

EDITORIAL

SU at end of universe

As I write this, the sun is shining and the universe is unfolding as it should.

The annihilation of the Watts' Slate in the recent SU election can only restore the faith of those previously cynical about the conservative attitudes among students. Students voted for a change, not for Floyd.

Now the political philosophers of the SU are reflecting on the campaign, mostly spitting out rhetoric on how the result was a reaction against the SU, a reaction against the negative image fostered throughout the year by Gateway types and others.

Admittedly, the Gateway did play a role, transmitting the image of incompetence and expediency among SUB second floor hacks. Unfortunately the image is correct.

Executive members usually enter office well-intentioned; they want to help students through the aid of their Union. But soon they get petty.

They begin to care more about what will better their resumes and what will reflect them in a bad light than what is simply right and wrong.

Part of the problem is the alienation that invariably occurs when somebody has not circulated within the student population for a year or more.

The Exec's acceptance of \$1050 per month, retroactive to July 1, 1983, proves that the SU Executive had no concept of what it like to be a University student, scraping out a living on less than \$600 per month.

Though Andrew Watts is a nice guy, he was getting a little too caught up in his own self importance and was out of touch with the students. I can't see how anyone could think they could cram a 33 per cent pay increase down students' throats, sucking \$1200 a month off of people who live on half that amount.

Floyd doesn't know student issues well. He is inexperienced and concentrated on unconstructive SU bashing in his campaign, but at least he isn't a hack.

At least, not yet.

Ken Lenz

The better teachers

Armand Forestier is a thirty-three year old schoolmaster of a three-room school in Arcy-sur-Aube, a French town ninety miles west of Paris.

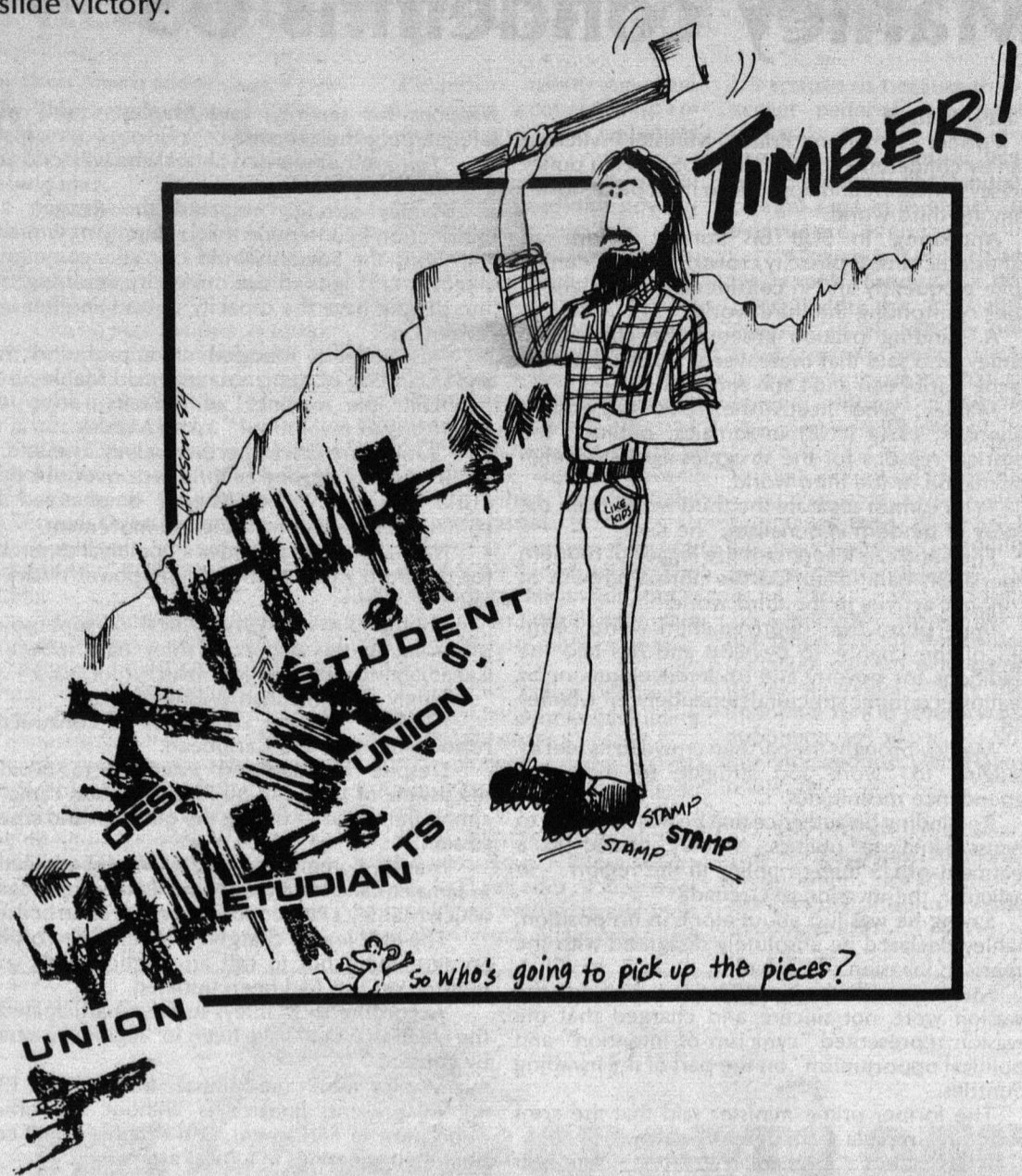
After graduating from the lycee, M. Forestier entered university, immersing himself in a six-year program of French history, French literature, and Romance philology, two years of philosophy, and a well-balanced science program combining six years of physics and chemistry.

Upon satisfactory qualification in these subjects, he was given the final written and oral tests that, when sustained, allowed him to apply for a teaching position at the primary level. So difficult is this examination that in a recent test given to 4781 candidates, only 681 passed. Of those who failed, most were stopped by the meticulous demands of an avalanche of required compositions on abstruse historical and philosophical problems, some of which required as long as seven hours to complete. Even so, the French Ministry of Education remains cavalier. It refuses to lower standards. There is no need to do so. French academic morale remains vigorous; Forestier's students regard him with a mixture of politeness, distance, respect, and admiration.

Each year, the ministry has more teaching applicants than it can consider. It solves the problem with frugal Gallic reasoning. It simply chooses the best.

Pierre Szamek
from Harper's

News Item: Floyd Hodgins wins SU presidency in a landslide victory.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Snider defends

The "Elect Shinkaruk Committee" was upset by the public announcement made by Glen Byer, CRO on Wednesday, February 8. Mr. Byer's ruling to disqualify candidates (including Jim Shinkaruk, B. of G. candidate) not mentioned in the so-called "Before you vote — Think about it" was made with no prior investigation or evidence.

The announcement was made during the election rally in SUB Theatre without prior warning to the candidates involved. This accusation discredited the candidates not named in the pamphlet. Specifically, Mr. Byer wrongly connected the individuals involved in circulating the literature as those not named in the pamphlet. Furthermore, the decision (attack) was made with no prior investigation or factual evidence. As a result, the people attending the rally were influenced and were led to question the honesty of some of the candidates. This unsupported attack had the potential of effecting the integrity and credibility of these candidates.

We were upset and concerned to learn that our efforts to run an honest and clean campaign could be marred by some false, slanderous and unsupported accusations. As the CRO's power of disqualification carries a great deal of responsibility, it is our suggestion that the by-laws be revised to limit such powers. Finally, the case should be investigated and a decision made.

Note: An individual has approached the CRO and has accepted the responsibility of distributing

the illegal campaign material. (The person was not connected to any of the campaigns.)

Dave Snider
Spokesperson for the
Elect Stinkaruk Committee

Robert proclaims

Recently there has been a lot of controversy surrounding the Canadian Federation of Students. Misperceptions and insinuations have almost buried the real issues behind a national student organization.

This summer, however, students will get a chance to see what CFS is all about. The U of A is hosting the CFS National General Meeting on May 16-22.

Anyone interested in helping with the general meeting and in finding out more about CFS is invited to a host committee meeting at 5:00 PM on Thursday, Feb. 16, in Rm. 270-A SUB.

Robert Greenhill
Su President

Tom clarifies

I refer to your article of Feb. 8/84 concerning fee for service. You stated that I deserved partial credit for the \$10,000 fee being dropped.

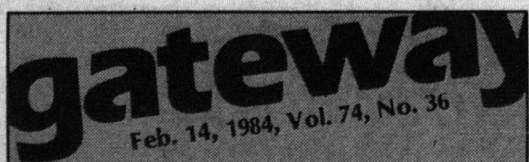
I sincerely apologize for being unclear in my explanation of the facts. Although I did say that I had been involved in negotiations on numerous occasions over the past two years, I thought that I had made it clear that I had also been *unsuccessful* in my attempts to have the fee revoked. The truth is that the fee was finally dropped thanks to negotiations between Robert Greenhill, Dave Norwood and Dr. Horowitz.

I appreciate your realizing that some things do happen in the Students' Union because of my efforts, but in this case, send the bouquet to Robert, he truly deserves it.

Tom Wright
SU Business Manager

Bernard condemns

Once again we are reminded of the types of idiots that we vote to represent us. Being in an institution of liberal education, it turns my stomach



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Holy Slalom, Batman! The Gilbertologists declare themselves a nation-state and enter the Winter Olympics. They disembark at Sarejevo, leaving behind Tim Kubash and Jordan Peterson in saffron robes and shaven heads to panhandle the plane fare home. Tom Juranka and Bosco Jang decry the exclusion of professionals at the hotel. Warren Opheim and Berni Poitras open up their suitcase and unfold their skis. Christine Koch and Tom Huh register for ice slam-dancing. Ian Ferguson and Jim Moore think the ski jumper should try going uphill. Patrice Struyk and Neal Watson try the pairs' competition in the singles' bars. Oscar Ammar says the snowfall is an American invasion force and Robert Greenhill and John Pfreim sign up for the two man luge. Michael Wynn beats the Russians at table hockey, and Paul Holloway thinks the biathletes are funny. Marie Clifford, Sarah Hickson and Bonnie Zimmerman form a splinter Gilbertologist group who worship Slivovitz.