

letters

registration

Enclosed is a copy of a letter to the Registrar which I am mailing tomorrow. If you feel it would be of interest to other students at the University, please feel free to print it as written.

I am sure other students who have undoubtedly experienced similar frustrations this week will approve such a reprimand. Dear Sir:

I have registered at the University of Alberta no less than eight times (not including intersessions).

Today, for the first time, I feel I have been treated callously and in an unjustifiable, inhumane fashion by one section of the registration team - those who take photographs for I.D. cards.

Because I have a full-time job with over-time responsibilities, because I am afflicted with a neuro-muscular disease which slows my motor abilities and makes the manipulation of stairways difficult and painful, and because I was misdirected at least three times by registration personnel at the Physical Education Building, I arrived at the photographing depot at 4:29 A.G.T. time (I saw no clock in the vicinity).

The people there immediately refused to take my I.D. snap - even after I explained my predicament! - because THEY WERE CLOSED AT 4:30 p.m.!

However, as I recuperated there before tackling the stairs again, THEY DID NO LESS THAN FIVE RE-TAKES FOR OTHER STUDENTS, some of whom had entered the area AFTER I had.

I was told to report again tomorrow morning at 8:30 (I start work at 8:00 a.m.) or next week in the evenings at SUB.

I feel these circumstances were despicable at best, and would urge the U. of A. administration to begin humanizing its registration procedures rather than permitting such petty, inconsiderate, and ill-mannered behaviour in the name of "rules" or "efficiency."

Donna M. Martyn
Graduate Studies

student files

I am writing to draw the attention of all students on campus to Regulation 16.8.4 of the University calendar which reads as follows:

"Any student who objects to the release of information regarding his records, in accordance with the policy stated above, should notify the Registrar in writing,

giving his specific objection. Appropriate action will be taken by the Registrar and he will so advise the students."

The "policy stated above" refers to policy relating to the release of information contained in student files. A file is maintained for every student detailing personal history, academic performance etc. In the past the Office of Institutional Research and Planning of the University has been granted access to student files for research purposes.

Any student objecting to the use of information contained in their file should write to the Registrar c/o The Administration Building, stating their objections. If any student encounters difficulty in this regard I would be pleased to assist in whatever way I can.

Patrick J. Delaney
Vice-President, Academic

guilt

As a graduate student and member of the GSA, I would like to comment on one aspect of the current dispute between the SU and our Association. This concerns the substitution of beige GSA ID cards for the official brown SU University ones (see Gateway, Thurs. Sept. 14, page 1). When I arrived at Part II, my brown IBM card was taken by representatives of the GSA without an explanation of what this implied. This was, of course, little short of dishonest, since many grad students, especially those who were registering at the U of A for the first time, were not aware of the implications involved. After I realized what was happening, I demanded - and obtained - a return of the proper ID card. The interesting point is that the GSA executive apparently had sufficient decency to feel guilty about its actions; hence its failure to tell registering students what was really going on. The executive members kept quiet and hoped they could hoodwink us all.

They didn't succeed - not completely. And now it is time for grad students to demand a full accounting from the executive of their association. This letter is meant to do just that. Kim McCalla

morning sickness

An edition of your paper presented comments on the Course Evaluation questionnaire and the Course Guide issued by the Students' Union office. Last spring I obtained some information which was interesting to me and may also be interesting to your readers. I reported this to the Evaluations Office at the time.

For years I have been teaching Meteorology 307 at 0800, MWF. The class grew so that in 1970-71 it was as large as the classroom would hold. In 1971-72, I offered it at 0800 and 0900, MWF, the two classes following one another. The questionnaire last April was answered by 43 students of A1 (0800h) and by 51 of A2 (0900h).

The results of the questionnaire gave me a surprise in showing that the class averages on the questionnaire differed so much between classes. Out of 26 questions dealing with teaching, 10 had differences of 0.2 or greater, and 2 others showed differences between 0.15 and 0.19. The differences showed that the A2 class gave me a "better" evaluation than the A1 class, between 0.15 and 0.19. The differences showed that the A2 class gave me a "better" evaluation than the A1 class. Here are some of the ten questions:

16. How were you satisfied with the grading in this course? (A1:2.51, A2:3.04)

18. Reading material was Easy to hard? (A1:3.02, A2:2.76)

27. How much did you like your instructor as a person? (A1:3.25, A2:3.63)

31. How effectively did the instructor use his class time? (A1:3.01, A2:3.35)

One seeks for an answer to the question of why there was this difference. Questions 1 to 7 of the questionnaire relate to the student and his personal evaluation. The scores on these questions showed little difference in backgrounds, although the A2 class expected a higher grade than the A1 class. Both classes were, in the majority, science students with sprinklings from other faculties. The material supplied, the text, and the instructor were the same except that the instructor was, possibly, more exhausted at 0900h.

There are two possible explanations. First, the time of day differed. It may be that students at 0800-0850 tend to be more grouchy and therefore more critical than at 0900-950. Possibly a check on this could be made using past course evaluations, but I don't know whether it is worth it. Another instructor said that he had had evidence in the change in attitude during the course of the afternoon.

A second possibility comes from the nature of the class. A class is formed by an instructor and a number of students. If among the students there are one or two who ask questions on the material, this can lead to a more active discussion and a clearer understanding of the material. It also wakes up those class members whose minds have been wandering. If the class contains one student who actively criticizes the instructor, (I have had one), this reacts upon the class as a whole, and the members are less receptive to the instructor's efforts.

I have learned much about how I might improve my teaching, partly from the Evaluations, but partly from discussions with some of my better students. I consider the questionnaire has its value. But the scores obtained are functions of a number of other factors than the instructor, - the time of day, the maturity of the class, the attitudes of a vocal minority of the class, etc. It should, by itself, not be expected to give a valid assessment of the instructor without considerable supporting evidence.

Richmond W. Longley
Meteorology

counterpoint

staff comment

devil lady

We the new staff of Gateway, are happy to report that we caught Terri Jackson, our new editor, as she was busy molesting a young child who had inadvertently wandered in, tied her down with strings of garlic, and, before you could say "Dracules!" we yanked her fangs, docked her tail and clipped her leathery black wings. So all you people out there who have the misfortune to have her in one of your classes may now at least stop worrying about being bitten to death as you sit in the front row of the lecture hall with the tender backs of your necks exposed to her poisonous fangs.

Actually, in all truth I must say that for the duration of the time I've known Terri she's controlled herself remarkably well. She hasn't bitten one full grown person to death so far! Sure, she's bitten the typesetter on the leg twice, and gnawed a child a little bit, but nobody's perfect!

If fact, I personally have not been able to see all them fangs and things that people have been putting on her head at all. I think that this year, Gateway staff are going to be working in a free and easy atmosphere and will have the freedom to choose their stories and work on them as they wish. We're all new staff here this year, and it's going to be a great learning experience for all of us. And, while we're learning, I'm sure we'll give our fellow students a newspaper with factual and unslanted news items, an entertaining arts department, and a good sports section.

So if any of you out there don't believe that Terri really does not have fangs, come up to the Gateway offices and see for yourselves. For your benefit we'll put her in the glass display case with our doughnuts for the rest of the week.

ernie vilcsak

day care row

In line with the Gateway policy of separating fact from opinion, I have reserved my personal feelings on the matter for this space.

We have in the day care row another example of the suffering of the average person whilst politicians play their petty games. There are sixty some youngsters (and eighty parents) who have been waiting in a state of suspended animation for the day care centre to open. Most if not all of the parents are in university and presently have to pay a baby sitter or other private service if they wish to attend classes and practicals. None of these people have all that much money to spend so that the SU executive can practise political machinations for that great day when they hit the big time.

As it is, it will be a couple of weeks until the centre can be in full operation even if the subsidy is immediately forthcoming. I think it's bloody high time that the SU incorporate an independent board and stop playing power politics. The SU have had all summer to incorporate the board, so there is really no one else to blame for these unnecessary delays. I for one am completely fed up by this situation in particular, and in general the lack of concern by the SU for anybody's well being except their own.

So I say to the SU exec, cut it the hell out. An election platform of bigger and better dances gives you no mandate to mess around with the well being of the student body the way you have been for the last several months. It's time you acted for the students or got out of student government entirely.

Bart Hall-Beyer

Letters to the editor on any topic are welcome, but they must be signed. Keep them short (about 200 words) unless you wish to make a complex argument. Letters should not exceed 800 words.

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