

Varsity Voices

SUB Expansion criticized; Mr. Beissel writes; others write to Mr. Beissel; and errors are reported.

Ex-DPW Boys Design SUB

To The Editor:

We note in the columns of The Edmonton Journal of Tuesday, December 3rd, that the Students' Union have selected the architectural firm of Richards, Barretti and Jellinek to design the new Students' Union Building.

We know that this selection has been made with the utmost care and with due regard to the qualifications, experience and past record of achievement of the architects of this firm.

It is, therefore, with a great deal of pride that we congratulate the Students' Union on having selected a firm whose three principals are former staff members of the architectural branch of the Department of Public Works.

Yours very truly,
F. C. Colborne,
Minister of Public Works

Need Plebiscite

To The Editor:

I see no reason whatsoever why it should be made compulsory for all students, regardless of age and inclination, to finance a scheme by which a small group of other students would gain still more rooms to hang around in socks, smoke, or play games.

There is more than enough space available on the campus for discussion groups and other meetings. Let's not just have a questionnaire in The Gateway, but a democratic student plebiscite as soon as possible! Otherwise I suggest that our Students' Union should openly admit its affiliation with James Hoffa!

Against extortion,
Lou Helbig

Errata

To The Editor:

Re: "RUSSIFICATION IN UKRAINE"

Having read your report "Ukrainian Liberation Move" (Gateway, Nov. 29), I find it necessary to correct a statement attributed to me by your reporter who interviewed me on the question of Russification in the Ukraine. The statement that "the language of instruction in schools and universities is always Russian" (which Miss Raycheba erroneously applied to the situation in the Ukr. SSR) referred in fact to the plight of the more than five million Ukrainians living, according to the 1959 census, OUTSIDE the Ukrainian SSR (either in the parts of the Ukrainian ethnic territory absorbed by the Russian SFSR—e.g. the Kuban or the Kursk regions, or in the compact settlements in Kazakhstan, Western Siberia and the Far East). Unlike the privileged Russian minorities in the border republics of the USSR, the Ukrainians outside the Ukr. SSR have not been allowed since the 1930's a single school or cultural-educational institution in the Ukrainian language; not a single Ukrainian periodical appears in the territories settled by these five million Ukrainians and the authorities make it increasingly difficult for them to even receive Ukrainian-language publications from the Ukr. SSR. As for the Ukrainian SSR with its 32 million Ukrainians, Russification pressures have made only limited inroads in the Ukrainian primary and secondary schools due to what appears to be a widespread popular resistance to such pressures. At the university level, however, Russification pressures have been much stronger; of the seven major Ukrainian universities, two (Kharkiv and Odessa) have been largely "de-Ukrainized."

The Ukrainian case is not unique, for similar policies are directed at other non-Russian nationalities in the USSR. Indeed, the most extreme case is that of the Jewish minority (2.1 million in 1959) which under the official pretext of combating "reactionary" Judaism and Zionism has been denied throughout the USSR the most elementary means of preserving its language and culture.

Yours sincerely,
Bohdan R. Bociurkiw
Department of
Political Economy

Hit By The Sails

To The Editor:

It was with some regret that I read Professor Beissel's demand for an apology. As one who was not antagonistic to his exploits I felt that he should have the courage of his convictions (in the non-legal sense). Surely it is inconsistent to perform an act at the dictates of one's conscience and then complain of the natural consequences (i.e. to be treated like any other accused person) that usually follow. It is all very well to play Don Quixote as long as one remembers that you may be hit by the sails of the windmills.

In addition it would seem that in the interest of democracy—so fervently espoused by Professor Beissel—the awarding of titles to three of the gentlemen might lead to a RUPP-TURE in the ranks and this would be disastrous. The letter of complaint also said that the omission would be "no less objectionable" if the report had not awarded the title of Mayor to Mr. Hawrelak. From this, as an ex-student rather than a present professor of English, I gather it did not worry him at all, in which case I fail to see the point of mentioning it.

Yours truly,
M. Horrocks,
Law 1

Mr. Beissel Again

To The Editor:

I am assuming that you did not intentionally misrepresent or misread my letter:

- (1) I did not "demand" an apology; I suggested that one "seemed called for." For all its feeble ironies, your refusal to apologize for your tactlessness hardly serves to demonstrate your good manners.
- (2) I was not attempting to arrogate titles or status; I am a lecturer and therefore lay no claim to the title "Professor." Nor do I like that title as a form of address for university teachers: it creates barriers that interfere with the teaching process. Fortunately I enjoy with most of my students the sort of personal contact that makes such formalities unnecessary.
- (3) But I insist on "Mister," and I have not changed my view that for you to refer to staff—under whatever circumstances—by surname only is tactless. Making a tactlessness a policy makes matters worse, if anything. Nor does anything the CBC does justify anything you do. *Quod licet Jovi non licet bovi.* I repeat "you are a student editing a paper for students."
- (4) As for the policy of the CBC and other news media which you somewhat pompously presume to adopt, I can only say that to make a social distinction between a person charged with an offence and one not so charged is in grave conflict with the most fundamental principle of our law according to which every citizen is innocent until

proven guilty. After all, any citizen can lay a charge against any other citizen: there is nothing to guarantee that his evidence is sufficient or correct, or even that he is motivated by a desire for justice.

- (5) My remark about "the ignorance and incompetence of this year's Gateway editor" had nothing whatever to do with the subject of our present quarrel—except that one is perhaps less sensitive to an ill-mannered note in quarters where otherwise excellence prevails. Since under the circumstances I cannot be considered disinterested, rather than elaborate the charge myself I refer you to Don Well's letter that appeared in a November issue of your paper. Mr. Wells has there expressed what are essentially my sentiments about this year's Gateway, though I should have presented them differently, more as if I were addressing the inmates of a home for the aged.

Yours sincerely,
Henry Beissel.

Editor's Note: Mr. Beissel's sensitivity to a due regard for his status is a human reaction.

Here we should remember a quotation, the source of which we do not know: "Little men commit felony; great men emit integrity." Since, to our mind, Mr. Beissel is a great man, the omission of "Mr." might be construed as a grievous oversight on our part.

But newspaper style is like the democratic process. To prevent stylistic anarchy, certain rules must be established and exceptions cannot be made for even the greatest men.

Respect and Titles

To The Editor:

I would like to comment on a recent letter to the Editor which was signed "Henry Beissel"; I assume this refers to "Beissel, Henry Eric, MA (Toronto), Lecturer in English, 1962-1963." (U of A Calendar, 1963-64, p. 615).

I wonder what sort of mind could attach such importance to a "title" or form of address. I believe in respecting a "Man" for his individual worth and not his position or "title." Unfortunately not every person who has a "title" is worthy of respect.

It seems to me that a person worthy of respect is not the type to take offence if his "title" is omitted, especially where no offence was intended; on the other hand what kind of mind takes offence even where none is intended. Mr. Beissel first found our city's electorate wanting; he said the system that elected Mayor Hawrelak was wanting; he felt that the Education Building's lighting was wanting; and now he finds the efforts of the student newspaper wanting. What or who is it that shall next fail to meet his high standards?

For one who laments that we in Canada have too little appreciation of democracy Mr. Beissel does not seem to have too much faith in our democratic process nor in his fellow men, or conversely, too much respect for his own views. All people should, as Mr. Beissel has, endeavor to further the values which they believe in, but they should not have such intellectual vanity as to constantly take offence at the views and behavior of others with whom they disagree.

Sincerely,
An Observer

About Tact, Etc.

To The Editor:

Bravo! for your reply to Herr

Professor, the Mr. Henry Beissel, in your Dec. 3 edition of The Gateway in an editorial "No Apology."

Needless to say, you reply to the learned professor's letter was correct, objective and above all tactless, (using his own words). Therefore to my satisfaction, it failed to follow the provocative tone of the professor's letter. I might add that I am not at all surprised. Obviously he was offended by the fact that your paper did not, in a sense, endorse him in his somewhat futile effort to create massive civil disobedience following the election of Mayor William Hawrelak.

Not living in a Middle American State, where students and teachers are making a business out of rebelling around the clock, in my opinion you have covered the happenings in a more adult and dignified way than the ones involved in it behaved themselves. (I do not wish to take issue with the aim of the group, but I cannot help saying that their move came too late and, to us, in a somewhat foreign manner.)

It is very interesting to note that Professor Henry Beissel in his letter demands a more tactful (and perhaps lenient) treatment towards himself on the basis that he is our (pardon the word) teacher. Suppose we are not at all proud of you, Mr. Beissel. Perhaps the students do not take you seriously at all as they indicated by not following your footsteps. Or perhaps your views on civil disobedience, democracy, and its institutions, are not making you a person to whom we can look up as an example or a guide.

In view of these thoughts I would suggest that the learned professor has placed himself outside of his scope of employment, being on a "frolic of his own." As a result of this he and his colleagues became the subjects of headlines and various news items. Since The Gateway picked up these items and reported them in the ordinary manner, as was explained by you in the editorial, I do not see where else the professor was offended then, by your disapproval of his acts.

Needless to say, the language and the contents of his letter clearly intended to be offensive with respect to you and the co-editors. If he writes a few more letters, in the same tone, soon you might have a cause of action in libel, which I think undoubtedly would be very amusing in the light of the events.

He goes on to say "I am unwilling to tolerate your bad manner." Speaking of manners, I just wonder who is Professor Beissel to adjudicate on your manners? I am more than certain that you owe him no more duty or respect than you owe to any other person who makes the news, whatever way that may be. As the news source of the independent student body, you represent us students.

Since the majority of the students are obviously in disagreement with Mr. Beissel and his acts, outside of his employment, the demand of apology is not "called for." If someone has any apologizing to do it is not you or the student body. Going back to the above excerpt, I might say that Mr. Beissel is free to choose any means (legal) to carry out his desire.

Justinus
Law 3

Intelligence

To The Editor:

I was of the opinion that university professors were above average in intelligence. Mr. Beissel or Prof Beissel as he must be called is evidently an

exception to this opinion. It is quite apparent that Mr. Beissel seems to enjoy publicity regardless of what antics must be used to obtain this publicity.

The Gateway editorial staff should be commended for stringently sticking to their policy, and not being influenced or swayed by a self-centered individual who thrives on publicity. It's amazing and utterly disgusting when a supposedly educated man behaves in such a manner.
Commerce 1

Critic Criticized

To The Editor:

Your reviewer's rather smug interpretation of "Raisin in the Sun" as essentially the theme of the young man's attainment of maturity, done in blackface, strikes me as naive and superficial. Perhaps an awareness of the title's significance might have led to a deeper appreciation of the theme. The allusion is to a selection from "Montage of a Dream Deferred," by the Negro poet, Langston Hughes, which is itself an eloquent evocation of the tragic plight of the Negro in the United States today:

"What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore—
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over—
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?"

Frederick A. de Luna
Department of History

About Musings

To The Editor:

As I was leafing through my Gateway last Wednesday, I was extremely delighted to see down in the corner of page five another episode from McDowall's Musings. I thought, "Oh isn't it lovely that the editor has once again inserted one of these relaxing pieces of prose." All around one could see students sighing with pure pleasure and relief, as they floated through this week's Musings. One student, as he sailed by, remarked how wonderful it is that the world has such beautiful works that one can browse through as he meditates after a bicycle ride in the snow. Yes, I thought, students are so fortunate to be able to let their mind rove with McDowall's for a moment every week, forgetting all their troubles as they do so.

"WHAT THE HELL (someone then shouted) is this guy in here for anyway!" I tried to explain to him as McDowall probably would, that the writing was a beauty of nature and that he wouldn't understand as he had probably been contaminated by the ills of society. He retaliated, stating it was no more a beauty of nature than a hole in a snowbank, and about as useful too.

Now, McDowall can think of bike tracks or foot prints that are beautiful in the snow, but if this other fellow is right about that hole then maybe I've been deceived by Richard.

I always wondered why so many students swore about holes in the ground, and now holes in the snow, while reading McDowall; so maybe you can tell me what you think of this dull, boring, ridiculous and worthless Musings.

Bruce Mahon
Arts 2

Editor's Note: Dick McDowall's column is intended for, and appeals to, a certain sector of the university community.