

*Martin
Levenson*

Where's the beef?



Dammit, I want steak!
I'm tired of hamburgers. I'm tired of unwrapping fancy packages in bright colours, sold to me with exhortations to "have it your way," or "take a break." I hate being told that a hamburger is "a beautiful thing."

I open the box, unwrap the foil, and take a bite.

What do I get? I get a hamburger. A chewy mass of grey (sometimes dyed red) pulp, with coatings of glop, stuck between two pieces of warm sponge.

The whole thing is half digested before you eat it, and it slips down your throat in a sodden, lumpish mass. It doesn't have enough substance or character to give you gas.

Just another boring burger.

I'm starting to feel the same way about politicians as well.

Behind the glitz, and the razzamatazz, behind the promises of "a strong future" or "unity," behind the invitations to "get on the team," or "join our family," all we get, time after time, candidate after candidate, is just another person with ambition and enough

ego to think that he or she can convince you that he or she represents real change.

Not too bloody likely!

Looking at last week's events, it's hard not to be pretty cynical about whether the packaging really makes a difference in the product.

Doug Main announced that he's seeking a seat in the provincial legislature, as a Conservative. Ralph Klein, mayor of Calgary, announced the same thing.

Main's switch from the federal Reform Party is perhaps understandable. The party's emphasis on giving the West a voice in Ottawa is not applicable to provincial politics.

But his jumping ship doesn't say much for his commitment to this cause. And Preston Manning cannot be too happy about losing the Reform Party candidate who got the most urban votes in Alberta.

What really gets me, though, is Ralph Klein.

Here's a guy who was seriously thinking of running for the leadership of the provincial Liberal

party. He was ready to represent what the Liberal party stood for.

Yet now, he's going to be a Conservative candidate, if Don Getty will get him a cabinet post. He also had the nerve to say that he's been a Conservative all along.

A Conservative who felt he could be the ultimate Liberal. Wonderful.

What this demonstrates clearly is that there is no difference between one party and the other. The only difference is the style.

It's sort of like GMC and Chevy trucks. The parts for one fit the other. A politician will plug into whatever party machine he or she figures will lead to electoral success.

So don't believe anyone telling you that a vote for them is a vote for change.

And let's face it, the New Democrats aren't any better. Life as we know it wouldn't end if they formed the government. They couldn't really change things, even if they wanted to.

That's the reality of our political system.

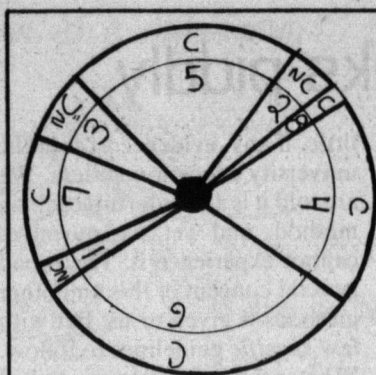
And while we should never get too complacent (anything can be improved), I honestly don't see a large number of people demanding real changes in our society.

People are pretty happy with the status quo. Maybe they haven't read the menu.

But I object to politicians telling us hamburger is steak.

Maybe Ralph Klein did us a favour. Now we know hamburger is hamburger, and steak is steak.

And bologna is bologna.



DARTS: A POPULAR GAME AT THE FACULTY CLUB

Sexism for charity ok?

Upon reading how all the women polled at the bookstore feel the new University Women of Alberta calendar is sexist and truly degrading to the female species as a whole, I was surprised to see the Edmonton Male Fire-fighting calendar hanging in said bookstore. I guess it's ok though, because that is a case of sexism for charity. A big difference.

Edward Beg
Science III

Ad sexist

I'd like to commend the University of Alberta Bookstore for refusing to sell the University Girls of Alberta calendar, a product that profits from the attitude that, not matter how much education she may have, the bottom line in judging the value of a "girl" is her breast measurement. I'd also like to commend *The Gateway* for its policy, outlined on your letters page, that "material of a racist, sexist, homophobic, or libellous nature will not be published." I'd like to, but unfortunately I can't, since five pages after your lofty statement was a quarter-page ad for the University Girls of Alberta Calendar, complete with picture.

This isn't the first time reality has belied idealistic policy statements in *The Gateway*; last term the paper also ran an ad from the

government of South Africa (which, in case you are unaware, is generally considered a pretty racist regime), in which the white government asked students to submit essays on South Africa as a peaceful melange of many cultures. I suggest that you amend your policy on sexism and racism by adding at its end the clause "without appropriate financial remuneration", and then advertising the current rates at which you are selling your journalistic integrity.

Bruce Dadey
Education III

Ed. note: The "South African" ad was for an essay contest which was sponsored, to the best of our knowledge, by a private organization in Calgary with no connection to the South African government.

R.A.T.T.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
8 DESIGNATED DRIVER PROGRAM	9 MARGARITA	10 TUESDAY IS MOVIE NIGHT 7:30 AIRPLANE 10:00 CADDYSHACK	11 LADIES	12 LET THE GOOD TIMES ROCK	13 GREAT BAR STAFF	14 ELECTRIC
15 THE RATT STAFF AND YOUR STUDENTS' UNION	16 MONTAGNA	17 7:30 ANGEL HEART 10:00 EXORCIST	18 NITE	19 '60's & '70's CLASSIC ROCK N' ROLL	20 5 DAILY BEER & DRINK SPECIALS	21 MUSIC
22 WISH YOU THE BEST OF TIMES ALL THE TIME	23 PEACH RASPBERRY STRAWBERRY BLUEBERRY BLACKBERRY	24 7:30 WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE 10:00 A BOY AND HIS DOG	25 LADIES RECEIVE HAPPY HOUR PRICES	26 GREAT TIME	27 CLASSIC R & B	28 NITE
29 ENJOY YOUR SCHOOLING!	30 ON SPECIAL ALL DAY BY THE GLASS OR BY THE PITCHER	31 7:30 BACK TO THE FUTURE 10:00 TIN MEN	ALL DAY AND ALL NIGHT			

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