

Res students face famine

Though strange and fantastic this tale may seem, I fear I must divulge this warning lest the spirit, whose confidence I gained rather unwillingly one late eve, turn his wrath upon my uneasy soul. This spectre, whose identity shall remain forever sealed, anticipates a most portentous event in the spring of the year nineteen hundred and eighty, that is, unless corrective measures are undertaken. Thus, I shall, as accurately as my fading memory allows, attempt to recount the words that were whispered to pungently that grey night.

"Rub away the remains of the sandman; listen closely and hear me well for I shall not repeat

myself. Unless improvements are made in the diet of the Food and Housing Services, death will be rampant in the Lister Hall Complex. When the earth thaws and growth begins her natural envelopment of the land, the University of Alberta grounds will be tarnished with the bloated and aged bodies of scores of students who could not survive the Service's meagre food allotments. Enrollment figures will drop drastically while the mortality rate will increase to unknown magnitudes. Very few will survive on this paltry diet; even less will adhere to the rigid meal hours. And if they do indeed endure, they will be wrought with haunting

memories from now until eternity."

"But wait, come closer, there is an answer."

Reluctantly I crawled closer and crouched by the open window.

"Currency to each student should be increased or meal portions must be enhanced. Currency can be made negotiable with other food establishments like the Power Plant and thus expand upon the hours one can satisfy his or her hunger."

Before he left, he added one last note.

"Death need not become a reality."

Janice Michaud
Arts II

Beelo finds boat solution

I think my brother hit the nail on the head when, while watching the news, he turned to me and asked "on a scale of minus ten to zero how much do you really care about the boat people?" Now even though my brother Bernard and I are notoriously callous people there is evidence that the rest of Edmonton shared our apathetic attitude. As an example I cite the less than perfect attendance at the C.B.C. production "operation entertainment." I myself did not attend and for damn good reason, the original price of admission was ten bucks! Hell I would not pay that price to see Led Zeppelin, Jethro Tull, and Pink Floyd on the same bill much less Tommy Banks, whose only claim to fame is that he once hosted a T.V. show that failed to run half a season. The impression I received was that the money taken in at the door was in the form of a donation for the boat people. (Personally I feel that the boat people should stand on Jasper Avenue and panhandle like the rest of the destitute in Edmonton.) Obviously with such high prices nobody went to see the production, so as a last minute attempt to drum up business they lowered their outrageous rates and posted a sign that read; refugees — one dollar, senior citizens — two dollars, other people — five dollars. It's nice to see reverse discrimination work for the refugees instead of against them.

I also found out that Edmonton is not the only hotbed for activity surrounding the boat people. Last night I heard a rumour that the United Nations are trying to reunite the Beatles in order for them to perform a concert for the boat people. This sounds a little preposterous to me for a couple of reasons. First it would cost a fortune to fly all the boat people to one place for

Aggies say no to pleas

The issue of the Refugee Aid Program was brought forward at the Agricultural Club General Meeting. The idea was discussed and the majority of the members were in disagreement with the program. For this reason it was not deemed necessary to meet the challenge forwarded. It was generally expressed that there are many causes within our own community, province and country that are more deserving of the Students' Union and this Club's time and money. With this belief and to show our intentions of the same, the Agricultural Club is instead donating a sum of money to the Crippled Children's Fund.

R.J. MacMillan
President

U of A Agricultural Club

the concert and second, most of these refugees have never heard the Beatles music and consequently probably would not really enjoy such a show.

One final word, I think the whole boat people thing was blown way out of proportion. If the government would have asked my advice on the matter first I could have given them a very elegant and simple plan. The first thing to do would have been to throw a blanket over the refugees' heads, and hustle them through customs with nothing to

declare, then hire a fleet of cabs to take them all downtown where they would be discretely distributed among the best boarding houses along 97th and 96th streets. The question of employment would not be a problem due to the close proximity of several restaurants whose dishwashers turnover rates can only be described as phenomenal. Bingo, everyone could have been assimilated without any of the fuss we are going through today.

Bart Beelo
1st yr. pre-med

Participate please

I would like to comment on the support of the Students' Union Refugee Committee (SURC) by the faculty associations and other student groups.

So far the SURC has the support of the Education Students' Association, Chinese Students' Association and the Business Administration Undergraduate Society.

I would urge student associations in law, nursing,

pharmacy, home economics, engineering, Faculte St. Jean, medicine and other areas to follow the lead of these groups and participate in the project.

A very small effort by student groups can have a tremendous effect in furthering the SURC's humanitarian and apolitical cause.

Ed Bell
Treasurer
Students' Union Refugee Committee

Second Wind

by Bruce Cookson

This is a reply to Peter Michalyshyn's Reader Comment in the last *Gateway*. Michalyshyn says that the average student at this university is probably most concerned with the "unworkable table service policy up in RATT" rather than abstract issues or even issues which directly affect them. It's a sad and dangerous time when views like his can be advanced as indicative of student body thinking. The fact is, whether we like it or not, we simply cannot afford to be apolitical, or worse, ignorant.

We're at a university, a place of higher learning; supposedly we're among the elite of society. We're not babies anymore so it's time we grew up and realized that there are more important things to be concerned with than beer policy at RATT. The implications for society are grim if we graduate with our heads filled with such petty concerns.

There is an absurd notion that we at the university live in some kind of self-contained universe, isolated from the problems and issues occurring in other places. This narrow thinking is especially prevalent in Alberta. Things here aren't bad now as we coast along on the benefits of an economic boom, but it's not going to be this nice forever. Unless we start confronting, or at least thinking about the major issues of today, (the energy crisis, over-population, human rights, unequal distribution of the world's wealth, environmental pollution — just a few) things are going to be rough, if not disastrous, thirty years down the line.

There are no such things as abstract issues. It doesn't matter if we're not touched directly by apartheid policies in South Africa, or mercury poisoning in Japan, or the death of a million Cambodians. The implications of these problems touch us everyday in all aspects of our lives. If we're not concerned with the rights of black South Africans, why should we be concerned with the rights of our native Indians? Why should we pretend that we have nothing to do with the problems plaguing all nations when world trade and technology have destroyed the possibility of societies or nations existing independently and autonomously of each other. To be concerned with an "abstract issue" somewhere else is to be concerned with an analogous issue at home.

Quixote



by David Marples

The subject of war crimes remains one of the chief topics of the media, despite the fact that over three decades have passed since the end of the Second World War. Last month, an Edmonton citizen, Jakob Bakic, narrowly escaped conviction in Yugoslavia on what appears to have been the flimsiest of evidence. His case is by no means an isolated one. It is thus disturbing to witness a rerun of the ABC television network's *Holocaust*, which makes new accusations of war guilt while simplifying events in Eastern Europe in an apparent attempt to provoke an emotional response from the viewer.

The producers of *Holocaust*, based on the book by Gerald Green, admit that the central characters in the serial, (the Weiss family), are fictitious. Nonetheless, it is claimed that the programme gives an authentic portrayal of the war years. In fact, it makes a mockery of the most terrifying single crime of our century; the systematic extermination of East European Jewry by Hitler's SS. As one follows the progress of various representatives of the Weiss family, one gets the impression that the whole affair might have been concocted for a Frederick Forsyth novel.

More serious however is the indiscriminate effort to defer culpability for the extermination onto other races of Eastern Europe. The Ukrainians and Lithuanians, for example, are implicated at every juncture. The former, in particular, are depicted as bloodthirsty aides of the Germans, always eager to participate in the shooting of Jews and only too glad to strip the corpses of their clothing. *Holocaust* makes no distinction between Ukrainian groups. Indeed the uninformed viewer would assume that every Ukrainian was antisemitic and that the guilt for the "final solution" might equally well be applied to Ukrainians as to Germans.

Space does not permit a detailed explanation of the program's distortion of history. Let it suffice to point out that there were four separate Ukrainian resistance movements operating in the German-controlled General government of Poland and West Ukraine from 1942 to 1945. The most prominent force, that of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, not only waged a bitter fight against the Nazis, but included many Jews in the ranks of its underground network. Thus, while anti-Jewish pogroms may have occurred, they were by no means universal amongst the Ukrainian populace.

Yet the consequences of the program's inaccuracies have been severe. The U.S. Department of Justice has in its possession a list of some 150 U.S. citizens of Ukrainian origin, suspected of taking part in the extermination process. An inquiry is being carried out at present, although the evidence for conviction is extremely slim. The whole situation bears a marked similarity to that of Bakic. While working in the Library of Congress recently, I encountered one of the Justice Department officials combing English language histories looking for accounts of pogroms.

Perhaps the future will see more dispassionate approaches towards war crimes. The current danger is that one perceives the enormity of the crime and is only too ready to assign guilt. One can only surmise the reasons for this "reopening" of the Nuremberg trials through the eyes of the media. The conclusions cannot be pleasant. On the one hand, the murder of six million Jews serves as an eternal reminder of man's inhumanity to man. On the other, the distortion of historical truth implicates parties whose guilt cannot possibly be assessed given the lack of evidence available. *Holocaust* is an inept tribute to the millions who perished.

Our political system is far from perfect; however through it we can still decide to some extent what kind of society we wish to live in. We are mostly limited by our own ignorance. Our democratic system forces on us the responsibility of being political creatures. That responsibility is that we become politically aware. It doesn't necessarily mean carrying placards or spouting ideological propaganda, but it does mean trying to understand the system and how it works. It means trying to identify the pressing problems and then working for solutions if we care deeply enough about them. Peter Michalyshyn says politicians should be the servants of the people, but if we ignore or abuse our rights as masters of the politicians, then we should also question our rights to participate in a democratic system.

Often in our intellectual elitism we scorn the uneducated masses for their political mistakes. How much better are we if we ignore the realities of political issues because we are too short-sighted or lazy to investigate what the implications will be for us?