

# Editorial

Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words in length. They must include your signature, faculty, year of program, I.D. number, and phone number. Requests for anonymity are at the discretion of the Managing Editor, but the above information is required regardless. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

## You only get what you deserve

It's that time of year again and the second floor of the Students' Union Building is alive with the sound of election campaigns gearing up.

This year's executive has been slagged right, left, and center for everything from the alleged misuse of SU funds to condoning apartheid in South Africa by not taking a stand on it.

The alleged misuse of funds to which I refer is the infamous "Strippergate" affair. Last April, a cheque in the amount of \$130 was issued to the former VP Internal. The cheque's remittance voucher said only: *For SU Party, RE: Changeover*. No one could say exactly where that cheque went, but an exotic dancer by the name of Bambi was paid exactly \$130 for her performance at the SU changeover party held April 29. H-m-m-m.

About the same time (September - October 1986), Council defeated a motion which endorsed the abolition of apartheid. A second motion which condemned human rights violations in several countries was also defeated. Eventually, a motion to limit further discussion on international issues was passed. H-m-m-m.

More recently, Council provided funding for the formation of an Anti-Cutbacks Team. The purpose of ACT is to fight government cuts which directly affect the quality and accessibility of education. Last Tuesday however, our student representatives chose to go against their own policy of opposing any tuition increase. A "small" one of one to five percent is now acceptable in light of the government cutbacks. H-m-m-m.

Needless to say, much of what I've outlined above has pissed a lot of people off. (Myself included, by the way.)

I am responsible for the letters to the editor pages and it's a job I enjoy because it's like having a finger on the pulse of student concerns. Strippergate, cutbacks, and the international issues each prompted a flood of letters. You were outraged about the lack of representation and many of you mentioned that you expected better for your SU fee buck.

Well, let me tell you something, kids. While all of you paid your SU fees, only 22% of you turned out to vote in the last election (down from 27% the year before). Your fees enable the SU to operate, but they do not provide a mandate or even a gauge for your concerns.

It seems to me that a good deal of you would be more justified in your outrage if you were to get off your mostly apathetic butts, spend an hour and research the issues and various platforms this time around. You have from now until March 12 to do so — otherwise you only get what you deserve!

Kathleen Beechinor

*Editor's Note: My term with the Gateway has had its ups and downs, but it's been a pretty positive experience in the long run. I'm off to have a baby now and they tell me parenthood has a few ups and downs too, so perhaps I'm better prepared...*

*I want to extend a warm welcome to our new Managing Editor. Good luck, Sherri. (You'll need it!)*

## Letters

### We are not sorry!

To the Editor:

RE: Marid Smith's letter.

In response to your letter in the January 20th issue of the Gateway, we would like to offer the following comments:

- 1) We are not sorry!
- 2) You used the term Engineering three times in a sentence and failed to capitalize it once. Blasphemy!
- 3) You seem to think that our safari only included Africa because of the two black figures depicted in our poster. Don't be prejudiced! Look around. There are blacks everywhere. Our safari was worldwide.
- 4) Unfortunately, our hectic schedules do not permit us to enroll in courses sensitive to the rich and diverse cultures of the Africans among us. Our time is consumed by other equally important courses such as Bigotry 241, Racism 357, and Engineering Supremacy 501.
- 5) Just what exactly were you doing in the Mineral Engineering building anyway?

James Curtis, Min. Engg. II  
Nitsa Galata, Engg. II  
Ray Goodfellow, Min. Engg. II  
Sharon Jensen, Min. Engg. II

### Money easy to get

To the Editor:

There must be some kind of epidemic running through the University to judge by all the whining, moaning and groaning that is going on. I'm not quite sure just what the technical term for this disease is, but it seems to have something to do with education funding cutbacks.

I don't understand the problem since student loans are plentiful and easy to get if you know the right way to fill out the forms. My heart bleeds for those who will no longer be able to go to Europe on their student loans since they will now have to use part of that money for next year's tuition. And for those of you who must (gasp) get a part time job to cover the fee increases have my sympathy also. I know exactly how hard it is for you to study and work, myself currently having two part time jobs covering 25 hours a week and taking 6 heavy courses this semester.

However, I'm sure this sickness will surely pass and you will all begin to realize that we only pay a minute portion of the real cost of our education. Furthermore, you will again remember that there is no free ride in this world, even though we are all secretly greedy and silently wish for it.

But, you know, rethinking my position, if the government finds some funds after the cutbacks have been implemented, the university system should receive the funds. We are the future and let us forget about those people on welfare, or those who are sickly and in need of hospital care (close the soup kitchens). Survival of the fittest you know! Forget about Social Services and Hospitals and Medical Care! Fund Advanced Education... No tuition increases ACT! rah rah rah...

Sharill Montgomery  
Business IV

### McViolence?

To the Editor:

RE: "What U Wear", 2 Jan. 1987.

Jerome Ryckborst, in "What U Wear", implies in his "Spiffy Uniform" article that people who wear uniforms are violent, or at least aggressive. He states that every "acceptable form of violence today is perpetrated by people in uniforms." Examples include: military, police, and sports players (particularly Hockey). I think his ideas must have come from shows like *Sledge Hammer* and *The Lords of Discipline*. He obviously has no personal experience in the matter.

I spent this summer on an officer training course in the military, a place where the violence of the military is supposed to be stereotypically shown. Although it was not easy, it was not stereotypically violent, or even near it. I spent six years in air cadets, an organization with ties to the military. I have relatives in the reserves. Most of my friends have at least been in cadets. Among all the people I have met in the military NOT ONE was more violent or aggressive than civilians. Most of them would literally not want to hurt a fly.

Mr. Ryckborst also ignored many other uniforms. Have you ever seen a violent girl guide or boy scout? Nurses? Dentists? Doctors? I suppose volleyball, basketball, and baseball, just to name a few, are violent sports?

The real role of Uniforms are identification. A soldier wears a uniform so that people will know who he is, what exactly his job is, how important he is, and what side he is on at a glance. (This is important in war so that he won't be killed by someone on his side). Police wear uniforms so that people will know that they can exert certain restrictions on other people, i.e. arrest, search and seizure of possessions, etc. Other people wear uniforms to have their profession or team easily recognizable. Most people with uniforms are proud to wear them, and don't have to be forced.

Mr. Ryckborst, please do us a favor. Stop using stereotypes for example of your ideas. You will probably insult people through your ignorance.

Heather McCaslin  
Engineering I

### Time to face reality

To the Editor:

A 3% cut in grants means a \$6.5 million decrease in funding. To MAINTAIN current standards, each of 25,000 students would have to pay an additional \$260, an increase of about 25%. This should be the MAXIMUM increase needed. Let's face it, our education has been inexpensive in the past. It's time to face reality.

Bennett Woudstra  
Education III

### Faculte NOT for sale!

To the Editor:

RE: Arthur Bobke's letter *Faculte For Sale*

Being a student, I am also now feeling the strains of education cutbacks as tuition fees rise and the quality of

cont'd...

...cont'd.

education seemingly decreases. Who isn't? But does this mean I will start singling out separate Faculties as cause to our problems?

I somewhat agree with you in saying that American tuition is higher, but with good reason. Also when you state that students do not have enough say in creating their own policy. However, if you feel that by selling the Faculte Saint-Jean you will bring end to our problems you are sadly mistaken!

Out of approximately five hundred students, (an enrolment number which has doubled within the last year) I am but one. You can now say you know someone who has taken a course there.

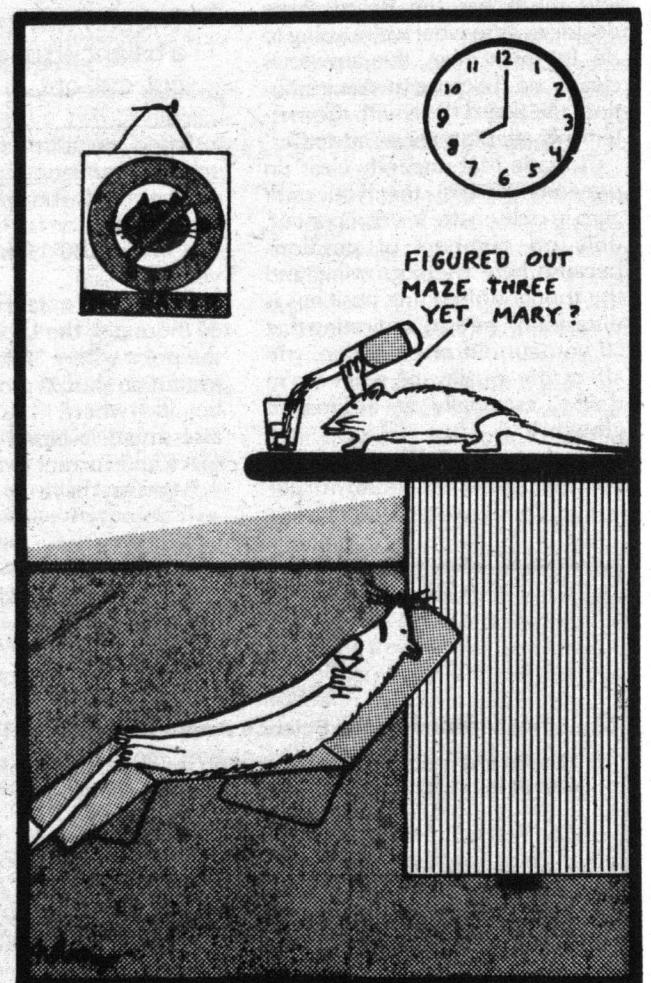
Obviously only a select few understand the special services the Faculte offers. It is the only French faculty in all of Western Canada. Surrounded by french culture, music and a certain french "air", we strive not only to understand and preserve a language, but a way of life.

Perhaps, Mr. Bobke you might meet with me next year after graduating and we will see just how far your Arts degree has gotten you in terms of employment.

Colleen Rathwell  
Saint-Jean III

The Round Corner

By Greg Whiting



Lab mice after hours.

## The Gateway

The Gateway is the newspaper of the University of Alberta students. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. All opinions are signed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway. News copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm 282 (ph. 432-5168). Advertising: Rm 256D (ph. 432-4241). Students' Union Building, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta. T6C 2G7. Readership is 25,000. The Gateway is a member of Canadian University Press.

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