

Of boycotts There is a certain columnist in, as he would say, Our Town, who automatically supports so many causes they should make the Nordic

Bandwagon Jump the demonstration sport of the '88 Calgary games in his honor. I thought his was an isolated case in Alberta until recently. It seems that gay rights groups in the U.S. and Canada are advocating the boycott of Coors beer. Given the demographics of the average beer drinker, which a recent study showed as heavily male blue-collar, that boycott must upset A. Coors and Co. a bunch.

Almost as much as George Clinton, the master of outrageous funk, deciding to join the "ain't gonna play Sun City" movement upset P. Botha, Prime Minister of South Africa. A quick count of the "Silver Bullets" in any bar in town will show it to be about as effective, too

The point here, really, is not about beer, but rights. The gays have the right to try and change Adolph Coors' conservative political beliefs. The company has the right to uphold those beliefs by oftering financial support to any political or social group it desires.

Randal Smathers

Smatterings

Then there is the vast majority's right to ignore it all as just another silly boycott.

The Gainer's boycott is another fine example. Many people have never considered any political messages they are sending by supporting this action, they just accept

Recently, an acquaintance wondered aloud how the actor who does the "Ernest and Vern" ads could possibly be doing Gainer's meat commercials. Perhaps because he doesn't know about the boycott, or perhaps because he believes in the individual freedom to work as he pleases. Perhaps he just doesn't want to get involved. In a free society, it is his right to choose.

Bandwagons notoriously require a black and white view of life. Only zebras and referees see life this way, and I'm not too sure about referees. Supporting or opposing boycotts without consideration is a precipitous move and should be avoided, unless you want Eddie Knee-jerk's job.

Nobel research used for Star Wars

TORONTO (CUP) — A University of Toronto professor has won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, for his pioneering research on molecular reactions.

John Polanyi shared the award with two American professors. He is the fifth Canadian to be distinguished with the award.

Ironically, Polanyi's research has been used for laser technology that will likely be used for the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative, to which the quiet, modest Polanyi is vehemently opposed.

"Yes, it is ironic," Polanyi told an Oct. 15 news conference held at U of Tiust two hours after he received notice of the award. "And I don't blanch if you say that there seems to be a contradiction. But basic research has always been used for many applications, some good, some ill. Polanyi explained that he and his researchers had explored the ways in which molecules vibrate and collide and found a certain reaction which created "highly vibration-excited molecules". His discoveries led directly to the development of the first vibrational laser in 1964, and the first chemical laser in 1965. The vibrational laser has been used to produce the first instrument proposed in the development of SDI. Polanyi calls Stars Wars "a harebrained application" of his research. but maintains that for every such application, there are twenty beneficial ones. "Just this morning I got a call from a young woman whose eyesight had been restored through an operation with a laser," said Polanyi. "She was calling to thank me." Other beneficial uses for the virbrational laser include microcircuitry (making marks on microchips), repairing leaking blood vessels, freeing up clogged arteries, and stapling detached retinas. The laser has also been used by tailors for cutting cloth, and in the auto industry for welding. Polanyi feels we should avoid the

"obsessive fear of the by-products of technology", and that the nuclear threat can be removed through politics, not science.

"SDI is a gadget, and gadgets will not save us. Only negotiation and a new attitude toward the settlement of differences will."

Polanyi referred to the current atmosphere of underfunding which he says is hurting researchers in Canada. He hopes that his Nobel Prize will help Canada to recognize the "good science research which is happening here. It has always been here — we are just focusing on it now. And being attentive includes spending money, and that money has to be consistent." Geraldine Wallace, Chair of Research Board at U of T and a member of the Science Council of Canada, said Polanyi's achievement was "bloody marvelous" and stressed the positive applications of his research. "Let's be non-Canadian about this. Let's celebrate some heroes.

Friday, November 7

SUB THEATRE, U of A presented in cooperation

Culture

"THE NEXT R.E.M." from New Jersey

"TOP TEN ON U.S. COLLEGE RADIO BILLBOARD CHARTS

Melding a '60s pop music sensibility and a distinctly raw, new music edge, this is the long-awaited tour from The Smithereens "Especially For You". Produced by Don Dixon (REM, Guadalcanal Diary) and features contributions from Suzanne Vega and Marshall Crenshaw among others.

Pat Dinizio (led vocalist) was recently chosen as the "BEST NEW MALE VOCALIST" at the New York Music Awards.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 8:30 Dinwoodie Lounge

presented by U of A Ski Club

Polanyi received his doctorate in England, but has taught at U of T for 30 years.

Polanyi was awarded the Nobel Prize with Dudley Herschbach of Harvard, and Yuan Lee of the University of California at Berkeley.

This is the second Nobel Prize to be awarded at U of T. Frederick Banting and John Macleod received the prize for the discovery of insulin in 1923.

Thursday, October 30, 1986

TICKETS: JUBILEE BOX OFFICE, HUB & SUB INFO BOOTHS, AND VARSITY DRUGS (HUB) NO MINORS — AGE ID REQUIRED