

EDITORIAL

CFS: Good or evil?

During the new CFS referendum campaign, it will be interesting to see what reasons the most vocal hacks dig up for opposing U of A membership in the Canadian Federation of Students.

There are two glaring excuses that have been used in the past by the anti-CFS set, and they will undoubtedly resurface in this campaign.

The first is finances. Students will hear the figure \$90,000 throughout the CFS campaign.

Opponents of CFS will say that it is folly for U of A students to invest \$90,000 in an organization that is reportedly \$65,000 in the hole. They will also give vague arguments incorporating clichés like "highway robbery" and "nothing for something".

But what they will neglect to mention is that \$90,000 is the total of individual students fees: \$4 per student per year. At that rate, the average 4-year student is bound to recoup his or her investment by taking advantage of the coupon savings book or Travel CUTS.

And contrary to what the opponents say, CFS is not extorting money from the rich U of A to pay off its deficit. It only takes grade 5 arithmetic to deduce that the third largest university in Canada should be contributing a larger amount of money than almost everyone else. But the membership fee individual students pay is the same as that everywhere else. Until they pulled out of CFS last week, the 1800 Calgary students paid \$4 per year each.

The other argument anti-CFS types will make is that the organization is not only too political, but its politics lean the wrong direction.

Opponents will cite boycott policies, philosophical splits and attempts by Ontario lobbyists to quash the concerns of Alberta students.

But CFS does not work that way. CFS is an organization made up of a couple of big universities and innumerable smaller institutions. Without weighted voting, CFS is so democratic that they can barely get anything done.

CFS will never make policy on Central America because there isn't enough support among member institutions to agree to it. CFS is not in danger of heading in any recognizable political direction because its membership is too diverse.

What CFS can do is run awareness campaigns on funding issues and lobby the federal government until the federation is blue in the face just to get lip service from Brian and the boys.

If the anti-CFS camp cannot substantiate its claims that CFS is a financial rip-off and a political dictatorship, it will be left running off at the mouth, and its campaign will be exposed as nothing but political grandstanding.

Suzette C. Chan

The bottom line

If you watched the Fritz and Ronnie show a couple of weeks ago, you were probably asleep by the time they got to whose fault the Beirut massacres were.

If not, you were definitely snoring when they got around to the abortion issue.

"A foetus is a living being," says Ronnie.

"No it isn't," says Mondale.

"Yes it is."

"No it isn't." Etc. etc.

Well, you can only take an argument so far, and then you just have to agree to disagree, then go your separate ways.

It's one thing to carry on these interminable discussions over a few dozen beers on a Tuesday afternoon, when you have nothing better to do.

A discussion like:

"Disco sucks."

"No it doesn't."

"Yes it does..." could go on for hours. You'd never reach a conclusion, but no one would be the worse off.

But for some reason, people have the silly notion that these chicken-and-egg exercises in futility *must* have some logical termination.

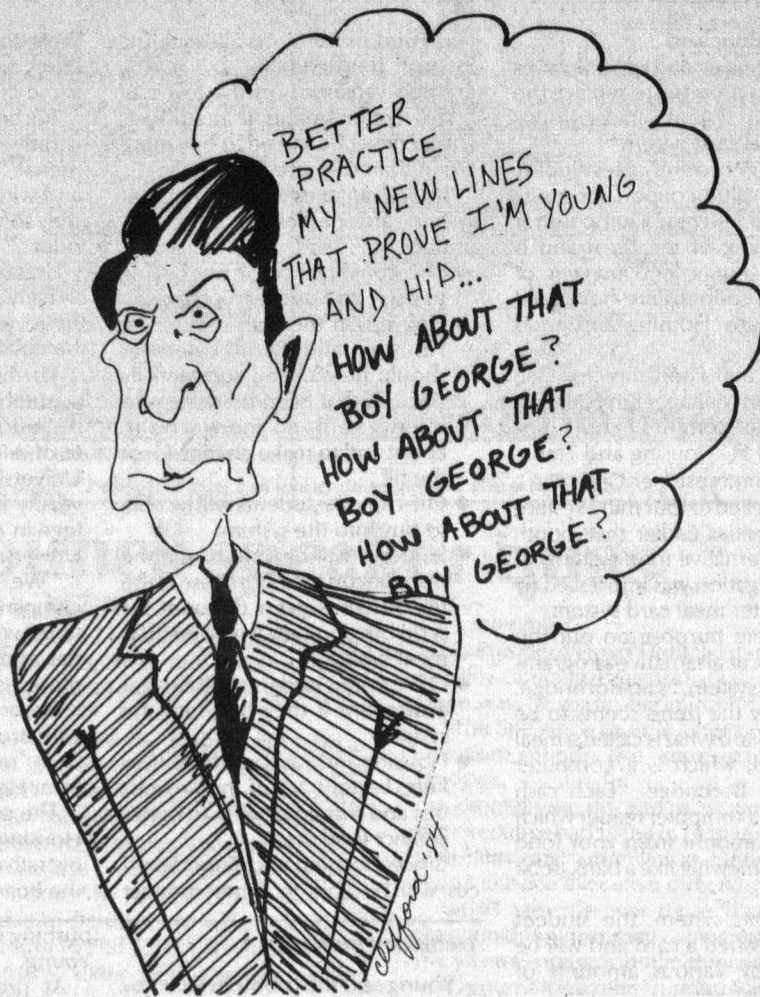
The bottom line of the "pro choice," or "anti-life," or whatever, argument is the basic philosophical question of the definition of life.

Freud and Kierkegaard could probably host a pretty entertaining public forum on the topic, but even they wouldn't nail down the definitive answer.

Apart from the question of the right to choose, or the morality of abortion, how can anyone pretend that Ronald Reagan, or Walter Mondale, or any other politician can solve an eternal paradox?

No politician has the right to define human life, and no government has the right to tell any woman what she can or cannot do with the foetus she is carrying.

D.J.



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Nuclear evil

John Lamb's letter of Oct. 16, regarding the misguided efforts of the peace movement deserves an answer from one of the "misguided".

We support a multi-lateral freeze. We oppose the proliferation of nuclear weapons, whether it be escalation between the super powers or a spread of nuclear armaments technology to other nations.

The focus is currently on the superpowers for a number of reasons. The destructive capabilities of the superpowers far outweigh those of all other nations combined.

The complexity of their huge command and control systems increases the possibility of error, especially in detection of approaching missiles.

Another example is the fail-safe mechanisms of these systems which allow for the continued launching of missiles after the command centres have been destroyed.

The U.S. and the U.S.S.R. are internally stable, but they are extremely paranoid about each other's intentions as witnessed by the KAL incident and the ongoing stalemate over verification.

The possibility of accidental outbreak of nuclear war is only one reason to support nuclear disarmament; many more political and economic arguments exist.

Mr. Lamb, we are really on the same side. All supporters of peace and disarmament are encouraged to join us on Saturday, Oct. 20 for a march and rally starting at 1:30 pm at the Legislature.

Our group will be showing films on campus during Disarmament Week, Oct. 20-27, which may help to further clarify the issue.

S. Schneider Arts III
U of A Group for Nuclear
Disarmament

Soviet evil

Three-quarters of mankind must die if necessary, to ensure the other quarter for communism.

V.I. Lenin

We've been silent too long. As the following examples illustrate, it is time that Canadians spoke against the often-ignored atrocities that have occurred, and still are occurring, inside the communist countries.

In S.E. Asia between 1975 and 1978, the communist genocide in Cambodia massacred "between one and three million Cambodians, out of a population of about seven million" (*The New Republic*, Nov. 15/82).

As noted by Cuong Trieu, one of our church-sponsored Vietnamese refugees, of the more than one MILLION "boat people" who fled communism in Vietnam, ONE-HALF of these are thought to have drowned at sea! Interestingly, while the media was quick to condemn the U.S. support of the corrupt, non-communist regimes in Cambodia and Vietnam during the early 1970's it was much slower to condemn the Marxist "blood baths" which followed when the Americans abandoned S.E. Asia to the communists.

The 1933 Soviet-made Ukrainian famine, and Moscow's attempt to starve the people of Afghanistan, are two more examples of the genocidal policies the USSR has pursued while the world has looked the other way. Indeed, "Everyone knows about the Nazi holocaust in which six million Jews died. Few are aware of the holocaust a decade earlier in which as many, or more, Ukrainians were the victims of planned starvation. Perhaps the Soviets are still at it... Russia has tried to starve out guerrilla resistance in Afghanistan by cutting off irrigation..." (*Canada & The World*, Oct/83).

The Gateway

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The radical Brunitarianism have split from the great Gilbertologists. Led by the Black priest Bruno, John Charles and Geoff Jackson defile the holy book of poems and verses, while Hans Beckers and Dean Bennett staple kittens to doors at the cathedral of the Virgin Gilbert. Tim Heidt, Bernie Poitras and Janine McDade (a brunette, not a Brunitarian) are skulking between the camps.

The forces of Gilbertology, led by Don Teplysk and Greg Owens in Calvinist Klein jeans, search for burning faggots with Louis Hunt. Doug Bird is feathering his own nest, as Linda Derksen threatens to rip the lips from infidels. And the Lord Algard broods in the temple of the Only Gilbert.