

# Student political hack defends University President

I have held my tongue for nearly two weeks in the vain hope that the writer of the letter (*Gateway*, March 9) condemning the president of this University for declining to march on the legislature with the rest of us last week, would reconsider those remarks that unfairly impugned Dr. Horowitz's integrity and withdraw them. Seeing that Mr. Koch of the Faculty of Engineering would still have us accept his deliberately misinformed point of view, I would like to offer an alternate perspective.

First, there is a big difference between opinionated fair comment and the slanderous simpleton name calling that summarized the correspondence in question. But even under the guise of the former, Mr. Koch's allegations have no basis in fact. God only knows the times that I and other outspoken students have banged heads and locked horns with "Uncle Meyer", as we sometimes call him behind his back, over issues ranging from reduced library hours and study space to student input on arbitrary administrative decisions. And that some higher power can also attest that Dr. Horowitz has invariably gone the extra mile in an effort to

meet student demands, whether reasonable or otherwise.

As one who has sometimes been labelled radical and confrontational in my approach, I have to admit that I don't know of any administrator on campus who has more sincerely demonstrated a genuine sensitivity to the student point of view, or who is more accessible to Joe-average student than is Horowitz.

Second, it is to his credit that he has, as president, pursued a form of diplomacy often more cosmopolitan than his detractors are usually capable of understanding. He has at least produced for us a Board of Governors which, in spite of the short leash of their Tory masters, has been known to sometimes listen to, and even act upon student concerns. A far cry from the totally reactionary Board that students at the University of Calgary are saddled and spurred with.

And if the provincial government persists in the face of all reasonable logic with its pig-headed, myopic policies on student aid, tuition, and regressive university funding, that's not Horowitz's fault - it's ours. We helped elect the bloody-minded buggers and perhaps we're just

getting back from them what we deserve.

It must be obvious to even the most naive spectator that in his role as president, Horowitz



labours under a unique set of personal and professional constraints. In addition to representing the whole university community to the public at large, the likes of Mr. Koch would apparently have him also play the clown and ask "How deep?", when they holler, "Shit!". In the same breath he is expected to meekly say, "How high?", when government monkeys, uh, ministers like Jim Horsman say, "Jump!".

Even the most begrudging of critics must recognize that Horowitz has demonstrated considerable intestinal fortitude in pursuing an independent course in his unenviable task of keeping this university healthy in the face of blatantly cynical government underfunding.

The point of this is not to paint a phoney halo of

superlatives around his head - his wife tells folks that he has his share of warts just like the rest of us. But while one may disagree with specific moves, as I often had, one has to respect the high standards of his goals and the degree of integrity with which he seeks to achieve them.

In closing, I don't know

which of you has more guts, Mr. Koch; you for writing such a churlishly petulant piece of drivel, or Horowitz for swallowing it in silence. But it might do you some good to choke on it at Convocation next month when Dr. Horowitz shakes your hand and gives you your diploma, as he surely will.

Bob Kirk

## Evidence of aggression

Mr. Ammar's letter of March 16th deserves comment. He is unconvinced that the Soviet Union is an "aggressive military state". Here's some evidence that should convince him.

The USSR invaded Afghanistan in late December of 1979. As a result, the U.N. General Assembly called, on January 14, 1980, for the "immediate, unconditional, and total withdrawal of Soviet troops". That motion was approved 104-18.

Furthermore, on January 29, foreign ministers of Islamic nations condemned the invasion as a "flagrant violation" of international law. There are still Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

Finally, Mr. Ammar would like us to distinguish between liberation movements and terrorists. Webster's defines "terrorist" as "an advocate or practitioner of terror as a means of coercion".

The objectives of a terrorist are not part of the definition; thus, the PLO, for example, seems to fit the definition quite well. Come to think of it, Mr. Ammar does too.

Nicolas Dimic  
Arts III

## Reason for starvation

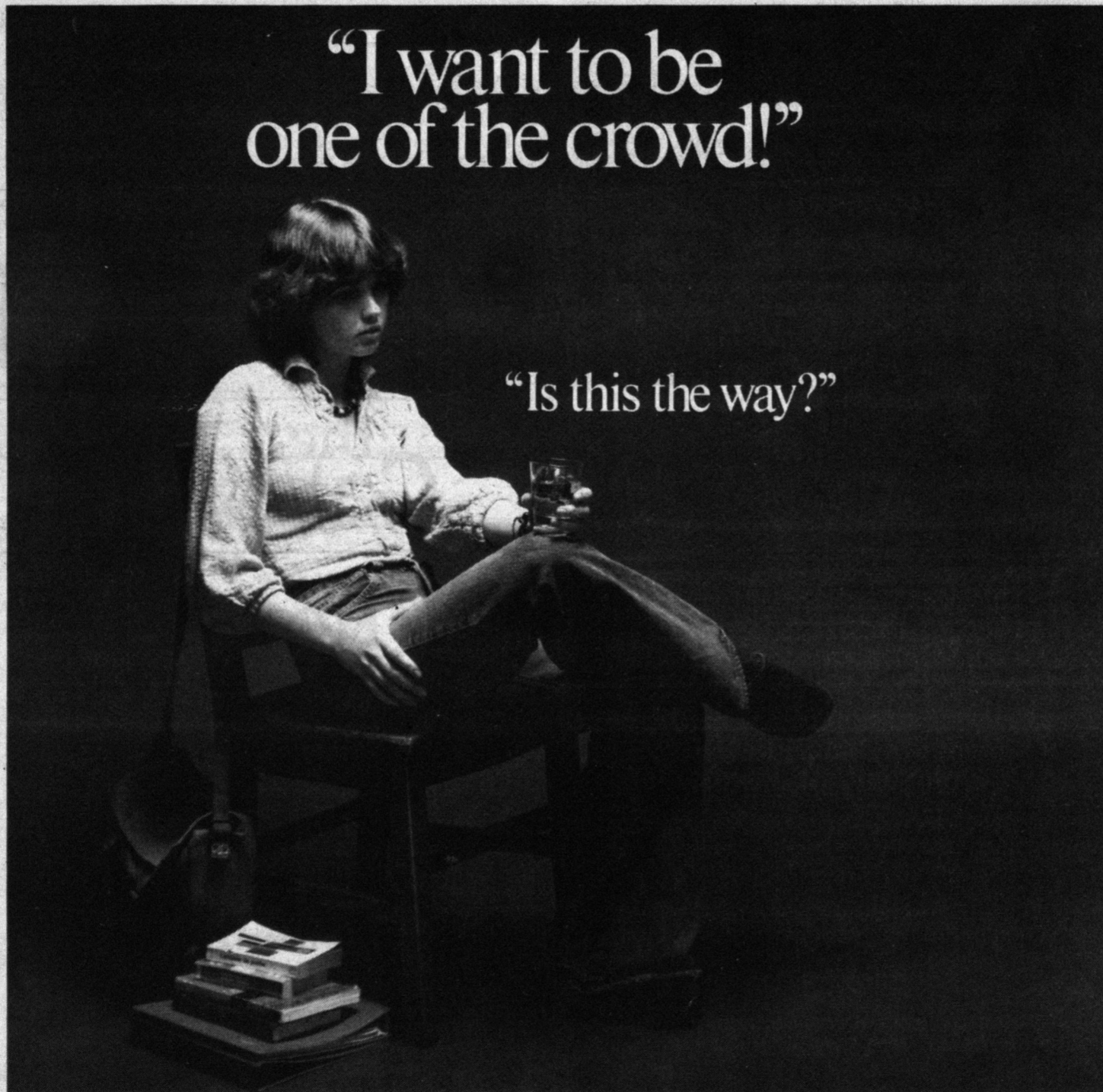
Dear Editor,

The Hunger Project is not even noticed by the agricultural organizations in Canada. While I do not mean to belittle Anthropologists and Sociologists, these people are not experts in the production, distribution and consumption patterns of food products. Agrologists and Food Scientists are. These are the people that should be listened to, not starv-a-thon advocates that don't know the issues.

The reason why there are starving people in the world is because they are poor, not because there is a shortage of food right now. In the US at the present time there is 1.1167 billion bushels of wheat in carry-over stocks that can't be sold, even at depressed prices. The grain will only move to these unfortunate people when they have the money to pay for it. It is thus the commercial system of grain movement, which finds no profit in giving grain away to poor people.

Finally, the lack of domestically grown food in developing countries is often economic policy that forces agriculture to subsidize industrialization. The drop in capital flow to agriculture results in a drop in food production. Thus output suffers and people go hungry.

Mark Hickok  
Agriculture IV



"I want to be one of the crowd!"

"Is this the way?"

Think about it...talk about it.

It's easy to feel that to be one of the crowd means drinking; even drinking to excess. It's almost as if to be somebody you have to get smashed, blitzed or whatever. You can feel embarrassed or ashamed afterwards.

BE SOMEBODY... You decide how much... control your drinking. Don't let your friends or alcohol control you.

### Dialogue on drinking

An idea from  
Health and Welfare Canada  
P.O. Box 8888  
Ottawa, Ont. K1G 3J2  
Santé et Bien-être social Canada

Canada

Surely the Show of the season  
—Ashwell, Journal

Workshop West with the University of Alberta Drama Department presents  
**BALCONVILLE**  
by David Fennario  
Chalmers award 1979 outstanding Canadian play  
March 18 - April 3 STUDIO THEATRE  
Mon - Sat. 8 pm  
Fri & Sat. 1:30 pm  
except Fri 19th  
Information 424-2422  
TICKETS BASS/DOOR ONLY

sponsored by Esso Imperial Oil Limited