

## Free trade is good

Free trade is good for Canada not only for what it does, but also for what it prevents.

A free trade agreement exempts Canada from an astonishingly protectionist trade bill that Democrats are pushing in the US Congress. This alone justifies free trade.

Canada is massively dependant on exports. Nearly 25% of everything our nation produces is exported to the US. The US Omnibus Trade Bill represents a gun to the head of Canada, and free trade takes the bullet from the chamber.

Free trade also means jobs. The Economic Council of Canada predicts 350,000 net new jobs will result. Peter Lipsey, senior economist at the C.D. Howe Institute predicts Canada's GNP will rise by 3 to 10%. The Consumers Association of Canada says that elimination of tariffs will raise Canada's standard of living 7%.

So why all the opposition to Free Trade?  
The truth is that free trade is more about the size of Government than it is about economics.

Under free trade, Canada's corporations sink or swim in the real world rather than in a little tariff protected pond. This requirement to compete dramatically limits the scope and nature of Government intervention.

This worries those who feel Canada's socialist agenda is not fully implemented. National daycare, equal pay for work of equal value, more bilingualism, a second channel for the CBC, reverse discrimination programs, and a thousand other ideas still remain on the socialist dream-scape.

If Canada goes its own economically isolationist way, we can try all these programs out, albeit at the cost of economic expansion. But under free trade, the ability of Government to impose these ideas — be they taxes, pollution laws, hiring practices, or red tape) is limited by economic common sense. If costs become too high, the corporations and jobs go south.

This is the crux of the matter. Ronald Reagan's America is less inclined to Government intervention than Ed Broadbent's Canada. Free trade demands that the level of taxation in the two nations be about equal, and this leaves the Liberal and NDP parties without the ability to expand government. Such a reality leaves both parties intellectually bankrupt.

A second tool free trade takes away from the NDP and Liberal parties is energy. The continental energy market created by free trade forever makes it impossible for there to be another National Energy Policy.

The last NEP resulted in Alberta being paid (between 1972 and 1984) an astonishing 70 billion dollars less than world price for its oil. The NDP and Liberal coalitions of the day used this 70 billion to buy votes in Ontario and Quebec. Under free trade they couldn't do it again.

Ontario benefits from tariffs. Ever since John A. Macdonald's "National Policy" of 1879, Central Canada has held the other provinces as economic colonies enslaved to the Ontario economy. The Canada West foundation estimates that on manufactured goods alone, Western Canada pays Ontario \$494 million a year in tariff costs. Under free trade, Ontario would lose this half billion dollar subsidy and the higher than US Union wages that go with it.

The prospects of free trade thus understandably worry Labour Unions, Ontario, and interventionist political parties.

Free trade would fundamentally change Canada. The Governments of Canada would lose their free hand to tax and spend as if they were in isolation. The regions of Canada would be more equal economically. All of our political parties would have to come up with ideas other than spending more of the taxpayers' money.

Free trade is good for Canada.

Ken Bosman

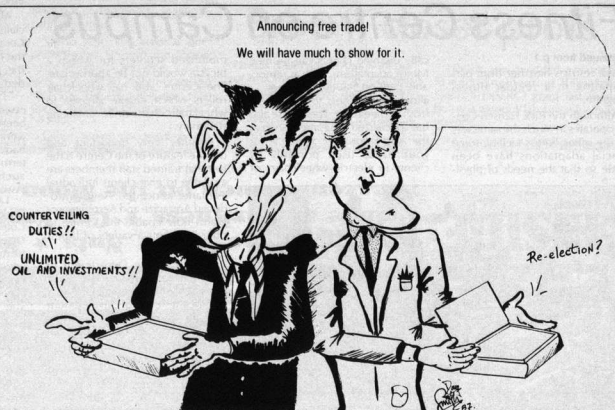
## The Gateway



Editor-in-Chief: RHODEY RICK (ROD) J CAMPBELL  
 Managing Editor: SHERRI RITCHIE  
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CONTRIBUTORS: PAT HUGHES, ROB GALBRAITH, JEFF COWLEY, HEIDI JANZ, LLOYD DEVINKENZI, DOUG SMITH, J. DYLAN, TOM WHARTON, KEITH ZUKWISKI, CAROL AMERONGIER, TERRY GALE, ROSA JACKSON, DRAGOS RIJIC, GLENN ST—GERMAN, PAUL MENZIES, PHILIP PREVIELLE, CAM MCCULLOCH.

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## Address the issue

Re: "More censorship" (Gateway letters, Oct. 6).

Contrary to M. Hunter's awkward phrased contention, "selective raising of facts" is not the worst kind of censorship. Most facts that get raised get selected first.

Ad hominem arguments are, however, the lowest form of polemic. Mr. Hunter's letter is a paroxysm of insult and invective that does not address a single issue except Andrew Rodomar's character.

It would be more interesting (and less offensive) to hear Mr. Hunter's reply to the issue Andrew Rodomar's letter raised. Just how does the International Relations and Strategic Studies Society expect to hold public discussions of such things as the U.S. intervention in Nicaragua and avoid partisan political comment during a question period?

Alan Rutkowski  
 University Library

## Tourney coverage

In reference to Mr. Smathers' coverage of the "University of Alberta Molsion Invitational Tournament" I find it very difficult to believe how anybody could write a Tournament Notebook on the basis of seeing one day's action. Usually a sportswriter watches an entire event before writing something similar to Mr. Smather's feeble attempt at a tournament notebook. Do you see Terry Jones writing a notebook on the Oilers pre-season after watching one practice at West Edmonton Mall?

Secondly, there was not confusion in the press box as to who would win the tournament. The point was clearly established that if the Bears won or tied the game against Calgary then they would win the tournament and if Calgary won the game, then the tournament was theirs. The confusion arose over the question of whether or not there would be an overtime period. Under normal C.I.A.U. regulations there would have been an overtime period played, but since this was an exhibition tournament, there was no overtime.

I do feel, however, that there may be some confusion in the Gateway offices on how to read the official scoresheet. Granted that, as the editor pointed out to Mr. King, the official *goal teler* record states that David Clearwater of Lethbridge stopped 39 of 41 shots. However, if you look at the shots on goal totals on both the official game-sheet and the summary sheet, you will find that Lethbridge had 41 shots on goal as opposed to Saskatchewan 22. If the Gateway is going to provide sports information to the university campus, which I hope they continue to do, I would hope that the reporters show up to the games or at least learn how to

read the information that is given to them by the Department of Athletics. This is not the only example of the Gateway's inability to read the information given to them. In the game summary from the Sept. 30 game that the Bears played against the Camrose Vikings, the Gateway summary stated that John Krill played the whole game in goal for Alberta, while the official game summary states that Mitch Pescock played the third period for Alberta.

I thought that the Gateway, being a Student Union run newspaper would try to help out the Bears. This is not accomplished with such shabby journalism on the part of Mr. Smathers, who I hope is still in his pre-season form.

Roger Kramers

## Ignorance

The only thing Leslie Hicks accomplished in her letter "Miffed at SU Fees" (Sept. 22/87) was to expose her ignorance of the university system. I'm very happy for Ms. Hicks — she is so confident so early in the year that she will never need or want any of the services or entertainment offered or subsidized by the SU. She won't buy exams from the registry; she won't (or didn't) listen to the bands or drink the liquor during Freshman Introduction Week; she won't need any sort of help offered by Student Help; she'll never read *The Gateway* or write in it; she won't visit any of the pubs or bars subsidized or run by the SU; she won't go to any SUB movies, lectures, or presentations; she won't buy a record from SU Records; she won't use Campus Security after a night class or a late night at the library and she'll never need the SU behind her when she finds academic injustice or bureaucratic red tape. Quite an independent lady!

Maybe it's time Ms. Hicks and all other naive students woke up and smelled the Lister Hall food. Your money \$23.00 (or \$46.00) is going towards so many services and activities that you can't help but get your money's worth and more. Just like *The Bay*! Find out the facts from the *Student Handbook* (paid for by the SU) or ask anybody on the executive. If you still think university government is a waste of time and money, write another letter to *The Gateway* (paid for by the SU). And if you still want my number so you can give me a piece of your mind, pick up the *Student Directory* (printed and paid for by the SU). By then you'll have gotten your money's worth!

Karen Colvin

## No activism

Is student activism alive and well at the U of A? Apparently not. The attitude of many students here seems to fluctuate between apathy and hostility toward the few activist-oriented clubs, who along with lagging memberships

have to struggle with being labelled commie / pinko / radical / liberal / religious fanatic — or a combination of all of these.

I encountered this first-hand as I sat at an Amnesty International information booth in SUB. A friend was looking for me there, and in asking for directions to the AI booth was given a stern lecture from an anonymous observer on the dangers of mixing with bleeding heart liberals. This is not a surprising reaction. As anyone who has represented a group at a table in SUB can testify, most students barely give you an interested glance, unless you are the guy who sells fur hats (an adequately "safe" non-political activity!).

To set the record straight for the Anonymous Observer and others, Amnesty International is non-political, non-religious, and subscribes to no particular ideology. It is concerned solely with protecting human rights. AI is an international organization which works to free prisoners of conscience, those imprisoned for their beliefs. Throughout countries of widely differing ideologies, thousands of people are held in prison, often without charge or trial. Many are tortured, including children. Amnesty International works to get a fair trial and release of prisoners except those who have either used or advocated violence. Such prisoners are not eligible for assistance from Amnesty International, for example, the well-known Nelson Mandela, who has in the past advocated violent action. However, AI opposed torture and the death penalty in all cases.

Catherine Gusse

## Re: "No friends"

re: "No friends" (Gateway Oct 6/87)

I am not sure that a response to Jim Stinert's letter entitled "No Friends" is totally necessary. My doubt of a necessary reply for this letter lies in the realization that most students probably did not consider this letter very seriously, due to its atrocious contents.

However, some first years (or other students), might think that this letter has some validity to it. In case this has occurred, let me point out that the letter probably resulted from one of several causes.

One possible reason for the writing of this letter may be that Mr. Stinert wasn't serious, but wanted to write something to get a response. One possibility.

A second possibility is that in one form or another, Mr. Stinert wanted to speak out against the negative effects of the bell curve on student's behavior.

He claimed that because of the bell curve and the resulting competition, we should avoid all students trying to be friendly with us. If this is his reason, I find it an inappropriate way of speaking