

## Ain't no future

You can blame the planning. Or the publicity. Or even the timing. But the dismal, outright failure of yesterday's Accessibility Forum is only minimally attributable to these factors.

The fault lies squarely and utterly with the students of this university. I'm firmly convinced that brass bands and a guest appearance by the Beatles couldn't draw more than half a dozen observers to such a forum. Plain and simple, the students at this university have become thoughtless sheep who make appreciative noises when prodded by government and commercial press propaganda. U of A students are classic examples of unconcerned people who have nothing to offer this province but their apathy and their selfishness.

The forum should have been better publicized, but that's not the main reason for its failure. Meetings and forums have been held on this campus that attracted much bigger audiences with much less publicity. It's apparent that the people most seriously affected by the rising cost of education are no longer on campus; they have been squeezed out by the apathy of the children of the rich.

So, our university becomes a little private high school for children who don't know what else to do. The campus moves further and further away from relevancy, and Lougheed and his gang smirk away, smug and satisfied. Obviously, the university has lost its main purpose: making students aware of the world around them and making them interested in the way it all works. This does not fit into the provincial government's plans, so they have axed them.

Despite what will doubtless be said, the failure of this forum cannot be blamed on its chief organizer Tema Frank or the other members of the executive. Despite the perceived shortcomings of Frank's performance during the past few months, yesterday's forum offered an interesting and varied program, that promised to be the most serious of its type offered in recent years. Not many students' unions can attract the president of the university to a lunchtime forum, and we have insulted Dr. Horowitz by failing to respond.

The prospects are dismal. A lot of students and other people have put in countless hours trying to interest students in their own academic fates. But nothing seems to work. The Alberta mentality has not only crept into the "intellectual" realm of the university it grows and thrives here with great abandon.

The failure of the forum is not the only example of the rampant apathy that faces anyone who attempts to involve students. But it is the most painful, because it articulates like never before how useless it apparently is to try and communicate concern to people who couldn't care less.

We have one more chance to voice concern, and that is with the planned legislature lobby for March 27. But I'm not optimistic, because the students spoke yesterday, and they spoke loud and clear.

Gordon Turtle

## the Gateway

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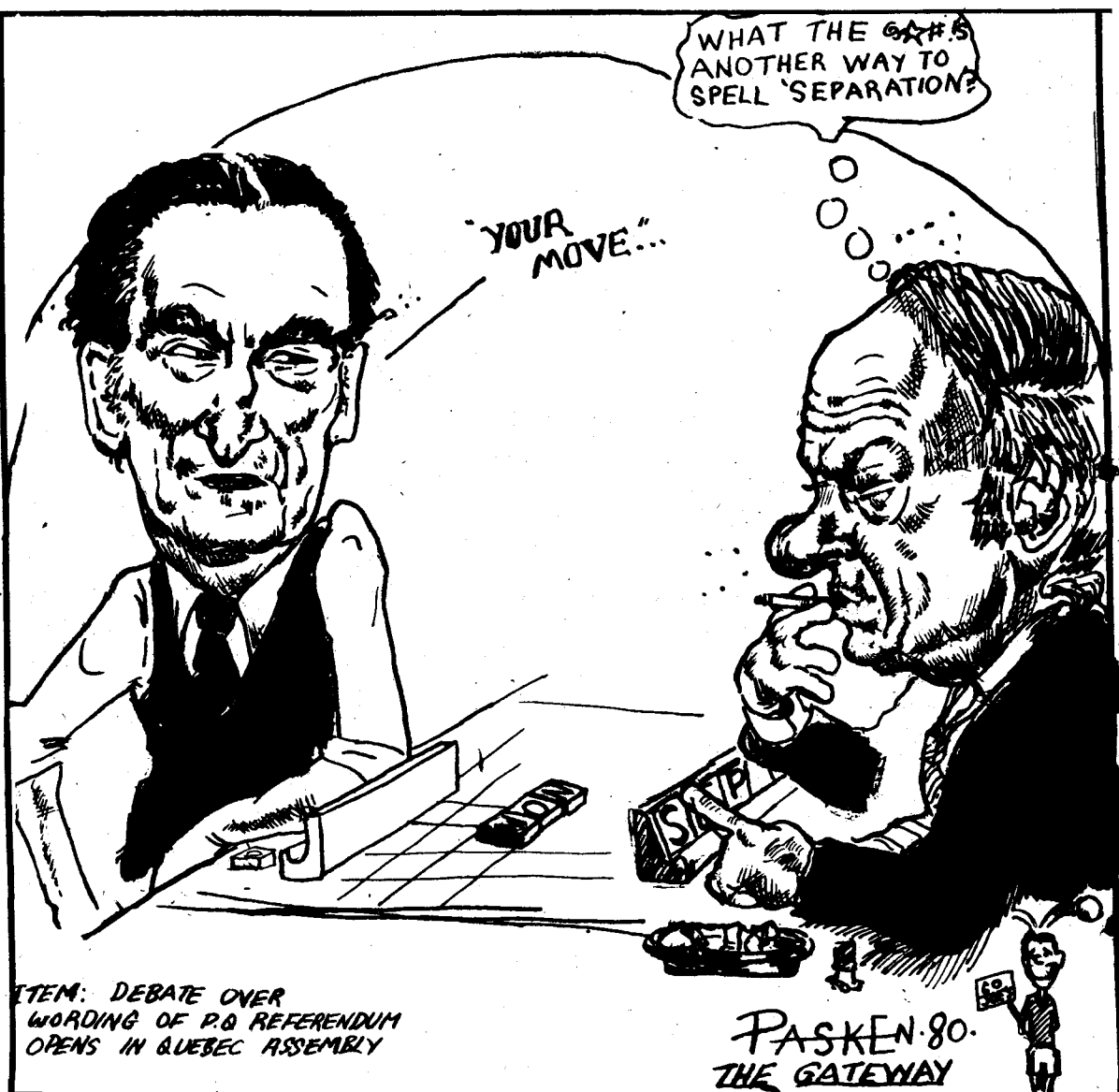
If it happens on campus...it's news to us.

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## Fetus nothing but a parasite

It was with great interest that I read the letter in *the Gateway* of Feb. 21 by John Savard regarding the abortion issue. It seems that Mr. Savard considers it an "indisputable fact" that the fetus is human, and that the only issue that warrants debate is under what circumstances the State has the right to terminate the life of this "innocent human being."

The only problem, Mr. Savard, is that you have failed to present any logical proof that the fetus is indeed human, and at the same time seem to ignore or misinterpret the arguments of pro-abortionists as to why it is not human.

At the beginning of your letter, you state that it is an "observed fact" that the human organism reproduces sexually; sperm meeting egg, to produce a single celled zygote. I assume that from this we are to infer that, since by definition humans reproduce sexually, as soon as this act of union occurs a new human being must therefore be created. I would like to point out, however, that the only "observed fact" here is that sexual reproduction and the union of sperm and egg does indeed occur; it is only your opinion that the newly formed zygote is human from conception. If a single celled zygote is human merely because it arose from the meeting of sperm and egg, then you must consider every cell in your body to be human, because every cell arose from simple duplication and division of that original zygote, and every cell has the identical genetic makeup as the original.

Since all cells are exact duplicates of that original zygote which arose from union of sperm and egg, and if indeed the zygote is human, then every time you scratch your arm you are committing murder.

You also point out in your letter that pro-abortionists use the argument that "a fetus cannot sustain life, therefore it is not human". You go on to refute this argument by pointing out

that renal dialysis patients can't sustain life either, so, according to the logic of the pro-abortionists, they must not be human. Unfortunately, Mr. Savard, you missed the point of the argument here completely. Consider for a moment the definition of the word "parasite": "An organism that lives within, upon, or at the expense of another organism, known as the host, without contributing to the survival of the host." (Taber's medical dictionary, 12th ed.) According to this definition, the human fetus is the perfect

parasite. It lives only because of its association with its host, the mother. Members of the species *Homo Sapiens*, on the other hand, have no need of such biological symbiosis with another organism, and are able to sustain life completely independently. A renal dialysis patient is simply an intact human being in whom an organ system has failed, and now needs exogenous aid.

The question that now must be answered is whether or not we consider this parasitic stage in the life cycle to be truly human, or merely a "pre-human" state of existence. What must be decided is not "the nature and extent of the sacrifices the State may impose on a woman to save the life of the innocent human being within her," but rather, "does the State have the right to proclaim that a woman must take the viewpoint that the fetus is indeed human." Since the humanity of the fetus is an unresolvable question, I maintain that the State does *not* have this right. Each individual woman must decide for herself what she believes is right, and act accordingly. To put women on trial for "homicide" for participating in illegal abortions would be as cruel and barbaric as putting them on trial for holding a certain religious belief. The woman must have the right to choose.

Jim Moir  
Medicine II

## BACUS has purpose

As another year begins to wind down for many of us, a new year is just beginning for those students running in the Commerce Elections for the 1980-81 academic term.

While a number of Commerce students remain apathetic to this event, it is important to consider exactly what is involved in YOUR undergraduate society.

As a totally volunteer, completely student-run registered society, BACUS will see cash receipts of over \$42,000 this year. Considering receipts and disbursements as cash handled throughout the year, this flow totals just under \$80,000. If this doesn't make you think a little more seriously about BACUS, one can look at the many services offered to Commerce students. Many of you, I'm sure, have enjoyed our

socials, participated in the Intramural program, or used our nickel photocopier.

For those of you who would like to get involved in an organization like this — one that offers an excellent opportunity to practice your business skills, apply your theoretical studies to real world challenges — this is the time to get involved for next year. Come up to CAB 329 and talk with an executive member or any councillor, and find out what's available for you.

If this is not your choice, then please follow the campaign this week; find out who is involved and take the time to vote this Friday. These people do take an \$80,000 student organization seriously, and would appreciate your support.

Dean Drager  
President - BACUS