



AND HOW ABOUT A CLEAN ROOM THIS TIME,
THE LAST ONE I HAD WAS A REAL MESS!

Intelligence tells

A recent edition of your paper contained a letter asserting that *all* university students were gifted with an IQ in excess of 100. I wonder if the author has ever waited for a bus at the stand opposite the Dentistry-Pharmacy Centre. On the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 24th, for instance I saw a small child, an elderly lady and a young lady struck by stones thrown by a selection of this highly intelligent population. I am told that this is about par for the average period between U6 buses.

Since we are on the subject of groups of people of above average intelligence could you explain why your staff always spells the the word "existence" incorrectly?

R.A. Smith
Chemistry Department

Our mistake?

In your issue of September 23 you report that the Executive of GFC has discovered "discriminatory hiring policies" in at least six University departments where the appointment of U of A graduates to staff is concerned.

You then go on to name Drama, Economics, Germanics, History, Political Science and Sociology as departments that will not consider applications from Alberta graduates. Your report is in error. These departments, to which Philosophy can now be added, prefer to look outside for staff unless there has been some broadening experience elsewhere in the meantime, but they have no formal position on the matter and will in fact consider applications from our graduates.

The two (not six) departments in Arts that are in fact explicitly opposed to considering applications from Alberta graduates (Psychology and Comparative Literature) are mistakenly described in your

report in terms applicable not to them but to Drama and the rest.

Finally, not only did the Executive of GFC receive from me in writing the classifications as I have described them here, rather than as you report them, but they were also told that English, which you list among those having a preference for outsiders, modified its policy last year (except where unfinished Ph.D.'s are concerned).

Personally, I believe that those of our departments practicing this kind of "discrimination" (very common elsewhere, incidentally) can make a good case for it on the grounds of diversification. That issue aside, however, I think that the public record of our practices ought to be an accurate one.

R.G. Baldwin

P.S. There has scarcely been need for a "discovery." Psychology formulated its position precisely in order to keep students informed, and the policy in Comparative Literature had the unanimous support of its student representatives.

Dear Dr. Baldwin:

After reading your letter I hurried back to my notes to see if I in fact did make a mistake. With respect, I don't think I did.

GFC notes list the six departments under the heading "Against hiring U of A grads (except in exceptional circumstances)" and the two you list are listed only as "preference for non-U of A grads."

Perhaps there's been a mix-up somewhere between your classifying the departments and the establishing of them in GFC notes, but I see the word "against" as a policy statement, and those words head the list of six departments you mentioned.

I try to call 'em as I see 'em.
Thanks, Ed.

Missing buses

I wish to complain about the buses. Sometimes they are late and I have to wait. I don't think it is very fair. I think the ETS should do a better job, you know, because I pay a lot to use the buses, you know?

Joe Mundane
Boring Arts II

So what?

An example of federal government sincerity in the face of legitimate native grievances came to light quite some time ago, and was recently mentioned again in the news.

Kenora - and mercury, are the two key words in the issue. Seems governments just don't like to pay Indians enough to go to the supermarket like everyone else. There may still be some places in this country where Native people can make a

living through the old ways, but, however decimated out native population may be, there are still too many of them to fit in those places.

Some government bigwig (I forget his name) said in early September that Labor Day should be a time for reflection, not celebration; reflection about the poor people on fixed incomes who suffer the most from inflation. Workers at least do their jobs (when they're not on strike); doesn't he know that it's the government's job to keep increasing those "fixed" incomes whenever there's inflation - even if it feeds inflation a little, even if it means raising taxes?

John Savard
Science 4

Why not the practicum?

The main concern of the Education Students' Association and the Education students at large is for the student teacher. We want to see the Extended Practicum problem resolved as quickly as possible with as little effect on the student teacher as possible.

By not allowing the student teacher into the classroom, the university careers of a large number of students are in jeopardy in reference to finances, certification and time. It is a well-known fact that the university students are not in a particularly stable financial situation and that any lengthening of the time that they spend at the university will constitute a substantial drain on the resources of both the individual student and any student assistance programs. If no student teaching is permitted, it means no certification, no degree, and therefore no job. Going back to the university to complete requirements means an increased cost to the individual student, the taxpayer, and the government.

Both the Education Students' Association and the Education Faculty are left without recourse at this time due to the stalemate reached between the ATA and the government. An interim agreement regarding student teaching has already been reached in Calgary and

Lethbridge while students at the University of Alberta still face the unresolved problem.

We believe that the ATA is justified in their demands for a forty minute per student per day relief time to increase the quality of the student teaching program. We also believe that any increase in the amount of time a student teacher spends in the classroom will enhance the quality of education in Alberta in the long run. Although we agree with the principles the ATA are fighting for we cannot condone their use of the student teacher as a level in bargaining with the government. While we realize that this Extended Practicum Program will cost a great deal more money, the government has passed a law which makes it necessary for us to student teach for a longer period and now refuses to foot the bill.

We urge all parties involved to keep in mind the time factor and the impact on the individual student. Whether or not the solution is temporary or final, immediate action is of the essence.

The Education Students' Association plans to deliver this message to the provincial legislature tomorrow at noon.

Interested parties and supporters are asked to meet on the Ed. Quad at noon to assist in the ESA's demands for settlement of the practicum dispute.

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