

EDITORIAL

The days of accessibility

Nova Scotia Education Minister Terrence Donahue knows that the villain is Marc Lalonde. He accuses the federal Finance Minister of refusing to negotiate conditions for a long-term commitment to financial support of universities and colleges. The current agreement, which provides for Ottawa's transfer of \$4 billion, expires at the end of March.

Mr. Lalonde doesn't like the fact that the feds are contributing 56.6 per cent of the money spent on post-secondary school education while the provinces are paying only 27.1 per cent. Shame! says Mr. Donahue, the provinces are kicking in about 50 per cent.

In Ontario, the enemy is seen and she is Education Minister Bette Stephenson, who said last summer that her province can no longer guarantee a university education to every high school student. Paul Axelrod, a teacher at York University, put it this way: "Today the Government finds itself with a policy on accessibility that it never supported unconditionally and which it no longer wants to pay for... Now that universities are perceived as part of our economic malaise (by costing too much and appearing to produce too little), the policy has become an unaffordable luxury."

What did the province promise? Go back to 1958. Premier Leslie Frost is speaking: "I think that no person in this country who has the potential to make good in the university world and the things that lead from the university should be denied that education." In March, 1963, Premier John Robarts has the floor: "It is our viewpoint that the admission standards should be moderate and reasonable and such as to enable the average student to proceed to a degree."

Richard J. Doyle in his column in the Globe and Mail on February 8, 1984.

Power of the electorate

He's got pizzazz. He's got new ideas. It's the 1980's version of the New Deal, the New Frontier.

His name is Gary Hart and he is sweeping the US democratic primaries, much to the surprise of the pollsters, who had Walter "Fritz" Mondale pegged as the victor even before the New Hampshire primary.

Hart, Hart-ache, he's got Hart, er, Heart.

New, improved, revitalized, the leadership of the future. Holy pampers, Batman, how did this senator from Colorado ever rise to national prominence?

Rugged good looks, say some supporters. He defies political definition, say others.

Gee, you say to yourself, I want to meet this Gary Hart.

Wait, wait. I hear you asking, "Can he beat Mondale?"

After Super-Tuesday it's still too early to call, but one thing's for sure: Hart's showing and his appeal to voters has humbled the so-called political experts of the US system.

Chalk one up for the voters!

BJ

Information lacking

Every task must be carried out comprehensively, taking into account spiritual, material and organizational factors. Consider, for instance, the question of discipline. Conscious discipline, the result of which is good, conscientious work, is inherent in the nature of society. But somewhere, and somehow, the call for stronger discipline is interpreted as requiring no more than unremitting administrative control over the presence of everyone at their workplace "from nine to five."

Yuri Andropov, 1983

The shrill shrieks of outrage from the Tory backbenchers, worried about unemployed Political Science graduates starting revolutions and fostering the evil germ of socialism within their minds, can now be silenced.

Very little activity at the U of A requires the spiritual or organizational factors so critical for social discipline.

In fact, discipline of any sort is rarely found on campus.

Bitching is the favourite game on campus. There is a "problem with insufficient funding" - a point of dispute between the University and the Tory caucus. Everything is thus the fault of (a) the University administration, or (b) the government. At no point in any of these 'discussions' is the public properly informed, as every group protects itself from attacks on its weak flank.

Compromise is discarded, and the political games take over from the original issues to be resolved. This is discipline?

This is the behaviour of a group of intellectually trained adults, whose skills include rational debate, and whose goals include maintaining the educational skills of the country's youth?

How much of the current government funding goes to the administrative, rather than to the educational budget?

Nobody at University Hall will tell you, and the government will not release figures to support either side of the debate.

Even Yuri Andropov had more to say while he had his "cold."

John Algard



"I would have gone to the candidates' forum but I am allergic to slobber."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"Energy", but no results

Judie Drucker's letter ("Duck and Cover") was a personal attack on me, and not the issues I raised. Therefore, I feel I must respond.

Ms. Drucker writes: "I was challenged...to enlighten him on my views of the global peace movement." Ms. Drucker, I could not possibly care less about your views.

Ms. Drucker criticizes my letter as being more cliché-ridden than the anti-nuclear rhetoric. I decline to agree with this. However, I am not attempting to persuade anyone of anything. I am not striving to rid the world of nasty weapons. I am not trying to change the minds of government or military officials. But, Ms. Drucker, you are. For over two years, protesters have been ranting to stop weapon testing in Canada. But the cruise has been tested. Then tell me the measure of your success. Yours is the burden, not mine. You, if your conscience demands it, must reshape the thinking of people. But you have not achieved this. New missiles are being deployed in the West.

Ms. Drucker, you are completely wrong in suggesting that I believe the number of warheads has anything to do with my personal safety. My only concern (and this may upset you, for which I apologize) is with military technical supremacy.

To conclude, I would once again like to quote Ms. Drucker. She writes: "The peace movement helps to fulfill this quest (for survival), for it is a vital source of life-promoting energy." Ms. Drucker, how is life in outer space?

Brady Harrison
Arts III

Trust the nice commies

Oh Neil, how soon we forget! I suppose it is the privilege of intellectuals to have such selective memories.

After all, what's to be gained by re-hashing old news like Afghanistan or Czechoslovakia or Hungary for that matter? Intellectuals most always

stride forward into a brave new world, mustn't they Neil? And in the same token, of course, it is over responsibility to react against 'alarmists' like Mr. Harrison. Such pragmatism, realism and pessimism are the vestiges of an old and ugly view of man, certainly not acceptable for us youthful and idealistic men of the future!

Why, I'll bet Mr. Harrison even believes in the preservation of old out-dated ideas like freedom! Boy, the guy MUST be a red-neck!

You know, if only everyone trusted the Russians like we do Neil, THEN we'd be getting somewhere! If only people like the Poles and the Afghans would quit hassling the Soviets, things would be O.K. wouldn't they, Neil?

I once heard a guy say, "Young men will die so pacifists can live free." Boy isn't that rich!

Yuk-yuk.
We'll have the last laugh, though, won't we Neil?

Timothy L. Taylor
David A. Isenegger

A politeness addick?

I'd just like to express my heart-felt gratitude to the concerned student(s) who graced the Legislature with that catchy little slogan (cover, Gateway, March 13). It is so encouraging to see the concerned students of the University of Alberta represented through such a state-of-the-art, not to mention mature, lobbying technique. As far as efficacy goes...Well, let's just say that if my name was Dick Johnston I might be just a tad "abrasive" myself. But my name's not Dick Johnston, it's...

Lisa Schnell
Arts IV

Gateway newswriters' meeting

Thursdays at 3:30 in SUB 282.



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Staff this issue

Algard the Abstruse has overruled the managing editor and reset his letters. Shane M Berg and the mysterious B. Moore go looney-toonies over the vinyl platters over at Nate LaRoi's new palace. P. Release and Terry Lindberg dance the night away while Bill St. John and Tim Kubash seek the remains of Olivia Butti's Diary. Dan (Scoop) Watson is still scooping. Denise Workun and Kent Cochrane continue to seek the truth, and are currently ensconced at Chez Algard by Jordan Peterson, the man who holds this nuthouse together.