

## Letters cont'd...

In the context of social affairs, a "privilege" is a permission that its grantor can withhold without need for justification or conformity to consensual standards, at whim if it comes to that. In contrast, "rights" can be withheld only for due cause under established norms for their curtailment. Some U of A permits are indeed privileges, and perhaps on-campus parking is among them as Tucker claims. But don't ever try to make us believe that the System has the prerogative to be arbitrary about who gets permission to own/drive a car (Spears/Tucker). Conceiving (sic) government as a dispenser of privileges rather than an adjudicator of rights is self mentality, antithetical to a free society.

"Driving is a privilege, not a right"? No way.  
 Wm. W. Rozeboom  
 Professor of Psychology  
 P.S. My apologies for the dogmatic tone of this comment. But letters columns are poor forums for carefully reasoned argument.

## Student on seatbelts

To the Editor:

re: Juanita Spears' editorial on seatbelt legislation, Sept. 24.  
 Congratulations on Juanita Spears' editorial on seatbelt legislation. I believe that it is time for us to really start pushing our government to pass this law. I was an indifferent observer of the controversy; not really caring whether or not the law was passed or if anyone wore their seatbelt or not. An editorial in the *Journal* recently helped change my mind — this one has reinforced the new view.

I now believe the law should be changed. The statistics do not lie. Every province that has enforced this legislation has had the number of traffic deaths significantly reduced. Every accident that requires medical treatment costs US money.

There have been arguments on the basis that a seatbelt legislation is a direct violation of our personal rights. I would say that the cost of the medical and hospital costs that we pay is more of a violation of personal rights than seatbelt legislation. Face it, wearing a seatbelt really all that bothersome?

People forget that driving is a privilege and not a right. That is why we have to take tests before we can get a driver's license. Believe it or not, not everybody has this privilege. That is why there are other laws on the road: stop signs, traffic lights, signal lights, and speed limits. Should we abolish these violations of our personal freedom? Or does the thought of the roads without these laws make you queasy? Why not seatbelt legislation then? Think of the lives it would save, not to mention the money. A seatbelt would protect you in an accident — you would live. Others would live... and medical costs would be reduced — resulting in lower insurance premiums.

The choice is ours — there is no way one can predict that an accident will or will not happen. No matter how good a driver you are, there will always be some idiot out there who isn't as good or something else may go wrong. Inevitably, this will happen on a day that you forgot to voluntarily put your seatbelt on.

We should pressure the Getty government to enforce this legislation. It will save lives and save us all money. Forget about the so-called personal rights violation — this one is so minor it isn't even worth the argument. In fact, it really isn't worth it at all. There are many more personal rights violations occurring now that we should be turning our attention to. Remember, it could be your life it saves.

Heather Moore  
 Arts I

## Opinion

Tonight, students' Council will deal with another motion involving the apartheid issue.

Last week, council indicated its unwillingness to become involved in international issues. Council members are afraid of getting their hands burned.

So we sit happily in our own corner of the world and close our eyes to the reality of human rights violations occurring elsewhere.

The international situation affects all of us. Whatever happened to the days when students got involved in issues and did their part to change the world?

That we avoid taking our part in fighting injustice is unacceptable.

Open your eyes, council members, and focus on something more than your own little world.

Remember the days when international issues were addressed on campuses? Take a lesson from the students who cared about their world and about fighting the injustices in it.

Tonight's motion is a motion of condemnation against countries in general which have significantly violated human rights. No specific issue will be dealt with.

The motion itself means very little. It is merely a statement which is unlikely to lead to any further action.

It gives council support to groups on campus which deal

with specific issues and countries.

I say this amounts to nothing. By all means pass this motion. But then get on your feet and do something.

Take a step back to those days when students thought that it mattered to do whatever they could.

Nobody said that we would succeed. Maybe we won't change the world. But how can we admit to future generations that we never tried?

The following is an excerpt from the September 29, 1964 edition of the *Gateway*. Twenty-two years ago, students were actively trying to do something. Twenty-two years from now, we want people to see what we did.

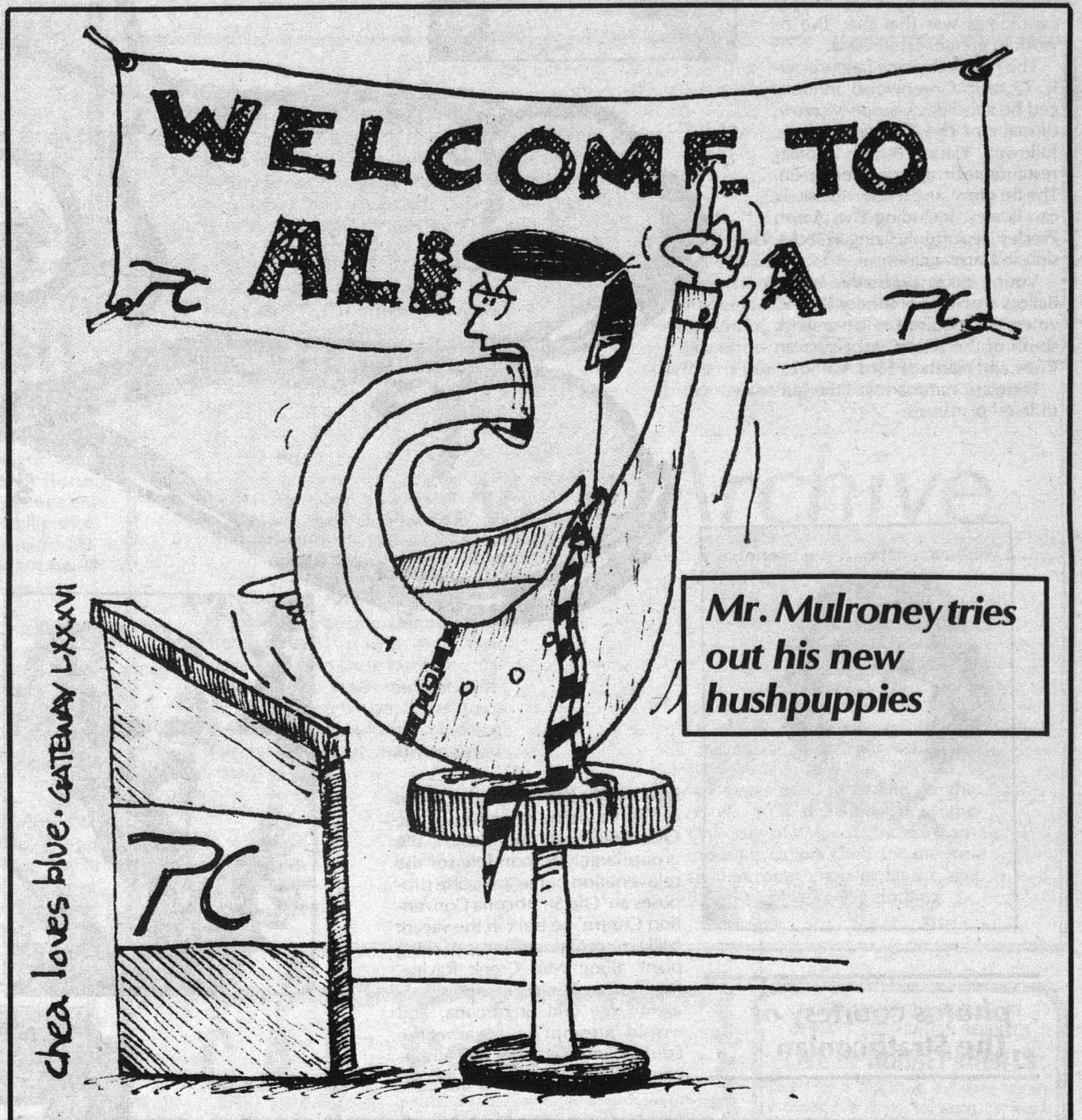
Emma Sadgrove

*The Canadian Union of Students has moved unanimously to apply pressure on the racist government of the Republic of South Africa.*

Measures called for include:

- a one-week 25-hour picket of the South African Embassy and a continuing 12-hour picket thereafter.
- cooperation with the Canadian Labor Congress to boycott ships carrying South African goods.
- distribution to retail stores of posters reading: This store does not sell South African goods.
- fund-raising for legal defense of political prisoners in Africa and pressuring of manufacturing, consumer, and government bodies.

(Gateway, Sept. 29, 1964)



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