

The Gateway

The Gateway is the newspaper of the University of Alberta students. The contents are the responsibility of the Editor in Chief. All opinions are signed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Gateway*. News copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm 282, SUB (ph. 432-5168). Advertising: Rm 256D, SUB (ph. 432-4241). *The Gateway*, Rm 282, Students' Union Building, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2G7. Readership is 25,000. *The Gateway* is a member of *Canadian University Press*.

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Vol. 76, No. 45, Mar. 18, 1986

Letters

In defense of the aged

Re: Methuselah Revisited by Shaun Cody; *Gateway*, March 6, 1986. Mr. Cody states,

1. "new measure will allow 65 year old people who are completely financially "set for life" to continue working"

What about, Mr. Cody, 65 year old people who put their children (that means you) through university, who haven't finished paying their mortgages, who still find it difficult to make ends meet?

2. "what about positions that remain filled by people who work only for personal satisfaction while qualified, eager and enthusiastic young people — that means you - remain unemployed."

Are you trying to imply that people over 65 years are not eager, not enthusiastic nor qualified? If so, it is an insult to the intelligence of the university community. Besides, how can Mr. Cody define personal satisfaction for other people?

3. "the government feels there are numerous roles that can exist without regard to trivialities such as efficiency, safety, and economy."

Is Mr. Cody trying to say that people over 65 are always inefficient, uneconomical, and compromising the safety?

4. "There has to be some way people over 65 can continue to contribute and can continue to seek satisfaction in their profession while not selfishly denying jobs to young Canadians."

How about an income ceiling for Yuppies and Wuppies who earn more than \$40,000 (allow me, Mr. Cody, to use your language) "only for personal satisfaction who selfishly deny a living for young Canadians"?

Mr. Cody, I have another good suggestion to solve the unemployment problem, lower the mandatory retirement age to 55; if that is not sufficient, make it 45.

Mr. Cody will do better if he tries to find the real reasons for unemployment, rather than setting young people against the over 65 (trying to portray old people as the culprit of the unemployment crisis).

Mr. Cody's view represents a typical case of blaming the victim, inciting hatred towards a vulnerable section of the society, making unjustified stereotypical assumptions with no regard to investigative journalism. (Qualified, eager, enthusiastic, unselfish young people with new ideas and innovative approaches, eh?)

D.E.M. O'cracy

P.S. For your information, Mr. Cody,

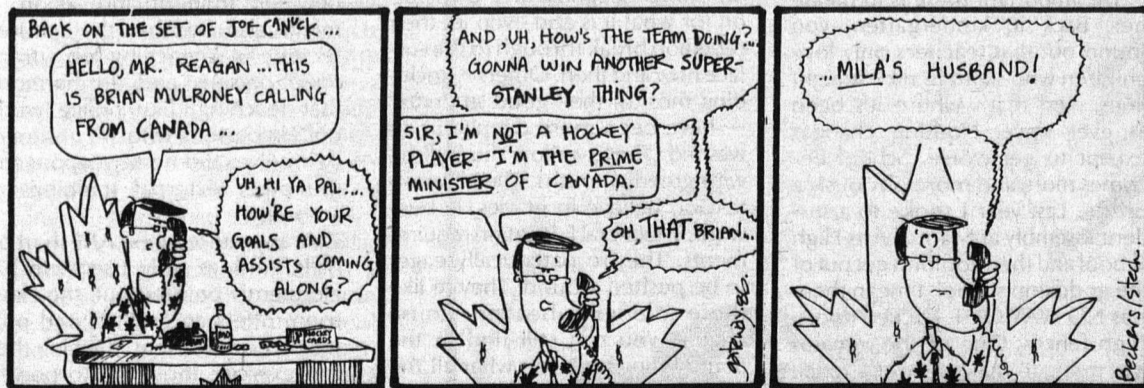
1. No more than 0.1% of the work force actually retires in any given year because they reached a maximum age. ("Mandatory Retirement Policy a Human Rights Dilemma", Conference Board Study, 1980.)

2. Quebec experience with no mandatory retirement age, for several years has shown a distinct preference for retirement at an earlier age than later. ("Committee on Equality Rights", House of Commons, 1985.)

3. Following are some of the conclusions in a survey of employers and employees conducted in 20 states in U.S.A. which accounts for close to 50% of the U.S. work force where mandatory retirement at any age is abolished in either or both private and public sector.
 a) Most workers continue to retire at relatively early ages between 60 and 65.
 b) There were very few promotional backlogs or slowdowns as a result of older workers remaining employed.
 (Report submitted to the President and tabled in Congress by the U.S. Department of Labor, 1982.)

2 cactii and three nines

by Beckers and Stech



Coming your way: March 20

- The Pink Triangle
- Interview with Jerry Rasmussen, co-creator of *Bub Slug*

Watch for these and many more exciting issues in *The Gateway*!

The Gateway

Editorial Elections

The following are eligible to vote in the election of *Gateway* editors for 1986-87. If you have made three or more contributions (photos, articles, layout help, etc.) this year, please notify Dean Bennett. The election will be held on Thursday, Mar. 20 at 4 p.m. in the *Gateway* office.

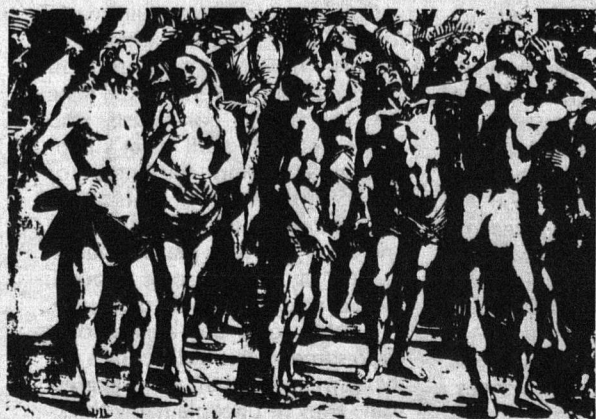
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|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
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| Rod Campbell | Rosa Jackson | Rob Schmidt |
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| Ian Ferguson | Jeff McDonald | John Watson |
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| Roberta Franchuk | Greg McHarg | Graeme Whamond |
| Bruce Gardave | Rachel McKenzie | Greg Whiting |
| Gary Gee | Alex Miller | Mark Wolfe |

Gateway Election Procedures

The following motions pertaining to the March 20th editorial election were passed at *The Gateway* staff meeting on March 13.

- Questions put to editorial candidates must adhere to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom, the Alberta Human Rights Act, the CUP Statement of Principles, and *The Gateway* Constitution.
- All questions must pertain to the portfolio and *The Gateway*.
- Each candidate may give an introductory speech not to exceed 3 minutes. He or she will then be questioned by staffers for a period not to exceed 15 minutes.

Gateway Literary Contest



The Gateway would like to thank the poets and writers who submitted entries to *The Gateway Literary Contest*

Selected entries will be featured in *The Gateway Literary Supplement* (March 27).

Thanks to our contest sponsors for their generous support for the Arts in Alberta.

Short story 3,000 words max
 Short poem 16 lines max
 Long poem 100 lines max

First prize all categories \$100
 Second prize all categories \$65

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