

### SU "ignorant"

Kudos to Gordon Turtle ("Stupidly sophomoric" letter, Oct. 18) for his cogent and well-reasoned letter of support for SU Records. Over the past two or three years it has become shamefully obvious that our Students' Union is pursuing some mindless vendetta against this university's few sources of eclectic, original music. After attempting to financially starve CJSR-FM out of existence, they've now set their crazed sights on what is unquestionably one of the finest record stores in western Canada.

Far from being a cultish, "alternative" music outlet, SU Records maintains an exceptionally broad selection of records, including extensive jazz and classical sections, thereby appealing to more of Edmonton's record-buying public than any generic top-40 store. Their prices are also cheaper than those of commercial record stores. Furthermore, the key to the store's excellent selection is its knowledgeable staff. To replace them with part-time student help would cut the heart and soul out of SU Records, and seal the store's fate as surely as selling it off would. Perhaps this is what the Students' Union has in mind.

If Tim Lenfesty ("SU applauded" letter, Oct. 18) had bothered to read Rob Galbraith's insightful editorial (Oct. 4) of two weeks ago, he would have perhaps realized that if the Students' Union really *does* want to "save a few bucks", there are far better targets than SU Records. Personally, I'm tired of seeing Students' Union

funds wasted on countless beer-fests like the Butterdome Bash, which lost more than \$15,000 alone.

Universities have traditionally been symbols of broad-mindedness, innovation, and the pursuit of unparalleled creative excellence. The presence of SU Records on our campus is a laudable reflection of those ideals, and its demise or alteration would be a terrible loss indeed. Far from following the store's example, Students' Union execs like Steve Twible have been waging this vicious, ignorant, and narrow-minded crusade to stamp it out. They are a disgusting discredit to the spirit of the U of A and its student body.

John Cocknell  
Arts III

### Don't worry, be happy

Isn't it wonderful to read, week after week, in *The Gateway* and everywhere else too, one essay after another in which the writer does somebody proud by upholding in the face of adversity some point of view or another. We are all such wonderful idealists, aren't we?

Smoking, free trade, blasphemous movies, record shop closings, horse rides in the buff, exams, a sex life — yes, these are all problems to one or another of us, or maybe not as the case may be, but since we acknowledge them as such, we have the problem half-solved already. And if we actually did something about

them, why, the problem would vanish! The new era would begin!

The point is, though, just why are we so idealistic? We take everything so seriously, as though it really did matter. Matter it may, indeed, but to be constantly searching out new things to worry about, as though one's dose of happiness depended on it, strikes me as somewhat silly. Perhaps it is our democratic duty or something to take our affairs so earnestly as a nation, but democracy itself is just another one of those ideals that we have been brainwashed in accepting as sacred. We spend our lives toiling in the desire to improve our conditions, but do our conditions really improve? We elect new politicians to replace the old ones who were screwing us, but the new politicians are elected primarily to screw us. We hear again and again the same tired old morals from our elders and betters, and the same tired "new" anti-establishment rantings from the self-righteous outer fringe of society.

Some half-naked girl goes on a horseback joyride across campus, and for months afterwards the newspaper prints one letter after another supporting it, condemning it, apathetic about it, and not about it altogether. Why all the misplaced idealism one way or the other about a pair of nipples blowing in the wind? Why do we let all the issues sway our opinions so much? Why do we always think it's worth it?

The next time some "intellectual" problem arises, I think we should all stop worrying about it.

A strange thing will happen. It will go away.

And should a religious fanatic with a free-trade bumper sticker on his forehead try to ride nude through the campus waving exams, blowing smoke in your face, and announcing through a megaphone that you are not apathetic enough — well, if we ignore him he isn't there, is he?

Alex Shetsen  
Science III

### Forum biased

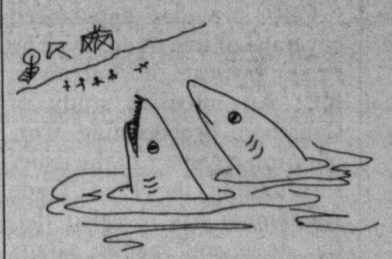
Re: "Free Trade debate will inform voters" (October 4, 1988)

The University of Alberta New Democrats are an extremely active group on campus. Our interest and participation in political affairs are first and foremost as a student group at the university; we strive to make all students more aware of important issues facing society.

Free Trade is, therefore, an issue of deep concern to the New Democrats. It is our hope that all Canadians are made more aware of Free Trade's political, economic, and cultural implications before the election November 21, 1988; however, it must be made clear that the New Democrats were not asked to participate actively in the upcoming forum on Free Trade sponsored by the Students' Union. We were approached only as a potential co-sponsor of this non-partisan debate, to which David Tupper had already proposed "ideal opponents" for each side.

Mr. Tupper's initial choices for non-partisan speakers were the

### On The Wild Side



I'M TIRED OF SEAFOOD, LET'S TRY SOMETHING EXOTIC.

Honourable Peter Lougheed and Mr. Mel Hurtig. Although alternate speakers — Katy MacMillan and Marjorie Cohen — were eventually decided upon, our decision not to co-sponsor the forum was based on the sole participation of Mr. Lougheed and Mr. Hurtig. With all due respect to these two gentlemen, we felt that these two individuals would not convey adequately the concerns the New Democrats have with the Free Trade Deal. Moreover, we felt that both men could be identified quickly with partisan affiliation; thus, we proposed that a third speaker of our choice be included to the debate. This proposal was rejected quickly, for it was regarded as too laborious and totally unnecessary.

Alas, the New Democrats were unable to co-sponsor this event. We remain adamant on principle, but our commitment to keeping students informed of important issues in society remains genuine.

James Kosowan  
University of Alberta  
New Democrats  
Spokesperson

# R.A.T.T.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
2 DESIGNATED DRIVER PROGRAM	3 NFL MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL	4 7:30 QUADROPHENIA TUESDAY IS MOVIE NIGHT 10:00 SID & NANCY	5 M I D W E E K M A R W E E K A M A R I S A	6 FOSTERS BEACH NIGHT	7 LET THE GOOD TIMES 60's & '70's CLASSIC ROCK N' ROLL	8 E C L E C T I C M U S I C N I G H T
9 THE RATT STAFF AND YOUR	10 PRESENTS	11 7:30 EATING RAOUL 10:00 EASY RIDER	12 K I S S I N G	13 ROCK	14 N	15 M U S I C
16 STUDENTS' UNION WISH YOU THE BEST OF TIMES ALL THE TIME	17 AMERICAN BEER NIGHT	18 7:30 GOOD MORNING VIETNAM 10:00 ANIMAL HOUSE	19 PEACH RASPBERRY STRAWBERRY BLUEBERRY BLACKBERRY	20 CLASSIC R & B	21 GREAT TUNES	22 CO-SPONSOR CJSR FM 88.5 LIVE MUSIC WHEN AVAILABLE
23 ENJOY YOUR SCHOOLING!	24 6 BRANDS AVAILABLE	25 7:30 STAR TREK I 10:00 STAR TREK II	26 ON SPECIAL ALL DAY BY THE GLASS OR BY THE PITCHER	27 GOOD PEOPLE	28 GREAT TIME	29 SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE RADIO

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