

Forum

Dicky disappoints

Well, fellow students, if you are planning to return to these hallowed halls next year, pray you are fortunate enough to find summer employment (and a well paying job at that). After last Friday's budget brought down by the Getty government you have even fewer hopes for any breaks in education costs. If you are graduating, say two prayers.

Students will not only be paying more in tuition fees (10% projected increase), book prices, and incidental fees, but they will be getting 9.5% less in government student loans, paying more in personal income taxes, and can kiss renters assistance goodbye. Heaven help you if you drink, smoke or own a car.

Personal income taxes go up three different ways. The provincial tax rate increases from 43.5 to 46.5 of basic federal tax, which translates into a 6.7% overall increase. Secondly, a 1% flat surtax will apply on all Alberta tax payable. And thirdly, a surtax of 8% on tax payable in excess of \$3500. The last two we are told are only temporary, but don't hold your breath because if history can teach us anything it is that temporary measures have a haunting habit of becoming permanent policy.

As 1987 ends so does renters assistance. Those of you who looked forward to that extra \$230 rebate will have to find May's rent some other place.

Those of you who have the luxury of owning your own car will have to foot increases in car registrations up to \$41 from \$31, and a five year renewal of an operator's licence will now cost you \$30 instead of \$10 effective May 1. Not so bad you say? Well perhaps the prediction that average drivers will be paying approximately \$200 more annually for gas and diesel fuel may change your mind. As of June 1 gas is going up a whopping 5¢ per litre.

For those of you who have drinking and/or smoking vices may do well to consider a healthier lifestyle or be prepared to pay the price. Cigarettes now cost 63¢ more per package of 25 than they did last week. If you like your beer, be prepared to dig deeper into the pocket book because a case of 12 will cost \$1.10 more than what you are used to. If spirits or wine is your preference, they increase 80¢ and 40¢ respectively.

And the list goes on and on.

No one will argue that the growing deficit has to be addressed, but at what cost to the average Albertan? At a time of recession we need to be pumping up our slumping economy while still being fiscally responsible. What is the big rush to break even in four years?

At a time when the oil and gas industry is hurting so badly, it is even more imperative that our farming, small business, and tourism industries be stimulated. No new monies or programs were introduced. Just more taxes were laden onto the backs of tax payers. One billion dollars more. That is one billion dollars less that these consumers have to put back into the economy.

Dick Johnston, the finance minister responsible for the budget, stated that it is better for Albertans to pay, now than to pass on a greater deficit to our children and grandchildren. The government has admitted that we will see an increase in the unemployment rate in this province.

It may be difficult to pass on anything (balanced budget or no) if our youth have to leave the province today to find work tomorrow.

Juanita Spears

The Gateway

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Tom Olson and Tina Cristini gasped as the Doctor transformed into Ken Bosman. But meanwhile, Lloyd De Vincenzi and Jeff Oss were fighting off the purple nuclear mutants, who looked suspiciously like Alex Shetsen and Jerome Ryckborst. While all this was going on Dragos Rui stole the Tardis and went off looking for the Leather Goddesses of Phobos, who had already been found by Dan Skinner, and Alan Small and the two were castigating them for being sexist. J. Dylan tried to use the sonic screwdriver to make tea, while Andy Phillpotts and Lisa Hall screamed, "It's 42!!!"



Letters...

An insult to Sinhalese and Tamils

To the Editor:

I am a graduate student from Sri Lanka. I was surprised and annoyed by what Elaine Ostry wrote about Tamils of Sri Lanka in last Thursday's edition of the Gateway (12th March).

Though it was not captioned as an editorial this article appeared in the space normally used for an editorial. The statement "Tamils of Sri Lanka are tortured and killed for their religious beliefs" appeared in the middle of the fifth paragraph.

It is true that there is a civil war in my country. Western media has always referred to the situation as a conflict between Bhuddist Sinhalese majority and Hindu Tamil minority, which gave an impression of a religious conflict. This may be a consequence of lack of experience and understanding, especially in interpreting and understanding actions and thoughts of people of my country.

But this is the first time I came across a statement like the one made by Ms. Ostry, which I think as an *insult to both Sinhalese and Tamils*.

I would like to challenge Ms. Ostry to defend her statement.

Angelo Ransirimal Fernando

"Revenge would be justice!"

To the Editor:

Regarding Elaine Ostry's column (March 17) entitled, "No one is 'simon pure'", wherein she claims Damjanjuk's trial will not be "fair", but rather "unjust" due to the amount of publicity and strong emotions prevalent in Israel today. To

quote: "... it's useless to hold a show trial that seems to serve revenge rather than justice."

What does Miss Ostry want Israel to do with "Ivan the Terrible"? — the same "man" (!!) who operated Treblinka's gas chambers and sadistically tortured prisoners — almost all of them Polish Jews — at the rate of 15,000 a day. Should Israel pat Damjanjuk on the back and say, "All is forgiven"?! Where is the justice in the extermination of 870,000 Polish Jews within one year (mid-1942 until mid-1943)?! You don't think revenge plays any part here? Miss Ostry, give me a break!

Whether a crime is committed 45 years ago or 45 hours ago, the perpetrator is still guilty and must be tried for that crime. Anything less is an injustice to the victims and society at large. Miss Ostry, your liberal "humanitarianism" sickens me, for in this instance revenge *would* be justice! Seeing that you are the entertainment editor, I suggest that you go back to reviewing films... fiction preferably.

Robert Riddell

Finally, we talk about sex

To the Editor:

Recently, there has been a push to increase the role of Canadian schools in the area of sex education for two reasons. First, it is obvious that the family institution has never been able to adequately "cope" with the subject, and as a result, teenagers and young adults (who eventually become adults) have approached sex with little understanding of its meaning and the consequences of its abuse. Second, the rapid increase in the number of AIDS victims over the past ten years has unveiled just how ignorant people are about sex. Consequently, parents and religious leaders et al now realize that talking about sex is very important. Of course it always has been, and it wasn't until it was realized that AIDS was not just a disease confined to homo-

Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words in length. They must include your signature, faculty, year of program, I.D. number, and phone number. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the view of The Gateway.