

Dragos Ruiu

## SU Records confusion cleared up

"Contrary to popular belief, SU Records is not now, and never was, in danger of closing... A story appeared in *The Gateway* reporting incorrectly that the store was definitely about to close, causing controversy on and off the campus. The Students' Union was less than pleased at being made out the villain." — *Carlyle A. Cupid, The Edmonton Bulletin, Feb. 1988.*

"MOVED THAT Students' Council authorize the



Executive Committee to enter into negotiations to sell SU Records." — *Passed 20-15 at Students' Council Sept. 27, 1988.*

"The biggest problem is the upcoming move... It will not be possible to continue offering the same service." — *Todd Phillips, SU Business Manager, Sept. 27, 1988, Council Minutes.*

"SU Records will be sold, Students' Council decided Tuesday." — *Lead paragraph, The Gateway, Thurs. Sept. 29, 1988.*

"Council has put the store up for sale." — *The Gateway, Sept. 29, 1988.*

"We have been kicking around the idea of selling off SU Records for about three years,' said former VP Finance Steve Twible... 'The record store is a retail operation. It is consistent with our philosophy to see that our retail operations make money,' said SU VP external David Tupper." — *Same Gateway story, Sept. 29, 1988.*

"The rumors prompted a petition to be circulated protesting the closure, reportedly gathering 1,000

names. 'Nobody actually brought the petition to us,' says [SU president] LaGrange. 'It was rumored that someone was circulating a petition... we certainly never saw it.'" — *Carlyle A. Cupid, The Edmonton Bulletin, Feb., 1989.*

"Have a petition from 1200 students who want us to keep the store." — *Wade Deisman, Arts Council Representative, Council Minutes, October 11, 1988.*

"WE THE UNDERSIGNED call upon the Students' Council to investigate and discuss other viable alternatives to the sale of SU Records before giving final consent to the sale of the store." — *part of the text of the petition printed in the Students' Council Agenda, Oct. 11, 1988.*

The above words aren't mine. And I would caution Carlyle A. Cupid to check facts before putting pen to paper. The truth of the matter is that the SU wanted to sell off the record store to a large chain such as Discus or HMV. Student's concern about it made them reconsider.

*The Gateway stands by its story.*

## Opinion

### NDP oblivious

Re: Triple E regressive (Feb. 9)

James Kosowan's fatuous critique of Senate Reform deserves careful study, for it shows the swift degeneration of the NDP's political thought in recent years.

Canada's socialists have not always been so woolly-headed. As recently as September 1980 the former NDP Premier of Saskatchewan, Allan Blakeney, passionately defended his vision of the "essence of Canada": "On major matters," he argued, "we need a double majority. We need the majority of citizens as expressed by the popular will in the House of Commons and we need the majority, however defined, of the regional will."

Kosowan asserts that the regional will is being fully expressed in federal departments and First Ministers' conferences where provincial concerns may be "voiced." The problem, he argues, is a lack of efficiency.

Indeed, the national NDP's political behaviour since Blakeney's speech has seemed to be deeply motivated by this concern for

efficiency. Witness its overwhelming support for the National Energy Program and its curiously muted response to the CF-18 fiasco.

It might seem shocking to Kosowan and the New Democrats that many Canadians feel they need protection from this kind of efficiency — protection which has not been forthcoming from the existing political framework. A party which is so politically oblivious to these concerns richly deserves the political oblivion for which it is heading.

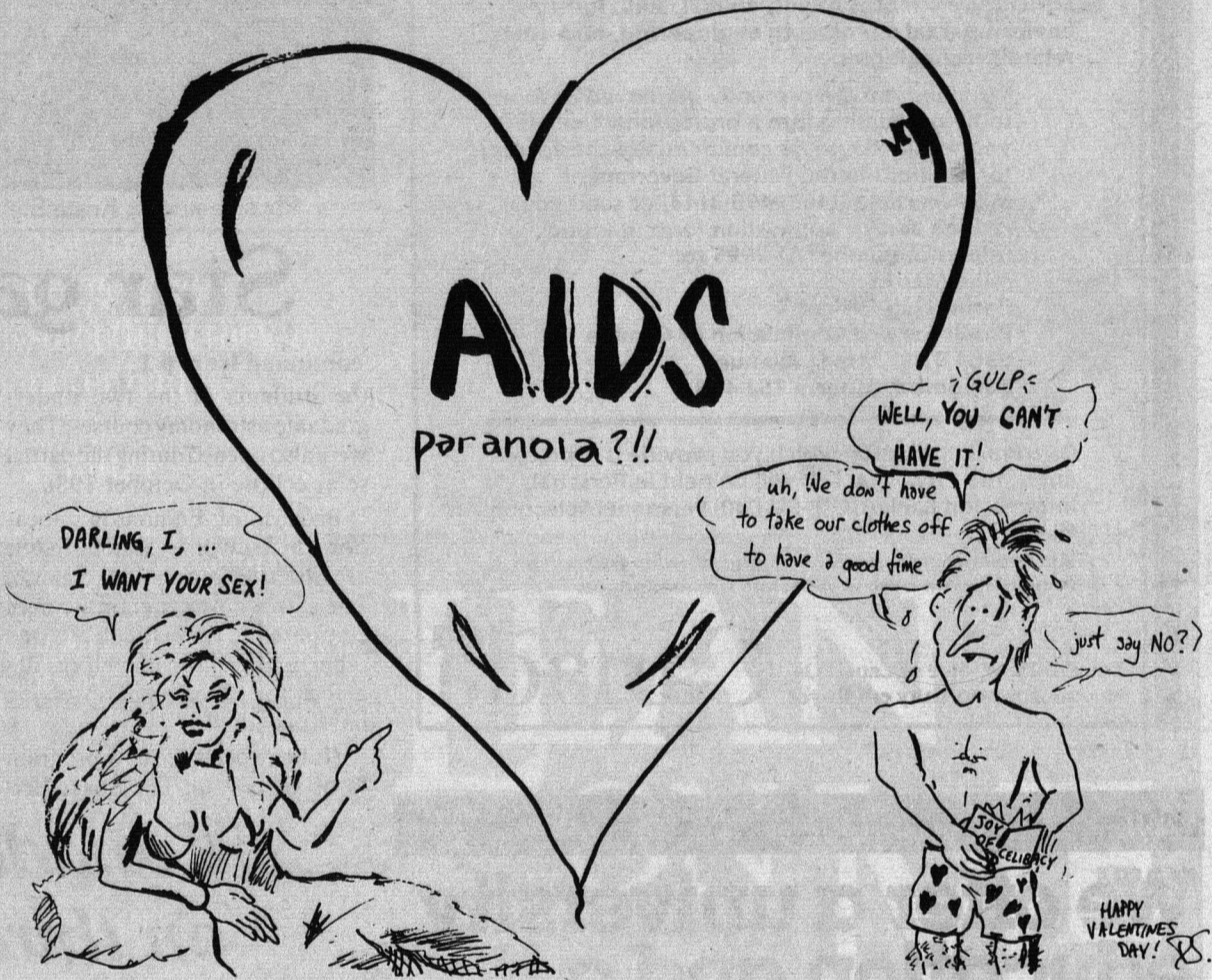
Paul Mitchinson  
Graduate Studies  
History

### Belief a sin?

Re: Fundamentalists frightening (Feb. 7)

Welcome to the new age, where the only sin is believing there is such a thing, where you're labelled closed-minded if your beliefs are unfashionable, and where a fanatic is one who speaks out of strong convictions.

Cam Balzer  
Arts III



### Maudlin simpering lacks meaning

Re: Baich a butt-pirate (Feb. 7)

A quintet of students criticized Mr. Baich's cartoon commenting on current movies (cartoon, January 31). The letter took Mr. Baich to task over the fact that he depicted *Twins* as a more enjoyable film than *The Accidental Tourist*. While the quality of *Twins* may be debatable, the letter's attack on Mr. Baich's opinion is not warranted.

*The Accidental Tourist*, as Mr. Baich depicted, was boring! Never mind the fact the novel on which it was based may have been excellent; the film is not the book, and often a marvellous book becomes a terrible film. *Twins* at least gave me a few laughs for my three-fifty. *Tourist*, in this one-time reviewer's opinion, was a pretentious, uneven effort that left me feeling cheated.

Sure, *Tourist* will win several Oscars, an award that does not reflect quality so much as it indicates who's trendy in Hollywood these days. Films like *The Accidental Tourist*, in fact, are a symptom of the yuppie takeover of the mass media: works that are pretentious and self-righteous in their "my, aren't we being meaningful!"

mentality. On TV it's drivel like *thirtysomething* and *The Wonder Years*. On the radio, it's U2.

It's bad enough that we are now subjected to commercials before the movie. For four or five bucks, I want entertainment, not maudlin simpering as an excuse to find "meaning."

Glenn St-Germain  
B.A. Psychology

### Headline misleading

It was surprising last Tuesday (Feb. 7) when *The Gateway* with its new format displayed its front page headline ("Big words, small crowds for Liberal rally"). That headline created a false impression which needs to be corrected.

Grant Mitchell's appearance on campus was never intended to be a "rally." We did not have balloons or banners or anything else that could have made that impression. Also, while we would always like to have more people attend, the size of the audience was not disappointing, especially considering the weather and the average number of people who show up for MLAs.

The event was meant to be casual and unpretentious. Mitchell met informally with students before and after, and in his speech

and in answers to questions from the floor he was informative and interesting — not at all using only "big words."

What was more surprising was the editorial by Dragos Ruiu in which he criticizes screaming headlines, sensationalism in the media and the way news is created. Perhaps the Editor-in-Chief should be more concerned about his own creation.

Roger Carl  
President  
U of A Student Liberal  
Association

### Better red than dead

Re: Cruise missile testing necessary (Feb. 7)

Excuse me if I sound like a Lennonesque peace zealot, but all I've got to say is: better red than dead, man! Maybe democracy is worth fighting for, but what is ideology to a dead planet?

Look pal, if an ICBM is headed our way, no amount of Yank "protection" is gonna help you — you are gonna FRY!!

Give peace a chance and give Canada a little credit for not jumping on the nuclear bandwagon.

Shannon Cousa  
Arts II

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*The Gateway* is the University of Alberta students' newspaper. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. All opinions that are signed by the writer do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Gateway*. Copy deadlines are 11 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: 282 SUB (phone 492-5168). Sports and production offices: 230 SUB (phone 492-5068). Photos printed in *The Gateway* may be for sale. Call the photodirectorate at 492-5168 or come by Room 235 SUB. Advertising: Room 256D SUB (SU Executive offices) phone 492-4241. Mailing address: Room 256D Students' Union Building, U of A Edmonton, Alberta. T6G 2J7. Readership is 30,000.