

Ferris Trots out fears

I'd like to comment upon the recent furor (in *The Gateway*, if nowhere else) regarding the "waffling" of the SU executive and council on the issue of the "Edmonton 61." (Dear me, does "the Edmonton 61" have the same ring as "the Chicago 7"? Or "the Catonsville 21"? Or was that "the Catonsville 9"? Ah, well...)

It seems to me that when the student electorate exercised their franchise last election (in most cases, by totally ignoring it) and elected Len & Eliane (sic) and the boys, they knew that they weren't exactly placing political activists in the hallowed halls of SUB. We got what we wanted.

Therefore, I see no reason why they should take any political stands (radical or reactionary) on matters over which the SU has neither influence or (sic) concern, and which effec-

tively are out of its responsibility. To do otherwise is to waste their time and hours.

If the SU wishes to take moral stands on international issues, fine, I've got my list (starting from Angola & ending in Zaire) and I'll be glad to present it before Council if they have a couple of months to spare. I see no reason why a vocal group of CPC-ML hoods and Trot budding heroes should waste our SU's time so that they have another headline to put on "People's Canada Daily News" next to the fact that they sold 3 subscriptions in Edmonton last year (up 2 from the year before).

Perhaps *The Gateway* has time to waste on things like this (call me a fascist for not wanting to "educate the masses about the racist capitalist vultures in South Africa"); perhaps not. I agree with

you about the "waffle" — I think that Zoeteman should have said right out that he didn't want anything to do with it — but I think you are ignoring the real problem revealed by this schmozzle.

If the SU lacks the courage to state its principles — that is, disinterest in larger political issues — and continues to bring out ridiculous statements such as that no actions which break the law are ever justified, we're in trouble.

I don't care about the SU stand on nuclear weapons in the hands of penguins, but I don't know how far I can trust people who are unable to face embarrassing problems without relying on a somewhat cowardly cop-out.

John Ferris
Arts III

Racists reside in closet

The Free Southern Africa Committee (FSAC) and the Edmonton '61' would like to express our appreciation for your Sept. 23 editorial and articles defending and supporting our protest against racist sport as a reflection of the apartheid system of South Africa. We also were pleased to see the article by Blanchet and LeRougetel which begins to expose the crucial links between exploitation of black labour in South Africa and the international capitalist community that supports and greatly profits from that exploitation.

FSAC's corporate research sub-committee will soon provide you with some of our findings on corporate connections. We are enclosing a copy of our newsletter article listing South African commodities that are very visible in Canadian markets. Hopefully such information will educate more and more Canadians on the political economy of apartheid and the role they play as consumers to support it.

There are many issues raised in the past two weeks that require comment, but we would like to

focus on only one of those issues in this letter.

FSAC unequivocally condemns Student Council's decision to refuse support of our actions and, more importantly, to define apartheid as outside the "terms of reference" of that body.

Decisions not to take decisions are decisions — there can be no question on this. What hides behind the mask of neutrality is in reality a decision to condone apartheid in all its subtle manifestations.

The neutrality position is further contradicted when it is pointed out that Carling O'Keefe is controlled by the Rothmans empire based in South Africa. On every occasion that Carling O'Keefe products are sold at campus functions, over which Student Council has jurisdiction, that Council is directly supporting apartheid. On every occasion that the Carling O'Keefe van parks on campus, Council again expresses its partisan — not neutral — position. Indeed, we have been told that the presence of this van on campus violates ALCB regulations.

In sum, Students' Council has taken a position that can only be described as deplorable. Furthermore, like most supporters of apartheid, they tried to conceal their position by discussing it behind closed doors, in the closet where most racists reside.

Ken Luckhardt, for
The Free Southern Africa Com-
mittee
(FSAC)

Photog/activist flashes back

Mr. Neiman, may I redirect you to the opening sentence of my article. I quote, "I arrived at the Victoria Park cricket grounds with intentions of both protesting apartheid as represented by the Robbins II team, and reporting the demonstration." I wondered about some of the editorials last year, Mr. Neiman.

As to my getting arrested while reporting I will agree with you that I could have changed to

a mere reporter in order to escape. I also could have asked an MLA I know well to come down and put lots of pressure on to try to spring me — but I did neither.

I am glad that you loved the story, however, will we do anything about the questions it raises?

Keith Miller
Gateway staffer

Fenna defends those caught in crossfire

Last Tuesday's brutal front-page photographs of our champions of social justice being hauled away by police, stirred, I am sure, all sorts of self-righteous indignation in the hearts of all your readers. While this might have been just a legitimate piece of sensationalism, only the editorial of the subsequent edition rescued any credibility this paper might have as representing a view independent of bandwagon student radicalism.

Not only was the proverbial "dead horse" flogged, in the abusive right-ups of the "Edmonton 61" affair, as the police (and all they stand for I suppose) were criticised by the authors' ready wit, but the issue managed to black-and-white (so to speak) the issues as only a propaganda rag could.

Now, while I would be the last person to condone the social system prevalent in South Africa, I feel that someone must come out and defend those, largely innocent, parties caught in the crossfire between well-meaning protestors, and the ultimate object of their actions.

As indicated in the edition, there is a larger issue looming on

the horizon, which is of direct relevance. This is the threatening Black African boycott of the Edmonton Commonwealth Games. As in the recent cricket incident, the Olympic boycott was grossly unfair, to in that case, New Zealand, and an incredibly indirect manner in which to attack South Africa.

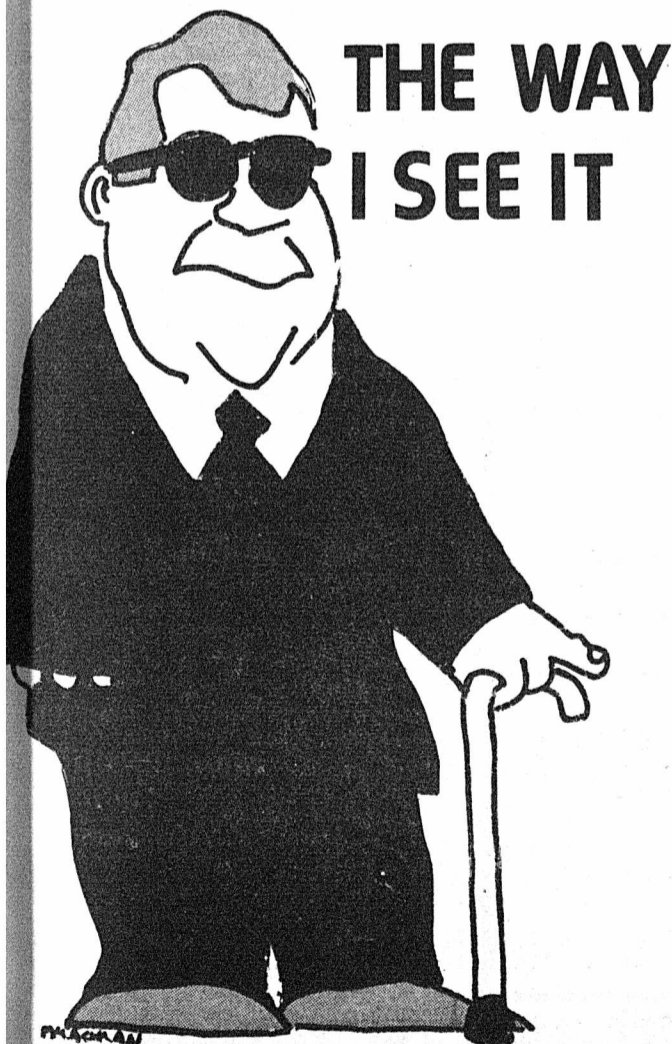
New Zealand's offence, in harbouring a team, that, acting independently of governmental, or public direction, visited South Africa, becomes little more than a feeble pretext when one compares it with the many blatant interactions through trade carried on by many nations, including Black African ones.

And, mentioning hypocrisy; where would one see racialism and general injustice, more pronounced than in the country of the President of the Organization of African Unity! The persecution of NZ is also sadly ironic when one considers their international reputation in the field of social and interracial justice.

So much is similar in the "Edmonton 61" incident; here, the party under attack had not only never been to South Africa, but was also funded with moneys of British origin and sponsored by a man of non-South African origin. And as for the criticism of Students' Union, how could they join the bandwagon by extending their interference beyond their mandate, and hope to retain their credibility in the eyes of rational people?

The crowning thing was that these protesters then expect us to shed tears for their subsequent treatment (details of which *The Gateway* was obviously quite ready to publicize at length). Perhaps we could let some Indians off their reservations here, to protest Apartheid.

Alan Fenna
Arts 1



Frank Mutton

Premier Peter Lougheed announced today that his Press Secretary, Joe Hutton, will be stepping down at the end of the month. Joe has been offered a lucrative position with Pravda in the U.S.S.R., and will soon be off to Moscow to take over as Chief Person Who Tells Reporters What News Today Is Going To Be.

He says he'll miss the camaraderie he had with the media in Alberta — especially the secret contests where the winner got an interview with Lougheed, and the loser got cement overshoes.

Joe's replacement looks like a real winner — Colonel Wilhelm Wormsbacker, formerly of Buenos Aires and currently under contract to the U.S. Marines, has agreed to take over as press secretary.

I managed to reach Willy by phone, and asked him what would be done about complaints by reporters of unfair practices.

"There will be no complaints" was all I got out of him before the line went dead.

Why doesn't Edmonton

Telephones do something to improve service?

A reader at the University wants to know why George Ford stepped down as Dean of Engineering.

I talked to Dean Adams, his replacement, and he had a very sad tale to relate.

It seems that Dean Ford had been found one morning in his office with a pocket radio turned to CFCW. He was also found to have in his possession a copy of the *Camrose Canadian*, a dirty black velvet cowboy hat, and a spittoon full of used chewing tobacco (at least it resembled chewing tobacco).

Ford tried to deny that any of the incriminating evidence was his, but later that morning he was caught installing a Radio Shack 23 Channel CB Unit in his Chrysler.

Dean Adams went on to say that Mr. Ford has found a very satisfying job running the Massey-Ferguson franchise in Mannville.

For what it's worth there's going to be a real whiz-bang

concert at the Coliseum on October 23. It seems that Frank Sinatra, John Denver, Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie, Louis Armstrong, The Beatles and Loretta Haegers will be appearing together in a 4 hour tribute to Bobby Vinton.

There's still lots of tickets available at \$35, \$40, and \$75 from the guy in the raincoat and dark glasses in front of Mike's.

Here's one for the books. I was walking along the city street the other day when I noticed one of our canine Edmontonians taking an ahem on the city sidewalk. I noticed there was no policeman around to note the occurrence and fine the dog's owner as the city by-law stipulates. Guess the boys in blue are too busy out catching bank robbers and murderers to worry about the things that affect us common folks, eh?

In closing, remember that "Whatever the weather, you'll weather it better if you wear a smile."