

**EDITORIAL**

**Yes to Parrot**

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) has decided to unilaterally lower postal rates on ordinary letters to 10 cents from December 11 to 17.

Unfortunately this amounts to little more than a last ditch effort to boost CUPW's negligible credibility and popularity in the public eye, and comes off as the cynical, half-baked whim it really is.

It only illustrates how little the union is willing to work with management. This postal rate change after all is a unilateral union move. It's fine to disagree with your bosses, but to unilaterally set policy? Unions are there to act as liaisons between management and the workers, to bargain between the two parties, and to represent the workers' concerns. How does lowering the postal rates fit into any of this?

This move can only further discredit the whole labour union movement as far as the public is concerned. Loughheed's Bill 110 and other governmental efforts to undermine unions should illustrate CUPW's desperate need for public support.

CUPW also claims that this postal cutback will even out the inequalities of the post office's policies towards large corporations. As of now, large corporations get breaks on postage. I'm not saying that this is a good or necessary thing, but I can't see how the union's little coup can do anything but hurt that average letter writer, never mind equalize the situation.

The cut back rates will only clog up the mails till next July and the deficit incurred will only lead to staff layoffs which will slow up the mail service even more.

The mails slow down, and the large corporations shift to private couriers, this causes even more losses, more cutbacks, more layoffs, and even shittier service. How does this help the small business and the individuals who depend on the post office and can't afford private couriers?

And if the deficit is to be reduced by increased public support (taxes), who'll end up paying them? Not the large corporations who can hire packs of lawyers to avoid paying almost any taxes at all. As usual the lower and middle income earners pick up the tab.

Over all this is an ill thought-out and cynical manipulative move that we really don't need. Thanks, CUPW, but no thanks.

**Gilbert Bouchard**

**CUPW stupid**

When I first heard the postal workers were planning to deliver letters for ten cents during the week of December 11 to 17, I laughed.

I thought it was just great - labour screwing big business to our advantage.

After more consideration, I am even more convinced that this is a truly wonderful gesture.

I cannot understand why so many people are so violently opposed to the move.

The only intelligent objection I can find amidst the piles of rhetoric is that the reduced rate will cause a postal deficit so we will not really save anything since our taxes next year will absorb any saving made at Christmas.

But Jean-Claude Parrot, the President of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers argues that the post office routinely gives discounts to corporations and therefore should be able to give the private citizen a break for one tiny week.

And even if Parrot is wrong, so what?

Even if we have to make up for every penny saved at Christmas through taxes, nothing has been lost. We should not condemn the postal workers for trying.

The *Edmonton Journal* denounces the discount as "political grandstanding on the backs of ordinary workers." (The *Sun* is surprisingly restrained on this issue.)

What nonsense.

Canada supposedly has a progressive income tax system: if taxes have to cover a postal deficit, theoretically these taxes come from the rich - not the "ordinary worker."

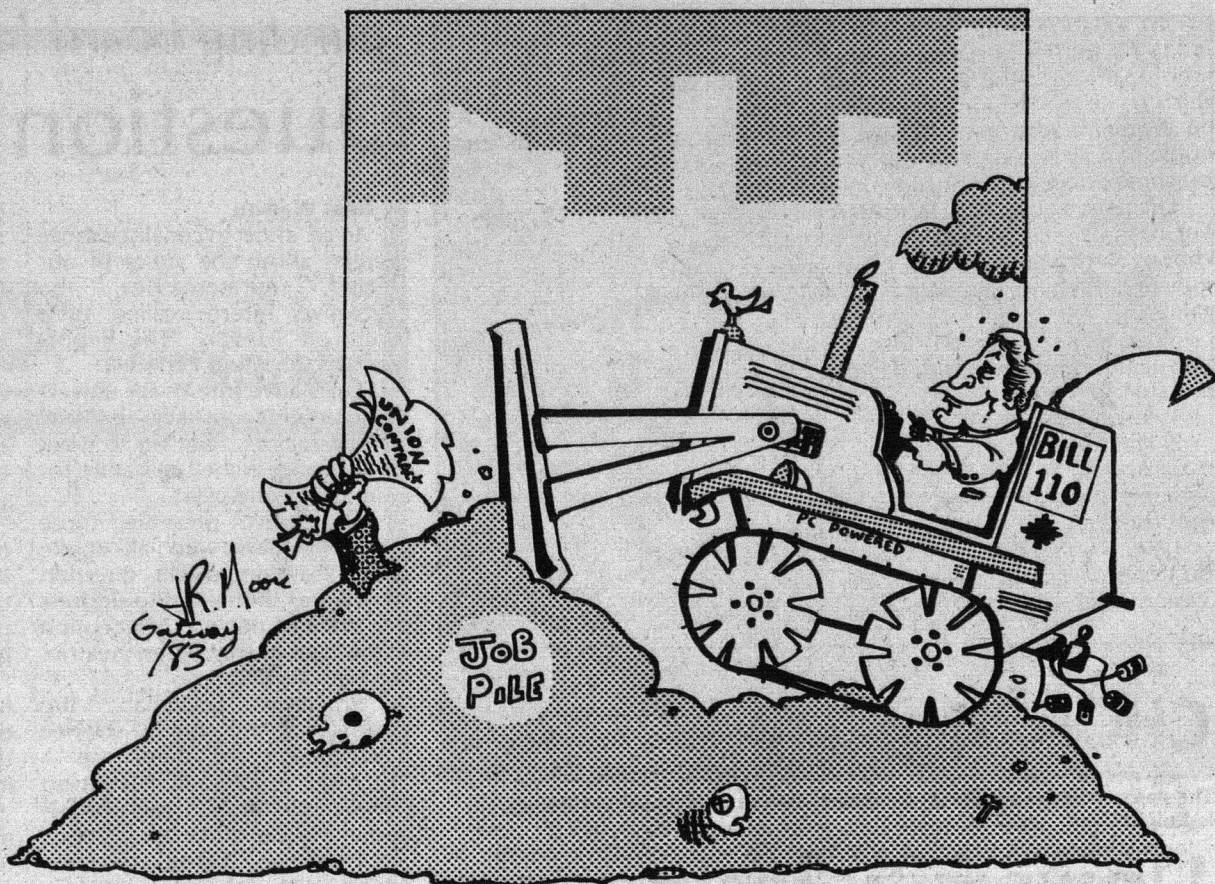
As usual, the *Journal* is just ranting at the expense of labour.

We are always quick to criticize postal workers: we should be equally quick to praise them for an initiative that should have come from management.

Cynics claim the postal union is merely trying to polish its tarnished image.

But when a service does something that benefits its customers, this is exactly the sort of thing which merits a better image.

**Mark Roppel**



**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Lost: My self-respect**

RE: Identification of Stolen or Lost Property

Frequently Campus Security Lost and Found Department receives items such as calculators, etc., that have been found on Campus but upon which there is no identification marking. Similarly reports of stolen or lost items are received but here again no positive identification is available. Members of the Campus community are reminded that Campus Security has available a gratis engraving program that relates to marking the owner's identification on items such as calculators, etc. and by which it may be possible to interface information regarding found and lost property, and its use is encouraged.

Alternatively, it is recommended that the serial numbers of items such as calculators, radios, etc., be noted and retained separately by the owner in the event the item is stolen or lost, hereagain for the purpose of returning the object to the owner should it later be recovered.

W.F.G. Perry, Director  
Campus Security and Parking Services

# # #

**A formula to live by**

Based on the assumption that the memory eye and the thought eye switch roles every time a cell in the brain pops, I have come to the conclusion that space is equal to time taken to the infinite power.

The brain is a set of cells. At most single points in time each cell has a charge, + or -, each cell has the power to change the charge of every other cell and leave its own charge the same, with a pop. Only one cell can pop at a time.

At most single point in time, one eye is the thought eye and the other eye is the memory eye. The point of fixation in space of the memory eye has coordinates (0, 0, 0), and that of the thought eye (x, y, z). There is a point in the last cell that popped that is associated with the fixation point of the memory eye. The value of x, y, and z fluctuate as the thought eye does its job roaming through space.

A cell pops, and in this cell is a point (x, y, z). The thought eye becomes the memory eye and the

memory eye becomes the thought eye. (x, y, z) goes to (0, 0, 0) and the life in the brain takes note of these disappearing numbers so that each cell that pops has the address of the last cell that popped.

This is learning, all else is thought. All that is known is a seemingly infinite path through space.

The time it takes light to go from (x, y, z) to (0, 0, 0) is the time we spend thinking, and from (0, 0, 0) to (x, y, z) the time we spend learning.

Consciousness is a map from a set with one member to a set with infinite members, is  $M = (Th+L)$  is  $T$ .

Yours truly,  
Greg Ustina

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**Old Farts Mouth Off**

We, the Campus Right-Wing Old Boys, are sick and tired of the mealy mouthed mutterings of the Gateway's resident socialists and fellow travellers.

In particular, we find Oscar Ammar and Mike Walker to be particularly insidious and dishonest.

Your recent survey of Gateway readers indicates that they would like to see less left-wing propaganda and more articles which reflect the true conservative character of the majority of University students.

May we suggest that the "What's Left" column is replaced with one entitled "What's Right", which we would be pleased to provide on a weekly basis.

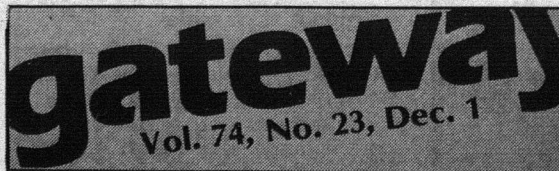
The Campus Right-Wing Old Boys

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**Use it or lose it?**

RE: Donna (Don) Smith's Washroom Dilemma.

You poor thing. It must truly be an awful situation you are in and I can only imagine the pressure you put on yourself to try and limit your number of these experiences. I feel I can sympathize somewhat with you as I too have encountered awkward feelings whenever I use the Women's washrooms, and not only on campus, but throughout the city. The obscene leers, the dirty looks, and all the screaming and yelling can just drive a guy crazy. However, I have come to realize



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Staff this issue:

Christmas is coming, and the Gilbertologists prepare for the yuletide season. Ian Ferguson, Cheryl Parsons, Sarah Hickson and Mike Walker journeyed to the wilds of Woodwards, and chopped down an aluminum tree, only to discover Neal Watson and Georgeann McInerney stringing tinsel from Algard's ears. Jordan Peterson, Patrice Struyk, and Lisa Soerenson formed a tapline, humming Silent Night. Scrooge Moore and Tiny Tim Watts chased Barb Eyles and Terry Lindberg with mistletoe, while Brenda Waddle and Maureen Bourke did the backstroke in the egg nog.