

CHOPPING BLOCK

by Jens Andersen

The current outpouring of indignation against Israel for its part in the Chatilla and Sabra massacres, I confess, leaves me cold.

This is not merely because almost none of Israel's vociferous critics are berating the Phalangists who actually committed the butchery, though this makes one wonder. Nor is it because I believe Israel is blameless.

At the very least, certain Israelis acted quite stupidly and negligently, and an investigation may even show more active complicity - to which must be added the shifty antics of Begin and Company after the fact.

What really chills me is the insincerity of those who deplored the massacre. Except for a few people who witnessed it or were personally affected by it there was no honest-to-God emotional reaction; no genuine expression of horror at the brutality of the incident. I have seen more real shock at car accidents where someone received minor lacerations.

In some instances, as with the Soviet Union, the massacre was simply a convenient excuse to indulge in the popular sport of Israel-bashing. The Soviet Union's condemnation of Israel, in fact, was doubly disgusting, because what happens every day in the Gulag is at least as cruel and barbaric as the blood-letting in the Palestinian camps. And unlike the Phalangists and Israelis, the Soviets can't even try to excuse themselves by pointing to the hysteria, hatred and callousness generated by a long and bitter war.

The other moralists who joined in the denunciations and tut-tutting (like the Pope and Canada's own Alan MacEachan) aren't much better. They all remind me of C. E. Montague's statement, "War hath no fury like a non-combatant." Because they sit at a safe distance from the fighting, and since their armchair sermonizing costs them nothing their words are worthless.

In all the uproar over the massacre, the denunciations which impressed me the most were those of the Israelis who stormed the Knesset right after the news emerged, and demanded the resignation of Begin. They refused to disperse when police arrived, and paid the price with langfuls of tear gas, not to mention the hostility of many of their countrymen.

The show of humanitarianism put on by the rest of the world is mostly just that: show. The people who indulge in such displays are moral exhibitionists who love to display their virtuousness. Nothing about them suggests that they would act differently than the Israelis (or even the Phalangists) if they stood in their shoes.

Publication note: *National Lampoon Presents Peckers and Other True Facts*, a compilation of wonderful stuff from Nat Lamp's "True Facts" department, is now on the newsstands. It has the patented *National Lampoon* sexist-as-possible cover; a plethora of photos of weird road signs ("Caution - do not bump frozen foods"), business signs ("Loose women tightened here"), and newspaper headlines ("White selects Coon for post"); and last but not least, the news items like:

A bus carrying five passengers was hit by a car at the corner of Sarah Street and Cook Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri. By the time police arrived at the scene of the accident, fourteen bystanders had boarded the bus and begun complaining of back injuries. All were taken to a nearby hospital. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

The "True-Facts" section is, in my opinion, the best part of an excellent magazine. If you haven't become acquainted with it yet, here is your chance to catch up.



Council joins in condemnation

Tonight, the following motion will be entertained at Students' Council:

MOVED THAT Students' Council publicly state its condemnation of the events which have recently occurred in West Beirut and to that end, the enclosed letter be sent to both the *Gateway* and the *Edmonton Journal* in the hope that it be published in the "letters" section of each tabloid.

The Students' Union of the University of Alberta expresses deep concern over the massacre of innocent Palestinian civilians living in the Chatilla and Sabra refugee camps in West Beirut. Both compassion and condemnation must know no ethnicity.

It is the position of the

Students' Union that both the Christian Phalangists and the State of Israel share the condemnation of the civilized world. In accordance with the ideals embodied in this institution and the obligations which therefore arise, we hope that those responsible be brought to justice, and further, that the State of Israel cease its unlawful occupation of both West Beirut and indeed, Lebanon.

allowing all citizens of the world to live in peace and prosperity.

If students are interested in this motion, please feel free to attend Council tonight in the Senate Chambers in University Hall at 7:00 pm.

Teresa Gonzalez
SU vp external

Stephanson House errors

While I was pleased that the official dedication ceremony of Stephanson House received a mention in the *Gateway* (Icelandic-Canadian Poet Honored, September 8), the article did contain several errors.

Stephanson House and the nearby village of Markerville are located west of Red Deer not east. The structure which was referred to as an "ostentatious" administration building is actually displays, public washroom facilities and staff accom-

modations.

The pink and green exterior colour scheme of the house, while unusual in rural Alberta, is not particularly unusual in Iceland and is the historically accurate color scheme.

For the further information of your readers, Stephanson House is now closed for the winter.

Karen Christiansen
Research Assistant

Gateway gets theirs

Your editorial writer, Allison Annesley, in the piece entitled "Tuition fee games" (*Gateway*, 23 Sept.), seems to have had a modest amount of difficulty expressing herself in what I assume to be her native tongue (English): "...the university learns what their grant..."; "...the province increases their grant..."; "...the university is...their..."; etc.

Annesley, all editorial writers should know that collective nouns (for example, 'council', 'province', 'university' are singular. Whereas it is true that this ancient grammatical rule is often ignored by the Canadian media generally, I don't know that I've ever encountered your usage before, in which collective nouns first take singular verbs and then take plural pronouns. Congratulations, Annesley, on the invention of a new grammatical form! (And haven't we been told by irate spokesmen for the Alberta Teachers' Association that students are now more literate than they've ever been?)

R. C. Fox
Geology/Zoology

Move Around A Lot?

Rent a Private Mailbox

Special Student Rates

Located in Standard Life Building
10405 - Jasper Avenue
Phone 421-7686, 488-6913

Alberta Security Letterbox Service Ltd.

Fees Due By September 30

The last day for payment of fees is **September 30th**. If a student is paying by instalments (terms), the amount of the first instalment is the First Term assessment and the last day for payment is **September 30th**; the amount of the second instalment is the Second Term assessment plus a \$5.00 instalment charge and the last day for payment is **January 17th**.

A penalty of \$15.00 will be charged on any payment received after these dates. If payment has not been made by **October 15** for the First Term fees and by **January 31** for Second Term fees, registration will be subject to cancellation and the student to exclusion from classes.

If fees are to be paid from some form of student assistance, please refer to Section F of the Registration Procedures booklet or the calendar entitled "University Regulations and Information for Students".

Students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research are reminded that their fees are also to be paid in accordance with the foregoing.

SHOPPERS DRUG MART

HELPING YOU SAVE MONEY

Purex 4 rolls
2 ply
\$1.39

Canadian cigarettes
\$7.99 CTN.
Limit of 3 cartons Regular & King Size
Health & Welfare Canada advises that danger to health increases with the amount smoked.

Apris Apricot facial scrub
60 ml.
\$1.69

Shopper's Drug Mart 450 gm Bagged Licorice
89¢

Viva Towels 2 rolls
99¢

Hilroy Coll Notebook 250 pages
\$1.69

Yellow Newsprint Pad 8 1/2" X 11" Plain & Ruled
69¢

Hilroy 1" Binders 3 ring
\$1.19

one location only — 8210 - 109th St. 433-3121
store hours — Mon - Fri - 9:00 am - 9:00 pm, Sat. 9:00 am - 8:00 pm.
Sundays & Holidays - 11:00 am - 6:00 pm.
Prices in effect until Oct. 3/82.

This Month At The **peoples pub**

Oct. 4: Lizzy Borden
Oct. 11: Patch

Open from 7 p.m. - Tues. • No cover Mon. - Tues. • Wed. is Ladies Night & U of A Pub Night (Admission free to U of A students with I.D. 433-9411)

RENEKO irons
10620 - Whyte Ave.