

Cruising for a bruising

If you have any doubts about Canada's foreign policy being inconsistent, then today's testing of the cruise will dispel such uncertainty. Canada's peacekeeping role in international development rises and ebbs as often as Prime Minister Trudeau goes travelling. This political tidal wave makes it difficult for the nuclear disarmament movement to deal with the problem of arms build-up in a responsible manner.

Was Trudeau forced into accepting the US proposal to test the cruise because of his prior anti-US manoeuvres? After all, he cut Canada's commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in half and he replaced nuclear-equipped CF101 fighters with non-nuclear F-18's.

It has been said that Trudeau's recent peace initiative was in response to public protests; the peace pilgrimage became a way of coping with a guilty Liberal conscience; it was a means of toning down a hypocritical and unpopular political decision to allow cruise testing, it has been argued.

Nevertheless, Trudeau's global peace efforts deserve much more credit than those simplistic political swipes. Even his critics have given his peace mission praise: "Regardless of any past attitude to your leadership and disregarding all political partisanship, we are now as one with you."

Thus, the Canadian disarmament movement finds itself caught between restrained praise of Trudeau and outraged protest of his policy on the cruise. The real issues are obscured by rhetoric like "disarm or die," a notion that is more naive than anything else.

Such slogans are fine for mobilizing people for rallies and demonstrations, but most ignore the fact that this is a world deeply divided by political differences. The important question is the extent to which the US and the Soviet Union are willing to slow down the nuclear arms race, and whether the other superpowers and future members of the Nuclear Club can reach some sort of consensus on arms reduction.

Nuclear-free zones, overkill, strategic megaton storage, first-strike, retaliatory capacity, and end-use are terms that still send me scrambling for a "military-economic" dictionary.

No, I can't use the vernacular of the nuclear age without confusing someone to death. (No pun intended.)

Yes, it's only been in our parent's lifetime that mankind has had the capability to blow up everything on Earth, including Earth itself.

Yes, we should be concerned.

Indeed, in order for the disarmament movement in Canada to gather momentum like its Western European counterpart, it must explain what's going on with the cruise and its relation to the more general issue of disarmament.

The cruise protests of last summer were the largest mass demonstrations in Canada since the 1960's. It's a movement that's decidedly grass roots and therein lies its influence and its potential. The top item on the agenda of disarmament, though, must remain information and awareness.

We won't have Trudeau to kick around much longer and remember, he has always been vocal in his opposition to nuclear weapons.

The Gallup poll predicts Canada is in for a Brian Mulroney reign. The disarmament movement will have plenty to protest about in a federal Conservative government.

While seeking a seat in the House of Commons last summer, Mulroney said, "we must be full-fledged members of the Western alliance and assume our responsibilities as a country. If one of those responsibilities is testing the guidance system of the cruise missile, so be it."

A Reagan-Mulroney scenario? The possibilities, as they say, blow the mind.

Brent Jang

Libraries crunched

Operating a University is more than just hiring professors and keeping classrooms heated.

Often we forget the materials that are vital to the University's research and studies.

While no one would begrudge a doctor his scalpel, or a plumber his wrenches, our government has seen fit to deprive the University of its most vital tool: LIBRARY MATERIALS.

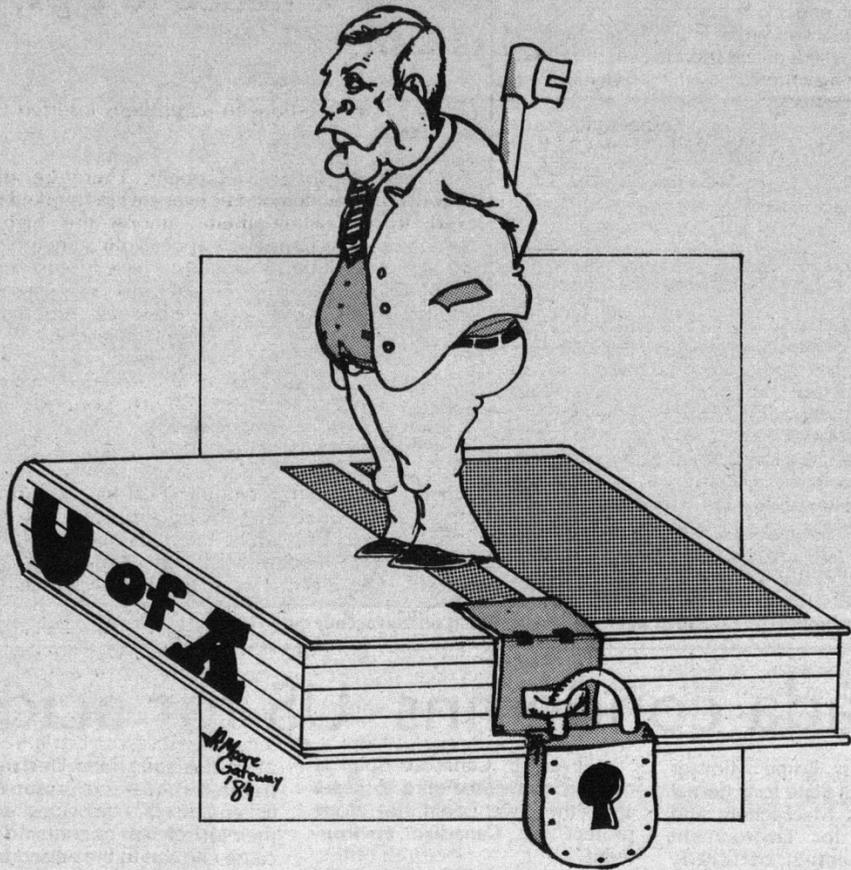
The erosion of our libraries is horrendous. In 1970/71 funding to the library system was 2.8 million dollars. In 1982/83, (including supplemental funding from the Heritage Trust Fund) was 3.5 million dollars. Taking into account inflation, the 1982/83 funding levels are only 64 per cent of the 1970/71 levels. This does not, however, take into account the devaluation of the Canadian dollar and the effect that has on acquisitions since 90 per cent of the libraries' resources come from outside the country.

In 1970/71 the U of A libraries were ranked 4th overall in material acquisitions by the Association of Research Libraries. The U of A ranked after Harvard, Texas and Toronto, with 700,000 dollars separating the U of A from the top.

In 1980/81, the U of A had fallen to 7th overall in material acquisitions. Harvard ranked first, Texas ranked second but now over 4,300,000 dollars separated the U of A from the top.

Library funding is vital to the quality of the education that the U of A can offer. After all, how valuable is a degree program based on outdated and inadequate materials? And how can the University of Alberta provide TOP QUALITY graduates on the world market if we aren't willing to maintain our libraries: the nerve center of the University?

Gilbert Bouchard



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Housing no service

The new proposal to remove washers and dryers at Michener Park typifies the move to escalating rents and declining services offered by Housing and Food Services. Housing and Food Services in its bureaucratic reach envisions itself as a Housing agency, full of grandiose plans for architectural achievements, (North Garneau). What it fails to realize is that it is supposed to be a Service agency, providing low cost housing to students. Students, especially married students with families, have to make a considerable financial sacrifice to come to university. Low cost housing can help in that sacrifice, the bureaucratic hassling of Housing and Food Services does not.

A recent survey at Michener Park found many families living at incomes of less than \$10,000 p.a., is it fair to have these people pay for the jollies and mismanagement of Housing and Food Services (North Garneau's high priced faculty housing)? Gail Brown asks us to compare our fate with what we might expect in a private rental market. I would ask Housing and Food Services how it would compare if it was a private sector housing agency (I would expect Bankruptcy).

John King
Grad Student Forest Science

Nuke the Gateway

RE: Disarmament Essay "Contest"
How ironic that in "1984" a group would sponsor a competition with a prize for the person who does the best job at regurgitating the point of view held by the sponsors. Even more ironic is the fact that this "contest" is being held on a university campus and is co-sponsored by a university newspaper.

Universities used to be one place where

intelligent thought on both sides of a controversial issue could be considered and appreciated. Now we are to be rewarded if we think "correctly" (i.e. the way that the sponsor thinks). Debate is not to be encouraged - we know the TRUTH as programmed into our memory banks.

There are many good arguments in favor of disarmament, and in fact I agree with many of them. One can only wonder at the motives of groups which constantly take actions, such as this contest, which can only serve to discredit the disarmament movement by making it appear unreasonable.

Patrick Mahoney
Law I

Where do you apply?

The following was written on the chalkboard of the SU Executive John last Friday. Publish it if you will.

Tired of being a typical student? Fed up with being starved, broke and unfucked? We are now announcing the grand prize of the by-annual 1984 turkey hunt:

- 1) \$1200.00/month whether you work for it or not.
- 2) A rent free room for a year.
- 3) The opportunity to have lunch with high ranking government officials.
- 4) The opportunity to go to national conferences on student money.
- 5) The opportunity to screw every student at the U of A for a whole year.
- 6) A clothing allowance.
- 7) In other words, all the comforts of a party flunky.

an annoyed student

This letter must be a fake

The Campus Right Wing Old Boys would like to thank Robert Greenhill for his two years of

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Staff this issue

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As PET flies the cruise missile to a well-deserved sunset, Bernie Poitras and Neal Watson scream in terror at the very thought of missing a deadline. Jack Green, Shane Berg and K. Arthur make noises about running as a Liberal leader, while Violet Patterson and Jim Moore seek a more electable office - that of assistant Godhead for the Gilbertologists. Doug Smith and Ian Ferguson got lost and ended up in Jean Cote Junction for the weekend and missed Marie Clifford's birthday party. Gunnar and Ninette (neither of whom want their last names revealed until after the election) were sort of sad, thinking that they'd missed Marie's birthday party, but Jordan Peterson (typesetter extraordinaire) reassured them that Marie had given up birthdays for lent several years back. (Algard on vacation, be back next week).