

# EDITORIAL

## Sorry spectacle

For almost a year now, Canadians have been assaulted by a barrage of news and analyses on the U.S. Presidential race. The entire sorry spectacle will come to an abrupt end Tuesday, but both potential outcomes should make us glad we don't have to vote.

As close neighbors of both world superpowers, it is easy to understand the influence of U.S. and Soviet decisions on world events. It is also easy to understand the resentment generated in any country, be it Afghanistan or Iran, that feels intruded upon and interfered with. With the record of Carter and the rhetoric of Reagan, however, U.S. foreign policy appears to have fallen flat on its back on these issues.

During the Tuesday night debate, both Ronnie and Jimmy skated blithely around the foreign policy questions facing them. Neither candidate responded thoughtfully and with insight; both acted as if the views of other nations didn't count.

Carter, it must be admitted, was slightly more perceptive than Reagan. He favours passage of the SALT II treaty, citing as one reason the acceptance of the treaty by European allies living on the potential battlefield. He also turned the tables and asked how the Soviets would react to an American president who scrapped SALT II, built up the nuclear arsenal, and then tried to negotiate, as Reagan claims he would, an arms reduction treaty more favorable to U.S. interests.

But Carter is not the dove many people hope for. In fact, in a Cold War situation, Carter is more likely to embroil the U.S. in a Korea or Vietnam simply to prove his military manhood. After Angola, Iran and Afghanistan, he can no longer afford to appear weak without facing a serious reaction from voters and allies alike.

Reagan, on the other hand, would lean towards invisible and insidious intervention through the CIA and other means in Latin American and Africa to prop up "allies" with dictatorial, totalitarian and repressive regimes. He seems totally unable to distinguish between nationalistic fighting against unpopular leaders and the "international communist conspiracy" theory which sees a Red behind everyone who wants to make changes in their country's form of government.

The charge that Reagan is "trigger-happy" is, in that sense, accurate. He cannot, it seems, see any event as occurring outside the constellation of both superpowers. This bipolar view of the world is outdated and dangerous and can only escalate tensions in an already unstable world.

Neither leader wants to be seen as a threat to world peace, but both want to build up U.S. military might. They, like the American voter, want it both ways, and they tailor their policies to appeal to the man who crushes his beer cans while watching Monday Night Football and thinks "nuke Teheran" is the best idea since the lightbulb.

It's a poor choice American voters face, but it is also the inevitable result of both the attitudes in the States and the system for selecting presidents. The choice is not between a foreign policy hawk and dove, but rather between degrees of hawkishness.

This world is not a safe place to live in, nor has it been for many years. After November 4, it will be even less so.

Keith Krause

## the Gateway

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**Cackle cackle cackle!** Ninny Miller, the terror of SUB, was on the rampage. John Roggeveen, Carol Merod, Larry Lutgendorf, Hans Becker and Bob Klugannon clung together in fright. Click click click - a pack of photographers led by Tom Freeland, Ray Giguere, Bill Ingles, Debbie Pelehos and Garth Hidson rushed to record the destruction. Then suddenly - Happy Birthday to Kenny D. and Katherine Dedyna - and back to the story... Greg Harris, Pam Spencer and Bruce Pollock wrote a feature on "The Modern Witch" while Cathy Emberley and Elda Hopfe raced to send the story to the world. Alison Thomson pondered Lougheed's role in the affair, Dick Hancock and Michael Skeet did the play-by-play for CJSR, and Jens Andersen wrote a lengthy review comparing Ninny to the Ayatollah. And the editor looked for a match...

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News Item: HUB Hazardous



## Wood criticism slanderous

In the six years that I have been around this campus I have been witness to an overabundance of ignorant thought shot geyser-like from the mouths of our supposedly select population. But when I had the misfortune to read Mr. Snyder's letter in last Thursday's Gateway, in which he flagrantly assaulted the Evelyn Wood Speed Reading Course, I realized, for the first time this term, that ignorance is reaching new heights.

After reading that letter I was quite positive that Mr. Snyder is suffering from some form of neurotic disorientation (probably brought on by midterms), for he displays absolutely no contact with the truth. The EW course (which I took - and graduated from - in the spring of this year) bears no resemblance to that which was so graphically portrayed in Mr. Snyder's verbal attack.

Mr. Snyder's letter, at best, is one huge slander. There is but one contract to sign, which deals only with financial matters, an obvious necessity for the protection of both parties. One other form is signed (not a contract) which merely acknowledges an understanding of a very legitimate guarantee. The hard sell techniques Mr. Snyder mentioned were, as far as I have seen, out-and-out bullshit.

The arguments presented in Mr. Snyder's letter prove, to me, that he knows nothing about speed reading and especially the EW course. Speed reading involves a process entirely different from what may be termed conventional.

The focus of the EW course is to develop this ability in people who, generally, have been reading conventionally for 15+ years. In this respect the EW instructor is a coach not a teacher and as such his own ability to speed read is totally irrelevant (as a coach, my own instructor was exceptional - indeed, if he knows anything about football I believe the

Saskatchewan Roughriders would be well-advised to look him up).

The most blatant exhibition of ignorance on Mr. Snyder's part came when he stated that "it is physiologically impossible to read faster than 800 wpm without losing full comprehension." Beyond approximately 1000 wpm it is indeed impossible to read in words-per-minute. That is the big point. The essence of speed reading is to develop the ability to read groups of words, patterns and thoughts (consider for a

moment that a single thought may encompass an entire page of reading material!).

The \$395 tuition (one must realistically consider that this is an unsubsidized, private institution) is well spent, but only if one is willing to make a commitment to work at it. The EW course offers no secret magic formula; hard work and results go hand-in-hand. But then, that's the only real secret of the universe.

Brian Lang-Hodge  
Science IV

## Zoology food retch-id

Well, I was desperate. As a result of my past experiences with the cafeteria food last year, I took the habit of bringing my own lunch to school. But this time, short of energy and time, I took the easy way out. By 12:00, I was starving and headed my way down to the familiar fast food kind of deal on the fourth floor (Zoology Bldg).

I was quick to notice that the 'stuff' on display was no different than the same old junk offered last year. The only evolution readily apparent was the price of each item. Two little puny looking sandwiches, a milk and a piece of pie (straight out of the chemical plant) cost me \$3.70. This was considered to be a genuine rip-off especially if one takes into account the taste and content of such pseudo-comestible items.

It seems that no matter how loud a few dedicated students shout, there will never be any progress in the cafeteria system. People would rather be the target of cancer of the digestive tract or other side effects of fast food-induced gastronomic organisms than to introduce some constructive evolution in their feeding habits.

Nevertheless, I propose that there be a contest open for cafeteria services on this campus. May the criteria for bid selection be based upon the quality of the food offered as well as the prices involved. But for heaven's sake,

please get rid of this chemical distribution plant even if no suitable alternative is available in the immediate future.

Marc Labelle  
Zoology

## Good old boys unite

Re: the article "Red tape tangles student".

Really now, what does Wes (his assumed name) really expect! His attempts to horn in on the institutions established for the benefit of the loyal, longstanding residents of this province are despicable!

He should just be glad we don't make him pay differential fees. Foreigners like this are just making it hard for us real Albertans to make use of our privileges. Besides, my student loan this year only paid for half of my stereo. If Wes had stayed home 3 years ago, maybe those institutions would be now raising their standards closer to ours.

I applaud our government in their constant watch for those quick fingered foreigners always lusting after our Heritage Trust Fund.

Long Live Alberta and Long Live Differential Fees!

P.J. Lougheed (Jr.)  
Arts IX