

# EDITORIAL

## The rush to build

Despite assurances from university and government officials, the future of North Garneau is in jeopardy. The situation is even more delicate since the provincial government refused to sell the university the land needed to construct the fieldhouse for the 1983 World Student Games.

The University has five options for a site: North Garneau, south of Corbett, south of Lister Hall, Varsity Stadium or the University farm. Building on the stadium site solves nothing because a stadium is needed somewhere, and the university farm is too distant for the facilities to be useful. The three remaining sites will have to accommodate both the fieldhouse and a housing complex.

It's easy to understand from this why Garneau residents have resigned themselves to some form of development. But even if it is unavoidable, redevelopment should be designed to preserve the character of the area as a student neighbourhood.

The U of A has something unique in North Garneau, a community few universities can match. In its frantic rush to build for the World Student Games, the university should not lose sight of the value of Garneau, especially when they begin planning a new housing development.

Ideally the fieldhouse should be constructed south of Lister Hall, providing the best access to phys. ed. facilities and the student residence, and a few traffic and parking problems. With a carefully planned design, the housing development could then be built in North Garneau, combining old and new elements in a nondestructive manner.

Planners seldom work this way, however. The bottom line is time and money, not aesthetics and neighbourhood integrity. With so much pressure from all sides to begin work on the Games facilities, many decisions affecting the future of the university may be taken in the next few months.

If Myer Horowitz sticks with his stated policy of keeping the fieldhouse out of North Garneau, he may yet succeed in preserving the long-term interests of the University from the Student Games.

But don't count on it.

## President Ronnie

The American people spoke on Tuesday night, and their voice was heard loudly and clearly.

They elected a man who told them what they wanted to hear: that the U.S. did not have to be weak, that the government was too big, that their system was being eroded by non-believers, and that they deserved better. It is irrelevant that these phrases and promises are all meaningless or wrong. The point is: both candidates were forced to give Americans what they wanted.

Not since the defeat of Herbert Hoover (the last elected incumbent to be defeated) in 1932 has the U.S. shown such a clear shift in attitude and direction. But crying for the return of past glories is dangerous and ignorant. Unless Reagan turns out to be more pragmatic and less influential than he hopes to be, we may all be in plenty of trouble in the years ahead.

His potential to wreak havoc with the world is so great one can only wonder about the system that allowed him to rise to the top.

Keith Krause

# the Gateway

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Ronald Reagan

The horror, the horror... Bonzo's running mate had won! Jens Andersen, Cathy Emberley, Victor Tanti, Enrico Bedard, and Greg Harris watched the election returns in stunned disbelief. Sue Jurczak, Tom Freeland, Debby Pelehos, Bobby Kilgannon, and Garnet duGray gnashed their teeth as Kent Blinston (with his superior insight into the bizarre) cleaned up in the election pool. Elda Hopfe, Maureen Laviolette, Hans Becker, Barb McCrae, Michael Skeet (sorry: Wednesday for sure), and Bill Inglee crushed peanuts in frustration. Meanwhile, Murray Whitby tried to work up a guffaw about the whole thing. And Allison Thomson was last seen rambling through downtown shooting at passersby screaming "it's completely beyond the pale!" Bomb shelters for sale, get 'em while they last...

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Item:  
GAME of "ASSASSIN" MAY COME TO CAMPUS



## Sick of all those whiners

Mr. Editor, I'm quite tired of all these whining little Christers filling up the letters page of the Gateway. Religion is cute, even harmless, if those who tend to believe would keep themselves and their beliefs at home. But when they bring in their archaic morality and try to convince people that it's the truth, the ultimate truth, then it's time to shunt them aside in favour of more realistic and believable people.

It's no coincidence that the so-called religious revival is sweeping North America hand in hand with the rise of militarism and American chauvinism. They are products of the same greedy concerns: world control, lifestyles suited to the uninterrupted pursuit of profit by the elite, and general stultifying control of the masses.

The result of their unwitting support of the worst elements of American society has been to bring the world to the brink of nuclear disaster. All of the senators (not to mention Mr. President-elect himself) supported by the bullshit "Moral Majority" are in favour of increased military spending, unrestrained nuclear proliferation, and American economic imperialism in South America and other parts of the world. For this, they were supported by people who call themselves followers of Christ. Such hypocrisy has not been known in the world since the Spanish Inquisition.

If these Christers were really concerned about the rights of humans, then they would fight the American presence in Argentina, Chile, Guatemala, Thailand, Indonesia, El Salvador, and Honduras, all of which operate under dictatorships which regularly execute and torture their peoples, and all of which are friends, allies, and, most importantly, customers of the U.S.A. For the moral majority, however, all of this is called the "Christian Way".

I suppose the average Christer is just dull-witted, and

can't see that the path he or she is following is a path of horrendous error, perpetrated for entirely un-Christian reasons. So, George McGovern, the man defeated by criminals in the 1972 presidential election (an election fixed as only Republicans could fix it), and one of the few good persons in the mainstream American political system, has been defeated by religious idiots. McGovern was only the strongest opponent of nuclear weaponry and dangerous nuclear power of all the Senate members sitting before the election. He was only a man dedicated to peace and equality (even though sometimes misled by the politics of his party), and he was only the last true political scientist left in the American system. But the moral majority claimed he must go because of his stand on abortion and the E.R.A. and they made him one of their "targets". So voters ousted him, and, by doing so, fell prey to the words of the men (yes, most of them are men) who sucked them in so they could continue their nuclear build-up around the world.

Why is it that when Americans build military bases

around the world, it's seen as necessary to world peace, but similar though lesser interference by Cuba or the U.S.S.R. is seen as naked aggression? I'm no supporter of the Soviet Union, but one needn't be to see the obvious hypocrisy of this increasingly common stance.

It's time the drones that follow the religious charlatans recognized that religion is being used for obscene advancements of American decadence. Though many so-called Christians might be well-intentioned, the world would be a better, safer place if they turned their considerable energies to more productive fields of endeavour.

And finally, back to the Gateway letters, I have a hint for christians concerned about homosexuality, etc. Don't use the bible as "evidence" for your pathetic little debates; the bible is the source of your many contradictions. When ten people can read that little book in ten different ways, it's difficult to see how it can be used as the definitive word of god.

Martin Lamble  
Ag. III

## Compassion and love

I am writing to voice a concern expressed by several members of Dignity for the unfortunate circumstances surrounding the needless loss of Alexandra's brother at his own hand. The prayers and intentions of our group will be offered for her on an ongoing basis, as she evidently remains deeply troubled and disturbed by her loss.

I personally, and many others in the gay community, have known the death of someone close through suicide. This is precisely the reason why organizations such as Dignity are so necessary. Those of us reconciled in the knowledge that gay is good have heard Christ's pervasive message of compassion and love for all - no

exceptions. In our capacity to spread this news and touch those whom society and the Church rejects, we hope to someday eliminate the pressures leading to desperate acts, both sexual and violent. The circumstances which lead to such an utterly hopeless and angry act as suicide must be challenged at every opportunity.

For the gay Christian in today's world it is a constant educational process for both Church and society. I hope someday that Alexandra might gain the understanding that allows her to join those praying for our efforts.

Kevin Simpson  
Treasurer,  
Dignity Edmonton