

practice simply wouldn't be done!

Yesterday, when leaving the Power Plant, I turned my head left and heard the pathetic cries of caged dogs and other animals from on top of the Dentistry-Pharmacy Building. I am positive that the University is at least as "humane" and "caring" as those involved in the two previous examples. The horror stories about intense cruelty existing on our campus simply cannot be true.

I suggest that students who are interested in making sure animals are treated humanely on this campus, make an appointment to tour the places where these animals are kept. Certainly nothing in reality can possibly be as bad as the situation most peoples' imagination will conjure up. Can it?

Barbara Paterson  
Arts I

## CFS in the springtime

Why do we need a new CFS referendum now and not in October?

If we vote in October, the \$4-\$4.50 CFS fees (23,000 X 4 is \$92,000 in total) plus the \$5000 referendum cost will be locked in expenses - having been paid with our tuition fees - non-refundable to the students, to us, without enormous administrative expense.

If we vote "no" to CFS in October, 50 per cent of the CFS fees are forfeited to CFS. (\$46,000 minimum plus the \$5000 cost of the referendum). The remaining \$41,000 - \$46,000 will be an administrative nightmare to refund, probably costing \$20,000 or more to process (cheques, stamps, envelopes, computer time, sorting and mailing, etc.) In other words, we all lose out. Letters continued on page six

## CHOPPING BLOCK

By Jens Andersen

"It's good to see you getting off of your little hobby horses and writing about things students are interested in," a fellow staffer recently told me. The popular topic he alluded to was the SU pay raise (discussed last week), and the "hobby horses," I presume, are my familiar themes of Canadian University Press and feminism.

Well! As Bob Dylan said:

*I try my best  
to be just like I am  
but everybody wants you  
to be just like them*

Admittedly, CUP and feminism are issues which are too tangled and abstruse to interest most students, who only want loose courses, a tight mindset, and a warm place to drink. Still, CUP and feminism are important, especially now that their influence is starting to appear in crucial places, for instance the newly-proposed federal obscenity laws prohibiting publication of "degrading" material (an adjective wide enough to accommodate the personal dislikes of just about every nut group in the country from astrologers to Zen Buddhists).

My prediction is that if the new laws are passed the courts will be deluged with actions initiated by these touchy and intolerant wing-nuts, who are well known to feel "degraded" at the drop of a hat.

As to the SU pay raise, it is but a minor evil. The full raise (from \$900 to \$1200 a month) costs under \$20,000 a year for all five executive members, or less than \$1.00 per student.

Democracy, as Mencken noted, is the only really amusing form of government ever devised by man - surely we shouldn't begrudge a mere dollar to ensure that our very own version of the eternal farce runs smoothly. Why, the price is only a quarter the cost of a good comedy movie (say, *Network*, Bunuel's *Viridiana*, or Eastwood's *Sudden Impact*). And the SU is considerably funnier.

"Why don't you write about Reagan, for a



change?" the same comrade-in-journalism asked me during another harangue (there's just no pleasing some people).

Indeed, why don't I? True, I don't know much about the man, and people already yak too much about him. But ignorance and repetitiveness never stopped other columnists from shooting off their mouths. Why should it deter me?

The real reason my friend suggested Reagan, I think, is that he knows I am a conservative, and he suspects that deep down I have a soft spot for old Ronnie. But the truth is that Jens has very few soft spots of any kind, and none at all for Reagan.

My most vivid recollection of Reagan is of him making a speech on TV during the Falklands crisis. He got up on his hind legs and rhapsodized about a noble world crusade to rid the world of communism, and he looked exactly like a two-bit pulpit-thumper whose eyes have seen the glory. The first words that sprang into my mind were "inflammatory idiot" and "dangerous".

Other people, however, see such speeches as evidence of Reagan's greatness, and clinch their case by citing his massive popular support, and his title of "The Great Communicator." Unfortunately the ability to incite the rabble and win them over has never impressed me (I get a great kick, however, out of watching Reagan run circles around radicals and activists who try the same demagogic tricks with a different brand of snake oil).

In short, the ability to fool most of the people most of the time is not the same thing as the ability to govern. I see no evidence that Reagan is a good governor, and plenty to the contrary. By catering to the whims and hallucinations of businessmen, a group of ignoramuses notorious for their inability to see past the cash register, Reagan has perhaps helped the economic recovery, though not enough to brag about. And his vaunted rescue of Grenada was simply an apple which fell into his lap; it required no initiative or intelligence to speak of.

As for the rest of his policies, from Lebanon and nuclear weapons to the environment and upholding the constitution, Reagan's record has been uniformly disastrous, and the worst effects of it, I believe, are yet to come.

**Thought for the day:** The trickle-down theory doesn't work, because well-to-do people (from whence the money is supposed to filter down) get where they are in the first place by not letting money trickle through their fingers.

## Bear Country

by Shane Berg



## U of A Health Care

The Gateway is undertaking a feature on the effectiveness of the U of A's Health Services. We're interested in our readers' opinions. Anyone who has any comments about their experiences with Health Services is invited to contact either Barbara Eyles or Gilbert Bouchard at the Gateway, room 282 SUB (432-5168). All replies will be held in the strictest of confidence.

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## Gold Medal Award

Each Spring, the Students' Union awards a student with a Gold Medal for excellence in curricular and non-curricular activities at the University of Alberta during the previous academic year.

### Criteria:

- candidates must be in the graduating year of their most recent degree program
- candidates must have a Grade Point Average of at least 7.5 in courses taken two years previous to the graduating year and in the first term of the graduating year
- extra-curricular involvement in University and/or community activities.

**Deadline for Applications:** Friday, 2 March 1984

Contact the Students' Union Executive Office for application or nomination forms, and/or for more information (259 Students' Union Building, 432-4236).

## SUMMER EMPLOYMENT EVERGREEN FORESTRY SERVICES LTD.

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to provide students with general information on Tree Planting as a summer job.

Applications will not be taken at this time.

## THE STUDENTS' UNION

requires a

## GATEWAY EDITOR

The Editor-in-Chief shall:

- be responsible for supervising all aspects of the editing and producing of the Gateway
- use his or her discretion as to what material is published in the Gateway
- submit the annual budget for the Gateway to the Administration Board in compliance with By-Law 700
- ensure the smooth operation of the Students' Union newspaper.

Salary: \$800/mo. (under review)

For further information, please contact:  
Brent Jang, Editor-in-Chief, Gateway, at 432-5168, or in Rm. 282 SUB.

Deadline for applications: February 24, 1984, 4:00 p.m. to Rm. 282 SUB.