

Ban S.A. diplomats

The South African ambassador to Canada, Henri de Klerk, cancelled his December speaking engagement at the University of Alberta. However, he is expected to fulfill his engagement sometime in the new year. Anti-apartheid activists are incensed that the ambassador should be allowed to use "the University as a forum for apartheid views." A petition is currently circulating calling for a ban on all representatives of the white supremacist South African government from talking on campus.

No doubt students will feel uncomfortable with such a proposal. Free speech, after all, is a fundamental component of our democracy, a privilege shared in theory by one and all. However, to cite free speech as justification for South African dignitaries such as de Klerk talking on campus is at best morally foolhardy.

Censorship, like racism, is ethically repulsive, but we can rationalize limiting views disseminated in public. James Keegstra and Ernst Zundel were recently found guilty by the Canadian courts of spreading hatred against Jews. Both were punished, and justifiably curbed from spreading their bigoted views. Yet here we are at the U of A inviting Henri de Klerk to stand up on this campus and tell us that black people in South Africa cannot have the vote because it does not fit with the racist policies of the government he represents.

In essence, debating the merits of free speech versus banning South African diplomats at the U of A simply detracts from the repugnance of apartheid. Apartheid will be dismantled one day; that is inevitable. But it will take a concentrated effort from forces both inside South Africa and out. Students at the U of A can contribute to the process by undermining the political credibility of the South African government by denouncing its racist policies. Refusing South African dignitaries access to our campus is also part of that process.

Rod Campbell



The old in the new

After all the furor over the Varscona I would like to congratulate Canada Trust for incorporating some of the features of the old building into the new. I only wish somebody had shown the Studio 82 site the same respect.

Isabelle Foorl

Cartoon shameful

Re: Nicaragua Cartoon (p. 5, Gateway, Dec. 3/87)

It is a pity that this Gateway edition (3 Dec. 87) was the last of the term, so that the cartoon left a nasty impression over the Christmas break.

This is a shameful use of U.S. style tactics, employed in their propagation of continued psychological and military aggression against the people of Nicaragua.

We all know that Joe Clark is misinformed, but University students of today should not be fed lies: It is an insult to their intelligence.

Canadian Aid money — what little there is — is spent on projects to rebuild this country, such as repairs to farm machinery, agricultural advice, portable water projects.

Groups such as Tools for Peace sent material donations from the people of Canada. Hammers, saws, rubber boots, medical supplies are essentials which they cannot afford to buy. Nor can they afford to buy adequate means to defend

themselves against the vast war machinery of Reagan and his ilk. Thank goodness they have received at least a minimal quantity of weapons from the Soviets so they can have some defense capability, combined with a strong moral defense.

We ought to be pressuring our government to provide more aid, and condemn the U.S. intervention in the affairs of Nicaraguans striving for peace, instead of inflicting more blows.

F. Hanley

for issues.

Note: I am in favour of a free and Fair trade deal.

Dave Yadallee

The Gateway



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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.

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into things?



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feature stories
for the Gateway.

No fair deal

Re: Free Trade Seminar hosted by IRSS, Wed. Dec. 2/87

I must give full credit to Sheila Copps on her presentation against the Mulroney Free Trade Initiative.

Basically Brian Mulroney gives, gives, but does not take since he wants to play Santa Claus to give the electorate the feeling that he is doing something right. For example, what will be the definition of a sub-sidy and how it will affect our trade relations in agriculture, fisheries and other trading areas? Well, I believe since Mulroney is staking his political reputation on Free Trade, he will be defeated badly at the polls! Mulroney is not assertive, firm, nor strong. He gave what the U.S. wanted on Free Trade Accord and got no clear promise what he would get in return. Overall, Mulroney has not made any positive statement concerning ma-

CBVR Radio

We need political cartoonists! If you are funny and talented, contact the Managing Editor at The Gateway.

