

Dear Sir:

At the risk of dignifying your publication, whose outrageous and cowardly attack upon Dr. J. Peter Meekison is beneath contempt, we must protest in the strongest possible terms the suggestion that Dr. Meekison's advancement in this University has been based on "distorted credentials."

Let it be crystal clear that, when Dr. Meekison was invited to accept the position of Associate Dean of this Faculty, we were entirely aware of the facts that he was Acting Chairman of the Department of Political Science and Editor of the book "Canadian Federalism: Myth or Reality." Let it also be crystal clear that we have the highest possible regard for Dr. Meekison's integrity and the greatest respect for the outstanding contributions which he has made to the Department of Political Science, the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research, the University, and the Province of Alberta.

Yours truly,
A.G. McCalla, Dean (retired)
J.R. McGregor, Dean
Faculty of Graduate Studies and research

Dear Bob,

As a staff member of the Gateway I have generally been proud to have helped in the production over the last four years.

Although I have upon occasion disagreed with the editorial policy of the paper, I have usually been content to allow the majority view of the staff determine what the paper will print. I know that an unbiased newspaper is a fiction but, ever since the Gateway has abandoned the pretense of objectivity, I have always expected it to be fair--which I feel it has always tried to be.

However, in last Thursday's paper an article was printed which I feel was one of the blackest moments in the publishing history of the Gateway. Winston Gereluk's article and subsequent editorial on Prof. Meekison in particular and the Political Science department in general struck me as being the lowest possible kind of deceitful innuendo. On the basis of two facts--insignificant beyond importance--and a variety of unassigned quotes, Winston proceeded to construct a rather fanciful conspiracy centred on Prof. Meekison. Prof. Meekison was obviously never questioned by Winston and was thereby deprived of any chance to defend himself.

Winston has broken two rules which the Gateway has always tried to stick to: That nothing of anonymous origin be printed inside the Gateway and that the person involved in the story be asked about accusations against him. In the past, these rules have helped to keep the Gateway fair if not unbiased. I think that abandonment of these policies is the worst possible thing that could happen to the Gateway. In my opinion, the Gateway and Winston owe Prof. Meekison an apology.

Dick Nimmons,
Gateway Staffer
Arts 4.

To the editor:

As a former student of Dr. J. Peter Meekison and as a former journalist, I am appalled by the slanderous and scurrilous article "Distorted credentials inspire questions" and the accompanying editorial in the Nov. 25 Gateway.

There is, first, a serious allegation which must be challenged: that the Political Science Department is a home of Great Fear and that students have been "getting screwed by professors left and right". This sort of unsubstantiated charge is usually made by the type of insecure person who imagines the whole world is "out to get him". It is a charge which, though largely unfounded, is difficult to disprove (when did you stop beating your wife, Mr. Editor?). If anyone feels he is "getting screwed" by a professor in our department, let him name names and furnish some proof, and the majority of graduate students will stand behind him.

Such allegations do the Political Science Department no good, but the department will survive. It is unlikely that a fifth-rate journalistic hack can cause the department any permanent damage with his wild charges.

But what I find really disturbing and unforgivable is the hatchet job the Gateway has attempted on Dr. Meekison. The lies and innuendoes in the article and accompanying editorial are of such a low and base nature that it is difficult to believe even a paper as disreputable as the Gateway would print them.

To the Editor:

I would probably best describe myself as a mature individual who just happens to be taking a couple of courses at the U of A. In other words, I don't qualify as an average "student". All this means, is that I don't pay much attention to student activities, or more precisely, to the student paper. However, on Thursday, I did pick up a Gateway intending a cursory perusal when for some reason I took time to read the article entitled, "Distorted Credentials Inspire Questions". I was, in turn, curious, fascinated and then genuinely appalled by what I read, and not, I hasten to emphasize, by the "travesty" described, but by a greater and undisguisedly vicious one directed at J. P. Meekison. It would seem clear to me that such an article would normally not have been written if someone were not out for blood, for, let's face it, similar breaches of truth, whether intentional or unintentional, probably appear daily in any newspaper, *Folio* or *Gateway*. Why Dean Meekison's blood is sought, I can only guess -- personal antipathy on the part of the writer; or the clash of Meekison's supposed values or views with those of a clique of malcontents; or from plain jealousy.

Were the personally slanderous remarks all, it would be tasteless enough to have printed the article, unfortunately, it would seem that the attack on Dean Meekison provided a handy means for opening up on the Political Science Department. What would the students do

Do you really expect anyone to believe Dr. Meekison was appointed to his present position with the Faculty of Graduate Studies on the basis of misinformation in *Folio*, an issue of *Folio* published, by the way, long after Dr. Meekison's appointment? What rubbish!

The fact that Dr. Meekison is regarded by everyone in the department as a first-rate administrator had nothing to do with the decision, I suppose. The fact that he is regarded by former students as an excellent teacher, and the fact that he had edited one of the best books in the field of Canadian federalism (by the way, *Canadian Federalism: Myth or Reality*) of course had nothing to do with the appointment, according to distorted Gateway logic.

The Gateway has committed a grave injustice. The very least it should do to attempt to make amends for its character assassination is:

1. Publish a front-page apology to Dr. Meekison;
2. Accept the editor's resignation (which, one would hope, has been offered by now);
3. Fire Winston Gereluk.

As a fourth point, the Gateway might do us all a favor by ceasing publication altogether until its writers and editors have had an opportunity to learn a few fundamental points about the ethics of journalism.

Myron Johnson,
Graduate Studies,
Political Science.

without a ready whipping boy? I seem to recall several times in the past that the Department has had its internal affairs dragged into public scrutiny. It is easy to understand how the Political Science Department is especially vulnerable to such game-playing; its staff and students indicate through their choice of field that the phenomena of power, its dynamics and use, are fascinating to them -- and besides, who can resist an occasional venture into political machination itself. I have no doubt that quite literally students are being screwed (right and left? hum!), but that students are being treated unfairly on a large scale in the assignment of grades or in the distribution of power, seems unlikely. All students are continually potential victims of subjective criteria in grading and evaluating. We've all experienced what we feel is unfair treatment. This being so, it so, it would seem that the Gateway might better serve the university community by doing less random restructuring of the great academic monolith, and the fostering of a more humanistic orientation in education.

Barring the above, I would at least hope that in the future a paper so scrupulously dedicated to the truth as the *Gateway* would have us believe it is, will take this dedication seriously and refrain from quoting unnamed sources; extrapolating "fact" from "squeezed" information, and using innuendo in place of clear evidence.

A. Anderson Murray
Educational Psychology

The Gateway

member of the Canadian University Press

STAPH THIS ISH

The Poli-Sci Department was out in full force this night, with many letters (none of them complementary) to that famous Gateway Reporter Winston Gereluk. Those who slaved through the multiple errors and corrections in these letters were: Tern Ronaway; Mystic Mary Ross; Beth (Let's go for pizza)Nilsen; Fiona (for GOD'S SAKE call me!!!) Campbell; Marilyn Strilchuk; Ross (I'm going to join a monastery) Harvey; Dave McCurdy; Rick (leave me alone, I'm typing!) Grant; Bob Blair; Rick (for HoHoHo) Merry; Jim (there's got to be an easier way)Selby; Mini Mickey Quesnel; Bob "Snomo"Beal; Stu (I've wasted the evening) Layfield; and yours truly Harvey G. (for Gereluk, what the HELL are you doing to us?) Thomgirt.

Departments Editor-in-chief-Bob Beal (432-5178), news-Elsie Ross(432-5168), Sports- Ron Ternoway(432-4329), advertising Percy Wickman (432-4241) production-Bud Joberg and Ron Yakimchuk, Photo-Barry Headrick and Don Bruce(432-4355) arts -Ross Harvey, and last but not least, publisher Harvey G.Thomgirt (432-5168).

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Gateway defends itself

The Gateway wishes to apologize to Dr. J. Peter Meekison for the implications some people seem to have drawn as a result of a story in last Thursday's edition of the Gateway.

The story to which the letters on these pages refer was one about errors on the part of two university publications in stories they printed about Dr. Meekison.

We did not imply that Dr. Meekison was responsible for these errors nor did we suggest "that Dr. Meekison's advancement in the university has been based on 'distorted credentials'" (the letter from McCalla and McGregor). We have absolutely no doubt that the persons responsible for appointing Dr. Meekison to his present position knew that he was acting chairman, not chairman, of the Department of Political Science, and that he was the editor, not author, of the book. It would have been ridiculous for us to suggest this was not the case.

We also have no doubt that Dr. Meekison is "most highly regarded in the field" of Canadian political studies (letter from Lightbody) and we did not dispute this fact in the article.

We do not believe "Dr. Meekison remains pilloried and convicted before his university community" (Lightbody letter) because of our article. The article itself quoted sources as saying that Dr. Meekison's advancement was probably due to his competence as a teacher and administrator. We did not question his competence nor is there any implication to that effect.

The article in question was not one about Dr. Meekison. It concerned the two university publications and errors they had made in articles about Dr. Meekison.

The implications about Dr. Meekison drawn by the writers of the letters on these pages were not intended by us. Nor do we believe that these implications are reasonable.

The anonymous sources we quoted in the article were people in the Political Science department who our reporter contacted for elaboration on these particular errors by the publications.

These people refused to allow us to use their names and were extremely reluctant to say anything at all. We do not know why people were so reluctant to talk about such seemingly innocuous mistakes by the university's public relations people.

Accompanying the article was an editorial comment by Winston Gereluk on the problems he had researching the article on the two errors.

In the editorial, Gereluk made no reference to Dr. Meekison and none was implied.

With reference to Myron Johnson's letter, we would like to point out that the Gateway editor is not married.