

Balloting blues

As a long-term S.U. election worker, I was very impressed by the work of the C.R.O.'s five immediate assistants. Gunnar, Ninette, Pawan, Glenn and Blaine did a marvelous job of handling the various major chores involved in the election. I'd be glad to work with them again.

However, there were certain aspects of the conduct of the election—not within the province of the above individuals—that still puzzle me. One, which I was too busy counting at the time to worry about, is that a large number of truly-blank ballots turned up. These were left blank, rather than being voided. Another point that has me slightly disturbed: what was Ken Bosman doing counting ballots at the recounts. Do the latest amendments to the by-laws permit the campaign manager of the NO-CFS side of the referendum to handle ballots if they do not pertain to his referendum?

I certainly hope that these are trivial worries on my part, and not indicative of anything that would nullify the election. I enjoyed working on the main part of this election, but I really wouldn't want to have to do it over for reasons that reflected badly on the C.R.O.

Kathleen Moore
Business IV

What a frat boy!

Mike Nickel, Students' Union President. The charismatic leader who vaulted to the heights of power on the broad shoulders of the Great Root Bear. The man who once pleaded with a scantily-clad, brazen harlot, "I can't do it!" But can he do it? Obviously the fraternity girls who he enticed to vote for him think so. But what is the source of this power that he wields over the minions of the opposite sex? Does it rest in his always present scarf, which has the thick, pungent odor of Captain Highliner's finest blend? Or is it his rapidly receding hairline, proving once again that baldness is a sign of virility? I think you, the faithless denizens of the University of Alberta deserve an opportunity to look at the seedier side of this enigmatic public figure, who hails from the same fraternity system that brought you Skip, Biff, Cliff, Chip, and Muffy.

The early years were uneventful, not hinting at the greatness that was to come. His was a typical childhood; living in a palatial mansion in a small Alberta town, which was afforded by his father's thriving tombstone business. The affluence of the Nickel fam-

ily provided little Mikey with the best things that death could buy, stirring in Mike the desire to one day reach the highest tax bracket.

His present university career has been a case study in neurosis. Outwardly he exclaims to all who are unlucky enough to be around, "I AM NOT A COMMUNIST! I AM A CAPITALIST; A GOD-FEARING, RUSKIE HATING CAPITALIST!" But would such a person attempt to incorporate a scheme as socialistic as complete medical and dental coverage for all students? Outwardly this political science major dreams of law school, hoping to do all in his power to serve the Canadian justice system and punish all those who break the law and threaten the sanctity of our way of life. But did not the same Mike Nickel go to a hotel in a small town sixty miles northeast of Edmonton and in a heavy scotch induced stupor proceed to rip out a complete toilet and half of the hotel's plumbing system? Yes, this confused little man is now in charge of your Students' Union fees, which will be going to one hell of a victory party (by the way, if you cared to look, this fact was omitted on the Initiatives 85 campaign posters). Love him, hate him, don't even recognize him, one thing is for sure: in the words of glorious Chancellor Nickel himself, "I know more about nuclear waste than you do!"

Congrats, Michael.

Chuck Remson, Historian
Delta Kappa Epsilon

P.S. I wish to express my sympathies to Gilbert, Suzanne, Kent, and the others on their election predictions, which were expressed in the February 7 issues of the Gateway. How much money did you lose betting on Mondale and the Dolphins?

Thanks, guys!

This letter is to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who worked in and supported the Progressive Alternative campaign for last week's election.

Although the results were not what we had hoped for we are proud of our contribution to the Students' Union; important issues were raised in an honest way and clear alternatives were offered. Your concern, hard work and friendship gave us strength and were the backbone of the campaign. Once again, thanks.

Don Millar
Sarah Wright
Brinton McLaughlin
Caroline Nevin
Dave Kuefler
Gayle Morris

SECOND WIND

by Mark Olyan

In her letter of Feb. 7, Carol Shaben reflects that "if lamenting the past causes people to ignore the present, then such remembrances are a disservice to us all."

In reality, Ms. Shaben is using the past as an excuse to distort the present. Having recently returned from Israel, I find her misplaced analogy with the atrocities of the Nazis, to be repugnant. The only thing that seemed to be missing from her letter was a Doctor with a white glove standing in the middle of the refugee camp directing some Arabs to the left and some to the right and weeding out only twins for experimentation. At times, Ms. Shaben's anti-Semitic views are so thinly masked, that her weak attempt to hide them, borders on the ridiculous, and certainly has no basis in fact.

In reading her letter, it is actually more educational to see what facts she studiously chose to overlook, rather than what she actually chose to include.

First of all, the Dheisheh refugee camp (located between Bethlehem and Hebron — not Jerusalem and Bethlehem as was reported) is self-run! The only thing the Israeli authorities wish, is for the road between Bethlehem and Hebron to be open for free passage by all vehicles. Currently, this is impossible as rock throwing from Dheisheh camp, which sits on both sides of the highway connecting the two cities, is a common occurrence. The tragedy of this whole business, is that the people doing the rock throwing

are primarily youngsters recruited by the P.L.O. to engage in disruptive activities. Ironically, the Israeli military, which Ms. Shaben chastises for terrorizing the refugee camp, has actually done a good job of keeping settler groups (lead by Rabbi Levinger), and the inhabitants of Dheisheh apart.

According to Ms. Shaben, Israel is re-enacting history by committing atrocities on Palestinians. Sorry, but the reality of the situation is profoundly different. Israel is the only democratic country in the Middle East. Being democratic, however, does not imply that Israel society is perfect, merely that it tries to approach problems with a Western democratic mentality. Like many other countries, Israel has many problems, and the answers to these problems are complex and will take time to resolve. I think that's why people like Ms. Shaben are disturbing to me; they look at the world in black and white terms, while the reality is somewhat different.

If one were to listen to Ms. Shaben, Shimon Peres would be the second coming of Adolf Hitler, Yitshak Shamir the heir apparent to Herman Goring, and average Israeli, an S.S. storm trooper, complete with truncheon and canister of Zyklon-B. Perhaps I was extraordinarily lucky, but over the course of a year in Israel, I failed to meet even one of these barbarians.

The perverse truth of Dheisheh is that people in the camp are now free to earn a living, raise their children, and travel in and out of the camp as they please. They enjoy much more freedom now than they had under Jordanian rule prior to 1967.

Israel may be many things, but it is not, and never will be, Nazi Germany. To suggest such a thing is an insult to the intelligence of every thinking Canadian.

Bear Country



by Shane Berg

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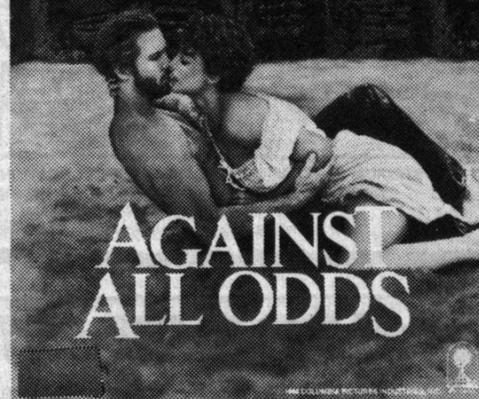
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