

EDITORIAL

Sartre on elections

In his classic essay *Elections: A Trap For Fools*, Jean Paul Sartre argues that "to vote or not to vote is all the same," in the 1973 French elections.

If Sartre were alive today - but he's not - he wouldn't be too ecstatic about the 1984 Students' Union elections either.

Sartre says all political parties are part of the institution of indirect democracy.

The parties draw their strength from themselves and don't really represent the voters at all.

Sartre points out that when the Socialists replaced the UDR, the war in Algeria still intensified.

Even the Communist Party, which is supposedly dedicated to the overthrow of bourgeois democracy, can no more change a system it is part of than a person can lift a board he is standing on.

It doesn't matter who wins the SU elections tomorrow.

RATT and Dewey's will still open at three o'clock; the Gateway and CJSR will still function; and someone will occasionally ask the government for more money.

So if it's a nice Friday and you are near a polling booth, by all means vote. But don't let anyone tell you that voting is a duty, or in any way important.

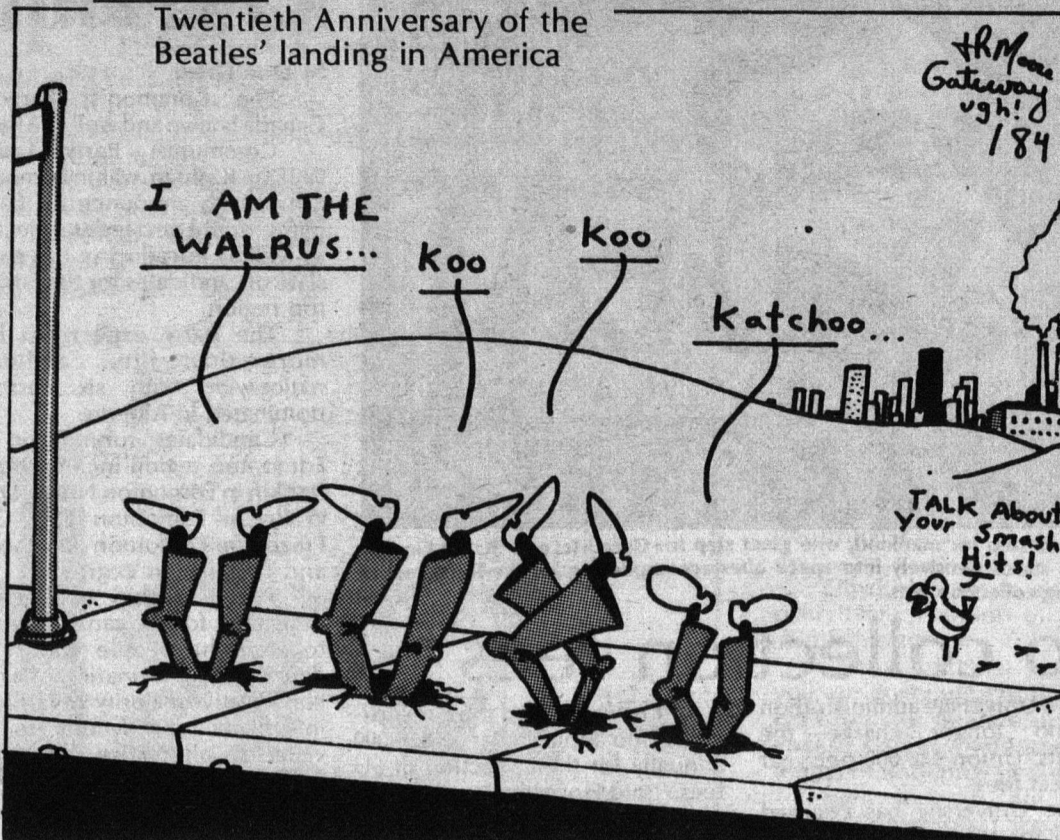
For All Those Who Died

For all those who died-
stripped naked, shaved, shorn.
For all those who screamed
in vain to the great Goddess
only to have their tongues
ripped out by the root.
For all those who were priced,
racked, broken on the wheel
for the sins of their Inquisitors.
For all those whose beauty
stirred their torturers to fury;
and for all those whose ugliness
did the same.
For all those who were neither
ugly nor beautiful,
but only women who would not
submit.
For all those quick fingers
broken in the vise.
For all those soft arms
pulled from their sockets.
For all those budding breasts
ripped with hot pincers.
For all those midwives killed
merely for the sin of
delivering man
to an imperfect world.
For all those witch-women,
my sisters,
who breathed freer
as the flames overtook them,
knowing as they shed
their female bodies,
the seared flesh falling like
fruit in the flames,
that death alone would
cleansed them
of the sin for which they
died
the sin of being born a woman,
who is more than the sum
of her parts.

Erica Jong

News Item:

Twentieth Anniversary of the Beatles' landing in America



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Who's on top?

Probably the only defect of the Peters projection of the world (Gateway, February 2, 1984) is that it still places the north on top of the south. Why not do it the other way around?

Victor Bernal
Graduate Student

P.S. Is there any place on campus where I could get the Peters world map? I can always put upside down on the wall. Thank you.

The lone Alberta liberal

The editorial written in the February 7 Gateway regarding Prime Minister Trudeau was the usual fence-sitting, golly-gee work we have all come to expect from the Gateway. The paper's main use is for my boots to sit on at the back door. Why can't you take a stand?

It is very easy to talk about the PM's expected resignation, maybe Neal Watson could become a weatherman, I hear that that field is news-filled and exciting. Maybe instead of elevator music in elevators we could hear the latest resignation

rumors. Watson aside, let me respond to his page four musings.

Not everyone wants Prime Minister Trudeau to retire, most agree that we need new blood in the Commons, but until that suitable candidate comes along, let's concern ourselves with something that matters. Brian "No Policy" Mulroney still has to figure out where he stands, ask him about NATO? Ed Broadbent serves the country best as a figure to keep us up on the latest NDP ideas and to lay his party's allegiance where it is needed.

The PM has said he will retire, I believe him, and he will do what is best, when it is best. I hope he gets the Nobel Prize. I would just as soon promote peace then listen to Mulroney's jaw hitting his chest with every syllable.

Keith J. Aiken
Business III

Bottoms up boys

In the past, elected provincial and federal politicians under the guise of good government, have taken it upon themselves to spread both disease and crime and make a great deal of money doing it. They accomplish this specious act by authorizing the selling of alcohol, under the premise that government must control its sale and use. The sale and use of this politically-sponsored, liquid drug has killed and maimed more young people than any and all wars in which Canada has been involved. Now, the drug alcohol and sports run hand in hand. The killing and maiming of innocent people by politically-sanctioned alcohol can be considered a political sport in Canada. Our hospitals, jails, streets and homes are a realistic reminder of how popular this Canadian political sport really is. In fact, it is so popular that our economy depends on it. We must build new hospitals, jails and other institutions to take care of the victims of this sport.

Almost every home in Canada has been affected by it, yet they seemingly all like what is happening because no organizations such as the church, medical or legal professions are speaking out against this political sport. On the contrary, many of our respected professions make their living as a result of it.

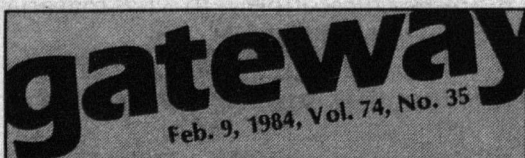
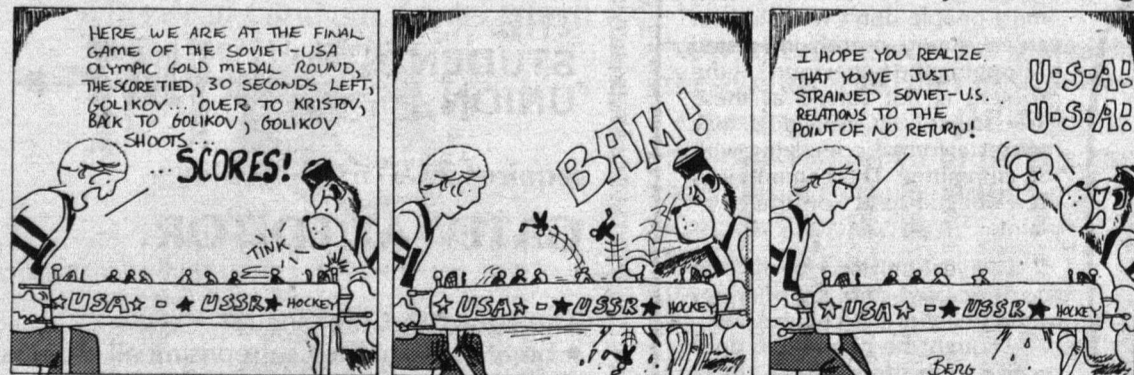
How soon will you or I, or both of us, become a political statistic (or sports score)? Why do medical people approve (since they surely do not disapprove) of elected politicians spreading disease that causes so much mutilation, death and destruction. Why don't our judges rule against politicians spreading such a horrendous disease? Or are they subservient to government, too? If, as a country at war, we were to use disease to overcome our enemies, the whole civilized world would condemn us.

Has our educational system been so taken over by governments that our children will be educated to be subservient and useable to government, even at the cost of their lives? What benefit is our Charter of Rights when elected politicians can and do indirectly destroy us for the tax money they receive from the sale of alcohol? An excellent example of socialist-type governments, both past and present, in business for themselves.

D.D. Cranfield

Bear Country

by Shane Berg



The Gateway is the newspaper of University of Alberta students. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-In-Chief. All opinions are signed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway. News copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm 282 (ph. 432-5168). Advertising: Rm. 256D (Ph. 432-4241), Students Union Building, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G7. Readership is 25,000. The Gateway is a member of Canadian University Press.

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Staff this issue

Frankie Lee and Judas Priest, they were the best of Gilbertologists. And while a hard rain fell on Don Grier and Barb Donaldson, Sarah Hickson and Jim More revisited highway 64. Denise Workun and Glenn Byer laid across papa's big brass bed. Ian Ferguson had walked down 40 roads (two short). Shane Berg and Marie Clifford said "look out kid, it's something that you did" to the forever young Terry Lindberg. Infidels Georgeann McInerney and Peter Block were knocking on heaven's door while Lilly, Rosemary, and the Jack of Hearts were replaced by Anna Bolowicki, Sheryl Jackson, and Tim Kubash. It was all over for a baby blue Richard Watts and tambourine man Jordan Peterson, but as Tom Huh sailed on Black Diamond Bay, Ruben Carter finally served somebody. The answer is blowin' in the idiot wind said Algard. John Wesley Harding would be proud.