

## Free trade: We lose

Ottawa has pulled out of the free trade talks, after nearly two years of negotiations. The reason for pulling out is, as Prime Minister Brian Mulroney explained, "...the American side failed to respond to our requirement for an objective and impartial dispute settlement process."

A method of dispute settlement in the face of possible protectionist measures has been a fairly regular demand of the Mulroney government for the past two years, but the Americans have not taken it seriously. When Finance Minister Michael Wilson finally put the demand on the table last weekend, as one of five conditions for a settlement, Secretary Treasurer James Baker turned it down.

Now Canada is walking away, and one must wonder what comes next.

International Trade Minister, Pat Carney said in Vancouver last Friday, that Canada badly wants a free trade agreement but is not prepared to drop its basic conditions. On the other side of the border, Lloyd Bantsen, Texas Democrat and Senate finance committee chairman said, "In trying to achieve something that would be final and conclusive (a binding method of settlement) — that would mean we would be doing something unique for Canada that we have done for no other nation. Then we'd be faced with the problem of answering to other countries."

Canada wants special treatment, the United States does not want to give it. Neither side wants to make concessions.

It is difficult to see a winner emerging from this. The question remains; who will lose more?

It is naïve to think we are in any position to make demands, sitting in the shadow of a trading giant. It is easy enough for them to say no.

Politically, the Mulroney Government has more to lose by a failure to reach an agreement. They have heralded free trade as an economic God-send, while the Reagan Administration has downplayed its importance. As far as Reagan is concerned, free trade would be nice, but not imperative.

Who is going to make more concessions? Mulroney of course. However, any agreement reached will not be good for Canada; we will have to give too much to get it.

On the other hand, a failure to agree will see Canada having to contend with extensive protectionist measures. For example, the US omnibus trade bill soon to go before congress will take extreme measures to restrict imports from Canada.

When speaking of the possible trade barriers we may face, Mulroney himself said, "It's going to be a real tough, hard business."

Such is the case for Canada, with or without a free trade agreement.

Sherri Ritchie

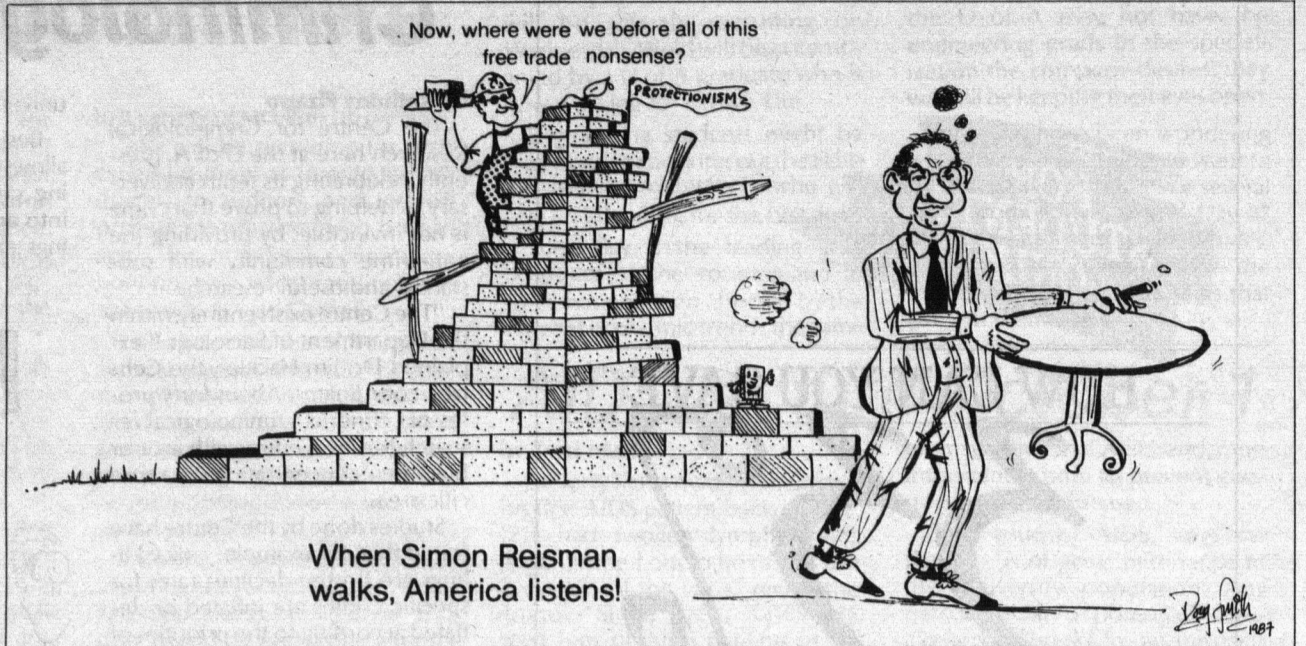
## The Gateway



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Contributors: DRAGOS RUIU, PETER THOMAS, BORIS ZVONKOVIC, JENNY BRUNDIN, MIKE BARTON, TERRI MANN, ANTHONY PIZARRO, RANDAL SMATHERS, MIKE SPINDLOE, JENS KNUTH, RYAN CROMB, JIM DESJARDINS, ROB GALBRAITH, MARK SEEMANN, DOUG SMITH, ROY JOHNSON, TOM WHARTON, BEN McCAFFERY, MATT HAYS, ERIC BAICH

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When Simon Reisman walks, America listens!

## Arrogant voice

Dragos Ruiu's arrogant article in the "Alternative Voice" column of the September 22 issue reveals his hypocritical failure to do a thing he undoubtedly demands of his perceived religious adversaries: he doesn't practice what he is preaching.

If Mr. Ruiu would do what he exhorts — that is, think — he would realize something very basic about the human race. As intelligent as we may think we are, we are not God. Whatever our origin, mankind has a beginning and is therefore finite; unlike God, the cosmos, or whatever you prefer to call the final reality — which is infinite. Therefore, all human conclusions — there is no exception — necessarily flow from what the person on the street might call an assumption; the philosopher or logician, a premise; the scientist, an hypothesis; or more generally, a presupposition. This is the recognition that, as much as we might dislike the terminology, everyone — including Mr. Ruiu — lives ultimately on the basis of faith. We are all "religious" people, either by design or by default.

Obviously therefore, much to Mr. Ruiu's dismay, religion will not and cannot "but the hell out of our business", because a strict, dichotomistic separation of religion from politics or any other social institution or problem cannot possibly exist. Again, all thinking is from presuppositions that are based finally upon faith, and those presuppositions affect our approach to politics, education, economics and so on as naturally and invariably as thinking itself.

Mr. Ruiu should slow down and re-examine his own assumptions, and in the meantime, perhaps he is the one who should mind his own business.

Brad Hardstaff

## Arrogant II

In reading Dragos Ruiu's article entitled "Alternative Choice", in the Sept. 24 issue, about the way modern religious systems impose some sort of totalitarian authority over followers and non-believers alike, one can not help but feel that Mr. Ruiu has had a bad experience with some sort of religion that has maimed his opinion to the point where he felt compelled to inform us all that anyone who happens to believe in a religion is basically an archaic brainwashed fool.

Mr. Ruiu implies that religion has gotten in the way of "enlightened thinkers" who are above believing in some sort of deity, and passes off anyone who does as brainwashed. What he fails to understand is that most of the modern religions have survived over centuries with millions of adherents who have CHOSE to follow a certain belief because it gave them a hope and a reason for living.

Jerusalem is the center for four major religions and is a mecca which believers visit because of their religious beliefs. People who live in Jerusalem should realize that they do not live in a normal city and should live with the fact that

they must abide under principles that were there thousands of years before they even knew what a movie was.

Mr. Ruiu also believes that religion should stay out of the affairs of government. How exactly can this be accomplished when both the United States and Canada have Constitutions based on the belief in a Christian God? Our whole educational system was originally based on fundamentalist beliefs, maybe this is why some people have trouble with the secularization of our educational system.

I also wonder why Mr. Ruiu doesn't mention the term abortion when he refers to the "medical technique" in which a baby is killed. I would like to point out that while maybe the mother doesn't want the unborn child, there is a LONG waiting list of people who DO want the child. So I find it hard to believe that the baby is unwanted by society as Mr. Ruiu claims.

My wish is that people like Mr. Ruiu would understand that religion has been so etched into our society that a division between religion and politics would mean the end to our moral and ethical value system. I agree that religion has its place, but to wipe out religion, or the beliefs we are sometimes forced to obey, would be the end of our society as well.

Mark Beck

## ACT! complains

As a member of the Anti-Cutbacks Team I would like to address the article titled "A.C.T. Honchos Scrap" by Rod Campbell in the September 24 issue. His account misconstrued the facts in order to sensationalize this minor conflict.

First, Campbell presents the story as though the conflict was between the research co-ordinator Wade Deisman and the chairman Andrew Fredericks. This is simply not the case, Deisman was working on a prerogative set forth by the members of A.C.T. who came to the September 17 meeting. The consensus of the members present was to submit to Fredericks a list of formal complaints about his performance within A.C.T. These formal complaints were submitted to him along with a verbal request that he respond by Friday September 18 at 5:00. I stress the point that this was not a request for his resignation.

Second, the remark made by Fredericks concerning the origin of the conflict "I think Wade's complaints come from deep personal problems between myself and him" can be completely discounted. Fredericks' formal response contained similar remarks and after discussing the issue in a meeting September 21, Fredericks rescinded the comments and attributed them to his being angry at the time; adding that the comments should not have been made.

Third, while it is true that Fredericks prepared an agenda it is not true that Fredericks left one in Deisman's mailbox. In fact, the agenda was never distributed to anyone because Fredericks stated that he submitted the agenda to V.P. External Paul LaGrange for some last minute additions and

subsequently failed to distribute it after this because he became ill.

LaGrange was unable to distribute the agenda because he was committed to a prior engagement and did not attend the meeting.

Fredericks unavoidably missed the meeting but it was his responsibility to inform someone of his situation. In this case Christine DeMarco would have chaired the meeting, but Fredericks failed to notify her of his impending absence. He claimed that he did not have her phone number. Her phone number is not only in the university directory, because she is a member of council, but she also explicitly gave it to him just three months prior to the incident.

This conflict was not about resignations and in-fighting as Campbell's article suggested. Rather, it is about how each member of A.C.T. needs to commit themselves fully. It is hoped that these conflicts will not stain the reputation of the Anti-Cutbacks Team and its member, an organization capable of producing concrete information regarding the quality of education at the University of Alberta.

Claude Grenier

## ACT! II

Your Thursday September 24 "ACT honchos scrap" is erroneous. Mr. Wade Deisman was instructed in a recent ACT general meeting to express collective concerns to Mr. Andrew Fredericks and hence your coverage is misleading. Given access to all documents available, your journalistic discretion is abusive.

After all, the only fault Wade has committed is being an honest fellow to the newspaper which is not always accurate. I'm glad that I declined to offer comment when interviewed in light of incomplete coverage.

Ken Hui

## ACT! III

I would like to take this opportunity to address several inaccurate and misleading statements contained in your September 24 article "ACT Honchos Scrap" by Rod Campbell.

First, the article incorrectly identifies me as the source of the sentiment asking Andrew Fredericks to seriously consider resigning. In fact, as I repeatedly told you, this sentiment was expressed by several of the ACT members in attendance at the September 17 general meeting. I was not one of the

Letters to the Editor are encouraged and always welcome.

If you have a comment which would be of interest to the students of the University, please do not hesitate to send it in. All we require is your name, address, and phone number, and student ID if you are a student. We will not print letters missing any of these.

Letters should be no longer than three hundred words.

Mail or deliver your letters to room 282 SUB, or drop them at any SU information booth.