

# Opinion

Kevin  
Law

## Cheese, please?



Behind every polyester-clad used car salesman, there's a newly painted car with rust beneath the surface; and behind every lottery ticket, there's odds stacked against you; while behind every piece of cheese, there's a spring loaded trap.

Behind the shiny new chrome and tile of HUB Mall, there's another story. Some of the older merchants are not happy with the changes. The long time merchants, who have served students for years, have recently been hit with rent increases that have jumped from three to five times the old rate. Along with rent increases, these same merchants are being pressured by HUB administration to pursue storefront renovations.

Just trying to keep up with the times, the administration seems to be saying. Compared with the average mall, they retort, the rent increases are not abnormal.

And therein lies the rub. HUB mall is not Ghermianland. Admittedly, the mall is starting to look better, and the administration deserves credit for making repairs and improving the decor, but are they trying to attract Joe Public from Millwoods? If so, it will never work. One class change stampede is enough to make anyone turn tail and run. And as some merchants have pointed out, HUB must provide big time services for big time expectations from the tenants, i.e. promotions and parking.

To be fair, HUB administration says students and staff are the primary concern with regard to the renovations. For example, there will be an increase of lounge space with the conversion of all the bridge mezzanines and the construction of a new lounge at the south end. That's fine. But the big piece of cheese is spring loaded, because behind the new increase in expenditures the merchants are forced to bear lies an increase in prices. Students will end up paying more for the glitzy new renovations in the form of price increases.

As well, the swing in the new services seems to be geared toward food and away from retail. That might be okay if it were more wholesome and less chic junk, like Cinnemons, George's Cookies, and A & W.

It should also not be forgotten that HUB is a residence. Will the shift in emphasis from residence mall to commercial tinsel still maintain such resident necessities as the laundromat and grocery store? Time will tell.

The HUB renovation looks good on the surface, but beneath the expensive cosmetics is the \$1.5 million initial working capital put up by the University that must be repaid, and that is coming out of the merchant rent increase, which in true capitalist fashion, is passed on to the price of services.

Piece of cheese anyone?

## The Gateway

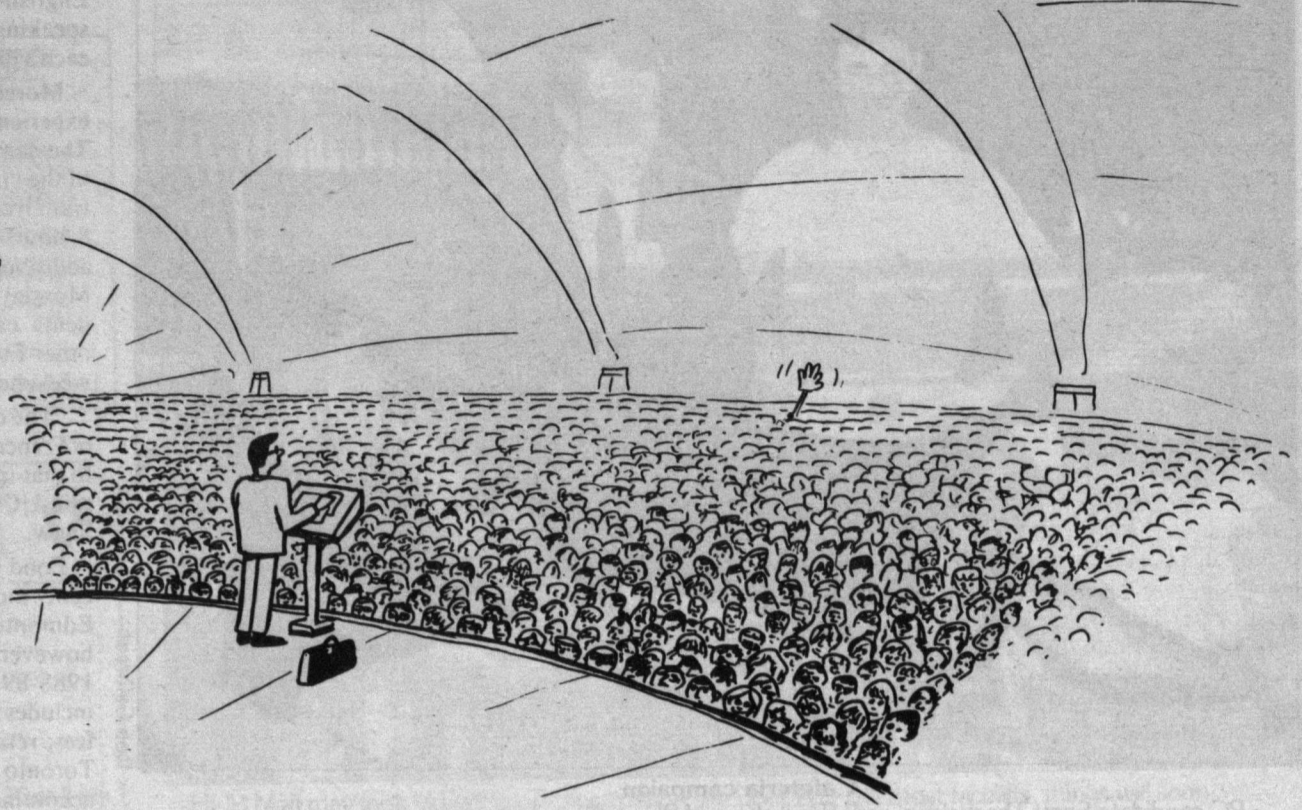
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THINGS AREN'T AS BLEAK AS THEY SEEM  
 AT THE U of A - DAVE RUSSELL

## Letters

### Energy an issue

Re: Free Trade facts (Nov. 3)

Randy Kerr has touched on a lot of areas in his truly imposing views on the Mulroney trade deal, but I'd like to respond to him on the issue of energy. We can't be forced to sell anything we don't want to? By your own admission, the US is guaranteed access to the same percentage of oil exports they are getting now. If Albertans were so adamant about losing control of their oil under the NEP, why are they so willing to be locked into this export level with the US under free trade? Under the agreement, exports to the US can only be cut back if total production is cut back in Canada, and we all know that isn't likely. What this means is that Alberta's precious oil will be forcibly sold, now, at rock bottom prices; and when prices rebound, which may not happen until mid-90's, we will be left with far less conventional oil to sell. And if that doesn't mean losing control, I don't know what does.

Perhaps Mr. Kerr should stick to areas he knows best, like politics, and leave aside matters like energy, which are obviously too complex for his mind to encompass.

Andrew Bizon  
 Engineering IV

### Thorkelson misjudged

In response to Randal Smathers' editorial on Scott Thorkelson, the Progressive Conservative candidate for Edmonton Strathcona, I have one comment... How Dare You! How can you seriously expect anyone to believe your comments about how "...[Mr. Thorkelson's] apparent arrogance in refusing to attend last week's SU forum is yet another reminder of how little many PC's care about working for westerners." First of all, the last word I'd ever expected to hear about Thorkelson was that he was arrogant, and secondly, I would like to know where it is the PC's have been screwing the west! Perhaps eleven cabinet ministers and billions of dollars of government contracts, grants, and subsidies is not enough for you, Mr. Smathers. Perhaps you

don't remember how the Liberals, with NDP support, continually raped Western Canada (with the PGRT, NEP, and FIRA as only a few examples). Perhaps you've conveniently forgotten it was the PC's that freed us from eastern domination.

Now, moving on to bigger and better things, I can now understand how you could tell after spending a whole thirty seconds thinking about Mr. Thorkelson's attitude, you know he doesn't give a damn about the West, or Edmonton Strathcona. To think I used to believe you actually had to interview the man (Oh, what a concept!) and observe him campaigning before you could tell what a person's attitude was going to be (Silly me!). Chalk another one up to the innovative style of Mr. Smathers.

Just one more point before I end. I do have to give you credit for one thing Mr. Smathers. That was probably the most objective and fair editorial I've ever read. You know what's funny? I hear Doug Main and the Reform think so too.

Andrew Robertson  
 Education II

### Bullshit blizzard

Re: Free Trade facts (Nov. 3)

Yes, Randy, there are many misconceptions about free trade, and most of them are being put forward by Tories. The biggest misconception is that anyone who opposes the Tory Trade deal is against free trade. There are many honest concerns being clouded in a blizzard of political bullshit — all parties are guilty of this. Despite this, the Tories have a Minister of Misconception and have raised the bullshit rhetoric to a level of panic and frustration.

As a student and a Liberal I have some questions for the Tory Party regarding the "Deal".

1. Since anyone who disagrees with the Revealed Truth is either "a liar", "misleading", "a stupid student who cannot read", "afraid to compete", "a danger to Canada", etc, please tell us how a humble student could disagree with the "Revealed Truth".

2. Since the Americans refuse to honour International Law and have an ongoing war with GATT, how are our social programs protected under

GATT? If they are protected, why not a simple clause saying so? "Sort of protected", "trust me", and "a leap of faith" is like having conjugal jollies with a leaky condom.

3. Since subsidies for major energy developments are written into the "deal", is it fair to assume that anything in the deal is protected, and anything not in the "deal" is subject to normal American treatment in keeping with their respect for International Law, etc.?

4. Because our Prime Minister is such a friend of the Gipper, Canada was fortunate to get the generous Americans to place their environmental protection plan "on his Agenda". With the advent of "Mini-Gipper", will this friendship allow us to place our environmental protection plan on his "Agenda"?

5. Because +60 percent of our economy and +70 percent of Canadian jobs are in the service sector, and the average income in this sector is under \$12,000, can I as a student expect to reap these benefits under the Tory "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs Program" promised for the service sector? If so, does the Dept. of Health permit hanging of diplomas over hot hamburger grills?

6. If the Tories lose the election, does failing "Deal Marketing 201" force them to take a makeup course in "Deal Educating 301"? Are the Deal Videos available to all illiterate students?

7. If the "Deal" is successful, will it be mandatory for all students to take courses in "Trickle-Down Chino-mics" in order to qualify for a job at the Government Trough?

8. If the Tories win the election will the new Caucus rally song be "I'm Proud To Be An Oinky From Baie Comeau"?

9. If nobody wins, will the Tories attempt to get the NDP as a research wing? Will they trade their fast nuclear submarines without guns for slow Pink Frigates with red peace signs?

10. Would Randy and Tory cheap booze help us get over the blues of Students' Union and expensive booze, and do we get to vote for a VP Sales Tax?

Ed Vickers  
 Arts IV