

CHOPPING BLOCK



by Jens Andersen

Today: the thrilling third chapter in the incredible, epic saga of a Gateway columnist's heroic struggle to clean off his desk.

Andersen's unmythopoeic, frantic and futile attempt to clean off his desk may eventually stand as a symbol of western civilization's herculean efforts to digest the overload of information inherent in the transformation of yesterday's trees into tomorrow's landfill. However, his lucubrations display a rather deficient esteem for many of the intermediate products in this process.

The MacMillan Bloedel Guide to Canadian Pulp and Paper

Item: R. Glenn Martin's column in the Sunday Nov. 6 Journal, where he talks excitedly about an international conference of English teachers held at the U of A the week before. He especially stresses the hot, intellectual combat that occurred there, and the high stakes involved in the battle for better English.

Well, yes: controversies over English are both instructive and entertaining, like the mud-wrestling that goes on at sessions of DIE Board. But as with DIE Board, the action itself is mostly silliness, and the instruction comes when you slice through the baloney.

For instance, M.H. Abrams, who is apparently some sort of big wheel from England, delivered a paper at the conference attacking "deconstructionism" in literary criticism. Martin thought the paper "stunningly demolished" deconstructionism and upheld the view that "literature does indeed mean what it seems to mean, and not what its more fanciful interpreters can arrive at in wild contrast to the author's apparent intentions."

In short, you can't call *Catch 22* a hymn to 100% Americanism, or *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* a eulogy to Joseph Stalin. Big surprise, eh? (and a tip of the hat to VP Academic George Baldwin who had the good sense to nod out during this speech).

Meanwhile, despite such pretentious noodling

(or perhaps because of it) academics are still pushing gasbags like Northrop Frye and Susan Sontag, and ignoring worthwhile writers like Sheila Ballantyne and H.L. Mencken.

Item: New Teen Titans comic, laying around in the wake of *Captain Gateway*. The *Titans* comic is a special anti-drug issue, but, quite frankly, reading the crapola in it merely induces a strong craving for a hit of anaesthetic.

In a nutshell, its message is that if you touch drugs at all you will certainly fall into shoplifting, swearing at your parents, poor grades, hatred, fighting, etc. Also, your drug use will escalate ("each new drug leads to another"), and all sorts of awful physical and mental effects will result. So turn to the back page of the comic and sign the oath never to use illegal drugs.

Unfortunately, such hallucinations are not in accord with reality. True, any drug from nicotine up can be abused to the point of irreversible bodily damage and death. But the intelligent use of drugs is also a great enhancer of music, socializing, sex, and life's other pleasures. Nor are the safest drugs necessarily the legal ones. Alcohol, for instance, is much more addictive than cannabis, and far more physiologically devastating when over-used.

Instead of taking the extreme position of total abstinence, which is only necessary for a few people, the do-gooders should be teaching people how to get the most enjoyment from reasonably safe drugs, while incurring a minimum of nasty side effects.

Item: An "alternative" student handbook put out this year at McGill University, illustrating another side of drug misinformation. It is full of easygoing drug lore, ranging from commonsensical truths to downright dangerous lies. An example of the latter: "Cocktail drug consumption (a.k.a. multiple drug use) is fine, but it is usually wiser to do the mixing yourself."

In fact multiple drug use quite often produces interactive ("synergistic") effects far beyond the individual effects of each drug — as in the often fatal combination of alcohol/ barbituates and opiates, or the brain-scrambling mixture of alcohol and caffeine.

If you want an antidote to garbage like the above, start with the *Consumer's Union Guide to Licit and Illicit Drugs*.

Next Week: Your columnist puts on his rubber gloves and digs into some press releases from 20th Century Fox and the Soviet Embassy.

Help Wanted

The Gateway is accepting applications for the position of Production Editor for the second term (January 1984 to April 1984). Persons interested in this editorial position should have experience in the layout and design of a newspaper. As well, the production editor will be responsible for maintaining supplies and equipment in the layout room, and learning how to typeset.

If you are interested in this position, or would simply like to get more information about the Gateway, contact Brent Jang in Room 282 SUB.

Deadline for applications is 4:00 PM on Thursday, November 17, 1983.

VENCEREMOS

by Oscar Ammar

When we speak of terrorism, we envisage criminal actions occurring thousands of miles away such as in the Middle East, Europe and so on. While this is partly true we should consider terrorism in our own continent. In doing so, we will discover a great deal of hypocrisy on the part of the U.S. government. On the one hand it condemns "terrorism" on the other, it is largely responsible for its occurrence.

In the aftermath of KAL, the U.S. complained of "murder in the air" and it accused the Soviet Union of committing a "criminal act against humanity." Similarly, with the bombing that killed South Korean politicians, the U.S. once again condemned the "terrorist attack." More recently, when two hundred and thirty nine marines lost their lives in the Lebanon as a result of the partisan role they played, the Reagan administration griped of "terrorism against the boys."

What about terrorism *a la Yankee* in the Americas? On October 10th, the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries (contras) in Nicaragua blew up a storage tank containing over one per cent of that country's annual fuel supply. The tank was at the port of Corinto in Nicaragua.

As a result, numerous people were injured, and over 20,000 residents were forced to evacuate.

In the month of September, various attempts were made on the life of Nicaragua's foreign

minister by the contras, again equipped with U.S. supplies.

Finally, the murder of four opposition leaders in El Salvador by the military junta's death squad was supported by the U.S. government.

Evidently, the Reagan administration chooses to ignore terrorism in Central America. In fact, President Reagan refers to those who carry out the killings and bombings as "freedom fighters."

It is true the 25000 U.S. military personnel in Central America are not directly responsible for these crimes. But just as the phalange in the Lebanon would be unable to massacre innocent Palestinians without Israel's seal of approval and provision of arms, so would the contras be unable to carry out terrorist acts without U.S. support.

Clearly, the U.S. has a double standard. Violent actions carried out by individuals or groups not sympathetic to U.S. interests, are considered terrorist.

At the same time, criminal actions carried out by individuals supported by the U.S. government, are characterized as "fighting totalitarianism" and "protecting democracy."

Such hypocrisy is not confined to the U.S. government. Many established institutions condone a similar double standard in their political dealings.

Derogatory terms such as "terrorists", are often used to refer to forces that are incompatible to one's own goals.

Even the Pope has difficulty escaping this paradox. Upon his arrival in Nicaragua, he warned church leaders to abstain from politics, a short time later he was approving the clergy's support of the solidarity movement in Poland.

Note To Readers: The term "The Americas" refers to areas south of the Rio Grande, Mexico. I do not wish to confuse my imperialist critics.

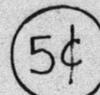
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OPENS

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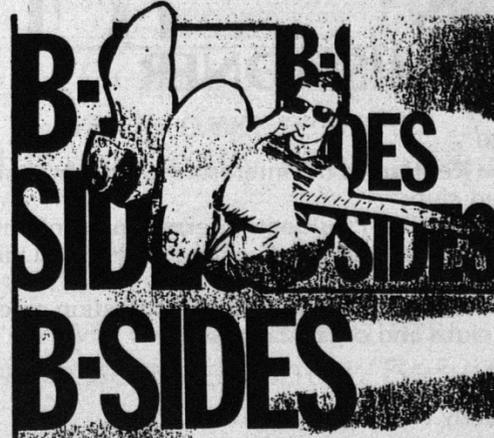
DINWOODIE

2nd Floor SUB



Tickets are available from the SUB Box Office (2nd Floor SUB) and various club members.
NOTE: These events are open only to U of A students, staff, and guests.

Kappa Sigma Fraternity presents



Saturday, November 19, 8 PM

• November 25
Sound FX

• November 26
Darkroom

• December 2
20 Feet

• December 9

Slash & the Bleeding Hearts

UP & COMING: