

Bungling Bobby not fit to lead

TO ME, BOBBY SAMUEL ALWAYS SEEMED LIKE a puppy—mostly harmless and happy to see you regardless of how you might have treated him. However, as puppies are wont to do, he recently took a shit behind the couch thinking nobody would notice, and was then surprised when he got smacked on the nose with the rolled-up newspaper of democracy. And though printing and distributing the “Bobby Fan Club” invitations didn’t technically break any rules, he was still playing dirty election pool.

Apparently, this move was all about being “genuine, bold, and smart”—though he fails to show those qualities through this act. Bold, perhaps, in that he printed what basically amounts to an admission of his failures over the past year—though he manages to put enough positive spin on it to make you dizzy. However, there’s nothing smart or genuine about this move—Samuel has effectively shattered his smiling, innocent persona, revealing himself to be a sneak, though a bungling one at that. Now, he’s been caught with his hand in the campaign cookie-jar, and he’s unsure of how to defend himself, initially admitting to wrongdoing in Council but later denying any guilt.

Perhaps what’s most disheartening about the entire affair is how little Samuel seemed to care about the angry reactions of the Executive and Council members. His actions clearly upset other councillors, yet he failed to apologize for what he had done, stating that while it could be considered pre-campaigning, it wasn’t in violation of any rules. While Council felt that he had abused his power, Samuel ignored their concerns, chalking it up to a mere matter of differing perspectives.

He states that he was attempting to get input from students so that he could better run his campaign; however, you can’t claim that you want to listen to the voice of the students and then turn around and ignore the concerns of those we elected to speak for us. Yes, only 20 per cent of the student populace may have voted, but I’m one of them, and I voted for many of the people currently in office. So by ignoring them, Samuel has ignored my vote, along with those of 7354 others. Our VP (Academic) has shown that he doesn’t represent students—he represents himself.

In response to the censuring, Samuel released a statement in an effort to present his side of the story. However, in reading it, I got the sense that he considers himself some kind of tragic hero being persecuted by the “establishment” that he fights so valiantly against. And if what he’s fighting against is an organization designed to represent us, then why should we support him? The candidates aren’t bureaucratic suits planted by the University in order to control the troublesome student populace, as he seems to make them out to be—they’re students just like you or me.

Whether or not distancing oneself from the current student government is a good move is debatable; however, the manner in which he chose to set himself apart is disgraceful. No matter who you are, if you anger and lose the support of 76 per cent of your colleagues before an election, then you are unfit to lead and have no business running for SU president.

Samuel claims to want to fight student apathy and make the SU less of a joke—or “gong show” as he so eloquently put it—so why should I vote for somebody who approaches student politics in the same mud-slinging manner that the politicians at the Legislature do? If he wants to win based on merit, then he shouldn’t be attempting to pander to the student body by kissing first-years and high-fiving frat boys. We aren’t morons, and he sure as hell isn’t our savior.

CONAL PIERSE
Opinion Editor

One at a time, morons

Needed a mixer,
But the coke machine was broke.
Stop stealing, you fucks.

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor



Upon realizing that her puppeteering skills aren’t up to par, Indira Samarasekera decides that appointment is a bad idea

KELSEY TANASIUK

LETTERS

Afrocentric schools not my bread and butter

Thanks to Tom Wagner and Cody Civiero for writing about the recently approved Afrocentric school in Toronto (re: “Are Afrocentric schools segregation or advancement?” 5 February). It was great to see that not only people of Caribbean decent are talking about this.

As a woman of colour, I would never send my children to an Afrocentric school. Mr Wagner argues that having an Afrocentric school isn’t segregation because this is the choice of these black individuals. Well that’s simply ignorant. The parents who have pushed for such a school are segregating their children; choosing to be segregated is no better than being forced into segregation.

If Caribbean-Canadian students don’t want to attend regular public school, then what makes these parents so sure that an Afrocentric school is going to make them want to attend school? I haven’t seen any data so far that suggests black Caribbean-Canadian students have a lower drop-out rate when attending Afrocentric schools.

As a parent, I’ll ensure that my children learn about their Caribbean-West-Indian-American-British

heritage from me. It’s not the school’s responsibility to teach my children about their culture. As a parent, I’ll work with my children’s teachers and help to ensure that my children receive a quality education and stay on the path to success.

In my opinion, these students that are going to attend this Afrocentric school are going to have a difficult time once they graduate from high school. I hope the parents that pushed for an Afrocentric school plan on starting an Afrocentric university complete with post-graduation Afrocentric jobs.

PS: Sorry, I can’t eat butter!

YO’VELLA MIZRAHII
Open Studies

Gateway not informing at a satisfactory level

Youth—the people with the most at stake in any election—are the people least likely to vote. All thinking people decry this as a travesty. And yet, the Gateway can’t be bothered to include a single mention of the Alberta provincial election in a paper published the day after the election starts?

Yes, I understand that it’s difficult to report on breaking news when you have to wait 24 hours for your paper to be printed, but the only mystery was whether the writ would be dropped on Monday

or Tuesday. Indeed, you were able to get stories on the Super Tuesday primaries. Those hadn’t happened by press time either. I’m as interested in the US presidential race as anyone else, but no one in that race is going to decide what happens with my tuition next year.

You dropped the ball pretty badly, there, Gateway. Pick it up.

JASON MORRIS
Law I

Province makes voting easy, so get out and do it

Well, my fellow students, it’s election time again. If you’re anything like me, you plan to be nowhere near your riding on Election Day.

As long as you’re only away from your family home temporarily (ie you plan to go back there over the summer, or you still live with your parents as far as taxes are concerned) the riding your family is in is considered your riding.

You may think this puts a serious crimp in your plans to exercise your democratic rights, but don’t despair: Elections Alberta has already made you two backup plans. If you’re going to be back home soon, check out the advanced polls in the area.

If those don’t work for you, you can request a special ballot—it probably takes less time than walking to the polling station and standing in

line for five minutes.

Take two minutes right now to print, fill out, and mail a really simple form, or you can even call the elections office and save yourself the postage. Then sit back and wait for your ballot to come in the mail. Two minutes to fill that out and mail it back, and you’re home free and have complaining rights for the next four years.

Special ballots, advanced polls, and everything else you could need can be found at www.elections.ab.ca.

Honestly, if the Alberta Government wanted to make this difficult, they’d use chads.

MARION KILGOUR
Engineering V

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Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author’s name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.

And, apparently, you guys read this shit, so the Gateway challenges you to send us an interesting letter about geology.