been mounting for a long time.

Several years ago, everyone had to take the test. Then after much outrage from the insulted high-school teachers, the stipulation that 80% on the English departmental test is enough to exempt you was added.

This move had no basis in reason; it was mere politics. After all, it seemed to imply that high school English marks were only valid assessments of writing capability if you got above 80%.

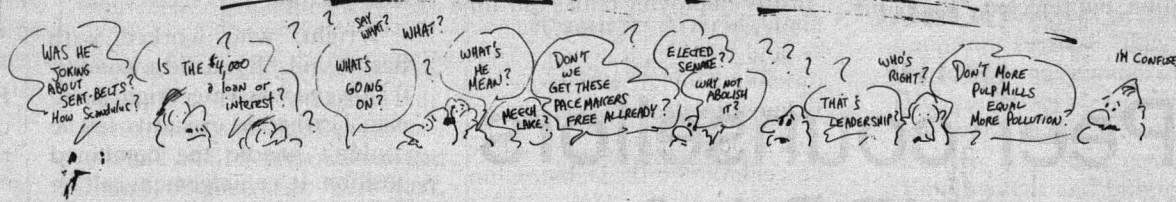
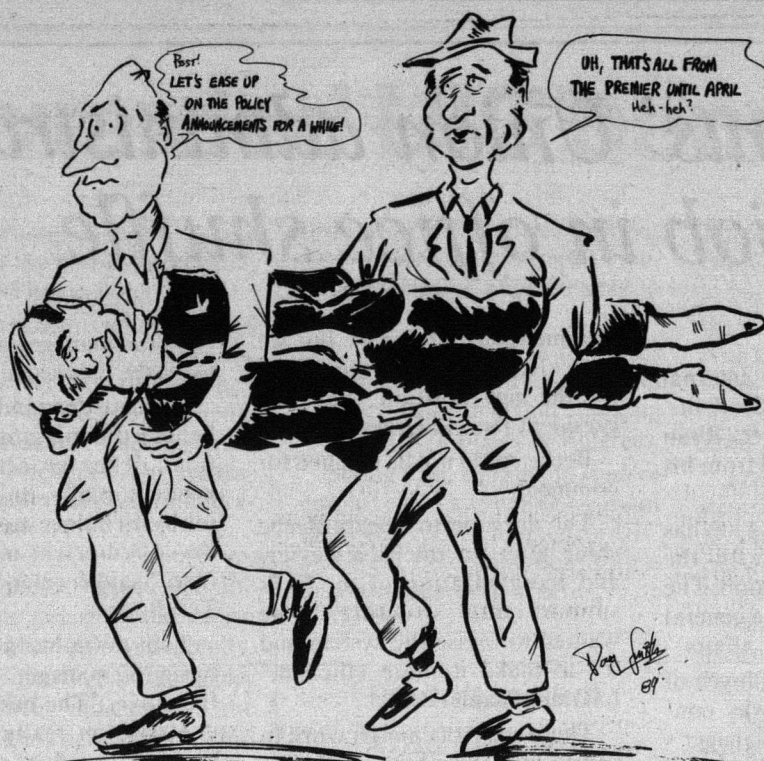
But why was the WCT put in place in the first place?

It's because high school English is a joke. It's because a great number of people entering university cannot string two sentences together coherently. It's because along with the few good English teachers we also have high school wrestling coaches attempting to teach English to keep themselves busy. It's because of some of the pathetic, incompetent high school teachers out there. It's because teachers are not valued in our society.

Teachers are not paid well. Many people enter education as a profession because they cannot find something else to do. Teaching here suffers from the same affliction that doctors suffer from in the Soviet Union. Medicine there has nothing close to the high esteem and value we place on it here. They don't attract the most skilled and competent people to the field. And so the quality of their medical treatment suffers.

Here it's our secondary education that suffers. And the people you meet every day who are incapable of communicating in writing (and even in speaking) are the result. Try reading an average first-year English essay, or even some of the unedited *Gateway* letters, and you soon realize that this problem is a major one. Communication is one of the qualities of man that sets him aside from an animal.

The WCT wasn't the right way to point out the problem, but let's not forget the problem exists.



## Letters

**The Gateway welcomes letters to the editor.**

**The name, faculty and year of study of the writer must be included for publication. The writer's phone number and University of Alberta I.D. number must also be provided, but will remain confidential.**

**Letters should be double-spaced, and typed if possible. They must not exceed 300 words.**

**The Gateway reserves the right to edit for length or clarity. Material of a racist, sexist, homophobic, or libellous nature will not be published.**

**Please submit letters to Room 282, SUB.**

Thanks to Galyne

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Galyne Howard for writing in to *The Gateway* regarding our campaign. One of the major components of our platform is to increase the profile of athletics on this campus. By writing in to a campus paper and mentioning us, our campaign, and athletics, you have helped us down the road to achieving our goal. So thanks again, Galyne. One final note to you Galyne and all U of A students: if you can't be an athlete, be an athletic supporter.

Rick Chamney, Phys. Ed. II  
John Pallas, Phys. Ed. II

CJSR PR potential ignored

I recently read your March 2 edition of *The Gateway*, and was intrigued by two stories. The first was about the issue of funding your campus radio station, CJSR (Radio funds on ballot). The second covered the SU's plans to help produce a TV program promoting the U of A campus to the community (SUTV to beat PR crisis).

The U of A has no greater a PR tool than its radio station, which broadcasts 140 out of the 168 hours in a week. Despite this heavy presence in the community, the U of A SU attempted to cut CJSR's funding last year because only 7% of students on campus listened to the station. It ultimately did not, but has a very poor record of funding its station, as

the story in *The Gateway* indicated.

In stating its plans to help produce a TV program about the U of A on QCTV, the SU states that it has a PR crisis with the community. How can the SU justify such gross underfunding for its radio station while singing the blues about the U of A's "PR crisis" in the community?

I am a member of the community your SU believes it has a problem within the PR department. I've never been a student at the U of A, but I have attended many U of A functions and activities, most of which I was made aware of through listening to CJSR. I have supported the campus activities, and the station with my off-campus dollars. There are so many like myself in the community, but with the poor funding the SU provides to CJSR, they may never be reached.

Since CJSR's first broadcast publicly, I have faithfully listened to the station for at least 80% of all time I listen to radio, period. I have been a "Friend of CJSR" through this time, contributing funds to help support the station financially. In return, due to budget cuts I have witnessed the constant chaos in the production and distribution of CJSR's listening guide, Airtight. It is a key to unlocking the incredible variety of programming available on CJSR, and is a key tool in keeping past, present, and future listeners tuned in to the station. I have not received a "Friend of CJSR" newsletter since August, 1987. As well, CJSR's signal remains extremely weak and inconsistent.

If the SU is serious about dealing with its PR crisis, it should take a serious look at how it has treated its most valuable PR tool in the community, its own publicly broadcasting radio station. It is an advertising jewel and a privilege they seem intent on destroying with their present funding policy. Wake up! PR has a price, and CJSR is a bargain you don't seem to realize you possess.

Roland Labbe

Respect remains

Re: Justice is screwed (Cartoons, Mar. 13)

I am very sorry that Ross Gray chose this manner to vent his spleen. A year ago, when I created the character of Philip Screwdriver (and all of his supporting cast) I was

grateful to have such a talented person as Ross assisting me. I still have respect for his talent.

However, in the past few months Mr. Gray and I have reached an impasse. He has his view of Phil, as have I. While I still have hopes that we can resume our partnership, I have some doubts as to whether Philip Screwdriver will resume in the near future.

P.S. Mr. Gray only wrote *TWO* scripts, as I recall, while I provided the storyline. A storyline with which, for the most part he had no *MAJOR* disagreement.

David Dudar  
Arts II

Faith personal

Re: Beliefs unproven (Feb. 28)

Cam Balzer and others like him are not closed-minded for having unfashionable beliefs, but for not respecting others' differing beliefs. Faith is a very personal matter which many people have arrived at on their own terms, and it is a matter between them and their god. It's not a matter for other humans to judge. In fact, faith by definition, is something that is not really based on fact at all. Even the Bible says this. I consider myself a Christian because I believe in Jesus Christ, but if you were to ask me why I believe, I couldn't tell you. I just do, and I'm happy about it. If someone else doesn't believe, or has differing views, and they're happy about it, that's perfectly fine.

Tony Morris  
Arts

CAB lunchers choked

We are a might choked. We were sitting at our favourite seats in CAB first floor to do some homework, when we were rudely herded away from the area. Now, where we used to sit, there are booths set up for Health Week. Last week it was Forestry Week. It seems these events are becoming more and more common. Just for once, we would like to have an "Eating-Your-Lunch-Undisturbed Week"!

Awfully peeved,

Chris Brown, Business III  
Wade Major, Engineering III  
and many others

## The Gateway

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