

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

"One Tin soldier rides away"

Today we learn if the Alberta Day of Action has been a success, a marginal victory, or an utter waste of time.

For some reason, what happens in Alberta will also determine in part the success of the National Week of Action. This is perhaps tied up with the successful march staged by Alberta students back in '78. If the participation or the enthusiasm is not equal to that in '78, the government may use that fact to undermine the Day's purpose.

What people should question is the march's purpose. I really cannot tell you, and I am not sure the organizers of this event can either. Officially the Canadian Federation of Students' (CFS) has organized a unified national action to stress three points: to protest cutbacks in federal and provincial post-secondary support; to draw attention to the importance of the federal/provincial renegotiations of the shared Established Programs Financing; and to draw attention to the need for better student aid. Basically CFS has covered everything under the sun so that a good student activist should support at least one of the points.

I do not question the points as being a worthwhile cause to march for. I just question the value of marching when the organizers' motives are unclear. Think of the boost CFS will receive if the march is a national and provincial success. Those universities hedging about joining the Federation will have this incentive as well. (By the way, the University of Alberta is a prospective member in CFS.)

The same boost given to CFS would also benefit the local organizing bodies. The Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) and the Anti-Cutbacks Team (ACT) would increase their credibility and support in Alberta if all goes well. If the march in Alberta or across the country is a failure, no doubt all three groups will blame it on student apathy.

Unfortunately, they will be right. Up till yesterday I too, questioned the validity of these factors, especially the usefulness of the march. I had to ask myself why I would march or why I wouldn't. What finally decided my perspective was a chance conversation with my brother on the topic.

He related an incident of the previous day to me. He was sitting studying by a friend and for some strange unknown reason they began to talk about today's march. He asked her if she would march. She said no. They argued about it for a while and her message became clear. To take liberty with my brother's paraphrasing she said, "I have a scholarship so it doesn't matter if tuition goes up, it's all paid for anyway. It isn't my fault you were born into the wrong family."

I was stunned, yet I could not dismiss the validity of such a statement. I have to wonder how many students across the Canada have this same blase attitude, and cringe when I think of the numbers. This incident and attitude may be an isolated case but I doubt it. You want facts and figures; I cannot give them to you. Being a psychology student, I believe I know a little about people, but not enough to predict their behavior. I have to compare my reaction to what a famous fictitious character once said, "I have a bad feeling about this."

That is all I have - a feeling. It is a feeling I do not like. Yet it is a feeling that determined what I would be doing Thursday, March 11, 1982. I marched to the Legislature today. I marched today to protest the declining quality of education; not for CFS, FAS, or ACT or their causes but for my own reasons.

Before you decided to march today or not, I hope you thought about why you did what you did. If you did not march, I can only say I wish you had. If you did march I hope you know why.

W. Oginski

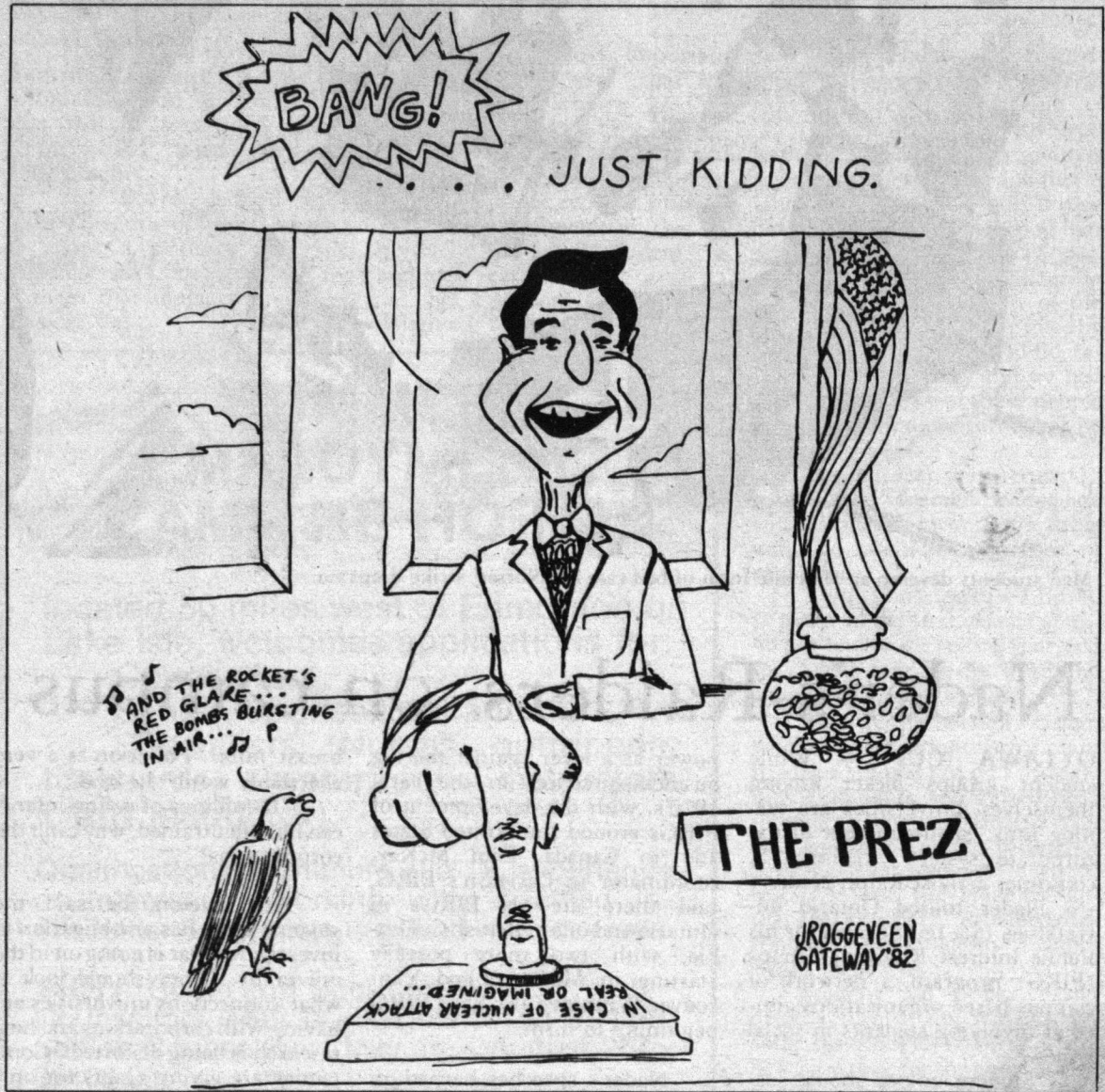
That time of year

A new school term is quickly coming up on us. As most students gear up for exams, the Gateway has to gear up a new editorial staff for September. If you have not guessed it yet, this is a recruitment ad.

Positions are available as editors in news, arts, sports, production and management. Experience is not essential, and has sometimes been a handicap. Seriously, those who think they might like to become involved with the Gateway, now is the time to get involved. Application deadline is Wednesday, March 17. The positions also carry a reasonable honorarium.

Think about it. *There's no life like it...*

W.O.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lougheed leads a motley crew

I was pleased to see some long overdue attacks on the provincial government in your letters page of 8 March. It is pertinent to mention that the "quest for funds" is not divorced from the nurses' strike, so brutally suppressed, for what are essentially minimal demands.

The government is now pursuing openly the policies it has espoused covertly for several years; namely the interests of a handful of businessmen and foreign investors at the expense of the Albertan public.

The university, of course, does not fit into this capitalist ethic since the insatiable thirst for profits is not likely to be quenched by the acquisition of an all-round education. Knowledge is expendable. Somehow the Heritage Fund is not, and much of it remains in the provincial treasury, useless and eroded by inflation.

Students should remain alive to the danger after the march on the Legislature. A one-party system is prone to narrow-mindedness even when its members are enlightened. Unfortunately, the Lougheed team are less than this; a motley crew led by an inarticulate blunderer who has benefitted from his media image as a strong leader.

His assaults on Albertans

have at last diverted attention from Ottawa and Trudeau, who have been scapegoats for the economic problems of this province. The Lougheed government should be exposed for the tyranny it has become; students, like nurses, are held in contempt. These facts should not be forgotten on election day.

Brian Cohen
Arts IV

Non-academics left out

To Whom It May Concern
I should like to make a brief comment on the march to end marches which seems to be scheduled for Thursday.

While I can appreciate that students do not want to pay more in tuition fees (who wants to pay more for anything), it strikes me that the Students' Union, et al, are not really concerned with the larger situation at the University. I come to this conclusion from the

fact that they did not attempt to close the University on or for the march but rather have only had their own classes cancelled. I would, therefore, advise the staff members concerned with the social services cutbacks not to aid the students in avoiding classes, but rather to organize our own (and more effective) protests and the students who are really concerned can easily join us....

David Essen
N.A.S.A. member

Cutbacks affect all staff

Gentlepersons;
Perhaps I could ask you a question which has troubled many members of the University staff these last, short weeks. Why is it that the Students (and A.A.U.S.A.) did not even ask for time off for non-academic staff? Is it thought that cutbacks only affect class size and tuition fees?

Perhaps you should remember that the government is so frightened of us that we, and not the academics, are classed as essential workers. I wish you no harm, but when you are finally concerned with more than your own pocketbooks - then I can wish you success.

Yours sincerely
J. Eldin

PARTY TIME!
Saturday nite at the Wrecker's
Free tows for all Gateway staff
Details at the office
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Staff this issue: Don Millar waited eagerly at the south end of HUB while Geoffery Jackson and Anne Stephen assembled stacks of placards. Within moments, Jim Miller, John Roggeveen and James Stevens guided their forces through the trees to the meeting area. Ruth Hillerud thought she spotted Lougheed in a window and with the help of Garnet DuGray threw a dead cat at him. (The same cat Tom Kent and Jordan Peterson just put an A-Bomb in). Martin Beales, Ken Tsai and Peter Jarvis formed a flying wedge, broke through the police line and joined the ranks of Bill Ingle's cadre who had cut off all avenues of escape from Horsman's office. Together they stormed the office, tossed Horsman out the window to Michael Skeet, who bludgeoned him to death with Osmiroid calligraphic pen.