

# letters



## diapers

I would like to say how much I appreciate the improvement of your paper. Even the Poundmaker has grown of age. I feel that at last someone is aiming at the mature reader. When your rival drops the Wes poundmaker column the diapers will be finally cast off. Now that we are at the stage that we can promote our journals off-campus without embarrassment, may I ask whether it is possible to do so? It is certainly desirable. I would willingly take a hundred extra copies and distribute them in my neighbourhood to let the public know that there are things in process of which they may be unaware, (e.g. the Kraft boycott). Say the word and I'll spread it.

Keith Detloff  
Arts 2

## Disneyland

It would hardly seem necessary to point out to architects, much less to building appreciators wrongly employed as political scientists, that planned, all-of-a-piece campuses look like funny little papier-mache Disneyland fairey fortresses (see Simon Fraser or, worse, Oral Roberts University in the U.S.). On the other hand, working campuses (see Harvard or, better, Toronto) usually seem eclectic, helter-skelter and, thank God, not prejudiced against either the old or the new.

The idea of a University, one hopes, will always be "Let's look at it, even if (especially if) it disturbs what may be comfortably thought of as nice, neat, or pretty." I should think the place would reflect the idea - random, conflicting, heuristic, and may we yet say it? - free. Free, most of all, from what expert opinion thinks it should be. A University just continues to happen, and if you don't understand that, you had better spend some time, not in the cultivated gardens of planned communities of thought, but in the wild, weedy, discordant thing that is a free man's mind.

And speaking of free men: their thinking thrives when prodded by jarring contrasts, and it is, after all, what goes on inside that counts, not what appears on the facade. I am truly surprised that this has not occurred to you.

Jim Marino  
Arts

# forum5

## truth for sale

When an oil and gas consortium buys a research project, does it get its choice of the conclusions it wants the project to reach?

If so, what is the point of calling it "research"? It would seem so much easier just to have the public relations office of the company write whatever the company want to be "proven" and then give it the proper aura of authority by having an academic sign on the dotted line at the end of the report.

From our investigation of Larry Stucki's charges, (see story on page one) it seems that the Boreal Institute has been bought. Director R. S. Jamieson says quite frankly that Stucki's report, financed by an oil consortium, was not made public because it "was not compatible with the rest of the research" done by the institute.

The rest of the institute's research, needless to say, dutifully favoured the building of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline as advocated by the Boreal Institutes's employers.

Jamieson begs the question when he says that Stucki went "outside the terms of reference" of the project. Jamieson himself in an earlier interview said that one of the purposes of the research was to discover the sociological effects of the building of a pipeline.

Stucki's research led him to conclude that the effects would be harmful to native northerners. If that finding was "outside the terms of reference" of the project, then we can only surmise that those terms included some expectation of what would be acceptable to the granting agency, the oil companies.

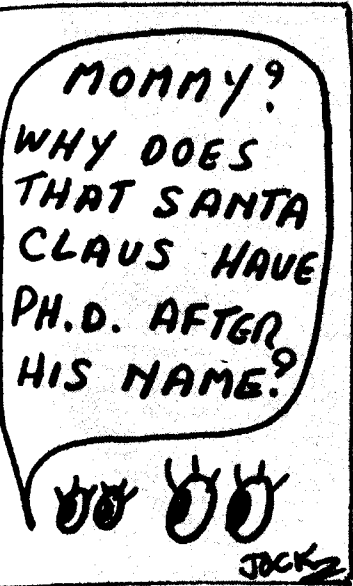
There are a couple of really frightening implications of this attitude, one for society as a whole and one for the university.

The first is that public policy is to be formulated in part on the basis of this "research." If truth—which research claims to seek—is on the market like everything else, then the time is not far off (perhaps I'm cynical enough to say it's already here) when public decisions can be bought because oil companies and others can buy the most high-powered academic credentials to make their arguments.

While the pockets into which the oil companies' money goes are different, the result is the same as though they had bribed government decision-makers.

The second is the relationship between universities and "whatsoever things be true," to quote this institution's motto. The credibility of work undertaken in universities is delicately interdependent. If anthropological truth can be sold so cheaply to an oil consortium, are not all the "truths" sought within the university suspect?

Terri Jackson



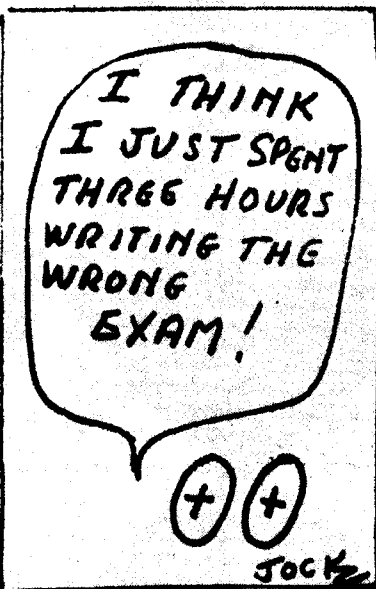
## apology

Certainly owe Students Council an apology. I erroneously reported, as did every other radio station in town, that the referendum of last Wednesday involved a request by Council for a \$5 to \$6 increase in Students' Union fees. Our error was based on a story written in the Edmonton Journal which we clipped and re-wrote the day of the referendum.

However, the erroneous story was only aired once on CHED by me and then only on the 7:20 headlines. On our 7:40 and 8:40 major newscasts the story was correctly reported, though other stations were still carrying the erroneous story.

And contrary to what was reported in last Thursday's Gateway, no "anti-referendum opinions" were aired on CHED. The Gateway was as guilty of sloppy journalism as I. They obviously never checked my copy. My story at 7:40 began, "The rip-off referendum over at the U of A today is apparently not a rip-off, at all," and then proceeded to explain what Student Council was proposing to do. My story at 8:40 began, "The 'rip-off' referendum goes today on the U of A campus," and then proceeded to explain the Young Socialists' opposition to freeing the SUB expansion fund and why they had labelled the referendum a "rip-off". So, at 7:40 (when the audience is bigger) those who favoured the proposal got their "commercial". At 8:40 the young socialists got theirs. My apologies to the young socialists, but until the revolution becomes clearly imminent, CHED must remain part of the bourgeois establishment.

Brian O'Ferrell  
Newsmen



## two bits worth

Following student council meeting on Monday, here are my observations, comments and opinions.

That Pat Delaney and Garry West should tender their resignations as executive members of Student Union.

That council give serious thought to the objectives and direction of Student Union.

That Saffron Shandro dispel any ideas of running for SU President at any future time.

### Why?

Garry West as VP Finances is responsible for the SU budget and fiscal policies. I believe that the defeat of the fee referendum was in part a rejection on the part of the student body to the fiscal policies of the current Student Union. Students have thereby shown their disapproval of Mr. West's handling of the budget.

The motion of non confidence brought to council by Delaney is I believe indicative of his personal animosity towards Gerry Riskin. Student council refused to support the non confidence motion thereby giving a vote of confidence to Riskin. From this point on I can see of no way, despite Mr. Riskin's optimism, that Delaney can work constructively in the present executive. Thus if Delaney is concerned about the credibility of Student council I can see no other choice for him. And where is our marvellous \$2,000 tenure study now?

Council has needed, since its conception, a direction and series of objectives upon which their decisions can be based. I offer my highest praise to Rob Spragins (VP Executive) for bringing these concepts before council. Maybe now SU can become more meaningful to the students and offer those services which students desire.

Saffron Shandro at Monday night's student council meeting likened SU to a corporation. He therefore suggested that all problems facing student council be given to experts and consultants for their deliberations.

The day when SU does become a corporate body will be the day a revolution begins. The Student Union must at alltimes be a service organization and must not place fiscal priorities ahead of people priorities. Saffron you're out to lunch!

Duncan Sherwin

## aquatic outdoor

### Madame Butterfly

I see in the Folio that the campus landscape plan calls for an artificial pond in the center of the Quad. The plan points out the obvious benefits of such a development: it would provide a pleasant "natural atmosphere"; it would have a band shell in the center of the pond and the pond would lie in a hollow to facilitate seating an audience; and, for the coup de grace, the band shell would convert into a change house for skaters in the winter time.

This is a really progressive idea.

However, forward and farsighted as such a proposal is, it nevertheless appears to have a flaw, for which I hope to offer a helpful suggestion. The planners, in their haste to come up with some really viable landscaping proposals appear to have forgotten the problem of a bridge to connect the "mainland" with the "island".

Might I suggest a small arched bridge in the style of those found in Japanese gardens? Such a proposal has the added benefit of being suitable for an aquatic outdoor performance of Madame Butterfly. Might I also suggest that the space between the pond and the Admin building be used to build a modest pagoda so as to be consistent with this Japanese theme of campus architecture?

Perhaps though, in the interests of ecology, this same space should be encouraged to grow into bullrushes and swamp grass, providing a wildlife sanctuary and an ideal area for duck hunting in the fall. The revenue gained from the sale of student hunting licenses would provide an extra boost to the flagging students' union economy. I'm sure Mr. Riskin can see the desirability of such a suggestion.

Arthur Savage

Letters to the Gateway on any topic are welcome, but they must be signed. Pseudonyms may be used for good cause. Keep letters short (about 200 words) unless you wish to make a complex argument. Letters should not exceed 800 words.

The Gateway is published bi-weekly by the students of the University of Alberta. Contents are the responsibility of the editor. Opinions are those of the person who expressed them.

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