

EDITORIAL

Purposelessness

It's absurd that our University Senate is investigating the purpose of the university by soliciting public opinion.

At a time in Alberta when its citizens so strongly support the present government — a government that would like to graduate half its students as mineral engineers to work on the tar sands, and the other half as lawyers to fight its constitutional battles — public opinion is but one more giant step backwards.

An example of public opinion surfaced last year when a member of our Board of Governors said, "Universities are too important to be left in the hands of academics".

And there's very little reason to suspect the general public has a dedicated interest in the subject when the Senate has to spend \$13,000 on a speaker tour to whip up response.

Instead, we should look to history to determine the purpose of the university.

Historically, the university has been a leader. It has also been elitist. And that has been good because all human progress has been due to a variety of elites — religious, intellectual, moral, economic, political, and perhaps just common-sensical.

In the words of one critic, our universities have lost that sense of leadership and elitism, "affixing their seals to supermarket degrees while wandering around neighborhoods asking the masses what they think the university should be."

Certainly the university cannot ignore the larger community; it cannot escape resembling, in some measure, the community from which it springs.

But it would be fatal for the university to be content to be totally, or even in large part, a mere reflection of society; it should be, in a sense, above that society.

It would be, according to Dr. George Cormack, who resigned from the Senate Commission because of its limited view, as if a patient tried to tell her doctor how she would like to be treated. This must not be the case with our university, for the results would be predictable.

It is also predictable that the Senate commission on university purpose will discover public attitudes to be as narrow, if not more so, than the government's.

If this is the case, there will be no purpose pursuing the matter at all.

Peter Michalyszyn

Let's get silly!

Now it appears the crowd at Golden Bear hockey and basketball games (and who knows what else) will have their very own band to cheer the team on. How juvenile!

Such wonderful sophomoric demonstrations of fan appreciation were restricted, I thought, to the half-time patriotic demonstrations at big American colleges. But I've got to admit, with this new idea they've got a sure-fire attendance booster. At least all the band members will come.

Keith Krause

the Gateway

VOL. LXXI NO. 22
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1980
TWELVE PAGES

If it happens on campus...it's news to us.

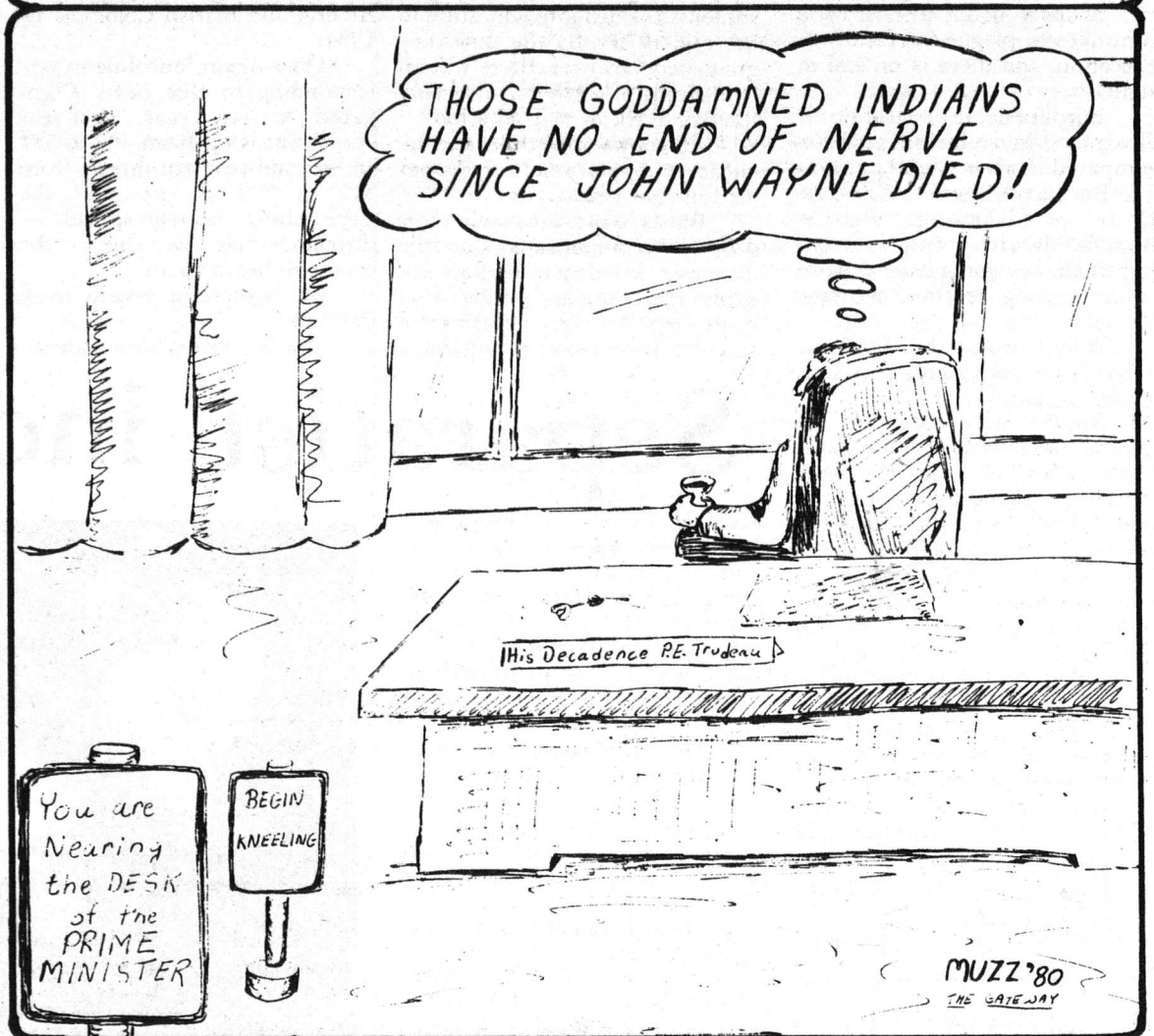
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STAFF THIS ISSUE: God was with us on this particular trip, but even He couldn't hold seemingly Alison Thomson (or was it seething?) to double spaces. Michael Skeet and Murray Whitby glorified The Man in art, as did C. Fertile and the all-knowing Marc Garvey in timeless prose. Bill Inglee and Tom Freeland captured all Her glory in portraits, while Cathy Emberley and Elda Hopfe dutifully rendered the event in even columns. Robert Cook and Maureen Laviolette and Jens Andersen laid the print for all to see. And Vanda Killeen and Bob Kilgannon set the cross upon which to crucify an intransigent staffer. Where the HELL are you Wes Oginski?

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. With a readership of more than 25,000, the Gateway is published by its proprietor, the Students' Union, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter session. Contents are the responsibility of the editor; editorials are written by the editorial board or signed. All other opinions are signed by the party expressing them. Copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. The Gateway, a member of Canadian University Press and the Youthstream Network, is located at room 282 SUB, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7.
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Advertising 432-3423

ITEM: NATIVES PISSED-OFF WITH TRUDEAU CONSTITUTION - MARCH ON OTTAWA



No future is left in Canada

Reply to Keith Krause's column of November 20 entitled "Separatist Hordes":

Mr. Krause, if you were in attendance at Mr. Doug Christie's meeting of Western Canada concept on the evening of November 20, I wonder if you would continue to refer to the "mythical force of Western Separatism." The more than 2,500 people in attendance seemed very real to me, and made it quite clear that we are tired, and want change, now.

Mr. Krause, if you wish to continue paying 30 to 50% above world price for manufactured goods (through tariffs imposed by the federal government), please do so, but the rest of us do not. Please, don't call us greedy because we want equality of prices, not us selling at one-half of world price and buying at up to 50% above world price.

Are we "blue chip capitalists" for no longer wanting to finance the federal debt, a debt accumulated largely by subsidizing Central Canada so they can buy oil on the world market, and at world prices, and still have the consumer pay only half price. Prior to the Saudi deal Trudeau is presently negotiating, this subsidy amounted to approximately \$6.4 million daily or \$2.34 billion annually, estimated conservatively. This amounts to over 15.5% of the federal debt of about \$15 billion.

Finally, how are we not a distinct political entity? We are being governed(?) by a party which we did not elect. The Liberal Party elected no member west of the Red River and yet a Liberal majority had been formed in the March election before our polls even closed. Does this not make Western Canada a distinct political entity?

Yes, we are a part of Canada, but will "Canada" let us be a part of it? I say no, we have no future in Confederation. The time to

separate is now, before we have nothing left.

Brent Hironaka
Commerce III

Nirvana in 114 parts

The Alberta Separation Society is establishing a chapter on campus, in an effort to make contact with the real world. We stand for Western separation from the rest of Canada, as 114 autonomous but confederated states.

These will include Jasperia, Banff-on-Sea (by annexing Vancouver as our sea port), Drayton Valley, Turner Valley, the Leduc Oil Empire, Petrolia, Edmongary (all except Garneau, which will not be allowed to join Edmongary until it pays for itself to be converted into a parking lot), the Independent University of Alberta, Shell Building (North), Shell Building (South), Legislaturia, the Republic of Vegreville-Barrhead, and the Coal Valley Commonwealth.

The Socialist University of Calgary will have to join its communist brothers at Queens or Memorial. Peace River, High Level, Spirit River and Grande Prairie will become a Piece of High Spirits on the Prairie and sold to the highest bidder. Lethbridge will be sold to Molson's. The land south of Lethbridge and Medicine Hat will be ceded to the U.S., as long as Reagan promises to establish cruise missiles there, pointing outwards. (If he does, he becomes eligible for our highest award, the Order of Liquid Energy.)

The Caribou Mountains will be taken out to sea and dumped, unless we find anything of economic interest underneath. The hole remaining, with any other land of negligible economic, industrial or agricultural value, will become the Indian Penal Reserve, for all persons from the lower income brackets. Churchill

will become Nether Alberta Hunting Reserve, for killing polar bears with low yield nuclear weaponry.

Since the whole Athabasca Basis has always been Albertan, historically, morally and culturally, until seized by Saskatchewan in 1905, we will fight for our right to its uranium, forming the Province of Plutonia. Fort McMurray and Cold Lake are also prepared to merge, as Peter's Private Kingdom, if they know what's good for them.

So join us in ASS. Because we know what's best for you too.

Tony Redunzo
(President-elect of
New Alberta)

FINAL LAST CHANCE

We realize humor can't be rushed, so we've extended our humor contest by a week. So don't run, walk to the Gateway with your entry of 250 words or less on any subject to room 282 SUB by Monday, December 1.

So get funny, or you'll hear from our lawyers...