

## Nuclear nightmare

Watching the national news this weekend was an eerie experience. There on the screen were thousands of young people trying to break through a wire fence. Anonymous police guards were hosing them, and treating them to liberal doses of tear gas and mace. The protesting mob of youths replied with their only weapons: obscenities and shouts.

No, this wasn't a rerun of *The Fabulous Sixties*, but film footage from the weekend's anti-nuclear demonstration at the proposed Seabrook reactor site.

Clearly, the nuclear power issue has become the biggest issue in American confrontation politics since the Vietnam War. Anti-nuke groups are springing up all over the U.S.A. as well as in Canada and Europe. In fact, American anti-nuclear protestors are drawing much of their inspiration from similar groups in western Europe.

Of course, here in Alberta, hardly anyone cares that we are being steered into a global nuclear disaster, compliments of the large American power companies. As they did with the Vietnam War, politicians waffle, lie and avoid the central issue of the matter when it comes to discussing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and plants.

The media have reacted similarly. The story *The Journal* ran on September 26 concerning the xenon gas "burp" at a nuclear plant in Richmond included the following quotation from W.L. Proffitt (what a suitable name!), senior vice-president of Virginia Electric and Power Company (Vepco):

*"It wasn't a leak, it was more like a burp."*

The UPI story went on to state that "Xenon is a noble gas, which means it doesn't break down and mix with other gasses, and is relatively harmless except for its radioactivity."

My God! What does that mean? Relatively harmless? Except for its radioactivity? What does the writer of this story think is the issue built around nuclear power? Naturally, no attempt is made to explain what relatively harmless means, what xenon is, or how "harmless" mere radioactivity is.

It's not hard to identify the villains in the nuclear issue. Vepco officials "did not announce the accident publicly ... until about ten hours after the first warning because they said they saw no sense of urgency in the situation and wanted to make sure their statements were accurate," says the *Journal* story. Obviously, the safety of the public comes second to the good name and reputation of the companies that are running the show.

In the next few months, *The Gateway* will be running a series of features dealing with the proliferation and dangers of nuclear energy. We hope to focus on what's happening in Canada, and, as much as possible, localize all material that we feature.

In this issue, general topics are examined, and in all fairness to the people that support nuclear energy, a pro-nuclear story by John Savard.

If there is anything the "me first" generation of students should concern itself with, it's nuclear energy. Plants are springing up like weeds in Ontario and other provinces, as Canada quietly follows the example of its suicidal neighbor to the south. We hope that our paper's contribution to the proliferation of *knowledge* will awaken at least some students to a pressing and complex issue.

Gordon Turtle

# the Gateway

If it happens on campus...it's news to us.

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## Scrip skyrockets!

LONDON (CUP) — A grim economic outlook looms over the world as the value of scrip skyrocketed on international money markets for the fourth straight day. Today it closed at an unprecedented 2.7567 American. Meanwhile the price of gold plummeted as investors turn to scrip as an alternate hedge against inflation. Some dealers fear scrip may reach \$6.00 by weeks end and thus doing irreparable damage to many foreign economies. Prominent economists predict that if scrip hits \$7.50 it will drastically upset the national balance of payments. The French Government said if their currency goes below .1900 FF/\$ they will ask Gail Brown to introduce John Maynard Keynes' economic model called episcrptic budgeting.

The causes of this dramatic economic spectacle are not fully understood. However, economic czars around the world agree it is, at least partially, linked to high food prices at University outlets. The fact that food prices will only increase provides investors with a truly concrete security, i.e. scrip. The fact that investors are placing their faith in scrip is, however, in no way a reflection of food quality at these outlets. The food merely represents a pseudo-monetary sink.

While the causes are still relatively unclear, the effects are beginning to show. Arab countries are demanding to be paid in scrip in return for their oil. Swiss banks are giving out interest only on Swiss Francs and Scrip. The Dow Jones Industrial Index appears to be headed for a 1929 replay. Perhaps the worst is here at the University of Alberta where widespread famine is breaking out in the student residences. This is because profiteering scrip-hoarders are sucking

EDMONTON (CUP) - Conscription has dealt its last card. Here on campus the issues are boiling over. Scrip prices continue to rise yet residence students still get \$3.70 per day; not enough for one meal. The campus guru has suggested that if one were to fast on weekends and use the Laws on the back of scrip as Mantra one would have available the resulting saving of \$5.15 per day.

Supreme director of all divine cosmic forces, here on campus, Gail Brown has hinted that she will endorse a Christmas cardboard coin as well as a \$100 paper for those cocaine snorters in residence.

Scrip circulation is so rapid that many people have begun to express their disenchantments by writing graffiti on scrip.

The Forensic Department has conducted tests on the cardboard plates and vinyl utensils used in sub cafeteria. They concluded that besides smoking scrip being hazardous to your health, the cardboard contains carcinogens

Foreign exchange for the past four days; nominal selling rates at 11 a.m. each day (EDT). Quotations in terms of American funds.

Currency	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Australian Dollar	1.5014	1.3900	1.3628	1.0926
Canadian Dollar	.8557	.7836	.7231	.6533
French Franc	.3200	.3021	.2842	.2275
German Mark	.7713	.7345	.6843	.5998
Kuwait Dinar	4.9375	4.5629	4.1098	3.8056
Mexican Peso	.0596	.0403	.01279	.0067
Swiss Franc	.8584	.8108	.78497	.7090
USSR Ruble	1.9971	1.9971	\$ .9975	1.9971
SCRIP	1.2271	1.6745	2.3456	2.7567

## Difficulties for deaf student

I've never liked saying goodbye to summer. And, like the majority of students on campus, I get less than overjoyed returning to classes in September. It's the thought of exams, term papers, and premonitions of what is to come which leaves me less than enthusiastic. Such emotions are common to the majority, but my heightened anxiety results from being among the minority at the U of A. It has everything to do with the fact that I'm deaf. And I like being independent, and interdependent suits me just fine too. But the times when I must call on instructors and fellow students for help set my heart to thumping with anticipation and fear.

The anticipation of forming new friendships has always existed. But the fear crept in soon after. I find it difficult to accept all the rejections and excuses I've heard with regard to receiving some help with notes. And I can't help but wonder

why, after three years on this campus, fellow students from my own faculty cheerfully pass me by in class, leaving me to prompt and persuade. Just once, I'd be ecstatic to have someone volunteer to give me a hand. Someone who comes to class regularly, willing to sit in the same place everytime, and, most importantly, a person with notes that are legible and make sense. Maybe then I could make a more earnest effort at my studies, instead of coming to each class with the usual reluctance and

dread. Because just like you, I am here to learn. I want to be able to support myself, to the best of my ability, and do what I can to make the world a better place. I don't want to collect disability grants just because I happen to live in a hearing world. I deserve an equal opportunity to learn. Am I asking too much? I don't think so, but then my expectations and goals have never been low.

Gail Aabak  
Recreation IV

## Chilean confusion

I would like to clear up any confusion that may have been left by Lake Sagaris' letter which appeared in the 27 September 1979 issue of *The Gateway* about her upcoming trip to Chile.

Although the title "Executive Officer, Federation of Alberta Students" appeared under Ms. Sagaris' name, she had not signed the letter in that way, as her trip to Chile has been

neither financed nor endorsed by the FAS executive.

She was granted two weeks leave of absence without pay by the FAS executive, but she is going at the request and expense of the Edmonton Chilean community.

Tema Frank  
Executive Member  
Federation of Alberta Students

