

EDITORIAL

Cardinal sin

Richard Cardinal became a ward of the provincial government at the age of four. He spent his brief lifetime in a maze of sixteen foster homes and bureaucratic red tape that finally ended with his suicide in July.

He was seventeen years of age.

Cardinal's treatment by the system organized by white society was neither a service nor in the least social. Denied a childhood, frustrated by over-worked social workers, and ignored by professionals who failed to notice the signs of imminent suicide, Richard Cardinal became a file. And as such, he was studied by 25 social workers, seven psychologists and a psychiatrist.

The care afforded Richard Cardinal while under the jurisdiction of the Department of Social Services was minimal. Shuffled between families, social workers and group homes, he lost any chance of normal development. The cure for a rebellious nature was transfer to a new environment, where the task of making new friends, adjusting to new adults and conditions was repeated. His education suffered. He had little training for the world that he would have to face alone after his eighteenth birthday. Richard Cardinal was a product of the Social Services system in Alberta — and that's not a compliment.

In the hearings concerning the suicide of Richard Cardinal, we have heard testimony from professionals who were too busy to properly examine him; their reports were either ignored or not provided to the social workers concerned with Richard's welfare.

Communication seems to be lacking between the various agencies within and without the department.

One might also question the efficacy of a government department that assigns case loads that are excessive and denies workers adequate time to examine and evaluate the wards under their supervision. It would be remarkable if anyone that worked with Richard Cardinal ever knew Richard Cardinal, the young man.

The concept of Social Services is morally correct, but in practice there are no real social services provided. Young people require stability, guidance and compassion if they are to mature emotionally and socially. It is difficult to imagine what the provincial government thought it was doing in transferring Richard from family to family at the rate shown in his record.

Richard Cardinal was a victim of a system that refused to acknowledge his existence as a human being. He chose death as his only escape from a world that made Kafka's Trial seem childish.

It was the only choice that we allowed him.

John Algard

Nukes for Jesus

That neglected source of contemporary history - the Holy Bible — shows a nuclear war will be unleashed. It will be fought primarily between two great powers in Eurasia. No nation, however neutral it tries to be, will escape the consequences. The Bible predicts that so great will be the devastation that unless the war is halted, no life would be left on earth.

It will be stopped — just in time, but only because of the supernatural intervention of the Creator God. At that moment God himself will enter the battle. He will send Jesus the Messiah back to this earth, with all power and authority. His mission will be to forcibly take over the rulership of the earth and lead the nations into peace for 1,000 years — which is, incidentally, the real "day after".

The above quote is from *The Plain Truth* magazine.

Helen Caldicott called insanity like that "waiting for a nuclear rapture". Caldicott explained nuclear rapture as God whisking faithful Christians away in the wake of a nuclear war.

Well, that stinks!

Nuclear rapture is probably the slimiest way I know of passing the nuclear buck. You can say to yourself: "Well I don't want to reduce the American arms build up, because those are God's arms." Or: "I didn't start the bombs flying, it's God's doing."

Unfortunately that doesn't cut the mustard. It's time for all good Canadians to cut the sanctimonious bull and start taking responsibility for the survival of the world. It's up to each and every one of us to fight against nuclear proliferation.

God won't save us: we have to save ourselves.

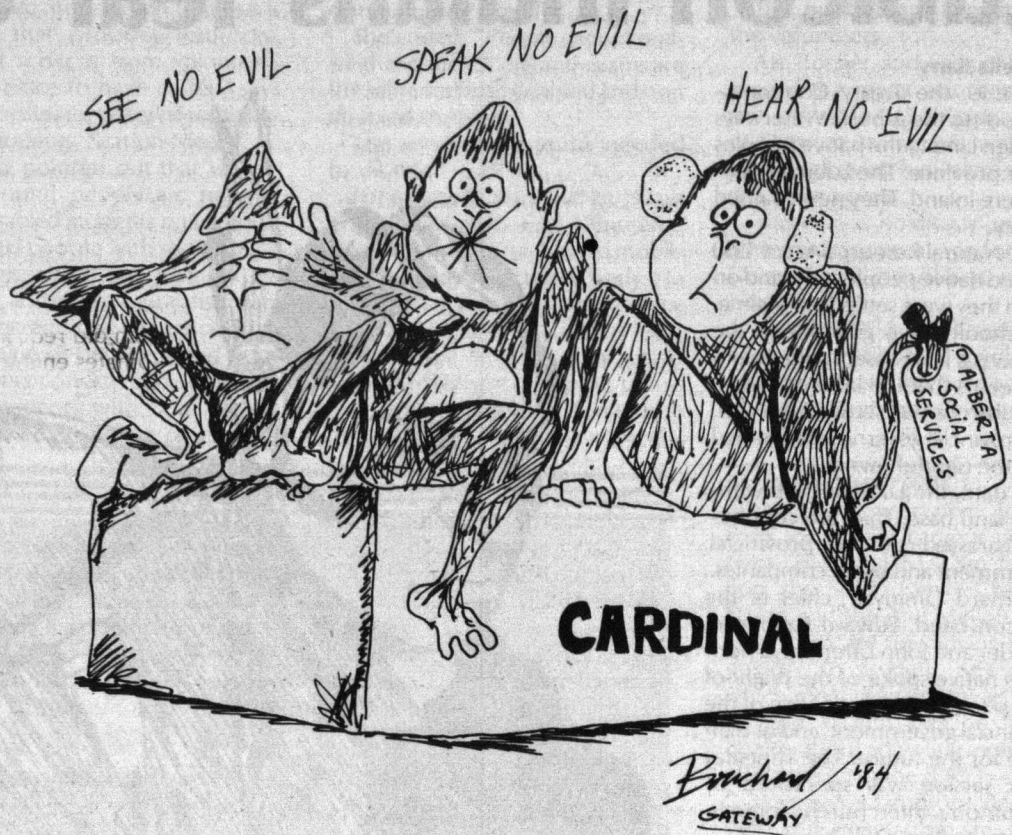
There will be no nuclear rapture; only the possibility that the world will become a global nuclear sheol (Hebrew for grave) from which no man will rise.

Christ preached love, and the highest expression of that love was to love your fellow. To love your neighbour was to love God through that neighbour. And I don't think Christ would be too thrilled with Christians who stand by and allow themselves and 4 billion of their breatheren to die.

After all aren't all our bodies temple of the Lord? Do you want to allow 4 billion temples to be desecrated by a nuclear war?

No, God doesn't want to blow us up into nuclear dust, and to even imply that He would, is blasphemy of the highest magnitude.

Gilbert Bouchard



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Ticked off

I would like to thank the Alumni Association for their kindness in providing me with the opportunity to purchase an Official University of Alberta Westminster Chime Clock.

I realize that I am being afforded a very rare opportunity, since this limited edition clock is only being made available through this single private announcement addressed exclusively to alumni and parents of enrolled students — why, that must be fewer than a hundred thousand families!

And the clock itself! Such a thing of beauty! The lustrous finish of the selected maple hardwood case, the individually fitted glass crystal face, the simulated antique brass finish fittings, all complement the finely detailed dial in a crescendo of craftsmanship and style. It exudes strength and dignity. It manages to capture in a single artifact the essence of university education and scholarship. The solid bronze dial which displays the Official University of Alberta crest would be sure to bring a tear to the eye of any alumni! All in all, I don't believe I have received a finer exclusive offer since I was dropped from the mailing list of the Franklin Mint.

But it occurs to me that [the Alumni Association] is missing a good bet here. Why stop at clocks? Certainly, every Alumni will want an Official University of Alberta Clock to put in their office or den to impress their less educated visitors, but what about those other areas at work and home where a clock is inappropriate? I think a bronze U of A Crest Pendant which could be suspended from the mirror of the company car or family recreational vehicle would be a big seller. Of course, you would have to limit the offering to Alumni, students, staff, former staff, and drop outs to keep it exclusive enough to be attractive, but that should still leave a potential market near the quarter million mark. Another potential biggie would be bronze praying hands mounted on a high relief sculpture of the Official University Crest, symbolizing

the union of learning and belief so important to campus life. Edmonton Telephones might be interested in bringing out a limited edition Uni-phone, with a bronze U of A crest of the dial. Or how about Official University of Alberta lawn ornaments? A jockey holding a lantern with a bronze U of A crest would be a great symbol: "the lamp of learning in Alberta", shining forth in the front yards of Alumni, students, parents, staff, selected contractors, distinguished visitors, colleagues from provincial colleges, and their spouses. I just don't see any limit to the possibilities, though of course you'd want to keep the offerings tasteful.

There will always be a few people who may have trouble seeing the connection between commercial sales of Westminster Chime Clocks manufactured by large private corporations such as Bulova, and the function of the University of Alberta Alumni Association, but I guess they just don't understand the nature of higher education. That sort of advanced learning just kind of leaves its mark on you, and you can never get enough of this type of limited edition high art.

I hope that the Alumni Association will continue this policy of offering its members the finest in quality art objects, insurance policies, and other commercial enterprises, and cut back on all those useless, academic oriented projects which nobody cares about anyway. I look forward to the Alumni Association pursuing this new improved image, and trust that it will end, once and for all, the question of whether or not the Alumni Association still has an important role to play in university life.

Robert Runte
Alumnus

Dear John

I am answering John Beaumont's letter in the Nov. 22 Gateway in an effort to convince him that I am indeed an intelligent university student, and not a mindless individual whose biggest thrill is reading the

The Gateway

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It was 6 pm. Hans Beckers tuned in, John Charles booked out, and Don Teplysk began his turgid novel. Bill Doskoch freaked out as Sheila Barry began to play Twisted Sister. Peter Block dropped by, all purried up, and Bobby Greenbacks paid Suzette her \$8.00. Shane Berg saw Dave Boyd speaking to Joan Schiebelbein about Tim Gunter - Shame! And Tim Hellum flashed by on his way to see Eva grin and Bear it!