

EDITORIAL

For women only

The battle lines are set, the pro-life and the pro-choice factions are waging war, and the abortion debate is making headlines all over Alberta as Dr. Henry Morgentaler prepares to speak in SUB theatre tonight.

The most unfortunate aspect of the whole abortion debate is that there is absolutely no room for compromise. You can no more have partial abortions or partial access to abortion facilities than you can be partially pregnant. Neither side of the abortion controversy is willing to think about compromises, and I don't think a compromise is possible.

For example, many women who are in favor of abortion on demand see abortion as more of an issue of independence than anything else. Limiting their access to abortion is limiting their hard won freedoms and compromises their independence.

On the other hand, women who are opposed to abortion see childbearing as a vital aspect of their lives, and childbearing as a vital aspect of their identities. Availability of abortion is a direct attack on their self-worth.

No matter what happens in the abortion debate, one of these two groups will be hurt, and there is nothing that we can do about it.

So this editorial is aimed at the men of my reading audience. Before you make any decision on the matter, and certainly before you make any public statements on the subject of abortion, talk to some women.

Sit down with your mothers, girlfriends, women classmates, and with representatives (preferably women) of **both** the pro-life and pro-choice camps and find out what these women have to say about the issue.

Ultimately abortion is a woman's issue, and I think that this once the men should shut up and be supportive and let the women of the world decide on the destiny of their bodies.

Abortion is not a matter of issues, or fancy male principles; it's a matter of women, real women, some of whom will suffer, and suffer greatly no matter what is decided.

Gilbert Bouchard

Brave new world

As we enter the middle of the decade, a new banner should be struck calling the remainder of the '80's: The Age of Non-commitment. With the swing to the right in North American society, and the introduction of the yuppie, personal commitment and compassion have been superseded again by the pursuit of the almighty dollar.

Not that the pursuit is wrong. On the contrary, it will rebuild the faltering economies of the late '70's and early '80's — but like any benefit there must be those who suffer. The victims of the yuppies will be their children.

The growing numbers of singles-bars, faltering marriages, and suicides suggest that all may be better in the business world; but the strain of success is taking its toll in those non-monetary areas of emotional stability and health.

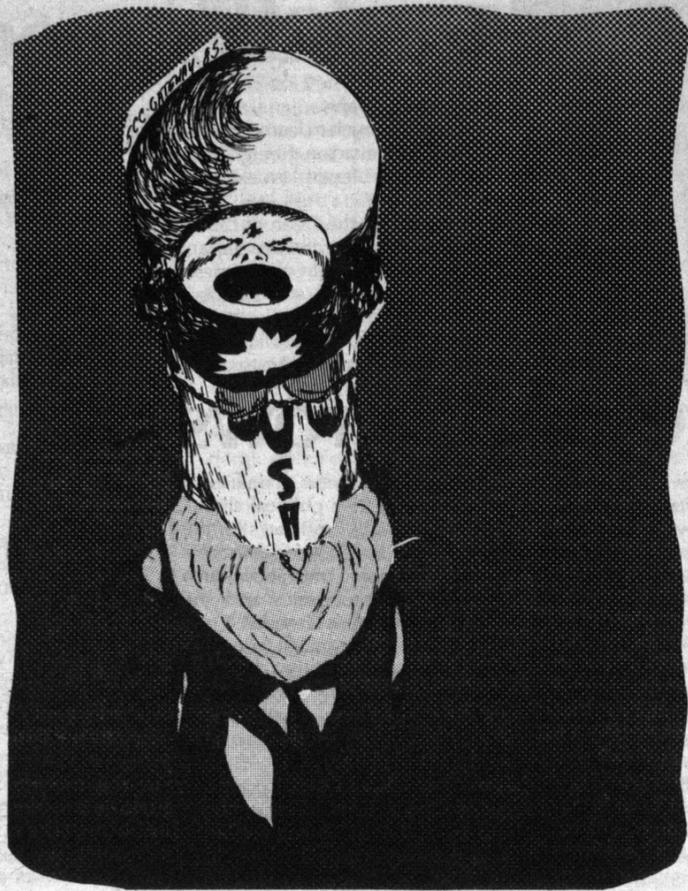
Responsibility for one's own life is now considered a task for society, not the individual. Parents insist that public schools be responsible for teaching their children to pray, teaching their children the facts of life, for providing endless opportunities for their children to experience the arts and sports.

Commitment is out. Friends are valued for their status, children are annoyances that are to be ignored, or sent away to school, spouses are valued as member of the economic unit, foreigners die by the millions in wars and droughts. Who cares?

Parents are cash-rich, but their children face the poverty of life without roots. Whose future is better?

Hedonism has its own costs. Too bad the ones who pay are never the ones who are guilty.

Greg Owens
John Algard



Cruising on a Sunday afternoon

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Yay, nay...what?

I feel defeated even before I begin to protest against such a small abuse of civil liberty. I think, "small violations of human rights and freedoms—freedoms which man has historically died for—are committed until a great deal of freedom is taken away, without notice." But as I think this, I hear a small voice saying, "Oh please, such liberal nonsense." I keep hearing this second voice even though Hitler proved such a thought can and has been used as a technique for removing civil freedom.

It is often argued that people who obey the law need not fear it. I think, "but when liberty is removed to give government more control, more power, what once was legal becomes illegal and people who behaved honestly are later classified by new laws as dishonest. Soon you must fear the new laws, for you have a criminal past (maybe you associated with communists). With that second thought, I hear the small voice again, "Oh, you must be an anarchist." I keep hearing this voice even though I know the idea behind democracy is to control power by keeping it in the hands of the people."

Craig Daniel
Arts III

Feminism debased

Is the *Grind* and alternative student newspaper representing all students or is it a forum for the "mis-informed" to vent their frustrations? It is certainly obvious that in no way can this newspaper (?) be termed objective. By scanning the last two issues, the *Grind* is as biased towards a particular side of the politics on this campus as they claim the *Gateway* is. This is bad enough, however their attempt to analyze

feminism and other progressive elements illustrates the scarcity of the intelligence and lack of research skills of the contributors to this rag.

Debate is a healthy aspect of campus life. Vitriolic anti-women attacks such as the *Grind's* article "Miss Informed" serves no productive purpose whatsoever. The article is completely incorrect in its analysis of the women's movement. Lumping an entire movement as "leninists, socialists, communists, NDP'ers and other assorted abortions of the political arena," is not only incorrect but extremely immature.

The authors then jump from this "breathtaking analysis" to completely distort another aspect of the women's movement. Women such as Adrienne Rich have devoted their lives to a study of violence against women by examining rape, wife-beating and child abuse. Although the *Grind* would prefer to avoid these problems, almost all other services agree that violence against women is increasing and women like Rich are seeking solutions. By quoting her completely out of context and trivializing her work the *Grind* has lowered itself to a form of gutter journalism that must be condemned.

Had "Miss Informed" been submitted as an essay the author would have undoubtedly received an 'F' for poor research, sloppy writing style and lack of coherence. If you must delve into areas of which you know nothing, please do your homework first.

Lorraine Mitchell
Arts IV

Responsibility ours

With the Students' Union elections close at hand I wish to express a few personal opinions which I hope the student body will reflect on in their decision for a Students' Union Council.

I feel that slate voting for all positions of the Student Council should be avoided at all costs. The purpose of

The Gateway

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Lo and behold, Jim Herbert was asked to be Grand Marshall of the Super Bowl XIX parade. Of course he asked to bring his retinue, Greg Owens, Kent Cochrane and Bernie Poitras, psychedelic coffee-brewers all. Bill Doskoch torched his turf shoes in protest. Brenda Waddle and Brian Receveur play ed waddlin' Wilkie and receiver respectively. Olga Jagodnik started weight training to make the 49ers front four. Dave Boyd, Chris Viger and Dave Horn ford will simply eat pretzels and get falling down drunk watching the game. Alex Miller will probably switch to PBS and Tim Hellum bet on the Cincinnati Bengals. Mike Evans finds it all too confusing and returned to bed.