

EDITORIAL

Another opening, another show

By the time most of you read this, the CFS referendum campaign will be over. The legal part, anyway, but that need not concern us here. Most of you who will vote at all have decided how you will vote. Friday night CFS will win or it will lose. But who else will win and lose?

Regardless of the result, many political futures have been made or broken during this campaign. Others hang in the balance, waiting for the result. More importantly, the style and direction of campus politics may have been set during these last few weeks.

Or last months. The CFS campaign, at least of the "Yes" side, has been going on for quite some time. When the U of A became prospective members of CFS in March, 1981, they set a deadline: the U of A had to pass a membership referendum within three years. Campus supporters of CFS have waited as long as they could for the fledgling organization to stabilize and prove its effectiveness. Waiting for next spring meant taking the risks of having CFS become a partisan electoral issue and running the referendum while other moudy demanding referendums were taking place. It was apparent to people on both sides of the question that the referendum had to be held in the first half of this term.

So, after the campus politicians settled down from last term's elections and DIE Board appeals they started planning for the CFS referendum.

A well organized, well manned "Yes" campaign committee emerged. No anti-CFS committee (at least not an open one) has come forward. If this campaign proves to be the official off-Broadway tryout for February's general election, there are a number of things to expect.

The favourite slate will be a centre-liberal coalition. (The YES-CFS people are not leftists; there is no organized left on this campus except to those who believe the NDP are anything stronger than social democrats.) The Yessers are developing experience and committed campaigners and foot soldiers. Unofficial lines of power have been established and will continue when it is time to choose which students will represent their policies in the run for SU executive. Potential candidates will be judged by their effectiveness in the CFS campaign. Several people have seen their stock drop dramatically in the last two weeks.

The campus right (conservatives, reactionary fascists, engineering-commerce old boys, or whatever) who were expected to organize an anti-CFS committee, did not do so. It would not have been difficult; the requirement of 100 signatures on a nomination form is no harder to get than a bad hamburger in CAB. Either the forces who are against CFS are in total disarray or they chose not to run.

It is unimaginable that there are not enough politically conservative students on campus to challenge the political center. More likely is that they have become complacent from living in such a conservative corner of the world. The strength mustered by the Yessers may force them to organize but they would start far behind in skills and savvy.

The more sinister possibility is that they have chosen to run an underground campaign and are developing similarly underhanded tactics for February. The last two general elections here have been fought like Texas chainsaw massacres; another would destroy the credibility of student politics here. Fortunately, there has been minimal evidence of surreptitious NO campaign except for four illegal posters and a disjointed effort at flooding the Gateway with letters to the editor.

Overall, February's election promises to be aesthetically pleasing. The Yessers have raised the standards for graphic design and personal contact. There is an annoying tendency to lobby the Gateway for support, and everyone, especially us, should be aware of it.

The CFS referendum has raised the political sophistication of the U of A politicians, media, and we hope, voters. It has given us all a chance to work with the issues, tactics, and personalities that will give decide the executive elections next spring. This trial run may also spare us the petty acrimony that tainted the last two (some would say three) elections. This is one referendum that all students on campus should watch closely.

Kent Blinston

The actions of this years' Students' Council has so far exerted a less than commanding presence on campus. Last Tuesday, councillors claimed that they didn't have enough information about CFS to either endorse it or reject it.

I hope there's not a repeat performance this Tuesday when an easier, "tangible" matter comes up. Basement development of the Students' Union Building will be on the agenda.

This proposal calls for the construction of club space at a cost of \$137,500. Three studies have been conducted on the feasibility of creating additional space at a cost of \$5000 per study. Yesterday, the drawings and specs were approved by the Administration Board.

It is the furthest the basement development proposal has ever gone. Now, councillors will be asked to give the go-ahead to the increased club space.

If councillors do their homework this time and vote in favour of the plans, construction would start immediately. And in six to eight weeks, University of Alberta clubs will have taken over the old curling rink area.

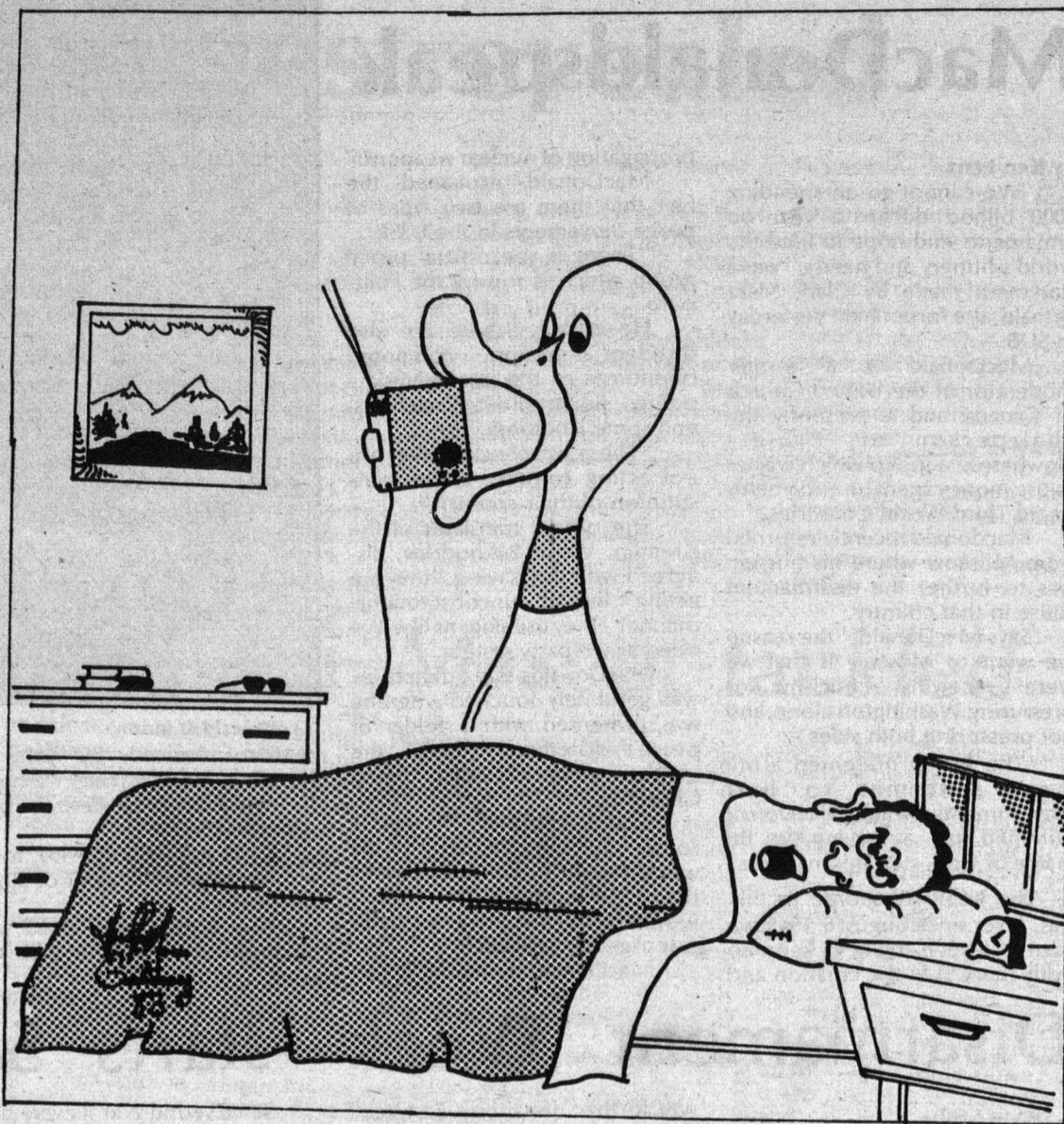
Supplying more space won't solve all the problems. Nevertheless, councillors should see that even "modest" improvements are worth applauding. And voting for.

Brent Jang

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The celestial sirens rang and the forces of truth and Gilbertology readied to repel the attack of the brainwashed, mindless, heretical hordes of CFS culties. Cheryl Parsons chose to defend the one true faith with a wooden stake and a silver bullet. The practical George Koch and Terry Lindberg went one better; a silver cruise missile tested in the USSR where the terrain is similar to Alberta. K Arthur, Jim Moore and Brenda Waddle hit the streets to raise funds for Jordan Peterson's B-1 bomber, not to mention his horribly twisted mind and nauseating, disgusting, and offensive personality, which, to be perfectly frank, is one of the most painful tragedies to have beset us all. Simon Blake performed the blessing on the human cannon balls, Jessie-May Rowntree and David Mohr while Dan Watson and Neal Watson consulted the cards to determine who was who. Richard Watts and Sarah loamed at the mouth, ready to bite the first CFSer who dare defile the sacred editorial page. Thus do the children of god protect the temple. And infiltrator Glen Byer, enforcer wanted his name kept out of it.

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Managing Editor's Mid-term Exam

OK, class, simmer down, you have 25 minutes, no cheating, and write neatly. You can leave as soon as you finish.

Question 1: The correct caption for the above Editorial cartoon is:

- A) Why does this always happen when I order extra anchovies?
- B) This is the fifth time this week you've been impotent. I'm going to trade you in for a sheep.
- C) Other Garneau apartments have roaches. Some have mice. Why does mine have ducks?
- D) OK, have it your way, you heard a seal bark.
- E) None of the above.
- F) All of the above.

« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

Understanding Choice

Re: Warren Opheim's letter in Oct. 18th Gateway, entitled "A Matter of Choice?"

By writing this letter I am neither admitting pro-life, nor pro-abortion, on this increasingly complex issue. Warren Opheim, in his letter "A Matter of Choice" has missed the whole point of choice. A choice means just that the right to choose. If you see a choice as being only one possibility, then it is no longer a choice. I know that was a profound statement, but try to understand what it means. Most people would agree that a choice is a decision made by an individual facing a particular issue. The decision is based upon situational factors as well as past experiences and present values. Luckily, many people will never hate to choose, but nevertheless still make a theoretical decision. You see, it does not matter what you choose Warren, as long as each person has the right to choose. You have chosen and that is fine, although it will never have to be applied in reality. Now let others who really must choose, do the same.

Andrea Kohl
 Arts III

assure you that if there ever were a serious boycott of all corporations which were profiting from cheap labour in South Africa; your shelves would be bare. Secondly, as a person who has lived in South Africa, I would like to point out that the struggle against apartheid is one that is being carried out, day in and day out, in meaningful ways by tens of thousands of South Africans; black and white. My grievance lies with the self-satisfied delusion that "nothing" is being done about apartheid in South Africa; and with the equally self-satisfied delusion that a sporadic, loosely organized boycott of Pall Mall (Rothman's parent company) is serious politics!

I would like to conclude by stating that if any of you armchair activists had been in the vicinity at the time when the Portugese were pulling out of Angola, you wouldn't be swilling quite so much Mateus Rose at your toga parties.

I. Foord

PS: If you want to protest something, protest illegal arms shipments going from Canadian ports to the Capetown docks. Or protest mercenary magazines, with their glorification of the insidious process of militant intervention in the internal politics of Third World countries. If you must take aim, you should at least have a target.

A Rothman, My kingdom for a Rothman

I was recently stranded in the Students' Union building without cigarettes. I was told that the smoke shop on the main floor doesn't carry my brand. Since I smoke Rothman's and since I seemed to be in the presence of some sort of enlightenment, I wonder if this incident might have something to do with the currently-fashionable boycott of so-called "South African" products. In the first place, I can

CFS: Flat NO.

Recently, the Gateway has been providing a lot of coverage concerning the upcoming CFS referendum. One theme that seems to be recurring in their coverage and in conversations that I've had with people is that students have no business lobbying the government about anything. It has been stated implicitly and explicitly that we should hush up and accept what is given to us, gratefully and without question. Since virtually all other common interest