



editorial

Remember your rag

While Canada's millions placidly munch their various Thanksgiving turkeys this weekend, one small group of your fellows will be lining up for the plastic famine of university cafeteria industrialisation.

Far from the fellowship of home and family this small but dedicated group will give up their collective long weekends for the comfort of sleeping on a university floor and the stimulation of day-long discussion sessions.

The possible motives of such sacrifice? The best of all possible, I would think. Newspapers. In general, the production, care, and restoration of newspapers will be the subject of a four-day long conference at Simon Fraser University this weekend. The western region of Canadian University Press is holding its annual Thanksgiving conference there this weekend to discuss newswriting, features writing, reviewing, photography, layout, advertising, and budgeting of university newspapers.

Hosted by *The Peak*, SFU's student newspaper, the conference will be attempting to grapple with the problems of staff education and newspaper deficit planning in particular as they fit in the general CUP scheme of things.

Think of us, while you are thanking the Lord for every morsel of your annual reward for humble productivity. Think of us, and remember your newspaper.

Greg Neiman



Protest- the positive approach

Perhaps militantism is once more becoming the answer to governments' deaf ear problems.

As the dust settles around the student end of the education extended practicum dispute one could ask if it was necessary for students to rally around the legislative buildings before their needs would be listened to.

Did it take a formal protest march to precipitate the hasty solution of the practicum dispute? Was that the action needed before someone got some problems solved on time? Perhaps.

I suppose the same could be applied to the Students' Union government. If enough students disrupted a couple of council meetings it would be interesting to see just what might happen to the various non-attending pseudo-reps recently exonerated by council.

The same could apply to those students who feel their SU fees are bringing them little in return.

A forceful visible protest would probably bring action on the part of the Students' Union government to supply services for fees rendered much sooner than the threatening of non-payment of fees probably could.

If those who feel they are being cheated of their fees would take an active approach to changing the system to their liking as opposed to a negative one, perhaps there might be a more viable and efficient Students' Union in SUB than the one that now exists.

Ah, but this takes somewhat more dedication and energy than the negative approach. It takes people who know what they want.

Perhaps this is why the positive approach to the formation of good student services hasn't been tried too much lately.

Greg Neiman

Pregnant Put- Put Problem Perplexes Parking People

The following is dedicated to the people who walk ten miles per day on the golf course but then take their cars two blocks to mail a letter.

It has just taken me a little over a month and a half of wheeling and dealing, crying and complaining, and suffering through thirteen suicide attempts, not to mention countless numbers of nervous breakdowns to finally find out Whoopie!! I now have a place to live in the university's answer to 1001 ways to lose money. You guessed it! HUB.

I would like to make one thing perfectly clear. (where have we heard that before?) I am not aiming this little blurb at HUB, they have enough problems of their own, however, I cannot see why they can't control their own parking facilities (or lack of them) for the tenants of this building.

This job is allocated to everybody's friend, The "Wonderful People" at the Parking Authority.

READER COMMENT

After a little discussion at their offices, clutching a piece of paper in my grubby hand stating that I was indeed a resident of HUB, I was told that I couldn't park my car anywhere near my newly acquired apartment. It seems that there are only 150 parking spaces reserved for residents of this building and theoretically every suite should have a space of its own.

This however, is not the case. After a little detective work and three parking tickets later, it was found that there is absolutely no way to insure that the people who vacate HUB turn in their parking permits.

Thinking that the university's parking people had all the answers, I went back to them with the question as to why this is so. It was more or less explained to me that they control all the "No Parking" on campus, and no parking it is!

It just so happens that my

car has licence plates from the great state of California and people here in Edmonton always seem to make a point of asking me if I had ever spent a winter here.

I must with all honesty say that I have grown quite accustomed to my buns in recent years and would hate like hell freezing them off parking my car in Red Deer in order to attend classes here in Edmonton.

For the people of HUB, the problem could easily be solved by being issued monthly parking permits by HUB Management when the rent is paid. This way we could clean out the dirt and get on with the wash. If nothing gets done we could always do what students do best, Protest.

If all else fails, then we can relish in the thought that it will cost a total of \$983,000.00 (Canadian) to have the parking authority's building towed away to Cliff's Garage.

Keep Smiling
Henry Ford
Science 2

letters

Savard saves

Nostradamus predicted that the world would end in the year 3797. I think he wasn't very far out.

This world currently faces many crises, the most noted to which are those of energy, famine, and pollution. Overpopulation figures, of course, as a major factor in all three.

Some people have suggested that the solution would be to find alternatives to technology: by returning to a natural, agrarian-based mode of living. Innovation would be directed by "real needs" instead of "war and profit". Computers, plastics, and other things which are resource-consuming or dependent upon a high degree of urban industrialization would be out.

Should North American unilaterally convert to this mode of life, the conversion of the Soyedynniye Shtatii Ameriki to the Amerikanskaya Avtonomnaya Sovetskaya Sotsialisticheskaya Respublika could be expected in about two weeks. This is the first, and most obvious, flaw in that idea.

The second is that natural agriculture, while it may produce better food (though the degree of benefit to be expected from a "macrobiotic" diet is open to question), it will also produce less. And there isn't enough already!

What is the third? Well, in an agrarian society of the type envisioned, a massive space effort is hardly to be expected. And this is where we get back to Nostradamus again. Regardless of the resolution of any man-made crisis, human life and civilization will be wiped out, or at least brought close to extinction, by a natural catastrophe due to occur around the year 4000.

That's right. We don't have to wait for the sun to go out to get into trouble. As had been

discovered in the early sixties by paleomagnetic studies and sensitive measurements of the Earth's present magnetic field, the Earth's magnetic field had changed direction several times in the past - roughly, about as often as ice ages occurred.

These "magnetic reversals", as they are called, brought about the formation of many new species, and the extinction of many others, due to the increase in the radiation level caused by the collapse of the Van Allen Belts. And we're heading for another one right now!

Underground communities on Earth could shelter many; but heat would have to be vented to, and energy collected from, the dangerous surface. Also, there would be the pressure of the countless millions trying to get in.

Viable colonies on the Moon or Mars would not be troubled by the change in affairs on Earth. But, long-term viability of a colony on an airless world, cut off from all outside supply, is highly problematical.

The only really secure solution is to establish colonies on Earthlike planets around other suns. That won't be easy. But, as it must be done, today is no time for reducing space budgets!

John Savard
Science 4

Give thanks

Should the day e'er dawn when Humankind, still clutching in its right hand Science, awakens to the nightmare of a faultless-conceptualized cul-de-sac, and frantic consultation of and with all charts and farts confirms yes, it is a faultlessly-conceptualized cul-de-sac, then do not to me come whining that I never toldja so: even a spindly spinter would not engage a rainmaker during the monsoon season.

Turkeys always gobble their food.
Happy Thanksgiving to one and/or all.

Stan Armstrong

Save the US military

The Western world requires a power to offset the Communist bloc and the United States just happens to be that power. So the U.S. cannot fall behind in any research of any kind.

It just happened to be history that produced the United States into a superpower. Say for instance it had been Britain or Canada or even Holland or whatever, the outcome would have been the same. We would be under that particular country's umbrella as insurance. So whether or not we like it, we are under the American umbrella as are a lot of other countries.

It seems that it is the NDP policy to stir up trouble with the States. It is readily assumable who the NDP really are.

Ron Johnson

Question of the week

As midterm week rapidly approaches, the question everyone's lips is: "Do we have to bring our own pencils to exams?" Yes, all students are deeply concerned about this pressing issue, and are demanding answers.

I for one support the idea of bringing your own pencils - it allows the student freedom of choice, and I have found my own 2H far superior to the brand supplied by the university. Also, my eraser can remove a mistake out, so they don't accidentally mark you wrong. This happened to me during finals last year, when a poor erasure of a mistake led to missing a 1/2 point on History 222 (History of Alberta T.V.) test.

Students, I hope you support your instructor out and make certain of your options - do not get caught with your lead (ha, ha, little Arts joke there).
Joe Munda
Boring Arts