

# The Gateway

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Editor - Kevin Gillese  
 News - John Kenney  
 Features - Lindsay Brown  
 Arts - Jeno John  
 Sports - Darrell Semenuk  
 Photo - Don Truckey  
 Graphics - Craig McLachlan  
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## editorial

Last week, Edmontonians had a unique opportunity to assess the debate currently raging through the country on the question of northern development and energy resource exploitation. Two energy conferences were held in the city - the industry-sponsored seventh annual National Conference on Northern Development, and the Citizens' Counter-Conference on Energy and Northern Development.

The difference between the two conferences can be seen by noting the delegate's fees - they were \$100 a head for the conference, \$1 a head for the counter-conference. Likewise, the conference was held in the MacDonald Hotel, the counter-conference in SUB Theatre and the basement of the First Presbyterian Church.

At the conference, the speakers' and delegates' lists read like a *Who's Who* of big business in Canada. At the counter-conference, the speakers were mostly native or government representatives, speaking to groups of interested Canadians who didn't - and still don't - want to leave important decisions about energy development to a select group of individuals in business and government.

Given the difference between the two gatherings, there was a unique opportunity to hear both sides of the northern development story - and what was said just doesn't seem to jive. At the business conference, speakers repeatedly affirmed the need for more oil and gas for southern Canada. Sure it's important we conserve, they said, but even if we do cut back we're still going to need a helluva lot more oil and gas than we can get without development of the north. At the counter-conference, speakers said the oil and gas "shortage" was actually a "manufactured" shortage and that cutbacks in exports to the U.S. would leave us in a comfortable position of energy self-sufficiency within the next ten years, given current rates of exploration.

At the conference, businessmen repeated attacks on the government, saying government rip-offs through unfair royalties were driving investors away from development of energy resources in the north. Yet they also said if the need exists for energy in the south, why don't we do what is right for "the public need" and build the Mackenzie Valley pipeline quickly so that oil and gas can begin moving to southern markets (which coincidentally includes, in most proposals, moving Alaskan oil to the U.S.). But at the counter-conference speakers referred to inordinate profits from oil companies (many of which are subsidiaries of American or other foreign firms) and claimed the Mackenzie Valley pipeline, if built, could wreak ecological disaster with the delicate environment of the tundra and sociological disaster with the natives of the north, many of whom are now engaged in land claims over the very territory the Mackenzie Valley pipeline would run.

It was all most confusing. Justice Thomas Berger claimed that the men who head our "great corporations" care as much as we (citizens) do about environmental concerns, yet failed to provide examples of how an executive in Toronto might associate as much with the northern tundra as a native living and working on that land. Berger also claimed his Inquiry was working outside the confines of the federal government - and the federal government claims it has not yet made a decision about the Mackenzie pipeline. But at the conference, many of the businessmen spoke as if construction of the pipeline is a foregone conclusion and that the only thing holding it up is official announcement of the project. Which is true?

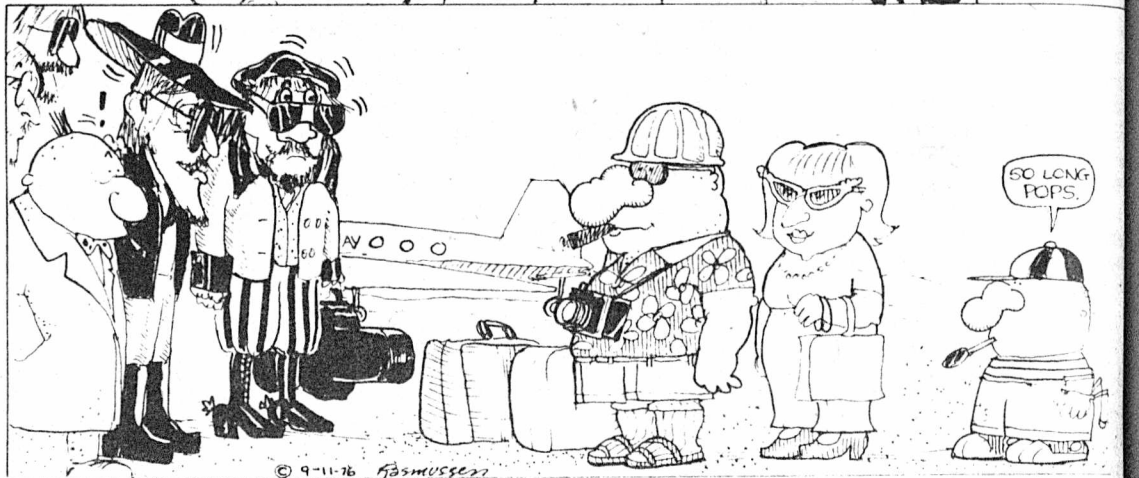
I believe it is time an independent task force - made up of representatives from federal and provincial governments, industry and labor, and concerned citizens - began a massive examination of our energy needs and the consequences of northern development. Operating in the manner of the Berger Inquiry, it is time we, as concerned Canadians, were told the truth about where we're at in the international energy game, what the multinationals are doing to us and how, where we're being steered and by whom, and what we can do about making decisions independent of the various interested parties of the north who are each arguing a different line without providing too much by way of firm support for their claims.

Perhaps then we can try and work out a sensible energy policy, without being manipulated by oil companies who want profits for themselves and northern interest groups who have their own particular axes to grind.

by Kevin Gillese

## BUB SLUG by Delaney & Rasmussen

BUNS, WOODS, SLICK AND THE SNAKES ARE ALL READY TO GO ON TOUR. NOW WHERE'S BUB SLUG?



## WHO are devoted artists

For more than a year, I have faithfully, and silently read the *Gateway*. Today I am writing because of a matter which threatens to rage on forever. After reading two students' views on a recent WHO concert, I would like to put in my \$25.

I have been a WHO fan ever since I heard the first few bars of Tommy, so seeing the Who live was a dream come true. The concert was well executed, the light show was surrealistically fantastic, and the fact that the Who didn't come back for an encore only proves that even the band knew the performance was great! There's not much you can do for an encore when you're The Who. In short, the Who were everything I expected, and more.

Candid moments of the concert make me believe that the average concertgoer doesn't really know what to expect for \$8.50, and he/she rarely knows how to judge a good performance when he/she hears it. Comments such as those of Stuart Thompson (letter to editor, Nov. 2) are extremely narrow minded. We were lucky to see the Who because as Daltrey said himself, the cost and time of trucking tons of equipment aren't worth it for one gig. It just might be another 8 years before we see the Who again, I also disagree with Mr. Ralphstrom's comment (letter to editor, Oct 26) "For 2 hrs. inhibitions were tossed..." It'll never happen in Edmonton; the kids are too cool, or too stoned. And once again, Sornberger gave a (ho-hum) boring interview of the year's best rock concert.

C'mon Edmonton, open your ears and wallets to Music, not "Shows." The Who have been around for over 10 years because

they're good, and because people like them, not because of gimmicks or record sales. As opposed to the opening band MF, the Who are devoted musicians dedicated to making music, no \$\$\$\$.

In concluding I would like to

## I have 900 albums and I like the WHO

I am writing this letter out of sheer outrage and disbelief after reading the last letter (p. 4, Nov. 2, *Gateway*) about the Who concert. I was there, and I am disgusted that any person could imply that it was not the finest rock concert that has ever been seen in Edmonton.

I am a collector of rock records, having over 600 albums and over 300 bootlegs, all featuring the "supergroups" of rock music, and I have never heard in my life any rock performance, either live or recorded, that can even come close to the genius, talent and pure energy that I saw the Who display. They were amazingly tight and polished and yet exploding with the raw energy that makes rock music unique. It was rock and roll at its absolute best.

In regards to Mr. Thompson's letter, I would advise him to refrain from giving opinions in areas that he obviously knows nothing about. I don't claim to know a lot of things, but I know rock music, and after having seen the Who live I can safely say they are "the greatest rock and roll band in the world."

As to their not giving an

say that the Who are more than rock band and certainly more than "frauds" or "fatcats." They are an expression of youth in the 60's which still persists in the 70's because a generation's lifespan is more than a mere 10-15 years.

Louis Bugeaud  
 Science 2

encore, anyone who knows rock music at all should know that the Who simply don't do encores, not here, not anywhere, it's one of their trademarks. They give such a draining and complete show that an encore would be degrading by implying that they don't totally devote all their genius and energy to their immaculately planned and executed show. It would be unprofessional and the Who are the consummate professionals.

Gerald Johnson  
 Engineering

**Ed. Note:** in a P.S., Mr. Johnson says "I was told you probably wouldn't print this (letter)" and think perhaps I should clarify our letters policy. I don't know who told you we wouldn't print your letter, but whoever they are they're wrong. We print every letter we receive (although reserving the right to edit libelous remarks and obscenities). However, we print letters on a first come - first printed routine and therefore, some letters may not be printed for up to a week after they are received because of space constraints.