ELIZABETH MACRILLAN

If there's a female candidate in an election, I'll vote for her over male counterparts. I'll do this regardless of prior experience, proven ability or even ideology. I'll do this because there aren't enough women in politics, and because this isn't going to change unless someone takes a chance and people support her potential.

Do women deserve a position just because they're women? Yes. Politics is something that people learn by doing. Given the chances, women can develop equal ability to every man running.

Fourteen years after Kim Campbell became the first female prime minister, the Canadian political landscape still isn't very female. In the old boys' club that's always been the case, there's only been an average two per cent increase in the number of female Members of Parliament. Today, women hold six out of a possible 308 seats. Odd, isn't it? That just over one per cent of the population account for 20 per cent of all federal representation? More like unacceptable. By continuing to produce male-dominated systems, we never succeeded in changing the status quo. We need representatives who actually represent the population.

Around the world, the proportion of women in governments was 16 per cent in 2005. Here in Canada, we're nowhere close to the stated parliamentary goal of 30 per cent women MPs. Zero to 15—such as 50—doesn't happen overnight, but at this rate, it's going to take forever.

Therefore something drastic needs to be done. In every level of Canadian politics, male modes are a dime a dozen. Even if they do their job well, they're still doing the same thing that's always been done. If male candidates are in fact concerned about equity, why aren't they campaigning for someone else?

I wouldn't be waiting now than wait for a time when all female candidates are deemed ready for their experiences than agree with what she does. Giving women the opportunity to hold powerful positions opens the door for other women to do the same. I didn't used to think this way. But including women changes the nature of politics, makes people more interested, less impatient. I'd like to believe that gender is no longer an issue, but even in student politics, that's far from the case. Having female politicians running in the judicial and legislatures doesn't seem to change trends that go beyond campus.

Realistically, it's most surprising that women aren't in a rush to put their names on ballots. There are few female role models in politics right now to begin with, and the women who do make it into the political arena are either vilified or objectified.

BREATHE ROUND TABLES

President Samarasena invites students to join her for breakfast and an open discussion on topics of interest to you.

Where: Friday, March 16, 2007, 7:30 am to 8:30 am
Where: Student Center Room, Faculty Club, 1345 Saskatchewan Drive
Register to attend at www.studentaffairs.ucalgary.ca

Market Research Interviewer

• Conduct interviews over the telephone from our centrally located call centre, accurately enter data into a computer system.
• Absolutely no sales involved.
• Position requires excellent telephone manner and typing skills.
• Flexible scheduling with shift choices.
• Company benefits plan.
• $10.50 / hour to start, with performance based reviews.

TREND HRES ON AN ONGOING BASIS

The days of political gomor are no more

Paul Knoele

The secret ballot, a centerpiece of democratic experimentation, has gone and broken my heart. For the longest time, I had no idea where my path would take me in terms of a career. Despite years in university and a childhood spent dreaming of public service, I didn't want to do when you grew up? I was at a loss, that is, until I was struck by revelation. And by revelation, I mean brewers.

It was right to the side of the face, out of nowhere, during a Kleenex-fueled concert when I was trying to enjoy the group's soothing punish-rock stylings. To make a long story short, I discovered that people thought I had a knack for knocking elbows in large, tightly packed crowds.

So what does this have to do with my career aspirations? Throwing elbows isn't usually the most sought after skill in the world, after all. Well, I have much more to offer employers. I'm adequately composed in almost all tasks, large enough to be intimidating to small children, being enough to be inconspicuous—and, after countless hours of playing Grand Theft Auto, am completely lacking in any form of morals, ethics or government, and my common for most of the populace, and I'm sure the perfect right-hand man for any campaigner.

Yes, political goomor seemed like the ideal line of work for me. Most of the time, you had to go! In the end, we get coffee, copy this, call person X and

So far. But even so, it's broken up by the likes of Go! Blackmail this person, bribes that union, and whatever. So imagine my disappointment when I discovered that the golden age of voter intimidation ended in 1974 when the Government of Canada officially abolished the secret ballot a mere seven years after Confederation.

Almost any other point in history would have served me because in this great democratic experiment, it's the lifestyle of a political goom. Of the thousands of years humans existed without democracy, all I would have to do is make sure that the people were good, and stop being a fascist (the last ill.). So when the heathen at the top. The first Western democracy in Athens, for example, there were a lot less people that could vote—and therefore less people in government.

Even in the age of modern democracy, the secret ballot doesn't go away. In political events, with crowds of voters shouting support for our candidate or another. The result was that the elbow-gripping skills would have served me here. Now what am I supposed to do with this? A skillful elbow double—but hardly a career.

I suppose that's the ever-changing face of democracy. Judging by the replies I've been getting back from political government, it seems we are planning to bring back oral balloting. But that doesn't mean I'm giving up on my job. It seems to be steered. I'm glad that there's still plenty of electoral and political corruption out there—I just wish it was still as open as it once was. I'd get to toss some elbows into the mix.