

An end to apathy could mean bucks

by Dawn Lerohl

The University of Alberta is an apathetic campus. Students and administration have long been aware that U of A students do not have a highly developed sense of school spirit. Many a discussion has been held on the matter, yet in recent financially difficult times we should take another look at the issue.

American campuses receive a large percentage of their funds from alumni. Fifty to sixty per cent of alumni in private American colleges donate to their alma mater. Traditionally in Canada, between five and ten per cent of alumni donate. Presently, a new fundraising plan called Project Leadership has increased the percentage of donors from 5 per cent to 30 per cent at the U of A. This is still relatively small.

It's a circular situation. If students enjoy their campus experience, they will later donate money to the school. If money is donated to the school, students will have more facilities which improve the chances of students enjoying their time at university.

I am not suggesting the U of A pattern itself after American universities, but rather that we take small steps towards a more united campus. For example, although some faculties on our campus have university jackets, they are not available to the entire student body. A jacket is a symbol identifying you with your school, creating a feeling of association.

I was informed yesterday that the U of A holds a yearly homecoming. I'm in my fourth year at this campus and I was unaware of this. If undergraduates were encouraged to attend and enjoy themselves, they might well continue to attend after graduation. This would rejuvenate their sense of school spirit and encourage involvement. A homecoming event is only one possibility; we could also develop our own yearly traditions.

Another way of being involved is to take an interest in campus affairs. In every issue of *The Gateway* students and staff express their opinions on a variety of subjects. Some of this year's subjects include the implementation of quotas, the postcard campaign regarding tuition increases, and the university residences. These are issues that are important to us all, and yet *The Gateway* has not received a single letter to the editor expressing any concern, or even interest, in these matters.

Students have been told for years that getting involved will improve their term at university. This hasn't changed. We should just be aware that, in these financially strapped times, this involvement could have long lasting benefits.



LETTERS

We are not in favor of death

Re: Pro-Life Rally. Gateway Tues. Oct. 3

We would like to address Kavita Dugga's "pro-death" comment.

Pro-choice advocates are not in favour of death. They are in favour of allowing a woman to make her own choices. Nobody is "Pro-death" Ms. Dugga, you are either pro-choice or anti-choice.

Marri Humbert, Education III
Jody Kibblewhite, Arts II

Comics are as bad as ever

I see to my dismay that a new year and a new Gateway staff has not improved the Gateway's comic section. Most of this year's strips reach new heights in low. And now we've got TWO pages of comics that for the most part read as if they were conceived in two minutes during a dull art history lecture.

Yeah, and I can hear a lot of people saying "Well if this guy thinks he can do better, then why doesn't he draw some comics?!" That's not the point! The people who do write or draw for *The Gateway* are supposed to be good, not just purveyors of stuff to fill up

space. You can do that with strips of wall-paper. (Tuesday's "Neil The Nerd" artist even admitted he can't draw.) If and when I do draw some cartoons for *The Gateway*, I'd make sure they were properly done and not something weak, drawn just for the sake of getting published.

The Gateway's comic pages have sadly become two pages to skip over in an otherwise great campus newspaper. Better to run three or four good strips than eight or twelve bad ones; I'm sure more than a few people agree with me.

Michael Chevalier
Arts III

My lords, j'accuse

M'Lords:

There has been a grievous injustice done, and the victims are the first year class of law. Were it not for the gravity of the crime, this writ would not be served.

It involves the "election" of articling and first year representatives. Alas, no campaigning, no discussion of the issues to wit the voters know not who the candidates are! The worst crime, however, is the lack of notice given for the election itself. To happen by the 'orange couches' between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. does not serve as notice, adequate or otherwise, of your right to vote.

Indeed, a sad state of affairs! M'Lords, it seems only just that every effort be made to correct this error. Perhaps a re-election might be in order?

Kathryn Vennard
Law I

The poetry did nothing for me

Re: The Poetry by Michael Shane Lambert

Understanding full well that the poems printed in the September 28th edition of *The Gateway* were written with personal freedom and opinion in mind, I still found them annoyingly dramatic and pessimistic. Were

the definitions of the subject matters thought out? Bureaucracy may be a pain in the ass but I question the analogy, "The beast salivates for the dead." Is bureaucracy a raging leviathan that drools and consumes cadavers? Bureaucracy affects those alive, does it not? And if it was such a glandular creature, the anatomy and physiology departments must be in dire straits.

Your stagnant and depressing analogies, Mr Lambert, appear to be influenced by your ideas about twentieth century poetics. Ironic? Your view on life seems "industrial" to me.

Mark Jackson
Arts I

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