

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

Cancun couldn't

"The heads of state and government confirmed the desirability of supporting at the United Nations, with a sense of urgency, a consensus to launch Global Negotiations on a basis to be mutually agreed and in circumstances offering the prospect of meaningful progress."

Amazing. Simply amazing, that this incomprehensible little paragraph must represent the combined efforts of world leaders to help cure the world's disparities. But it was considered a breakthrough at October's North-South Summit in Cancun, Mexico, that Ronald Reagan would dignify the term "Global Negotiations" with capital letters.

For earlier in July in Canada many of the same world leaders said: "We are ready to participate in preparations for a mutually acceptable process of global negotiations in circumstances offering the prospect of meaningful progress."

The Cancun statement was a virtual echo. Any increased significance could be explained partly by the latter's higher profile: Cancun featured 22 world leaders, Montebello only eight and of them, not one token poor nation; at Cancun, there were perhaps five.

Cancun also developed a higher level of hypocrisy. The conference devoted to poverty and other world sorrows was held in Mexico's newest and most opulent resort of Cancun on the Yucatan peninsula. It took all of two days. There was no agenda, no real mandate, and too much politics. The 14 Third World nations came to press for reform, to begin building or at least talking about the New Economic World Order.

They sought to address the proposals of 1980's Brandt Commission report, which advocated large scale transfers of resources from the wealthy northern industrial nations to the impoverished underdeveloped or developing nations in the South, an international energy bank, a global food program to end starvation, and a wide range of other reforms based on the principles of equity and justice. (The Cancun summit was a direct result of a Brandt Commission recommendation.)

The U.S. turned the Brandt Commission and its advocated on their heads. To muted dissent from wealthy nations like Canada and West Germany, Ronald Reagan sold Cancun a compromise made in Washington.

The U.S. would support Global Negotiations provided:

- 1) that they be held in existing international organizations, such as the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund (IMF) (neither of which have been able to help reduce North-South disparities, partly because the wealthy nations control them);
- 2) that they focus on specific proposals;
- 3) that they not involve massive transfers of resources;
- 4) that they be undertaken in a spirit that would avoid polarization of rich and poor countries.

As well, Reagan acquiesced to UN General Assembly talks only if they would remain non-voting matters. But one wonders at that caution, given that in the words of an American Democrat James Scheuer, the General Assembly is "one of history's most irrelevant, demagogic, and irresponsible 'deliberative' bodies."

Obviously the U.S. was motivated not by compassion, but by propaganda, the opportunity to use its own acceptance of Global Negotiations as such, against the Soviet Union, which didn't even attend the Summit.

If not entirely by propaganda, the U.S. was motivated by merciless self-interest. Even in the words of the Brandt Commission: "The search for solutions is not an act of benevolence but a condition of mutual survival." Thus Reagan and president of the Socialist International Willy Brandt would sooner neutralize the ambitious Third World than face its ascendancy on vested interests in a generation's time. Thus what aid that is given is essentially regressive.

It would be too much to expect that 22 politicians in two days time present a 25 or 50 year plan to restructure the world's economy. However, it is obvious these politicians came to the Summit conference only to win propaganda points and cynically to spread false hopes. The world will have to wait a while longer.

Peter Michalyshyn

A SERIOUS MESSAGE FROM DR. MUZZ

DR. MUZZ

KEENERS' BUTTOCKS

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TERM PAPER FACE



CAUSED BY THE DREAD "UP-TILL-FOUR-IN-THE-MORNING-SYNDROME" STUDENTS IN THE PANIC MODE BURN OUT WHILE TRYING TO FINISH UP TWENTY PAGE ESSAYS TEND TO FALL FACE FIRST INTO THEIR TYPEWRITERS-ASLEEP.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clarifying the world's situation

I am forced to take up pen again to respond to Archibald Strachan and his cohorts.

Unfortunately, I am unable to offer a reply to Mr. MacDonald since I find it impossible to make any sense out of his letter (*Gateway*, 5 November). If there is a meaning in a sentence like "It should be totally straight forward (*sic*) to any right thinking pic that is these Celts, Neoromans and Germans were denied the privilege (*sic*) of lording over them the better," then I am unable to find one. But then I know little about matters of the soil.

Back to Ireland, albeit briefly. I maintain that it is impossible to make any assessment on the situation in Ireland today without knowing something of its history. The closest analogy to the 3 million Republicans is the black majority of Zimbabwe, who have achieved a more egalitarian system with the aid of the British government. Like the Ulster Unionists, the Rhodesian whites had set down roots and most were third or fourth generation Africans. This does not render their cause any more righteous. Ireland has a more united history than Zimbabwe, which, I understand, has several rival African tribes.

Al Mac hosts the Budget Party.

Join us Thursday at 4 p.m.

Room 282 SUB

Wear your *Gateway* jacket.

Why then is the Thatcher government not willing to alleviate the problems of the Catholic Irish? No serious student of Ireland believes that the IRA are representative of the majority of the Irish people. The prominence of the IRA is merely a sign that the more democratic solutions for liberation have failed.

Finally, Mr. Strachan wonders what I am doing living in

a land stolen from the Indians. Perhaps his ancestors helped to steal that land. Mine didn't, and I carry no responsibility for that theft. I would, however, support many of the land claims of the native people. We should work for a better future not try and induce guilt complexes for misdeeds of the past, which is surely a futile enterprise.

Brian Cohen
Arts IV

Effects off campus

Dear Mr. Soper;

It is with great regret that I learn of the imminent closing of SU Music and Tapes. The importance of this outlet to music students and teachers was well stated by the Music Student's Association, and your countering argument was also logical, if somewhat unconstitutional.

I wish to address the fact that an outlet of this type which offers an excellent selection of modern study scores and books not often found elsewhere cannot be expected to be a blazing profit-maker in the first three years or so of its operation.

A store like this is much needed in this city where contemporary music is still struggling to find a foothold, and a large university campus housing an excellent music department is the logical place to plant it. Removal of this vital source of music and information will help ensure the continuing indifference and apathy which make Edmonton the contemporary music barnyard

that it seems to enjoy being.

The current era of profit-chasing redneck landgrabbing etc etc is well mirrored in this decision to close SU Music and Tapes. It makes me sad and angry that your Union which represents a supposedly cultured community could not make a small exception to the Law of the Boom.

I salute Gordon Marr and Stu Millman and wish them well.

Sincerely yours
Robert Myers
Music Program Head
Grant MacEwan Community College

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, although we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Gateway*.

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We made the most of it. After all, people predicted, Allan MacEachen's Nov. 12 budget would turn students, and sick people, and everyone in between into the streets. Allison Annesley, Michael Skeet, Mary Ann Nielson, Grant Guilet, and Peace Bashwell had to drop out, but luckily they got jobs at the local recruiting office, future KIA's. Remember, Gunnar Blodgett finally was deported. Elizabeth H, Diana Taschuk, Sandy Pugh, Cindy Oxley, Ben Yee, Peter Durovic, and Bob Kilgannon went on academic probation, but by Christmas they were let go, left out in the cold, young idealistic, and unemployed. Jordan Peterson, Dave Oginski, and Tom Freeland stayed in University by marrying rich widows. It was a high price to pay. But it was that Blinston - he was too old to remain so he went to write Olivia Butti's memoirs. Funny, haven't seen him since.