

FOURUM FIVE



Food

The other day I walked into one of the departmental coffee rooms on campus to buy myself some soup. I reluctantly paid the 20 cents for a small styrofoam cup of soup; but when I asked for some crackers - the only thing that gives the soup some body - I discovered the package was half the size it used to be. When I asked for another package I was told that they cost 2 cents each. Well - I decided to eat the cup, and it really gave the soup some flavor!

That evening I went out for dinner at a fine little place called The Carrot Shoppe. My stomach still wasn't quite right from the styrofoam, so I quickly eyed the menu and ordered the Soya Burger Special at \$1.25, thinking I didn't really want a very big meal. First came the whole wheat dinner roll and lentil soup (which is a meal in itself), then the soya burger with brown rice, mushroom gravy, carrots and salad, plus dessert - \$1.25.

Now I began to wonder, how is it that small out of the way places like the Carrot Shoppe can sell food for less than the University of Alberta? For that matter a large number of coffee shops can put a meal in front of you for the same cost as cueing up in the bread line at the U of A. The University should be able to buy food for less since they buy in huge quantities. Since people serve themselves and remove their own dishes, there should be a proportionately less cost involved in staffing.

Is Food Services supposed to be operating on a non-profit basis?If so where does our money go? If it is making a profit, where does our money go?

J. Villett
Dentistry

Urge

Edmonton is a city which has very distinctive features. The beautiful river valley which cuts through the centre of the city, fed by numerous ravines, provides natural areas for parks as well as a general break from urban development. It is very important for most Edmontonians that they have some area in which they can escape the rush of the city, be it park area, golf courses, or just a quiet residential neighbourhood with its trees and greenery.

Edmonton is known for having large areas of parkland for its size. This is one of the few features which makes Edmonton livable. Unfortunately, in the past years we have turned our back on the aesthetic value of the city in order to promote development.

The need for a better transportation system has prompted the building of roads and freeways through our

ravines and parkland. This move exchanges park, quiet, and a break from the exhaust and rush of the city for concrete, noise, and increased attention for automobiles and all that comes with them.

As part of the development of the city we have allowed encroachment on older neighbourhoods. This has involved splitting the neighbourhoods with new roadways. Some of the roadways have been allowed to grow with increased traffic until they reach the proportion of a truck route. Nothing could be more devastating for the way of life of a neighbourhood.

In certain cases, rezoning of land has allowed the introduction of the highrise and multiple floor buildings which do their part in the disintegration of neighbourhoods. Many cases of this type of occurrence could be cited in Edmonton's case. This problem is of major concern because the neighbourhood is the basic unit of a city. There is a certain inherent life to a neighbourhood. Each one develops its own atmosphere.

In an attempt to refocus the policies and planning of the city towards a more people-oriented approach a new civic action group has been formed. The Urban Reform Group of Edmonton (URGE) is not a hard nosed political reform clique which is attacking the present city government with a vengeance. URGE is concerned with attaining a better "balance" of values between aesthetic, artistic on the one hand and economic and business elements on the other. The people of URGE are also concerned about the prospects of growth in the city, particularly in light of the proposed large scale developments in the oil sands and the petrochemical industries. The objective of the group is to develop overall platform of urban policies and to run a slate of aldermanic candidates in the municipal elections of October this year.

Four basic principles have been adopted by the founding membership of URGE. These are: preservation of and park planning for the river valley, the ravine systems and other open urban green space; preservation of older neighbourhoods, treed streets and historic elements; improvement in public transit, including an immediate start on rapid transit; and reform and responsiveness of the ward system to provide real neighbourhood participation in city policy and planning.

The city has gone far enough on the road of blind development, pouring of concrete without proper regard for the long range effects on the community. The city must be developed as art, as a place for life; not a money pit or a work pit, or a real estate game.

The people of Edmonton are invited to contribute ideas and concerns to URGE so that the election platform will incorporate the interests and hopes of city residents. URGE can be contacted at 2009 Avond Arms or by calling Gerald Wright at 429-7952.

Dave Hancock

Pembina

We're being evicted from Pembina Hall. The Governors are answering the Fire-Marshall's call. "It's dangerous", he said, "it will go up in smoke." And the residents did - just as soon as he spoke.

For the committee's quick action heaped fuel on the flames. These ladies despised all their chauvinist games. We petitioned, protested, appeared on T.V. This high-handed behaviour the public should see.

Then Max Wyman came out with his great declaration: "Lister will rid these old maids of frustration. Let them get out of their spinster's retreat. It would do them all good to be walking the street."

So to get us accustomed to our lives in the Fall They have fitted red lights throughout Pembina Hall. So if you're passing P.H., please spare us a thought - We may burn our bras, but we need your support!

Madeleine Huck

Unborn

With respect to the meeting in Tory Building on Monday February 25th, I would like to correct the impression that Voice of the Unborn representatives just didn't show up.

I was first asked to take part in that debate on the assurance that Doug Roche was to be present - which later turned out to be untrue.

I was then asked to do the convener's job - obtain a second pro-life speaker - which I did.

Information came to my attention on Thursday respecting one of the speakers which caused me to think my presence at such a meeting would provide a public platform for that speaker, and my legal advice was to withdraw - which I did. ON THE THURSDAY MORNING.

There was time between Thursday A.M. and Monday evening to have published the change in format of the meeting.

I was not advised at any time that the meeting was to be sponsored by the Defence for Morgentaler Committee, nor that it would be used to take up a collection for that cause - had I known that I would not have accepted in the first place.

I am sorry if people attended who wanted to hear what I had to say - but don't worry, there will be other opportunities!

Yours truly,
Teresa Ann Parsons (Mrs)
President
Voice of the Unborn
Asscn. of Alberta

Grateful

Awful things happen so often I would be grateful if you would record my gratitude, please. (To encourage other students to behave likewise.)

In the rush to get from one lecture to another I left my bag in the first lecture. Two hours later when I missed it I returned to the original lecture room and it was there complete with money and make-up.

Wendy Davis
Pembina Hall

editorial

Wine prices

If you are one of the lucky people who manage to inhabit Room at the Top before it fills up completely, you might have noticed that the price of wines seems rather high. Funny thing, I noticed it myself. A straight one hundred percent markup. After all, I said, this is supposed to be a pub for student budgets, why do we pay so much for wine? I was further puzzled when I spoke to the marketing director of the Alberta Liquor Control Board and discovered that the ALCB does not recommend any minimum markup for wine, however, it restricts the maximum markup to 125%.

Before rushing off and crying foul, I had a conversation with SU manager Darryl Ness, who was "surprised" to hear that the ALCB had no regulations regarding minimum markup. He subsequently had a phone conversation with them and revealed several rather interesting points. One of the main bones of my argument had been that there were several places which took very little markup, why couldn't RATT do the same? Ness said that the situation "becomes a bit political." Elaborating, he added, that it would "not be good for the Students' Union to appear to be competitive with the community by undercutting prices." He said "many places charge the full markup, we only charge 100%."

Ness said that pressure could be brought to bear by local hotels if SU wine prices were cut. He concluded that "although there is no legal regulation demanding the markup, it was a fair decision reached after discussion with the government people."

The explanation was all very fine, but we still have to pay a pretty high price for wine in RATT, and if you want things changed, talk to the ALCB and the students' union.

Satya Das

RCMP

I congratulate John Kenney for his powerful editorial concerning the RCMP, (February 14). With flawless accuracy and perceptive thought, Mr. Kenney really lays it on the line. Unfortunately, Mr. Kenney, there are two sides to the honorary RCMP 25 cent piece; not just the story of Jack Ramsay, who, I feel, reeks of sour grapes.

Yes, Mr. John Kenney, at first glance the legacy of the RCMP looks impressive, but under careful study also the legacy looks impressive. Reading "An Unauthorized History of the RCMP" does not give one the right to arrogantly insult the force. You ask "Whose rights are being trampled?" It seems as soon as an RCMP member proves he is human and loses his temper or makes a mistake, he is guilty of police brutality, and an innocent citizen's rights are trampled. But what of the hundreds of people who have had their rights restored thanks to the RCMP? What of thousands of people whose lives have been saved, children rescued, and problems solved? What of the force's efforts in getting cars and people off highways during or after a blizzard? Yes, Mr. Kenney, accuse me of blind faith if you wish, but the history of the

RCMP is indeed impressive in my view.

And as far as I'm concerned, the RCMP is completely justified in its handling of drug cases and related crimes. The end justifies the means, and it's only the guilty people who need fear the Mounties' undercover activities. I wouldn't object to "being checked" in order to get rid of some of the crime in our country.

And if Mr. Kenney doesn't like the RCMP's commercials, why doesn't he turn his TV off and go read his Unauthorized History? Believe it or not, it takes intelligence and guts to be a member of the RCMP, which is much more than it takes to write an editorial based on the highest degree of ignorance, the lowest level of understanding, the narrowest point of view, and an Alice Cooper level of criticism and protest.

I believe there exists a severe problem in the RCMP force today, and that we must not be blindly led down the garden path. But to slander the past history of the Mounties, as did Mr. Kenney, is totally unfair. Kenney can live in the relative safety of a university and let the RCMP handle the looney murderers with loaded guns, but I'll wager my walrus-jaw bookends that if he is ever stranded on a highway in the middle of a howling blizzard, it won't be Jack Ramsey who will drive out and help him.

Gordon Turtle

The Gateway

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. It is published by the Students Union twice weekly during the winter session on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contents are the responsibility of the editor, opinions are those of the person expressing them. Letters to the editor on any subject are welcome, but must be signed. Please keep them short, letters should not exceed 200 words. Deadlines for submitting copy are 2 P.M. Mondays and Wednesdays. Main offices are located in Room 282, SUB. Phone 432-5168, 432-5750 or 432-5178. Circulation 18,500 Subscription \$5 annually

editor-in-chief Allyn Cadogan

production Scott Partridge
managing Carl Kuhnke
news Satya Das
advertising Lorne Holladay

photography Doug Moore
arts Walter Plinge
sports Paul Cadogan
features Greg Neiman

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Alan Bell, Peter Best, Rick Bilak, Bernie Fritz, John Kenney, Harold Kuckertz, Jr., Beverly Mack, Margriet Tilroe, Brian Tucker, Garry West, Barry Zuckerman.