

editorial

Election doldrums

Tomorrow is the day for students to decide which of two candidates they prefer to take the seat of vp finance and administration of the Students' Union. Unfortunately, I predict turnout at the polls will be almost non-existent, due to the low profile of the election campaign.

The entire vp finance situation has become a muddle that is difficult to deal with. The other four members of the executive are largely responsible for the fiasco and the problem can be traced back to last spring.

At that time, the executive refused to take action when it was obvious that Kyle Peterson (former vp finance) was unable to fulfill the demands of the position. Then in order to make up for their procrastination, they, through the nominating committee, hastily appointed Glen Gallinger without first meticulously checking out his references and business background.

Gallinger has from all indications not met the demands of his job as well as the executive hoped, and their displeasure is evidenced by the comments they made for Tuesday's *Gateway* story concerning Gallinger's Administration Board problems. Here again, the executive failed to tackle the problem directly, and instead chose to coast through and hope for the best.

This all leads to tomorrow's by-election. If Gallinger wins, the executive and the Students' Union is stuck with him whether he is adequate or not. If Willie Gruber wins, then at least another month will be burned up before he has the position under control, and by that time, there will be only four months left in his term of office.

Besides all of this, neither candidate for the position has conducted an impressive campaign. While Gallinger has been guilty of embarrassing overkill, Gruber has apparently conceded defeat even before the votes have been cast. Both candidates failed to submit a statement to the *Gateway* "election forum" which ran last issue. This opportunity is one of the few chances candidates have to make their platforms known and introduce themselves to voters.

All of these things have made the election a dismal joke. The position of vp finance and administration is one of the most difficult and complex jobs on the executive. If any of the executive portfolios should be contested in high profile, the finance one is it.

Instead, we have had one candidate turn off many people with his abusive use of posters and the other candidate give up and not campaign at all. It is indeed a sad, sad state of affairs.

For the last three years, there has been at least one executive member who has given his fellow members, Students' Council and the Students' Union in general innumerable and unnecessary headaches. Perhaps the method of selecting Students' Union representatives should be reconsidered in light of student apathy and the subsequent lack of suitable, competent candidates.

Time for a change? You bet it is.

Gordon Turtle

the Gateway

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"If it happens on campus...tell the Journal"

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	Mark with an X the candidate of your choice. Mark only one candidate and do not put any other marks on your ballot.
	GALLINGER, Glen
	GRUBER, Willie
X	None of the above

Just wishful thinking...

Library service terrible!

I am a new student at U of A and would like to state to the world (and anyone else who's interested) my extreme dissatisfaction with, and poor opinion of, the Cameron and Rutherford libraries.

My first experience with these institutions was in my first week, when I stood in line for half an hour to get my library card. It seems that there had been some kind of foulup and my card had been printed with the wrong I.D. number (an understandable sort of problem). I was informed by a cheerful clerk that a new card would be ready for me in a phenomenal six weeks (it is not ready yet). In the meantime I could use a temporary library card (read piece of paper, awkward for wallet storage).

In my next brush with the libraries I never even got through the front door. It seems that students are not expected to want to study after 6 p.m. on Friday evenings (or on Saturday evenings, or Sunday mornings). So I spent a pleasant few hours rubbing elbows and books with other patrons of a packed study hall. On entering the library the next day, I found a large proportion of the study area devoted to

reserved carrel, for fourth-year and honour students, I am told. The presence of such a privileged group of students on a university campus came as a surprise to me.

The final straw landed heavily today when I decided to take out a book with my dandy temporary card. I have just waited thirteen (carefully counted) minutes in order to have my book checked out by a woman of slow and deliberate motions who seems to have no qualms about working in a

system that does not even have the sense to segregate quick charge-out procedures from more lengthy book reservations and other mysterious operations.

I am inclined to congratulate the U of A libraries on their perversity and general ineptitude, but will gladly stand corrected should someone see fit to explain this apparent lack of concern with providing a reasonable standard of service to students of this university.

Lynne Shalom

GFC openings serious

I would like to take exception to some of the statements in the article on page two of the Wednesday, Oct. 10 *Gateway* entitled, Vacancies on GFC. First of all the student vacancies which do exist on GFC are serious. GFC deals with a number of issues which both directly and indirectly affect the students of this campus. With the number of vacancies which exist on GFC student input is naturally limited.

It is essential that all of the student vacancies on GFC be filled as soon as possible. More important it is vital that the students who fill those vacancies are willing to contribute to the operation of GFC.

In this article I am quoted as saying, "It's only a matter of time before the positions are filled."

Let's save energy...

Our nervous systems have recently brought to our attention that the rooms in V-Wing are competing with Inuvik for the setting of record minimum temperatures.

Is this a plot by the Hudson's Bay Vending Co. to sell more coffee? Could it be that university maintenance personnel are still trying to calculate normal room temperature in degrees Celsius? Is not the extra revenue from differential fees enough to buy a little natural gas, which is plentiful and cheap in our province? Or is it that Myer Horowitz is really a cold-blooded Eskimo?

Aha, the answer! The nominds that run the thermostats are recent immigrants from Australia, and have not yet realized that winter north of the equator is October to April.

D. Mazurek
J. Yaremko
Civil Engineering

This is only true because of the concern and effort on the part of existing GFC student members to make sure those vacancies are filled.

In closing I would like to congratulate all the current student representatives on GFC for their involvement. Furthermore I would like to encourage all students interested in serving on GFC to get in touch with myself or Chanchal Bhattacharya the VP Academic of the Students' Union.

Chris Hansen
Chairperson of GFC Student
Caucus

Noisy media

I just wish to have the following noted as I am sure the *Gateway* will not report it. During the last Students' Council meeting the members of the media were requested to be quiet. The reason for this request was that their card game was disturbing council proceedings. So, if you wonder why so many people are misquoted, now you know.

Alan McNaughton
Eng. 2
Engineering rep

Character impugned

In retrospect, perhaps my letter of last issue went beyond the bounds of propriety in impugning the character of Dr. Allen with respect to the study space crisis. The wheels of bureaucracy don't always turn as slowly as impatience sometimes suggests, evidenced by the opening of more space this weekend and until Christmas. My sincere apologies to Dr. Allen.

Robert Kirk
G.F.C. Science Rep.