

**EDITORIAL**

**Council wars**

A long time ago, far, far away, in another democracy, speakers at public assemblies who advanced motions would place a noose about their necks. If the motion failed, the assembly would drag off the luckless democrat and hang him by his own rope.

This quaint little practice kept the delegates in the assembly from making totally stupid motions; you had to be pretty sure about your cause to risk hanging for it. Hence, these assemblies functioned quite efficiently, what with pettiness being a capital offense.

A long time after, in our own little democracy, Students' Council never seems to ever rise above pettiness. Few councillors have any idea what the hell they were elected for. Some of these people seem to think that it is just peachy to bring forth stupid motion after stupid motion and mire council in a swamp of contempt simply to advance their petty little careers.

So, instead of doing what they were elected to, that is to pass relevant motions to make the SU answerable to the needs and concerns of students, the hacks that masquerade as councillors treat the SU as an expensive toy to beef up resources.

One good example of a motion with a definite lack of thought behind it was the Avery-Laiss motion of Sept. 13 advocating opening council meetings to any student who wants to speak. Unfortunately, the SU already has a process where a student can speak to council after getting the sponsorship of a council representative but Avery's motion made no mention of the sponsorship clause. One wonders if she was even aware of the redundancy of her motion.

Also, some of these eager beaver councillors are also surreptitiously campaigning for cushy executive positions in the spring, and tend to opt for positions that are politically expedient, and motions that build public image and publicity.

Students shouldn't stand back and let the SU grind to a screeching halt just because Tony Brouwer or some other yahoo wants Tom Wright to shave his head in solidarity with oppressed bald eagles.

Silly motions are a waste, an all around waste that cannot be tolerated. They make a mockery of Council and every student represented by that sometimes sombre body.

(Added Note: Rumour has it that at tonight's council meeting all the CFS shit will hit the executive fan. Meetings are open to all students. 7 PM at University Hall.)

**Gilbert Bouchard**

**The morning after**

We all watched "The Day After" Sunday night. The controversial subject matter and skillful promotion made this television movie about the effects of a nuclear war a must see - the sort of event that everybody watches because they know everybody else is watching. As a ratings grabber it succeeded, as a movie the reviews were mixed but as a contribution to intelligent debate on nuclear weapons the movie failed badly.

Despite the goals of its creators, "The Day After" encourages only blind fear of a nuclear holocaust. It says nothing about how to prevent one.

In the movie, decent, family-loving, god-fearing people listen to news events they do not understand until it is too late, they see the launch of the missiles, then they die horribly, or worse. Human beings are made out to be helpless, and life, hopeless.

The reaction of people the morning after the movie has been to discuss how we would die in a nuclear war. Would they bomb Edmonton? Would we die in the explosion, in the firestorm, or from the radiation? Would the cockroaches really outlast us?

But these are things we have all talked about before. Except for Jerry Falwell (who seems to believe that nuclear weapons will kill only communists, homosexuals, and unwed mothers) everybody knows that when the bombs go off people will die brutally, painfully, and senselessly. Once one or two bombs go off the rest will probably go off and civilization, if not human life itself, will end. Nobody needs that demonstrated, no matter how poignant, no matter how graphic it is. What we need is a greater understanding of what could cause a nuclear war.

Television can and has done better. The movie "Six Days in October" about the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 showed how the decision to launch or not to launch the bomb was and will be made. Seeing what President Kennedy and his advisors saw and seeing what they did, gives TV viewers a real sense of how the decisions are made, and how people can affect them.

"The Day After" ends with a message: "It is hoped that the images of this film will inspire the nations of this earth, their people and leaders, to find the means to avert the fateful day." The movie, however, inspires only fear and mindless outrage. These can do nothing to avert that fateful day.

**Kent Blinston**



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**CFS: riff-raff?**

RE: D.I.E. ruling on C.F.S. referendum.  
The decision of the Board was the first rational statement to come out of the political apparatus of the campus since I arrived here this fall. Finally somebody has caught on to the way in which organizations such as the Canadian Federation of Students work.

Usually such organizations are started by people who have a genuine interest in helping advance truly student concerns. However, these people, being the realists that they are, eventually graduate and go out into the real world. What is left behind is an assortment of riff-raff, usually from the far left of the political spectrum, who have nothing important to do and who see these organizations as opportunities to advance their own political beliefs, literally at the expense of the average student.

The radical left has killed numerous student organizations in the past. For example, the Canadian Union of Students (C.U.S.) in the 60's, the National Union of Students (N.U.S.) in the 70's, and the Federation of Alberta Students (F.A.S.) in the 80's. All of these organizations started as moderate voices for students but became so left wing that many campuses withdrew financial support and they collapsed. I do not see any change in this pattern occurring today.

Once moderates leave, the organizations survive by counting on the apathy or the ignorance of the average student to continue to pour the money in. They run referendums which few know about and hope that nobody will bother to oppose them and that only their supporters will vote. This tendency is reinforced by the fact that those who recognize and oppose the fraud perpetrated on the student masses have little incentive to actively campaign. After all, they only stand to lose a small fee of a few dollars.

On the other hand, when groups such as C.F.S. win a referendum on a large campus they stand to collect large sums of money. C.F.S. stood to gain over \$80,000.00 if it won the referendum here this fall. It is little wonder that these groups are willing to

expend such large effort to win. It seems that they will stop at nothing to win, especially when their survival is at stake.

In closing I would once again like to congratulate the D.I.E. Board for an exercise in clear thinking and express my thanks to Mr. Stamp who obviously made a large personal sacrifice to see that justice was done. Perhaps an addition to the S.U. Constitution should be made setting a lower limit on the number of persons who must vote to pass a referendum which imposes a fee of this kind. This would eliminate the ridiculous situation where 8 per cent of the population imposes its will on the other 92 per cent who either are opposed or who just don't care. My suggestion would be a lower limit of 25 per cent of the eligible voters.

Patrick Mahoney  
Law I

# # #

**No arguing that**

RE: Comment on front page regarding Monique Begin's photograph.

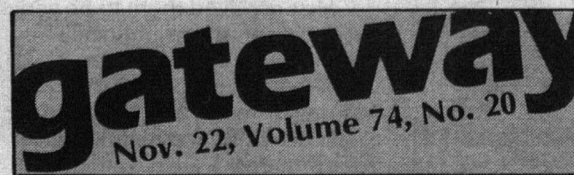
I feel the comment made on Monique Begin's facial expression was very derogatory. It also led me to believe the article that followed it was going to be in the same mode. It was.

Monique Begin is behind the best system for Medicare in the world, why dump on her? She's doing us all a favor, I respect her for that.

I just got to Alberta a few months ago and I had the misfortune to be in need of medical services which the University of Alberta's health services don't provide. I had to pay three hundred dollars in cold, hard cash - I'd hate to make a habit of this practice. Right around now I'd be pretty glad if all I would have had to pay was \$14.00 a month. This Medicare business is a great idea, don't you agree?

Brenda Mallaly  
Agriculture I

# # #



The Gateway is the newspaper of University of Alberta students. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. All opinions are signed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway. News copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm 282 (ph. 432-5168). Advertising: Rm. 256D (Ph. 432-4241), Students Union Building, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G7. Readership is 25,000. The Gateway is a member of Canadian University Press.

Editor-in-Chief - Brent Jang  
News Editors - Mark Roppel, Ken Lenz  
Managing Editor - Gilbert Bouchard  
Arts Editor - Greg Harris  
Sports Editor - Kent Blinston  
Photo Editors - Bill Inglee, Angela Wheelock  
CUP Editor - Jens Andersen  
Production - Janine McDade  
Advertising - Tom Wright  
Media Supervisor - Margriet Tilroe-West  
Circulation - Tom Wilson

Staff this issue:

Hoo-boy, were the Gilbertologists ever busy. Algard oversaw the packing as disciplined apostles prepared to travel to Laurence, Kansas, to celebrate Thanksgiving and the end of the world. Brenda Waddle pulled out her hair in preparation for radiation sickness, while Georgeann McIverney, Karrie Fields, and Cheryl Parsons wrote mash notes to Jason Robards. Zane Harker and Iain Mont searched for canned turkey, much to the chagrin of Bernard Poitras and Neal Watson looted stores for batteries. Meanwhile, back at the shelter, Shane Berg, Jim Moore and Jordan Peterson searched for dark glasses to get a better view of the flash.