

Editorial

Hungry?

Food is not generally a life-or-death issue for those of us in the mainstream of Canadian life.

Unfortunately, that is not the case for hundreds of millions of people around the globe who must suffer the misery of chronic malnourishment or face death by starvation.

World Food Day, which just happens to be today, was started five years ago on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). It is designed to raise awareness of the problems of food production and especially distribution mainly as they affect third-world countries.

One project to be held in Ottawa today will consist of hundreds of high school students being divided into two groups, with one group receiving a thin potato soup for lunch and the other an extravagant gourmet feast.

The plan is that when the meal is served and the students realize the disparities, they will begin to share.

Indeed, this small gesture seems to underline the entire problem: that the world can grow enough food to support present population levels. However, no method has yet been devised to solve the basic problem, which is the most needy nations cannot afford to buy enough food to meet their short-term needs (so we don't distribute enough to them), nor do they have the ability to enact long-term solutions (partly because of cultural considerations, our exploitation and their corrupt governments).

A whole host of exacerbating factors, such as bloated third-world military spending, other types of corruption and the views of some western politicians who muse out loud about food being a strategic weapon (right Ronbo?) have all contributed to the agony.

The most concerted response (excuse the upcoming pun) has been mobilized by trendily compassionate rock stars in response to the televising of wretched dying souls with flies crawling over their faces.

The problem is too massive and complex to be dealt with in this tiny editorial, but I think the idea of those who have food learning to share with those who do not, as the Ottawa high school students will learn today, could go a long way towards finally eradicating this grotesque violation of people's right to food.

Bill Daskoch

Psychic's head explodes

What will happen now that Don Getty is the premier of Alberta? After consulting with the same psychic phenomenon experts that regularly advise *The National Enquirer*, *The Gateway* predicts the following:

- Julian Koziak will not be premier of Alberta
- Mel Hurtig will not be premier of Alberta.
- the legislature will stave off an attempt to be annexed by West Edmonton Mall but will still be referred to as "Pete's Palace."
- Pierre Trudeau will still be behind every dip in the Alberta economy.
- the official automobile license plate colors of the province of Alberta will be blue and orange.
- Wayne Gretzky will be famous.
- there will be an election.
- there will still be some banks left in Alberta.
- a two-headed psychic omnisexual computer-whiz cancer-curing long-lost child of Shirley MacLaine's will start dating Brooke Shields, Michael Jackson and Don Cherry's dog, Blue after a party at Robert Redford's financially-troubled ranch.

Oops. That last item is next week's lead story in the *Enquirer*. Oh well. It sounded exciting at the time.

Suzette C. Chan

The Gateway

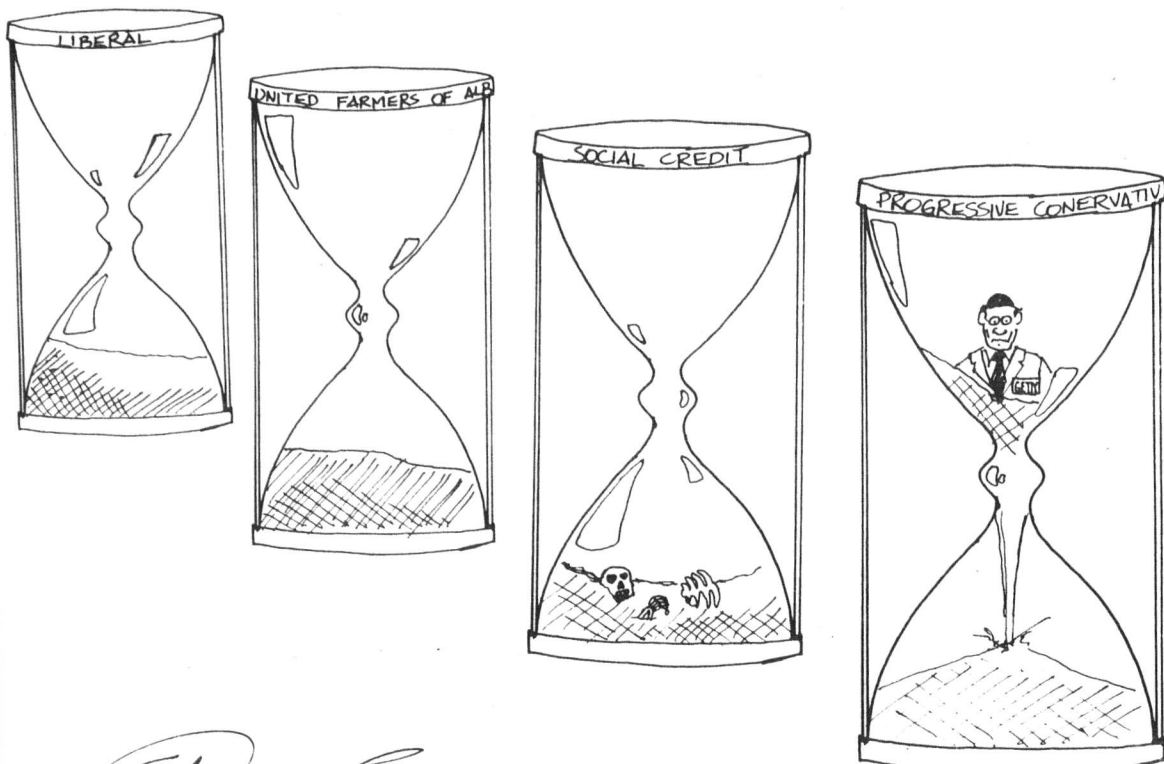
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Jennifer Strain lived in a medium-sized cage of northwestern aspect which overlooked a medium-sized cage of southeastern aspect belonging to Elaine Ostry. She had been tied there in a rocking chair by two Irish, though French-speaking, thugs named Andy Spence and Brongham Deegan. She was tied by tie-dyed handkerchiefs belonging to Greg McHarg and, horror of horrors, Gilbert Bouchard! Whoeee! Elaine called Don Teplyske and Rachel McKenzie over for coffee and to laugh at Jennifer rocking in her window in the southeast. Paula Simmons took pictures and sent them by courier to Rod Campbell. He called Roberta Franchuk and told her he'd sell them to Alex Miller. She didn't care but thought it was a neat idea and tied Ron Dmant to Rob Schmidt's rocking chair and cried "Jesus H. Murphy!" And that was the end. Qua, qua, qua....

Traditions in Alberta politics



Alex Gateway '85
 on a

*Yes, I know it doesn't "look" like getting.

Letters to the Editor

Israeli irreverence

I can't help but admire the caricature shown in *The Gateway* issue of Oct. 8, 1985. It was a picture worth a thousand words. One Israeli pilot to another after they have bombed the PLO office in Tunisia - "I've still got a quarter of a tank - want to try for the PLO office in London?". Both the picture and the dialogue give a true definition of the Israeli mentality and show the regard they have for international sovereignty and civil behaviour.

Who knows: maybe they will make it to London next time, or even Washington, but with a little help from Uncle Sam, of course. I know it is a long way to Washington, but a White House reception in their honor might just make it worthwhile and if hosted by Mr. Reagan himself, would make the trip almost irresistible.

Salah Musa

Far, far away

Dear Editor:

Re: Grant Draper's letter in the Oct. 8 Gateway. I agree that "Students' Council Representatives are compelled... to focus their efforts in matters which directly affect students." However, I fail to see how the South African situation directly affects me as a student in Edmonton, home of Wayne Gretzky and the Mordecai Richler Fan Club. The tragedy of Biafra did not directly affect me. The Ethiopian famine does not directly affect me, nor the possibility of a far greater famine in the northern provinces of Nigeria.

What goes on in the student council chambers of this university has absolutely no bearing on President Botha's actions. Discussing the South African situation in Students' Council would be a complete waste of time. The place for such a discussion would be in the Political Science department or at the International Student Centre.

Such action as Mr. Draper advocates would be purely symbolic and I really doubt very much if President Botha would really give a damn about symbols in some frozen city 10,000 miles away.

Yours truly
 Jim Maxwell
 Grad Studies

P.S. Now if the S. U. had a million strong army stationed in Mozambique, that would be different.

Grind/Gateway debate

AN OPEN LETTER TO MR. ROB SPLANE:
 Mr. Rob Splane, the VP Finance and Administration elected by the students, had a letter printed in *The Gateway* of October 10.

I believe a little background is necessary: at present

there is a question as to whether or not *The Grind* should receive Students Union funding. I hope to ignore my own personal biases in this letter and concentrate instead on the statistics Mr. Splane presented in his letter and the manner in which he presented them.

Firstly, Mr. Splane, in your second last paragraph you make a comparison between an SU grant to *The Grind* and a subsidization of *The Gateway*. I am not an economics major but I believe a grant and a subsidy are two completely different things. Furthermore, in your statistics, I see *The Gateway* receives \$18,514 in grants this year. I am unaware of the percentage of SU contribution to this figure, but it appears to me that by adding the grants and the subsidy *The Gateway* is receiving over \$19,000 this year from the same routes that *The Grind* is receiving nil. Your \$2,000 figure for a grant *The Grind* received is a year old and cannot be compared to this year's statistics (or do you forget that last year *The Gateway* also received grants and had a deficit? I again emphasize the fact that *The Grind* has received no SU funding this year. Simple division of \$19,000 and \$0 proves that 1) *The Grind* gets less than *The Gateway* and 2) *The Gateway* gets a heck of a lot more than *The Grind*.

Secondly, Mr. Splane, your comparison of 1985 statistics to 1984 statistics is simply inexcusable. You claim *The Grind* received four times as much money from the SU but, when I look at the figures you present, last year *The Gateway* received a \$7,318 subsidy - over three times as much as *The Grind* according to your logic. Also, you refer to this amount (1985 - \$598, 1984 - \$7,318) as a subsidy when, in fact, it is a deficit. I have no grudge against *The Gateway* nor do I criticize them for this deficit - it is trivial compared to the overall SU budget. I do criticize you, Mr. Splane, on your lack of regard for the statistics you support your argument with.

Thirdly, Mr. Splane, you refer to a "*Grind Referendum*" and comment that you "find it absurd that any club can consider itself better than the others by entrenching the support given it by council into the constitution." I must remind you that the SU constitution guarantees the rights of the students to decide DEMOCRATICALLY whether they wish to support any club monetarily through their Students Union. The "*Grind Referendum*" may be another one of Floyd Hodgins' games but, Mr. Splane, it is his constitutional right to pursue this matter.

Finally, Mr. Splane, I must criticize your final statement: "I wish people at *The Grind* would at least attempt to place facts in their "news items." 1) As I have attempted to show in the body of this letter, you should follow your own advice and get your facts straight; 2) I do not believe it is your place as a representative of our Students Union to offer your editorial opinion on any matter until it is resolved; and 3) I submit, that on the basis of your gross negligence in writing your letter and the incompetence you have

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