

country due to the extreme probability of persecution. For example, as a Middle Eastern refugee studying at the U of A has told us that for her to return to her country "would most likely lead to her imprisonment and even execution." Second, a governing body which has instigated the exile of one of its citizens is highly unlikely to send him abroad for education! Third, it appears that

the letter makes the faulty presumption that we would sponsor a refugee who has not gone through the proper channels of immigration. Rather, the national organization of which we are a member sponsors only those student refugees who have met the necessary requirements as outlined by the UN, the Canadian Department of Employment and Immigration, the World University

Service of Canada, and the University of Alberta.

Finally, the student refugees which our group selects have demonstrated high levels of academic ability. At the risk of displaying a "bleeding heart mentality", we feel that such students must have the opportunity to continue their education to improve themselves and enrich us all.

We hope that if you have any further questions you will phone the International Student Centre for more information at 432-5950. Furthermore, there will be a general meeting on Wednesday, 7 October at 5:00 p.m. in Education Building South, Room #116.

Curtis Beaverford
On behalf of the Student
Refugee Support Committee
Executive

Fifty cents

Ms Dearing seems to think she is championing the cause of the Student Finance Board through her shakey argument that by adding 50¢ to student fees to support a refugee student, "the Canada Student Loans department would be responsible for actually helping to fund these refugees." (Hope Misplaced, Sept. 22).

If Bonny thinks the Finance Board is responsible for all student expenditures, why is she not similarly outraged that they are then also responsible for this year's beer gardens' phenomenal success? (Beer Fun, Sept. 22/87).

Karen Vander Meulen

Fly on the Wall

I am in the Hub Mall. Walking towards me is a man with a crew-cut wearing, for whatever reason, a down-filled vest over his t-shirt.

Outside, the sun is shining. A slight breeze is blowing. Students are scattered about on the grass, on benches, on bikes. They are wearing shorts, skirts, and t-shirts. Most of them are anyway. And no one, at least no one that I can see, is wearing a down-filled vest except this guy.

His arms are out at his sides, as if he was carrying books under each. But he is not. His arms are like they are because he wants them to be. He may be doing this to look tough. His haircut is sort of tough: a crew-cut. Even his walk is tough. It's like a rolling strut, like a sailor's walk.

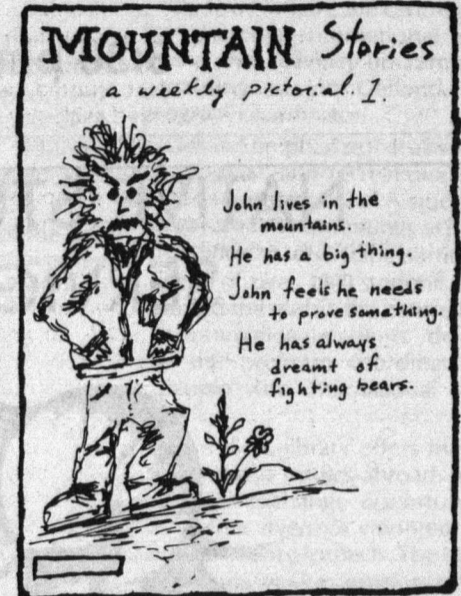
In fact, he looks like he may be a sailor. Or, better yet, he looks like a drill sergeant in the marines. A tough guy. Clint Eastwood in *Heartbreak Ridge*.

He looks like the kind of guy who would like to meet a student alone in a back alley. A student with long hair, maybe a pony tail, with a peace sign hanging around his neck or

on the back of his jean jacket. Sandals on his feet. A book of poems in his hip pocket. John Lennon glasses on. This guy looks like he would like to meet such a student in a back alley and just throttle him. He looks like he could to.

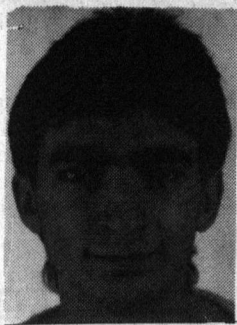
There he goes, walking past me. The big bully.

J. Dylan



Cartoonists:
Please meet
Sherri in
room 282
SUB anytime
after 12
noon on
Friday.

**Alternative
Voice**



Recently, the Pope visited North America and reaffirmed his stance (or rather, that of the church under his control) against contraception, women priests, artificial insemination and abortion. That's fine. I don't give a flying fiddle to a donut what some old Polish dude thinks, or whether thousands of people think they should follow his words as holy sacrament.

What I do care about is when religion attempts to go beyond influencing it's converts, and tries to influence the rest of us. Religion has no place in government. It is an individual's choice, a freedom that is tantamount, to choose his own religion or absence thereof.

There really isn't anything wrong with religions canvassing for new members. When the Mormons or the Jehovah's Witnesses come to my door, I politely inform them that I'm not interested. While they may be bothersome, it is within their rights to try to inform others of their beliefs.

Those rights end when they try to force those beliefs on others. When religious groups effect legislation against activities which violate their tenets but constitute no moral wrong to other beliefs, that's when such groups must be stopped.

In Ireland (a staunchly Catholic nation) it is illegal to get a divorce. Half a year ago they had a referendum attempting to legalize divorce. It was a hotly contested issue. Eventually the church won and those who believe that people can make mistakes in relationships are still oppressed. Let's not even mention the difficulties involved with getting birth control means there.

In Jerusalem, the orthodox Jewish community feels that they can dictate when people can or cannot watch movies

because of a deeply held superstition dating back centuries.

In the United States, fundamentalist groups constantly try to limit access to scientific information for school children. Why? Because that information refutes some of their deeply held beliefs (shall we say superstition yet again).

In Islamic countries, women face suppression and stifling for the sake of an out-dated religion based social system. Foreigners face punishment because they choose to drink alcohol, mankind's most time-honored recreational drug.

In Canada, families and single mothers have to bear children that they cannot support and do not want because of a large religious lobbying group that is hindering the use of a medical technique. The basis of their objection to this technique is a book (a former social code) written by the first and most primitive of human civilizations, near Ur — since copied and distorted. Even people who have their lives endangered by the withholding of this technique have problems obtaining it.

As the old American banner read, "Don't Tread on Us". Religion should politely butt the Hell out of our business. And until it does, I should feel no compunction against thinking less of someone who does hold religious beliefs. After all if people are chastized and oppressed because they weren't brainwashed into a superstition as a child, why shouldn't the opposite be true as well? I'll tell you why, because it is WRONG either way! Think, yes, use your own brain; not someone else's mouth.

Dragos Ruiu



Special Offer!!

to the
University of Alberta
Faculty, Students &
Staff Members
"EPSILON"

\$575.00

Personal Computer
P4XT M-S-DOS Compatible

- Flip-up metal case
- 135W CSA approved power supply
- 256K Ram expandable to 640K
- AT style standard keyboard
- 360K Panasonic disk drive
- Disk drive controller
- Parallel (printer) port
- Color or mono graphics card
- Motherboard with 8 exp. slots
- 10 Free Software diskettes of your choice

Built & Fully Tested in Alberta
Best Technical Support!

A + P Technical Supplies Inc.

the Computer Hardware Store

10370 - 65 Avenue, Edmonton
Phone: 434-8072

Open 9 to 5 weekdays
10 - 5 Saturday

STUDENT SERVICE COURSES

Learn IBM — P C

Evening short courses
with "hands-on" practice.

- * COMPUTER AWARENESS
course fee: 8 hours — \$80.00 only
- * WORD PROCESSING
course fee: 8 hours — \$80.00 only
- * dBASE III — Micros for Database Building
in Research Problems.
course fee: 8 hours — \$80.00 only

**BUSINESS - COMMERCE
STUDENTS**

Special series on LOTUS 1.2.3
and other Business Applications.
course fee: 24 hours — \$240.00

**FACULTY OF EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**
ph. 432-5597 / 432-5318 / 429-3989

campus
catering

- SANDWICH TRAYS
- MEAT TRAYS
- CHEESE TRAYS
- SALADS
- DESSERT TRAYS

CALL - PAM

471-4755