

Finally, she refers to the debate between the proponents and opponents of CFS as "petty fights."

My previous experience as a VP external and president of Brandon University students' union brings to mind all of Baghdaday's remarks, not to be applied to students as she does, but to the student representatives of CFS.

Without denoting the CFS as "idiots" as she does (connotation will do), my first hand impressions were that the CFS members themselves had little understanding of what they could do as a collective under one body. Most members of CFS were acting in their own self-serving interests as staking control of the organization; student interests, other than their own were not developed. Instead, these leaders attached themselves to the issues with little ego-involvement unless the issue would aid them in retaining their position in CFS meetings. This, interestingly reminds me of what Roberto Michels had to say on the nature of oligarchical institutions to which I recommend Baghdaday to review before embarking on a mission to defend CFS as a representative organization."

To her third point, that students engage in "petty fights" over the CFS issue of institutionalization, I would like to inform Baghdaday that within the CFS greater battles were fought between the leaders. In-fighting was common between institutions and these were of much greater paramouncy in weakening CFS than any student level debate. Attempts by many of the universities to voice their concerns in a (once) national plenary as the CFS failed into abyss when the die-hards of selfish student leaders attempted to manipulate the organization for themselves, let alone their own institutions. Furthermore, attempts to negotiate, plan and divide responsibilities in strategy and tactics were always a failure in this poor arena for constructive debate. Why participate in an unparticipatory super-structure?

A final point. Baghdaday's letter suggests that students should let CFS "get off the ground." My dealings with the CFS were in 1978-80, and if the CFS were at all concerned with representing student interests at the national level and actually doing something *quid pro quo* for students, it surely has had enough time since then to initiate student representation which would have enticed university and other post-secondary institutions to either join or remain in CFS. I suggest Baghdaday review her remarks and clearly understand the failings of CFS itself.

To me, if CFS is history, it is a "dark-aged" one at that.

Kevin Choy  
G.S. Political Science

### Preppy power

I am distressed at the number of letters condemning the lifestyle of preppies recently published in the Gateway. Numbers of your readers have complained that those of the prep persuasion are superficial. However, it is highly hypocritical of these complainants to judge others on such superficial aspects as preferred mode of dress, hairstyle, and/or sexual orientation.

The Gateway should not promote the views of a few insecure, anti-progressive conservatives who resist change and new ideas. Since it is important that a student newspaper promote the importance and worth of all individuals, the Gateway should remind its readers that we need preppies. Remember: today's preppies are tomorrow's yuppies.

Gary Hart  
HUB XXIII  
(or is that XXIV?)

### Totally, like limp

Dearest Budsie,

Like ya know, not all of us trendy, limp-wristed, preppy faggots are trendy, limp-wristed, preppy faggots. Like some of us are like only trendy and like some of us are like totally like only limp-wristed and some are like only preppy and some are like only faggots. Naturally we don't play hockey or other such bitchin'-like sports. Like standing around in the showers afterwards dropping soap ain't our scene. (Like ya know what I mean, eh?)

As Jean-Paul Sartre, the great French existentialist philosopher stated in his famous treatise, philosophy of the absurd, "life's order and meaning is hard to focus on and take seriously." You seem to be living proof of such a notion. Toodles, Budsie, Baby.

Yves St. Nietzsche  
Calvin Kierkegaard

P.S. This may also be proof that women prefer brains over brawn and class over crass. Wanna borrow some cologne?



Sometimes when I can't get to sleep at night, I listen to CKO, the all news radio station.

CKO is the most reliable cure for insomnia I can think of.

But last night when I turned my dial to 101 at about 2:00 AM, rather than being bored to sleep, I was startled awake by the news that Marvin Gaye had been shot dead by his own father.

Even more surprising was the fact that the report on Gaye's death was the last item on CKO's National Radio Report (that's sort of like a newscast).

The lead story was about Brian Mulroney talking to members of the Jewish community in Toronto. There were another four or five equally trivial items then - as sort of an afterthought - Gaye's death was mentioned.

Personally, I dislike Marvin Gaye's music, but don't the people at CKO realize that Gaye has accomplished much more and is more important to more people than Brian Mulroney?

Personalities aside, surely someone getting shot is more newsworthy than a speech.

Brian Mulroney will be talking forever; Marvin Gaye will only get shot once.

And Gaye didn't just get shot, he got shot by his own father.

Canada's national newspaper *The Globe and Mail* gives Gaye's story a few inches at the bottom of page one. The lead story is about John Turner and Jean Chretien insulting each other. *The Edmonton Journal* has a photo of Gaye on the front page, but the banner reads "Tories won't bow to public opinion."

*The Sun* doesn't even deal with the shooting until page five. It seems the media is unhealthily obsessed by politics and politicians.

The main reason for this obsession is that like most people, reporters are lazy. Political stories are the simplest type of story to write. Can you imagine anything in the world easier than merely transcribing what Turner and Chretien have to say about each other?

It is certainly much easier than tracking down a story, or doing a little investigative reporting to find out what exactly was said in the argument that led Mr. Gaye to shoot his own son.

A rare attribute which all good reporters possess is the ability to squeeze information from people who are unwilling to talk.

But getting politicians to talk is like trying to find salt in the Pacific Ocean. Politicians literally seek out reporters and hand them stories. Working the Ottawa press gallery has to be the softest job journalism has to offer.

Stories about scientific research are extremely difficult to write because in the course of a few hours the reporter must comprehend research that someone trained ten years to understand.

But with politics, anyone can explain who said what to whom.

Everyone understands politics because there is nothing to understand - just a bunch of egomaniacs acting like idiots.

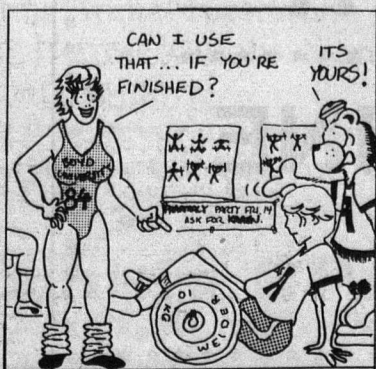
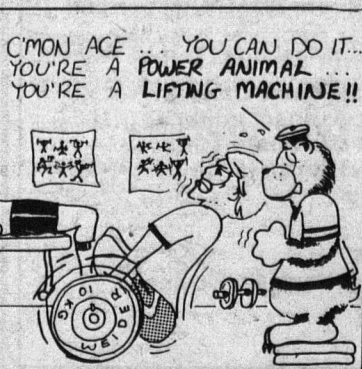
Not only is the close relationship between politics and journalism convenient, it is rather incestuous. Most reporters have more than a professional interest in politics.

I am willing to bet Allan Fotheringham and Mike Duffy secretly wish they could hold elected office.

Thus we have all the little journalists running around with all the even tinier politicians.

It makes for a myopic news media, but at least now you know why when things get a little slow at the old university, three or four stories about the Students' Union miraculously appear in the Gateway.

### Bear Country



by Shane Berg

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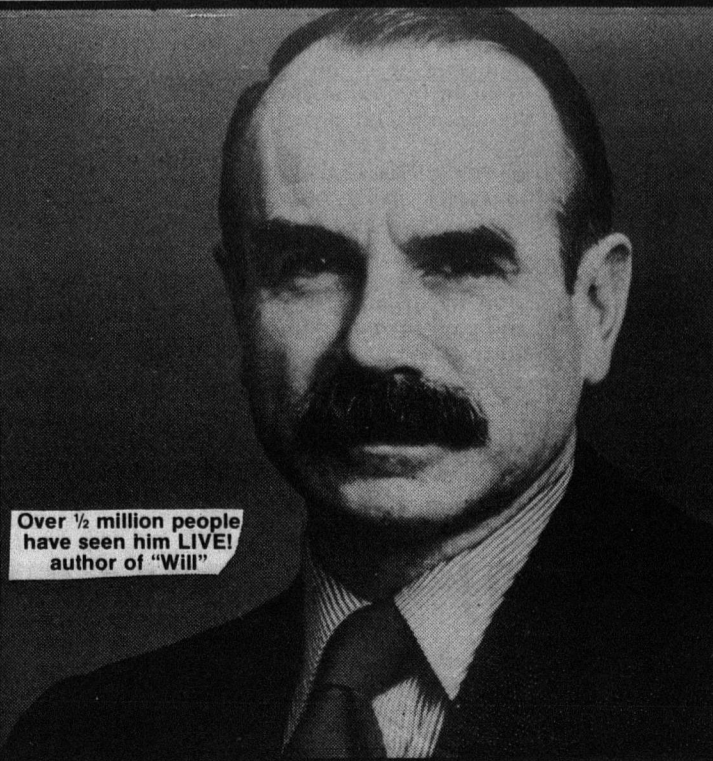
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