

The Gateway

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. It is published by the Students' Union twice weekly during the winter session on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contents are the responsibility of the editor, opinions are those of the person expressing them. Letters to the editor on any subject are welcome, but must be signed. Please keep them short: letters should not exceed 200 words. Deadlines for submitting copy are 2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Main offices are located in Room 282, SUB for Gateway, Room 238 SUB for Media Productions. Phone 432-5168, 432-5178, 432-5750, Advertising 432-3423. Circulation 18,500.

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editorial

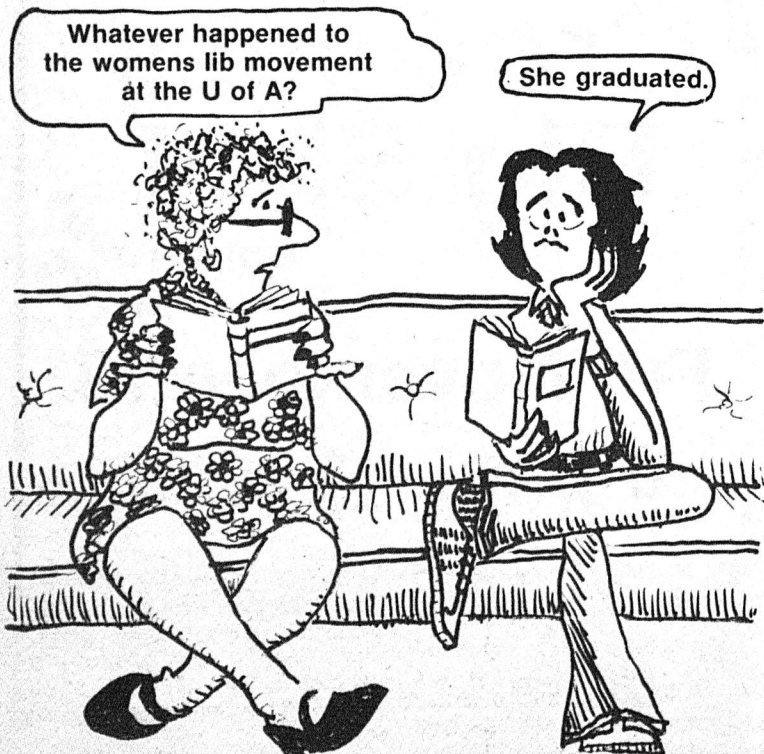
It's been six months since General Faculties Council agreed to establish a Standing Committee on Equal Opportunities and still, next to nothing has been done to get the committee organized and functioning. The administration has been working to finalize a structure for the committee, but because of disagreement about possible committee membership, they need to obtain final approval on the committee format before the group can be selected and begin to function properly. Six months is a long time to wait for something as necessary as this and it's about time something happened.

Yet I think it's indicative of the popular mood about the entire problem of sexual discrimination. People have discussed the prevalent sexist attitudes in society and most people now realize that discrimination based on gender is real and something that has to be solved. Now that people realize the problem, they figure they should slack off and let it solve itself. That's not good enough. Now is the time we should work hardest for concrete solutions. And the only way to solve the problem is to make people constantly aware of it and to ensure that certain situations are constantly monitored so that such discrimination does not take place.

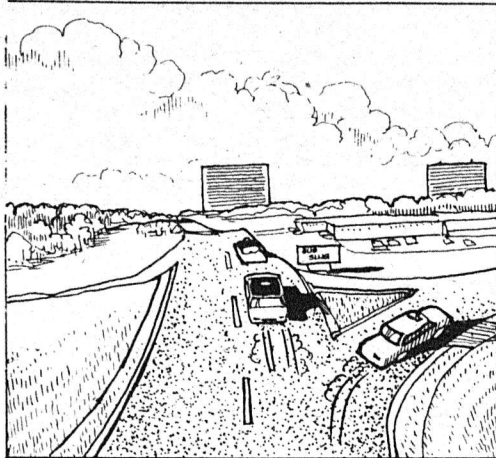
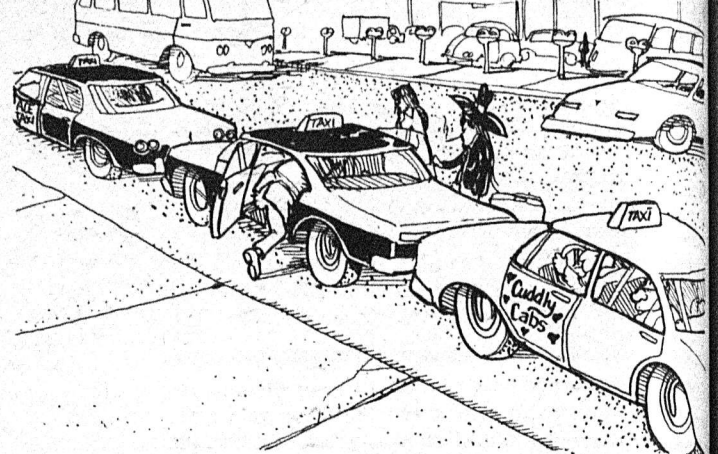
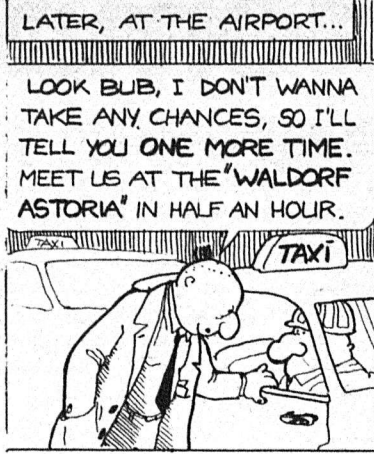
The aims of the GFC committee (soon to be a committee of the President) are to 1) check staff around campus to ensure that salaries are being paid in equal manner for people with equal job status, 2) monitor hiring patterns for sexist discrimination, 3) review numbers of male and female students in each faculty and school and "where obvious inequalities exist" to devise ways to overcome traditional attitudes that channel students into career patterns thought to be appropriate to their particular sex, and 4) assess female representation on GFC committees in the hopes of increasing that representation where it does not reflect adequate male/female ratios.

Those are all good aims. And they all do something tangible about the problem of sexual discrimination. Unlike stories in papers about sexual discrimination (such as our inside feature - a reprint from last year's paper which explains the problem as it appears in emotional relationships, eloquently and logically) which can only try to expose or explain a problem, this committee can, hopefully, actually do something about the problem. A half a year is long enough, and on top of the many years of sexual discrimination that have existed in Canada, it's much, much too long.

Kevin Gillese



BUB SLUG by Delaney & Rasmussen



Don't give to Colin Ross fund

I would like to comment on Wayne Kondro's review of my book, *Northern Studies*, in *Gateway*, Nov. 2. There is much that I like and agree with in the review, but a few misconceptions require clarification.

It's not quite true that I "said the modern Indian has become immersed in the politics of civilization and lost his deep rooted perception." I believe that in general northern Indians are less civilized now than they were two hundred years ago. Only a small minority of natives devote much time to energy or politics.

I don't "imply that the claims for land and native rights by these people are but irresponsible opportunism which we Canadians have for centuries been attentive to because of our neuroses." And more important, *Northern Studies* contains no "suggestions such as Mr. Ross' that Indian and Eskimo claims be violently suppressed..." I don't use the word "neuroses," and since treaties 8 and 11 were signed in 1899 and 1921, we can't have been attentive to northern land claims for centuries. I don't say that land claims should be suppressed, or suppressed at all: it is armed occupation of Canadian territory by militant citizens - Indian, white, or ex-New Guinea headhunters - to which I object.

In respect to funding of native organizations I don't "propose that we stop wasting our money so foolishly and spend a smaller portion in a manner which will relieve our guilt and reap a more profitable return." I recommend throwing guilt out the window, and cutting back on the funding. Mr. Kondro hasn't lived in the north, and can't name native individuals (my relatives), give their salaries and

document their complete lack of sincere interest in the native organizations. Nor can he name the minority (more distant relatives) who have worked hard in native politics. The kind of profitable return I would like reaped, and for which argue in the book, is remote from industrial economic return on capital investment.

As for the section of the review, overstressed, which prompted the editor's title: "Give To The Colin Ross Fund," that kind of wit only thinly disguises a malicious hostility. Think of the taxpayers' money spent annually on the English departments. Is it really absurd to propose that a small number of specialists in Northern Studies be funded independently of the universities? One cannot take a degree in the kind of study I have conducted in the North.

Mr. Kondro says of the Dene: "We cannot deny them the basic right of control over their own lives." That remark isn't addressed to anything in *Northern Studies*. It is a cliché-language appropriate to uninformed southern journalism. "But it would be foolish to deny them the opportunity for success," says Mr. Kondro.

How is the federal government supposed to offer an Indian "success"? Could we make it easier for an Indian to become a successful medicine man by giving him money? Surely to supply planes, guns, radios and skidoos does not make it easier for an Indian to become a real hunter. Don't these supplies make it more likely that he will become an efficient butchering machine? The government calls such activity "harvesting native country food."

Indians have all the oppor-

tunities they need to be successful lawyers, welders, administrators. The federal government can't supply the motivation to become a lawyer. What it does supply is money.

But then if we should be giving the Dene "control" how can we force them to go to school? What if they don't want to go to school, or work, or hunt? Are we ethically compelled to provide that opportunity too? Apparently so. Next thing we will be providing Indians the opportunity to say hello to each other. Come to think of it, we already do. The Canadian taxpayer pays for my mother-in-law to say hello to her relatives in Fort Norman on the radio. She talks on the telephone in Norman Wells and it's broadcast from Inuvik.

Next thing there will be government bureaucrat assigned to open the door of her outhouse. The event will be received as a good extended-family joke.

Colin Ross
 Commerce

GATEWAY NOTES:

At last a Gateway party. Details up in the offices (Room 282 SUB) and all staffers are invited.

Staffers who wish to attend the Christmas national conference of Canadian University Press (CUP) in Vancouver should drop by the offices and talk to Kevin Gillese this week.

Where have all the new reporters gone? Likely to study for their courses... and the result is we're back to a two-person news staff. Anyone interested in writing news, please please please drop by Room 282, SUB and talk to us.