

Take time out to maunder

Those of you who were interested enough to attend a debate on Sept. 17 between Professors Green and Abu Laban probably came out of it completely unchanged and unenlightened. The topic was supposed to be "Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs — what future?"

Although the speakers (especially Prof. Green) did their best to keep the discussion in its proper perspective, the usual radical elements made their appearance, and the cause was lost. The issue was not resolved, and in fact, was hardly approached at all by the audience.

This can only lead to one conclusion: people love a good fight. Nobody really wants peace. Peace is dull, boring, and definitely not good press.

Where would the P.L.O. (not the Palestinian people... just the P.L.O.) and the Marxist-Leninists be without this conflict? Would they be willing to work in the fields, the factories, and the hospitals, to help improve our world? Would they be willing to listen as well as shout? Of course not. They'd rather be in the arena fighting the lions.

It is easy to find fault with whatever the opposition does. It is also very easy to look through the literature and find a statement by anyone, who may take any stand on any issue one likes. What does that prove? It proves that one may have a good attitude in library science, but it

also serves to illustrate the near-sightedness of many people. They don't want to play the game to resolve anything. They just want it to go on and on because it seems like the best thing to do at the time.

As for the original question, the two speakers gave views which were expected of them. I agree that the Palestinian people and the State of Israel must both be recognized, and that negotiations must be conducted between these two parties without any outside interference. If religious debate and the Zionism-racism issues continue to enter the discussion, future negotiations will be little more

than a loud tempest signifying nothing.

And if the question of Israel's right to exist surfaces, let us consider one important fact: almost every nation on the face of the earth, including the People's Republic of China, the U.S.A., and the U.S.S.R., were created by a type of civil war. The modern State of Israel presently exists under similar circumstances, with Palestine having been partitioned by the U.N. in 1948, thereby creating an Israeli and an Arab state which have been in conflict ever since. In fact, much of the land was purchased by the Jews from the Arabs before 1948, so what makes the founding of

Israel so different from the creation of almost any other nation?

All this fighting and yelling and screaming may be good business for the arms industry, underground press, political and religious groups, and the thousands of James Bonds in the world, but frankly, I find it all very sad. Life has so much more to offer. It would be nice if all of us mere mortal earthlings would take some time off from our everyday affairs to listen, think, wonder, and dream a little.

Perhaps, we may even discover what life is about ... all over again.

Stewart Cohen
Graduate Studies

Brobdignagian blobs blather on

Thanks to *the Gateway* for publishing my last letter. With preliminary courtesies over, one must turn to the problems at hand — those concerning some details in the letter regarding conditions in the university bookstore.

Some observers, at week's end, were baffled by the fact that although the Brobdignagian lineups had diminished somewhat, nowhere to be seen was a complete flip-flop of the situation, the expected result by many, given the conditions.

Indeed, observers were all the more bemused upon seeing the letter co-signed by Briton Hadden. He's dead. And Herman Kardon, some say, have been Hadden's timely — for some — demise.

Homicide cognoscenti, however, pooh-pooh so jejeunely simplistic a theory, noting too glaring a *prima facie* case obviates further investigation.

Nonetheless, had the lusty (six foot, blue-eyed) Margaux Hemingway not made a totally unexpected descent into the gatherings, the *hauteur* of the affair may have continued unabated.

It was not without effort that more virile members of the diplomatic corps retained their *sangfroid* at the sight of Hemingway *fille* unclad, leading some wags to quip that the Margaux 76 could well "beat a brackish Gloria hands down."

All in all, campus watchers rate the season a relative success and insist that, once the porcupines have shed their pécadilloes, a situation resembling normalcy will once again assert itself.

Hank Luce
Graduate Studies

Walkies wimp out

As I was walking along in the mass of people stumbling through their first week of class, I walked up behind one of the students on campus who spends his days getting around in a wheelchair. As I walked, I wondered why no one seemed to observe just how hard he was working at pushing himself up the slight up-grade on the path that those of us who walk around never notice.

lots of people were probably noticing, it's just that ... well, yes ... a "wheelchair" produces a lot of conflict in

people at times. To reach past the machinery to the person is a kind of interaction which most of us who are "walkies" find difficult, especially if it is a situation we've not dealt with before.

"If I ask this person if he wants some 'help' am I insulting his 'independence'? Will I be viewed as ingratiating? How will the person in the wheelchair feel?"

I'm sure a great number of people walking past this student must have had thoughts like these pass through their minds. How do we deal with this? It helps

freaks and our embibers; after some time we're all converted!

So please inform your readers that the false picture presented by the rookie in first year is not necessarily held true by the rest of his colleagues; and if we find the turkey we'll return him to underneath the rock from whence he came (no charge).

C. Rotic
(and the other members of the ethanolics' hall of fame) Med. 2 P.S. Please excuse the shakiness of the handwriting, but waiting for the Strath to open at 11 a.m. does have its drawbacks you know.

Strathcona regulars reply

In reply to R. Mortis' letter in your past issue, concerning the educational and social attitudes of the esteemed faculty of the medical arts, my colleagues and I wish to bring forth the true facts.

The gentleman must quite certainly be making these statements knowing that he cannot follow the same rise to the pinnacle of success (as was established by the legends of previous classes) that is considered standard in this faculty. How did he get in anyway?

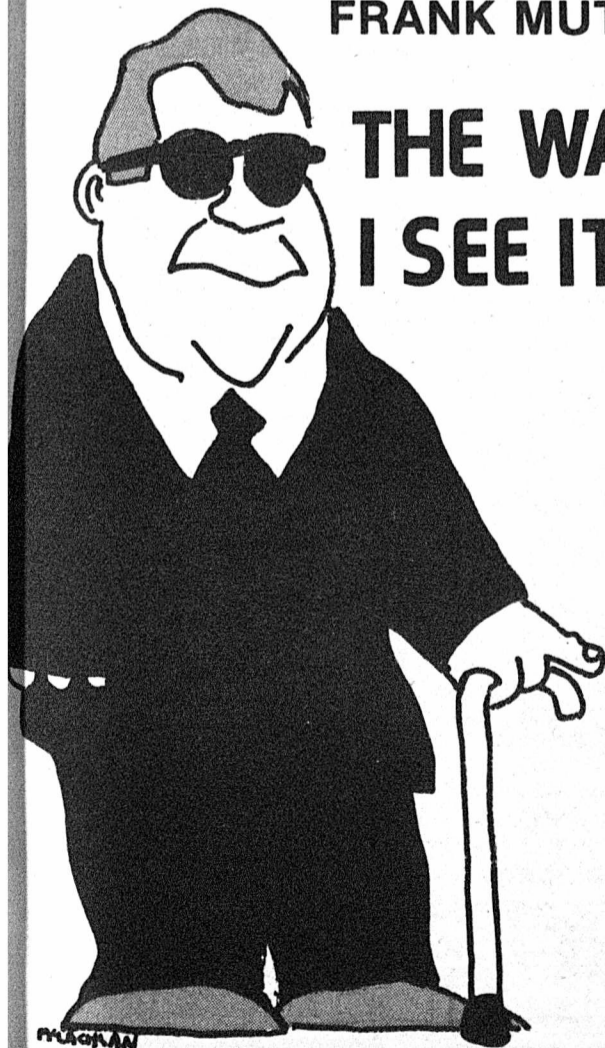
Now to set the record straight! We do not drink for personal gratification, rather for the educational and research

value for understanding the actions of various enzymes, including alcohol dehydrogenase (we hope that technical terms don't bore the commerce and aggie students in your readership. We know about the strain they go through to keep things simple in those faculties.)

As well, it should be pointed out that we don't drink on Friday nights. It is well documented that TGIF starts at 3 p.m. and ends by 6. (We know, you'll think that it is more than a technicality that it is 6 Tuesday morning). And finally, in the true spirits of our faculty, it is not true that there must be a distinction between our religious

FRANK MUTTON

THE WAY I SEE IT



I've always wondered why ETS drivers make a practice of starting off quickly after leaving the bus stops on 87 Avenue, even though old ladies and cripples may be trying desperately to catch that particular bus.

I remember my grandfather, Clem Mutton, telling me that "quick starters are usually on their way to coffee."

It appears that this is a new policy of the ETS — leave poor, helpless people standing while some bus driver enjoys his coffee.

Why do we need the drivers anyway? All they do is run over kid's bicycles — fire the whole goddamn bunch of ... what? Oh ... O.K. ... sorry about that.

While we're on the subject, a reader phoned in yesterday to complain about some new signs at 118 Avenue and 109 Street — it seems that northbound motorists turning right, eastbound turning left and southbound going through find themselves on the main runway of the Industrial Airport.

Isn't it about time the City Engineering Department gets on the ball and puts up a few signs to let motorists know that they've left the road?

Just last week a station wagon full of nuns came very close to winding up under the

landing gear of a PWA Airbus.

Harry Hosseneffer of the Airport Maintenance Crew tells me that his men spend an average of two hours every day directing motorists back on to Princess Elizabeth Avenue.

Yet another case of our hard-earned salaries going to overtime for underworked civil servants! Somebody should complain, but of course that never does any good — I mean, nobody listens anyway ... huh? ... O.K., O.K. (sorry)

Speaking of signs, there's a sign on every McDonald's Restaurant in town that says "Over 17 Billion Served" or "Billions and Billions Served."

Who in hell are they trying to kid, eh?

Every dummy knows that there are only four billion people in the whole world!! How could every man, woman and child on the face of this earth have eaten over four hamburgers each in Edmonton?

Even if they could afford the ridiculous government-sponsored Air Canada planefare, where did they all stay? The Plaza and Macdonald couldn't even handle Continental Europe, and the tavern at the Riviera wouldn't hold enough cots to cover the Middle East.

I phoned M. McCheese,

director of customer relations at McDonald's, and he told me he had no idea where the signs came from, and no, he had nothing to do with their installation and no, he couldn't see how all those people could eat all those hamburgers in those small restaurants and yes, he'd talk to R. McDonald, company president about the signs.

Mr. McCheese also told me that the new Calgary Trail McDonalds will be opening soon, and they'll be handling Southeast Asia and Africa until further notice.

Wes Montgomery over at CHED will be taking over from Chuck Chandler as the station's fat man in about 10 pounds... at a press conference yesterday in the old Citadel Theatre, Joe Shocter announced that Charles Allard will donate the Edmonton Oilers to the Citadel Theatre Building Fund. Joe politely declined... The University of Alberta announces that it is, as usual, contributing little to the community ... and finally, have you noticed that Mayor Cavanaugh and council are breaking a municipal bylaw? Haven't you seen those signs all over town, saying "No parking"? Well, the mayor and his bunch seem to be parked in neutral all the time! (hyuk, hyuk)