

## An Apple dispute a day keeps the Beatles away

THAT SOUND YOU HEAR IS DEFINITELY NOT THE Beatles playing on your iTunes—unless of course you ripped, downloaded, copied, or otherwise easily transformed their music within seconds into a digital rendition yourself. That's because the Fab Four have never released any of their music in digital format. Everything's about to change, however, as Apple has announced that it will soon be selling the Beatles' catalogue on their flagship music store.

This may not seem like a big deal at first, but given the history between these two camps, it's actually quite a surprising development. Back in 1968, the Beatles started up their own management company (and tax umbrella) called Apple Corps. But despite George Harrison's affinity for Monty Python-esque humour, it wasn't just a punny name. It also had a logo—you guessed it, an Apple.

Once Apple Computer Inc came around, however, things changed. It was felt that the technology startup's logo, then as now an apple with a bite taken out of it (but with cheesy rainbow colours to boot), was a copyright infringement on Apple Corps' logo (which was basically just a picture of a Granny Smith, but never mind). A series of lawsuits by Apple Corps followed, effectively curtailing any venture by Apple Computers into the music industry.

These days, such a restriction seems unrealistic, as the latter company is a towering figure in the music business. But it was not until May of this year that a British judge ruled that iTunes' logo was not a breach of copyright agreement, officially giving Steve Jobs and co the official go-ahead to deliver musical content—Beatles or otherwise—under the Apple banner.

Given this litigative history, the latest act of cooperation between the two camps is indeed quite shocking. But of course, all is forgiven now due to one simple fact: the Beatles (still) sell music. Truckloads of it. And soon, server-loads of it. Hell, they're even on the charts right now, this time thanks to *LOVE*, a glorified *Cirque de Soleil* soundtrack remixed by former producer George Martin and son Giles.

There's even talk of Apple releasing a Beatles-themed iPod, which will presumably be much like the annoying and pointless U2-themed iPod that they put out a couple of years ago. And while thousands of the group's ever-rabid fans will undoubtedly pony up for digital versions of their favourite hits, it's hard not to see all of this as a marketing gimmick on both sides.

Nor is this the first time a British rock & roll supergroup from the 1960s has teamed up with a giant computer corporation to sell a product. You may recall back in 1995, when Microsoft released its Windows '95 incarnation, Bill Gates et al paid the Rolling Stones a whopping \$10 million for the rights to use "Start Me Up" for their commercials, tying in neatly as it did with that operating system's "Start" button feature. Now, with Windows Vista, Microsoft's latest OS incarnation, hitting PC hard drives everywhere (whether you like it or not), one can't help but think that Apple, feeling the technological heat, will release a *White Album*-themed iMac sometime in the near future.

Until then, legions of Beatles fans will have to be satisfied with whatever fruits the Apples decide to drop for them. Or they could just listen to the Stones, because they're better anyway—and their music has been on iTunes all along.

ADAM GAUMONT  
Opinion Editor

## Bomb busters abuzz

BECAUSE OF THEIR EXCEPTIONAL OLFACTORY SENSE, honey bees have been recruited by the US military to sniff out bombs. Using nectar laced with TNT, this multi-year project gradually weaned the bees of their sweet staple until they were programmed to desire pure explosive power. But as the newest potential weapon in the War on Terror, perhaps it would have been more helpful if these honey-lovers had been trained to seek out fictional weapons of mass destruction.

MATT FREHNER  
Editor-in-Chief

## LETTERS

### Whole tuition story needs to be heard

It's heartening to see students vigorously debating the affordability of university education (or lack thereof) in these pages. It's important for students to have this debate in public as affordability is really at a crossroads. With the recent government policy change of indexing fees to the consumer price index, student pressure over several years has effectively won a freeze on increases.

However, the underlying problem remains that Alberta's tuition fees skyrocketed from the second lowest in Canada in 1990 to nearly \$500 above the national average today—levels that are a solid barrier for many Albertans who chose not to attend. And while the argument has been reiterated in recent letters that everyone here can cover their tuition bill, it has not been sufficiently reiterated that many students must rely on part-time work and take on debt to pay that bill.

Both work and debt are sources of significant stress, which makes for a playing field that's far from level for all here, to say nothing of those who can't or don't think they can afford university. In a province looking to diversify its economy and with the resources we have available, the pressures and barriers to students simply should not exist.

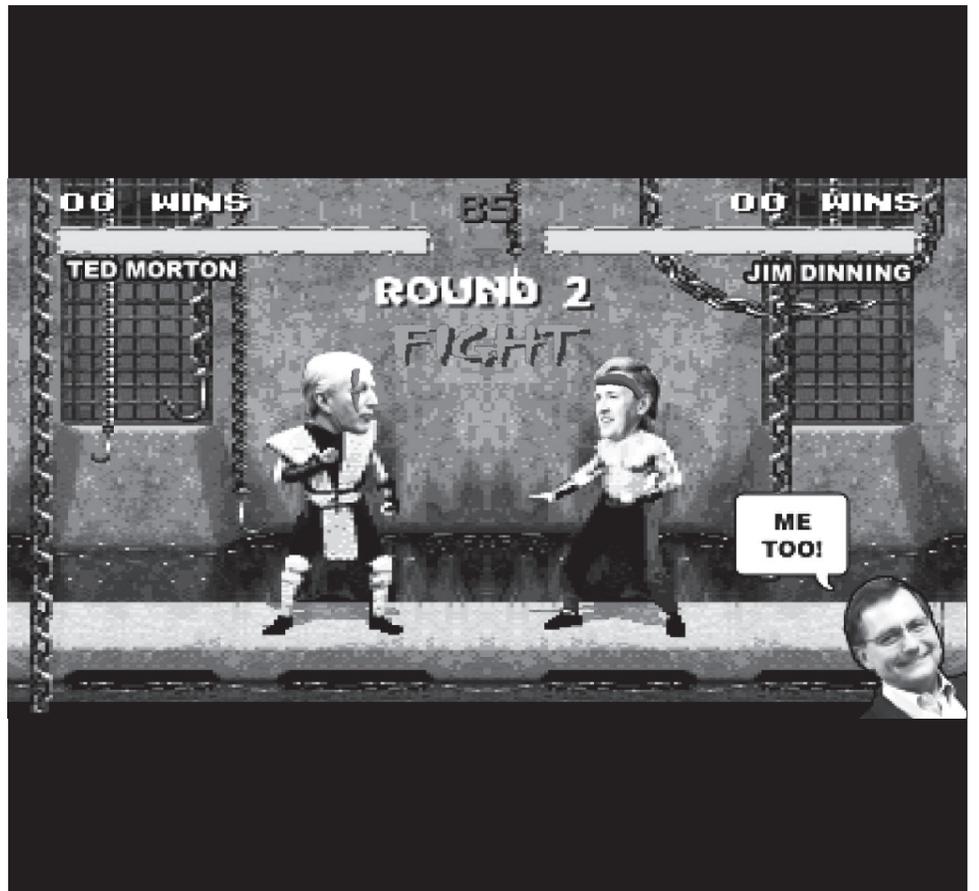
There are a few troubling comments from the letters I feel I should address: Chris Tsang ("The tuition it is a-risin,'" 23 November) and Devin Sawatzky ("Engineers rage on over tuition debate," 28 November) asserted that "times have changed" since our parents' generation enjoyed substantially more affordable university, [with] both erroneously suggesting that "facilities have improved." Unfortunately this simply isn't true. Take the Arts buildings, where there hasn't been a new building in 35 years, despite a 40 per cent increase in Arts enrolment.

Sawatzky also argued that, "like a beer," education has become more expensive over the last 15 years mainly because of inflation. It should be noted, however, that if tuition had been indexed to Alberta inflation over those last 15 years it would be barely over \$2000. Tuition has far more than doubled even after adjusting for inflation.

As for Tsang's comments, it's a fact that there are fewer professors at the U of A than there were 15 years ago, while there are 8000 more students. Further, these fewer professors are under more pressure than ever to focus their time on research, which necessarily comes at the expense of teaching. Our profs work hard to manage crowded classes while balancing research projects and grant funding.

The common thread of the shut-up-tuition-is-fine letters is that tuition is an investment in personal benefit, and that grads will earn more in the long run. Our view is that the time, energy, lost wages, living costs, books and modest tuition fees are already a sufficient investment. Grads don't earn more because of their credentials, they earn more because their work is specialized and highly skilled and, therefore, valuable—not because of what they paid in tuition.

These myths can be dismissed



MIKE KENDRICK

as simply ill-informed; however, Tsang and Bryan Orr's insensitive comments about Ms Conklin's challenges as a single mother ("Conklins can't get a break in Edmonton," 28 November) just reinforce my view that students in more difficult situations need strong advocates to protect their interests as much as ever. And the Students' Union will continue to be that advocate.

SAMANTHA POWER  
SU President

### 'Geers own this bitch

Greetings everyone, from the red-neck capital of campus. I just wanted to continue the trend of engineers filling the opinion section to let everyone know that we are awesome and you are not. We are so freaking dedicated and deserve everything we get. Anyone who disagrees or isn't happy [is a] lazy communist bastard. Bottom line is tuition is fair because we say it is. I'm so proud to be an engineer because we are the most fucking humble, understanding people around.

Stayed tuned for more next issue, when one of my classmates will give an update on why we're better than you. Until then, my parents aren't rich, I'm not in debt, for some reason you make me sick to my stomach, and you suck!

JASON LUK  
Engineering IV

### Cooler heads will prevail in tuition debate

A recent letter to the editor calls on students to quit their "bitching" about tuition (re: "Engineers rage on over tuition debate," 28 November). This leads to despair of university life as nothing more than an exercise in conformity. I want the opposite—discussion, debate, advocacy, anything other than simply submitting, even if I'm opposed to your position. Why? Because the point of being here, as a colleague likes to say, is to run the risk of getting an education.

When I was an undergraduate in the '70s, tuition accounted for 10 per cent of the cost of running this university. Along with the budget cuts of the '90s aimed at eliminating the provincial deficit, the burden on students inflated to 25 per cent. This was made palatable by de-emphasis on an educated society as a civic benefit, to policy reflecting the assumption that a degree is a private investment pursued for individual gain.

The success of this strategy can be measured by the unquestioning submission today to its rationale. But the percentage borne by students is not written in stone—its so-called logic is based on an assumption. And that assumption is being called into question, especially now that the debt and deficit, which gave rise to tuition increases, have been eliminated.

I believe that each person is given gifts for the good of all. That's an assumption based in my theological convictions that I am quite willing to debate. From that perspective, university education should serve to educate rather than enslave. I think that's worth "bitching" about.

REV RICHARD REIMER  
Lutheran Campus Ministry

### Desperate times call for desperate measures

Kudos to Mike Kendrick (re: "LA a hotspot of police brutality," 23 November). He has just opened our eyes to the evil, and apparently not so secret, "taser Muslim students on sight" clause of the Patriot Act. How could we have not noticed that before?

Now, back to reality. Personally, I sympathise with Mr Tabatabaiejad. 300 kilovolts can't be pleasant, whether you were being a rude, uncooperative idiot or not. However, placing the blame for this at the feet of some kind of "hero" mentality, the Patriot Act and Dubya is a stretch, even for the hyperbolic, often reality-impaired political left.

Stone Age civil rights? If having to carry a student ID around on campus after 11pm is a sign of the Stone Age, then Canada must be somewhere

between barbarism and oblivion because I get asked for many kinds of ID all the time. I guess the next step is the Gestapo. As for the "hero" mentality, that is shown in the actions of the NYFD on 9/11 and coalition troops in Afghanistan. Real heroes are those fighting in Afghanistan to give Afghans the opportunity to taste the freedoms that we Canadians enjoy but often do not truly appreciate. Some taser-happy wannabe cop in LA who gets pissed off at a hyperactive student isn't living out his "hero" fantasy, and can is hardly indicative of an entire nation.

Don't judge a book by the cover, people say—but Mr Kendrick has managed to judge an entire nation by the title of one book. I don't suppose you read Mr Abrams' book before you called him a stupid and ignorant patriot? I doubt it, but then again, I'm sure you find any kind of patriotism, including the "Strong, Proud" Canadian version, uncouth and ignorant. It's much cooler, not to mention easier, to stand for vague, fuzzy, feel-good and useless UN declarations than to support anything real that may need to be defended. As a member of "our generation" I can say that I have a greater distrust of people whose perpetual "victim" mentalities allow them to proliferate and perpetrate atrocities rather than those people whose supposed "hero" mentality asks us to carry ID cards late at night.

And, as a newly sworn Canadian citizen, if my patriotism means the rest of the world hates me then so what? I'd rather enjoy the "stone age" civil rights of the US than the 'enlightened' freedoms offered by the rest of the world in such places as North Korea, Sudan, Iran, Saudi Arabia etc.

ALEX GORDON  
Engineering III

### The definition of rad

Paul Knoechel has done some good work for the Gateway, but I had several problems with his article "Chicks Dig the Radical Lesbian Feminism" (28 November).

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