

some book. some movie.

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STARRING: RICHARD BENJAMIN · KAREN BLACK · LEE GRANT

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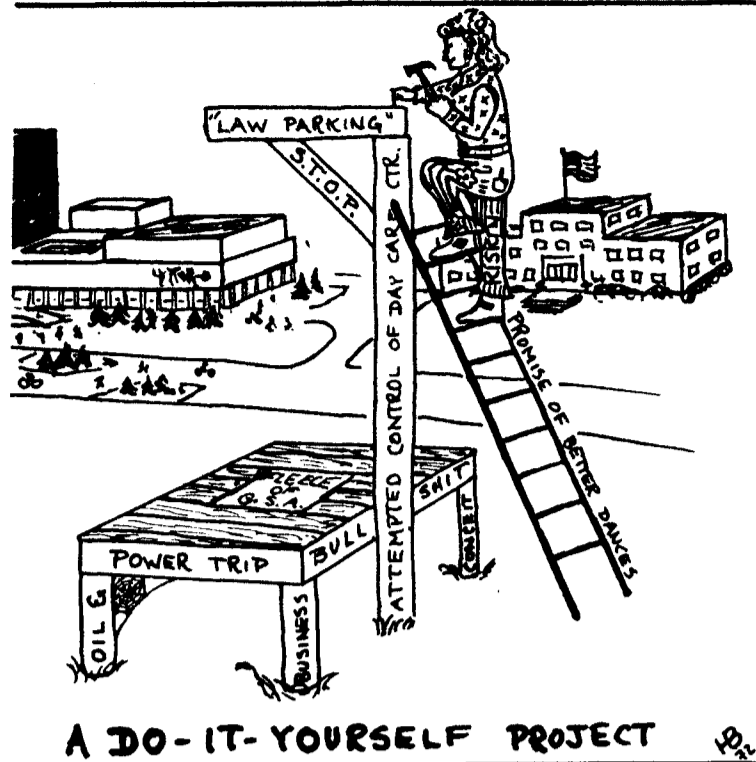
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A DO-IT-YOURSELF PROJECT

point

If you ask "are students interested in GFC or the Board of Governors?" the answer you'd probably get would be a resounding "no".

But if you ask "are students interested in the amount of fees they'll have to pay next year, are they concerned whether this or that programme—say Canadian studies—will be available next year, do they care whether or not they have to go through fall registration again, are they concerned that the university of which they are a part is a major polluter in the city?" I think the answer would be quite different. As long as you believe that there's nothing that can be done about these concerns, you're probably justified in asking for a humour magazine, a scandal sheet like the old high school rag.

A sense of powerlessness breeds indifference.

But in theory at least, students are not powerless. Since May of 1971, we have had parity (equal representation) with the academic staff on the general faculties council, a situation for which students at the University of Toronto, to name only one school, are still fighting.

While the addition of 31 administrators to the body nullifies that equality, some skillful alliances with the academic staff (whose interests in smaller classes, wider course selections, more say in budgetary priorities, are often very close to those of students) we can have a say. Or at very least make it clear that students oppose action taken.

Until now, a fat lot of good having those representatives has done us. Not necessarily because they were bad representatives, but because we've never been told who they are, where and how we can tell them what we think, or even what kind of decisions they're asked to make for us.

Yet important decisions ARE made, and because there are students on these bodies, the university administrators and p.r. people can claim you had something to do with those decisions.

Also those representatives have very little support for researching the problems placed before them. They must often make decisions on the basis of information provided to them by people with vested interests in what kind of decisions they make. Unless there is an alternate source of information, a student source of information, they have little choice but to make decisions on the basis of what administrators, et al are willing to give them. And you have no way to judge whether or not they made wise decisions.

Perhaps there is a need for a medium on this campus which "cries, watches sunsets and loves life," an ego-outlet for those who think their feelings about events are more important to others than the events themselves.

If there is this need, then go to the Students' Council and demand that the money being spent on the public relations magazine *Second Look* be redirected.

There is a need for a newspaper—the Gateway—and the Gateway I envisage—and will work for this year—is one that snaps this "uninformed therefore powerless therefore indifferent" chain. It will take some time, may lose some readers who look to the Gateway only for a laugh. But I believe perhaps naively, that you come to university to challenge your minds, to gather and sort out information, to grow beyond the high school level in your concerns. I respect your intelligence and judgement and I believe that together the Gateway and its readers can make this a better place to live and get an education

Terri Jackson

Letters to the editor on any topic are welcome, but they must be signed. Keep them short (about 200 words) unless you wish to make a complex argument. Letters should not exceed 800 words. The Gateway is published bi-weekly by the students of the University of Alberta. Contents are the responsibility of the editor. Opinions are those of the person who expressed

Staff this issue included Carol Brown; Allyn Cadogan; Darlene Clarke; Joyce Clarke; Paul Evans; Bart Hall-Beyer; Deena Hunter, arts editor; Terri Jackson, editor; Graeme; Leadbeater Bob McIntyre Irene McRae; Geri Medwid; Ann Nolan; Les Reynold; Arthur Savage; Candace Savage, news editor; Michael Schmidt, production manager; Duncan Sherwin; John Trithart; Brian Tucker, sports; Ernie Vilsack; Alan Waugh, librarian; Diane Wedman, typesetter.

gateway