

At the Lister Hall election forum, some of these questions were brought up, and one of the students whom I had "screwed" (to use your term), defended me. Clearly he thought he had been taken advantage of, did he not?

It might also interest you to know that I placed third in the Lister Hall poll, only eight votes behind Paul Alpern.

Phil Ewing  
Engineering III

## Purpose of Senate

I should like to clarify one or two points which appeared in your editorial of March 13, 1984, regarding the Senate.

Senate has authority through the Universities Act to select honorary degree recipients. In doing so, it is very concerned to those individuals who have, in its opinion, made a significant contribution for the common good during their lifetime. An honorary degree is the University's highest honour and it has been a matter of tradition at The University of Alberta as well as at most European and North American universities to confer the Doctor of Laws degree honoris causa. Since 1970, following a decision of General Faculties Council, the Senate has also been able to offer the D.Sc. and D. Litt., for achievement in Science and Literature.

All sixty-two members of Senate (forty-five of whom are from off-campus, and five are students) are volunteers and receive no payment for their services to the University. The mandate of the Senate is to inquire into any matter which might tend to enhance the usefulness of the University. Through task force reports, participation in University committees and the holding of public meetings to provide a forum for a discussion of issues in post-secondary education, the Senate hopes to achieve its purpose.

R. Mary Totman  
Executive Officer  
U of A Senate

## CHOPPING BLOCK

by Jens Andersen

The March issue of *World Press Review* arrived in the mail the other day: another welcome fix for this information junkie.

*World Press Review* is a monthly magazine consisting entirely of reprinted articles from press sources outside the United States.

This issue, for instance, contains everything from a *London Guardian* story arguing (quite persuasively, I think) that the KAL 007 flight shot down by Russia was on a spying mission, to an article in the Young Communist League newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* wherein one Yelena Losoto fulminates against western influences with all the fervor of Olivia Butti confronting a video game ("Breaking the threads that link you with the society that has given you everything possible, is tantamount to... self-destruction").

Every month *WPR* highlights one particular news event by printing a variety of stories on it. This month the event is the US withdrawal from UNESCO, with analyses by six publications ranging from the "independent" *Statesman* of New Delhi to the "socialist" *Revolution Africaine* of Algiers.

Five of the six papers agree, to varying degrees, that UNESCO is an organization with problems. Only the *Revolution Africaine* article, which reads like a strident press release, backs UNESCO. The main problems cited are UNESCO's stooping to partisan politics of the "smash the Western imperialists" variety, its attempt to push government controls onto the press through its "New World Information Order" (scary name, eh?), gross financial mismanagement, and the despotic rule of Director Amadou-Mahtar M'bow. Only *L'Express*, however, through its tart criticism of the organization, comes close to approving the US move.

The two main weaknesses in all the stories are a poor factual underpinning to support the opinions



## Screw you too

In your March 13, 1984 edition of the *Gateway*, a joke about Education students and light bulbs was printed. A student in the Education Faculty complained, finding the joke objectionable. I very much agree, and wish to remind you, that like any other student on campus, Education students do not screw in lightbulbs, they screw in hot tubs, or in cars, or in waterbeds, or....

Barbara Gregory  
Education IV

P.S. We accept this joke easily, because we know that in other faculties, they get 6 credits.

## Only death awaits

My dear Mr. Harrison, in reply to your final query: "How is life in outer space?", I very much regret having to be the one to inform you of this. There is no life, but only death, awaiting us in outer space, as you will unfortunately discover, Mr. Harrison, if and when we are all blown away by that marvellous military technology you so worship.

Judie Drucker  
Business IV

## Correction

The story about new student councillors incorrectly referred to the Direct Action Alliance as the Direct Alliance. Also, it is Brinton McGlaughlin not McGlaughlan.

## LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words long. They must be signed and include faculty, year of program, and phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, or very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Gateway*.

put forth, and little discussion of what a cultural, scientific, and educational organization should be doing.

Some facts are presented, of course: enough to make a *prima facie* case against UNESCO. But on the whole, the stories illustrate the truism that it is easier to spout an opinion than to dig up the objective truth. When pressed for actual details, journalists usually just phone some "authority" to get a quote (one from both sides of the issue if you are a respectable paper; one from your own side if you are socially progressive.)

As to UNESCO's purpose, two of the *WPR* stories are by UNESCO staffers, and both give me the crawls. One is full of UNESCO's "grand plans" (the staffer's words) to implement education for all, eliminate prejudice, racism and intolerance, improve the status of women, apply science to development, and put "communication in the service of man" (whatever the hell that means). These vague and grandiose plays remind me of the Monty Python skit where two chirpy TV children's show hosts solve each world problem with a 15-second barrage of platitudes.

The second UNESCO jobholder spouts more blather about cooperation, development, assistance and so on. My favorite part of this self-serving and remarkably uninformative screed is a comment on the New World Information Order: "...a compromise was reached (by UNESCO) that recognized the right to freedom of information but also took into account the needs of developing countries to expand their information opportunities." Translated from Newspeak this would be, "UNESCO pays lip service to freedom of speech - since it is fashionable for some reason - but recognizes that certain governments (e.g. Malaysia) have the right to supervise the media and make sure they behave."

Rather than this sort of meddling, UNESCO should limit itself to promoting free enquiry and the open transfer of ideas anywhere in the world. But there are vested interests in UNESCO - and not just the radicals - who have a stake in darkness and ignorance, and will prevent this from ever happening.

For a further discussion of these coercive groups I suggest you read Orwell's essay "The Prevention of Literature". In fact, let's make it required reading. After all, there will be a quiz on the material in the essay every day for the rest of your life.

by Shane Berg

## Bear Country



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## PART-TIME LABORATORY AID

The BIOTECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT of the Alberta Research Council is seeking laboratory assistance on a part-time basis for the period April 1, 1984 to March 31, 1985. Duties will consist of routine laboratory tasks associated with a program in plant and chemistry, greenhouse or farm experience, and an understanding of aseptic technique are desirable. Hours of work between 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 P.M. are negotiable. Salary up to \$10.25 per hour depending on qualifications and experience. Interested candidates should submit a resume and academic transcripts by March 26, 1984 quoting Competition No.: ARC - 706 to:

Alberta Research Council  
Human Resources Department  
5th Floor, Terrace Plaza  
4445 Calgary Trail South  
Edmonton, Alberta  
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