

Letters, con't.

ers inform us that during meditation there is a drop of 16%! Let's stem the tide of disinformation, however, by noting that independent research findings turn out to be less impressive. The Royal College of Surgeons in Britain showed a drop of only 7%. Why? Because the experimenters were careful not to disturb the subjects before or after the tests. They proved that the effect was due to simple relaxation! They conducted comparison tests with non-TMers listening to soft music and found the oxygen consumption rates to be indistinguishable!

One of their most outrageous claims is what they call the "Maharishi Effect." In any population group where a mere 1% are regular meditators, a beneficial effect on the community will result — fewer auto accidents, a lowered crime rate, even a decrease in unemployment! All of the cases they cite have been discredited. For instance, they pointed to a city in Britain where a slight drop in the crime rate did occur, claiming it was "statistically significant," ignoring the fact that, even after the drop, the crime rate was still much higher than two years earlier. The TMers display an amazing capacity for self-deception stemming from wish-fulfillment.

Enrollment has dropped since their heyday with the Beatles and Mia Farrow, and so the Maharishi (an astute businessman, despite his demeanor of otherworldliness) has begun offering more "advanced courses for the gullible, claiming to teach such marvels as levitation, invisibility, and walking through walls.

The message to those potential acolytes among us is that the "Science of Creative Intelligence" is pre-tentious humbuggery, the TM movement is a cult, and this fakir is a faker.

Richard Leach

U of A guerillas?

I would like to reply to the article/opinion by Ken Burke carried by CUP and picked up by *The Gateway* and printed on September 12. As a left-leaning right thinking person I would have to agree with the feelings expressed by Mr. Burke. I think that the return to, and victory over, Vietnam-type films is symptomatic of a resurgence in American self confidence and self delusion. A great deal has been written about whether or not that particular episode in American history was "winnable" from a military point of view, and I will not belabour the point any farther.

I do however disagree, slightly about the film *Red Dawn*. While it is true that it portrays American high school students taking on Russian special forces, with some success; there is a claim that the movie had broader meaning than that. I suspect your Mr. Burke saw the film without really paying attention to the detail. Of the group of students who chose to fight most die. The lead protagonist for the "enemy" is a sympathetically played ex-guerrilla fighter from Nicaragua who is disillusioned by fighting with the "oppressors." While not a brilliant political film, it does capture some of what is true about warfare. Put aside the incredulous events that lead to American soil being invaded and you have a simple film about life, death and war.

If for one would fight if Canada was invaded (which it was in the film) and I suspect many other university students would as well. While not trained to fight I think we could give a good account of ourselves. Mr. Burke only need look at Afghanistan, and Eritrea or indeed at Nicaragua and Vietnam to see that youth fighting for their homeland can stand up to the military powers of the day and still walk tall.

Marci Schultz
Arts III

Second Wind

This is the first submission to *Second Wind* for 1985-86. Thursday's issue will include two responses to Gilbert Bouchard's *Media Watch* of Sept. 12 on contemporary Christianity. More submissions are, obviously, welcome.

With reference to the beer controversy. First we must examine the student union's decision process. The decision to raise the price of beer earlier this summer was originally that of the S.U. executive. The executive raised the price of beer as a matter of day to day business. They considered it an executive matter. Then, when the president of the S.U., Mike Nickel, realized that he had compromised one of his campaign promises, the decision to bring the motion (to lower beer prices) was brought before council by Scott Richardson, a member of the executive. This is proper as it is the body representing the entire student populis. In council it became clear that Mr. Richardson's motion to lower beer prices was going to fail. At the suggestion of Mr. Splane (V.P. Finance) a couple of individuals supporting the price reduction left council. Thus, the quorum was broken and the beer motion was killed before it went to a vote. The following morning the same executive consisting of Mike Nickel, Scott Richardson and Gayle Morris decided that the lowering of the price of beer was now an executive matter. No longer was the elected voice of the student body required. So the prices were lowered.

In the constitution of the Students' Union we find guidelines to student government. In Article VII Matters of Executive or Non-Executive Character we have those guidelines that should have been followed by our four named executives who were present at the exec. meeting on Thursday 15 September. The constitution states "The Executive Committee of the Students' Council shall decide what matters are of an executive character. The Executive Committee shall have full authority to deal with all matters which they have decided are of an executive character after their decision has been announced at a meeting of Students' Council. The Executive Committee shall have full authority to deal with such matters as they have

been decided are of an executive character, and which they have not been declared the contrary by the Students' Council, where: a) all members of Students' Council have been notified of a meeting of Students' Council and of the items for discussion thereat; and b) a lack of quorum at such a meeting duly called has left unresolved the items of business which were to be discussed; and c) the said items of business cannot be postponed to a further meeting of Students' Council for resolution without risking serious and detrimental consequences to the Students' Union."

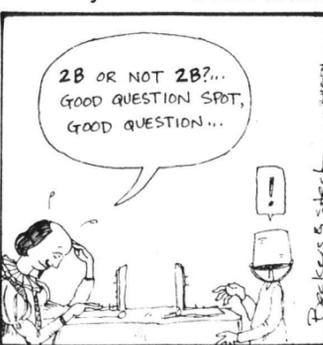
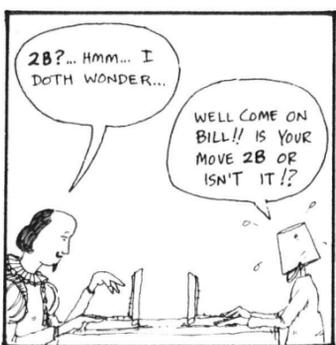
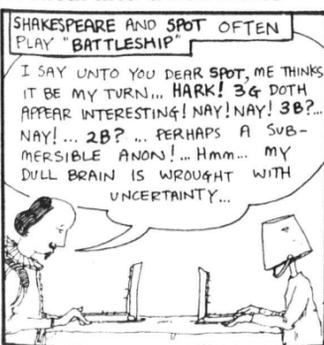
Let us examine what your elected president Mike Nickel (who is ultimately responsible for the Executive Committee simply because he is president of the Students' Union) failed to do. The Executive Committee decided that beer prices were an executive matter the morning after Scott Richardson, a member of the executive, decided it should be a motion before council. The Executive Committee did not announce their decision to the Students' Council. Thus the representatives of the student body were given no opportunity to represent the wishes of the various faculties. The item of business was something that could be postponed to a further meeting of Students' Council. It is obvious that the price of beer does not risk serious and detrimental consequences to the Students' Union. The serious and detrimental consequences come only to the personal wishes of Mike Nickel, Scott Richardson and Rob Splane. It should be clear that the executive abused its power, disregarded the constitution of the Students' Union and in the decision process cancelled out the vote of every one of your elected faculty representative to the Students' Union.

But, alas, what does the opinion of the students mean to those on the lofty self-fulfilling executive pillar? Obviously nothing!

And on beer prices, let us first turn to something universal to students; let's look at lowering the price of food available to students on campus. Felt hungry lately? Enjoyed any Kraft dinner? Or a weiner maybe?

Jayson Woodbridge
Councilor
Arts Faculty

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