



**Randal  
Smathers**

## Laughing at a farce

The 'vote no' posters found all over the business building bulletin boards refer to the "Re-farce-rendum" being held today. This seems an appropriate title, yet farcical as it may be, no one has taken the time to have a chuckle over the whole thing. After all, if the BSA referendum is a "joke", then one must take the time to yuk, to knee-slap, to snicker, to guffaw, and to side-split. At least a bit.

The two-page, stapled information leaflets found at various crosswalks are wonderfully impartial material. They don't say 'vote yes' and they don't say 'vote no' and they contain all sorts of impartial statements such as "Your contributions will strengthen your

education, your Faculty, and the value of your degree." Nowhere on these leaflets does it say who printed them. Perhaps they were a divine gift, sent from the heavens above to grace all those who might wonder where the ultimate truth may be found.

Actually, it appears that the Faculty of Business printed these up on their MacIntosh PC (get it? Pee Cee? Is this a coincidence? I think not.) with their laser printer. Just imagine how many more of these leaflets we could have if your \$37.50 was used to buy more MacIntosh PC computers and laser printers.

The whole campaign has been termed the Student Referendum Giving Program. Does this mean

they're giving a referendum? Does it mean the program is giving? If so, what? And to whom? And what for? Business students should be able to appreciate the need for a bottom line, so if this proposal won't make money I urge you to vote no.

The propaganda says that the money will be allocated by the Student Fund Administration Board. At least for \$37.50 students are getting a great acronym: S'FAB!! I suppose FAB is really out of the question, though, because the artsies got there first with their (non-profitable) art gallery. What this campus needs is yet another great acronym (CAB HUB SUB BUB SLUG), and S'FAB can proudly take its place

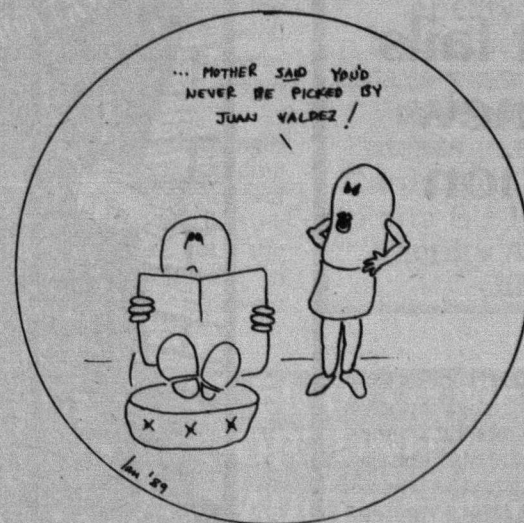
amongst the great acronyms of the University of Alberta.

A concern has been raised that non-business students will be able to use the MacIntosh PCs. Fear not. Next year's money will go to a Sophisticated Electronic Security System (SESS) for Professional Over-Officious Louts (SESSPOOL). For this year we can count on our famous Business School efficiency—our Inter-Collegiate Business Competition Team recieved the Chairman's

Cup, no less—to weed out anyone with enough temerity to invade our turf.

The Dean of Business has obviously been taking lessons from Michael Wilson. Don't call it a Student Giving Program; let's consider it the Gullible Student's Tax, or GST (yet another tremendous acronym).

In the immortal words of Colonel Klink, "giff uss all your money, or ve vill haff you zzzhot! zzzhot zzzhot!!"



## LETTERS continued

## Homophobia prevalent in subtle forms

The other day I was talking to another student when he mentioned that he couldn't see why some universities have new programs such as Lesbian Studies. His casual comment shows the underlying homophobia that is prevalent in our society — the attitude that "what they do in their bedroom is their own business, but why do they always have to talk about it?" This attitude is a form of prejudice and oppression that is sometimes more damaging than outright hatred and violence.

While most reasonable people are opposed to violence against gays and would not participate in fag-bashing or incidents like the recent murder of gay-activist Joe Rose in Montreal, many feel that their more subtle homophobia does no harm.

These people don't understand what it is like to be an invisible, suppressed minority. While Blacks,

Jews, women, and any other ethnic minority have at least legal protection from discrimination, gays can lose their jobs, their homes, and their lives, merely because of their sexual orientation. Because gays are an invisible minority (you can't tell someone is gay just by looking at them) they are in a unique situation. Most gays live, to some extent, in the closet. In choosing to keep their private lives out of the public domain, they must conceal their true selves, lying about who they live with, what they do socially, and generally any personal details about their lives. I don't think people who have not experienced it can imagine what it is like to have to decide, every time they meet someone new, whether to tell them about their lifestyle, or to lie, or to say nothing at all. The strain that this can put on any relationship, no matter how casual or intimate, is unimaginable. My

friend's simple assumption that I am straight shows how successful this oppression is, even for someone who does not intentionally conceal anything.

My point in writing this is not to criticize anyone, nor to try and make people feel guilty. I just feel that it is very important for us all to look honestly at our own prejudices, be they against gays or any other group, and to acknowledge that prejudice is part of the human condition. Once we know what our prejudices are, we can try not to act on them, and eventually to overcome them. I hope that students will take advantage of their time at the U of A to become informed about people whose lives are different from their own. What are we in university for, if not to learn about things which are beyond our own experience?

Nola Etkin  
Grad Studies III

## Religion untouchable

The turban is an integral part of the Sikh religion, and they should have the right to wear it. The religious movement should not stop here though.

Any person should be able to do anything for their religious cause without punishment or prejudice. One should be allowed to enter the Force whether he is a Christian, Muslim, Sikh or Satanist, and their beliefs or actions should have no effect.

Muslims who are now members of the RCMP should feel free to shoot Salman Rushdie without fear

of prosecution. Satanists on the Force should be allowed to exhume graves, also without consequence.

Wearing a turban may not compare to murder in terms of morality, but its standards are set by society and religion. Morality is, therefore, religious in background and cannot enter into the picture.

Any action, appearance or behavior due to religious affiliation of any kind should and will be accepted in a new and improved Canada.

Trav Minish  
Science III

## Ng has admitted guilt

Re: Ng not guilty yet

Charles Ng has freely admitted to many of his "alleged" crimes and has gone so far as to depict his "torture chamber" (wherein the mutilated and unidentifiable remains of many women were found) in a series of drawings. Now if this

isn't an assertion of his guilt, maybe you can tell the rest of us what is?

Or maybe we should just send Ng over to your house to spend the weekend.

Clint Pelletier  
Phys. Ed. III

## Canada a bad marriage

Re: Nov. 1 editorial on Meech Lake

There may be elements of extremism in the Reform Party, but their rejection of Lake Meech in my opinion is not extreme. What is wrong about Meech Lake is that it is a lie.

I see it as a dysfunctional marriage. The husband, English, with pretensions of grandeur, took the somewhat mature French woman by force, thinking in his way that eventually she would bend completely to his way of thinking, doing, feeling.

They lived together for a long time. She was hurt, in shock, helpless, dependant. He discouraged her independence. He went about his business, ignoring and exploiting her. He came finally to believe that she loved him, that the marriage was working, that everything was O.K.... He didn't really know who she was, and what she was doing.

She was proud, stubborn, confused. She knew that she didn't love him the way he thought she did. There were some good times.

But HE BEAT ME she would think. That hadn't changed... If she could run away, become a writer, or have a business, something... But, though in some ways she hated this guy, still she was married to him, it was secure in a lousy sort of way... In the end, she hung in for the money, and she was afraid to make her own life. Afraid...

If you were the woman in the scenario I have painted, what would YOU do? You could choose to stay in a relationship that is a lie and a sham, a marriage merely of convenience and habit, a sort of "some-day things will get better" dream-world, a life of intimate loneliness with another.

Ce n'est pas que je n'estime pas le fait culturel du Quebec en Amerique du nord, loin de la. Mais il me semble qu'on avance des arguments economiques pour regler une affaire de coeur.

A little honesty at least.

Michael Cenker  
Education III  
Faculte St-Jean

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