

# EDITORIAL

## His political stage

After listening to excerpts on the radio and reading the same in the newspapers I simply cannot resist putting in my opinion on Pierre's Prime Time Plea.

From all indications the Prime Minister seems to have taken 45 minutes to say 'This shall be the winter of our discontent.' Somehow that sounds much better coming from an actor playing the Richard III role. But in all sincerity, I would have to say that the Prime Minister of Canada is just that. He is an actor playing at politics, duping the public and taking the country along for a rather rough ride.

It is difficult to decide who is really responsible for putting that mess back in power. The people of this country knew what he had done when they elected him in 1980.

Everyone knows how, in the early seventies, he created one of the most ugly plays in Canadian history by 'envoking the War Measures Act. The FLQ were going to overthrow the Quebec provincial government. Anyone who really believes that should not talk to a salesman about Florida swampland. Yet the actor made it stick and two years later went to the polls winning a bare minority. He clung to power by wooing David Lewis and the NDP. But eventually he had to hit the election trail again.

In the mid seventies when Robert Stanfield proposed wage and price controls the people at home cried foul. Along came Trudeau and acted the part of messenger of good news. Really good news it was too. In fact, the state of the economy was in such good shape that eight months after getting into office, the actor brought down wage and price controls. But everyone knows that.

Finally in 1978, after four years of arrogance and deceit the actor went to the people again. This time they seemed to be smartening up. The actor was defeated and soon after, announced his retirement. But like Muhammed Ali, the actor came back onto the stage, when the Conservatives decided to take their budget to the people for approval.

What ensued was one of the most cynical and say-nothing campaigns in history. Yet once again, the actor vaulted back into power. The campaign was so bad that people bought it lock, stock and barrel.

If you don't think this guy can act, just take a good look at some of his more memorable performances.

When he ran for the Liberal leadership he played the part of a younger man. He was 46 they said. Yet he was born in 1919. In 1967 that would make him 48 wouldn't it? But he fooled people. That's good acting.

When he told several reporters to f-off and came back with an explanation of fuddle-duddle he got away with it.

He has told people to 'va mange la merde' and he has gotten away with that too. It's amazing that some Broadway troupe hasn't picked him up by now.

The man has even dated Barbra Streisand as if to show how attuned he is to the actor's way of life. Let's face it, the man is an actor not a Prime Minister.

His many performances, though, cannot compare to the three short ones he gave last week. They were marvellous. The sign of a confident actor is when he takes an absolutely atrocious script and still goes on. Perhaps I am wrong, however. By all indications the reviews of his last performance have not been that favorable. Perhaps the actor has run out of dramatic gas.

Hopefully the curtain is closing in on this man. Hopefully he has played one of his last performances with the one on Friday. Hopefully he and his cast of supporting players will have their travelling road show shut down soon. Hopefully the actor will quickly fade into never-never land.

By all indications, all we can do is hope.

Andrew Watts

## The best-laid plans...

The High contracting parties solemnly declare in the names of their respective peoples that they condemn recourse to war for the solution of international controversies, and renounce it as an instrument of national policy in their relations with one another.

The Kellogg Peace Pact, 1928  
signed by Great Britain, Germany, Italy,  
France, Belgium, Japan, Poland and  
Czechoslovakia

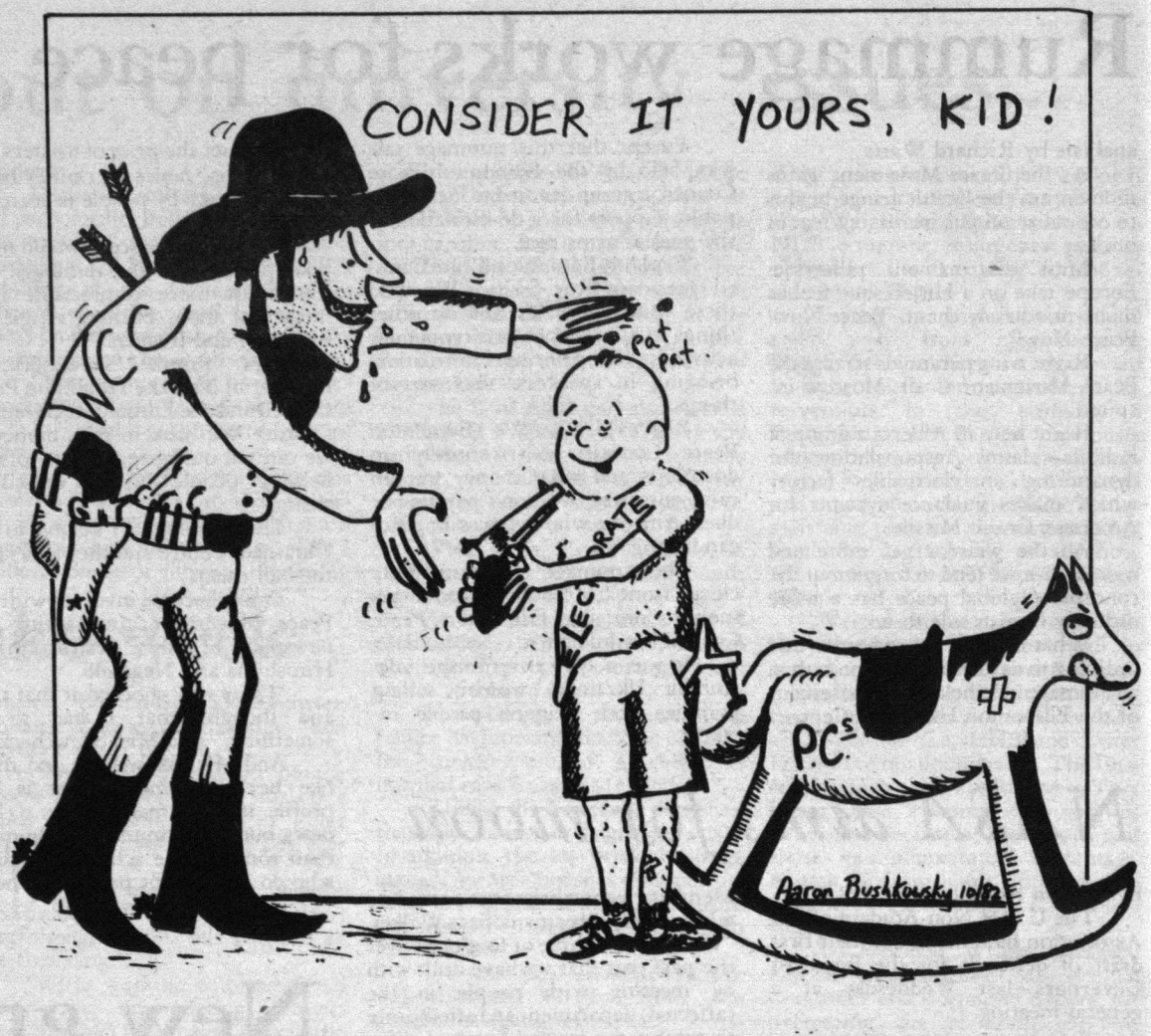
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF - Andrew Watts  
NEWS EDITORS - Richard Watts, Allison Annesley  
MANAGING EDITOR - Jens Andersen  
ARTS EDITOR - David Cox  
SPORTS EDITOR - Brent Jang  
PHOTO EDITOR - Ray Giguere  
CUP EDITOR - Wes Oginski  
PRODUCTION - Anne Stephen, Jim Miller  
ADVERTISING - Tom Wright  
MEDIA SUPERVISOR - Margriet Tilroe-West  
CIRCULATION - Gunnar Blodgett

### Staff this issue:

It's Gateway party time! On stage, Martin Beales, Bill Inglee and Zane Harker are flashing about, to the amusement of Teri Lyn Paulgard and Heather-Ann Laird. Martin Coutts and Dan Leskiw stir a cauldron of witches brew. Tom Wilson and Mark Roppel stalk black cats. Aaron Bushkowsky and Ken Lenz are in the belfry with the bats. James L. Stevens is outside, seeking the Great Pumpkin. And down the hall, Durk Boivin and John Algard begin to chant... "Ah Graymalkin, spirits dear..."

The Gateway is the newspaper of the the students of the University of Alberta. News copy deadlines are 12 noon Monday and Wednesday. News Room: Rm. 282, Advertising: Rm. 256D, Students' Union Bldg., University of Alberta, Edmonton, T6G 2J7. Newsroom, phone 432-5168 (5178); Advertising, 432-4241 (Ext. 28). Readership is 25,000. The Gateway is a member of Canadian University Press.

**gateway**  
 VOL. LXIII, No. 13



## « LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

### Rep clears up news omission

The article concerning the four-year General Degree of the Faculties of Arts and Science (Thursday, October 14) ignored the current developments in Science. Never fear, Science students, you will not be left to the mercy of lazy reporters. Enlightenment follows. An *ad hoc* Committee for Review of the B.Sc. General Degree Program was formed in the Fall of 1980. After receiving information from current and graduate three-year General Degree students and academic staff members of the Faculty, these three recommendations were presented to the Faculty of Science Council in April:

1. That the Faculty of Science should retain the B.Sc. General Degree Program;
2. That the three-year General Degree program should be deleted and replaced by a four-year General Degree program;
3. That the four-year General Degree program should incorporate the requirements outlined in the model four-year program.

These motions were passed, the vote being 37 in favour and 33 against the four-year Degree. Implementation is not certain or won't be soon, as university channels must be passed and government approval sought. These people will be concerned with the financial implications as well as the merits of the three-year degree; the Committee's concern was mainly academic. A "new and improved" 3-year degree program was also outlined.

Students were well represented on the Committee but at the special council meeting called to vote on the recommendations only four students, with more than ten student positions available, were present. There are about 350 eligible council members. Since your four represen-

tatives will be forced into retirement at the end of the year due to impending graduation, I call on Science students to become involved now.

Fame is the sweet reward; I have actually met a person who knew I was their rep! At least you can be amused 2 or 3 afternoons a year by the professor's altercations and (sometimes) wit. Please contact Mrs. Grant in the Faculty Office. The next Council Meeting is November third. (If this is timed right, you will have a good excuse to miss a lab).

Sophie Ogle  
Science IV  
Faculty of Science Council  
Student Representative

### Andy a Sunstroke victim?

Is it possible to remain an optimist and still read *Gateway* editorials? I fear not, particularly after the miserable epistle that greeted us this afternoon. Andrew Watts is, of course, at liberty to support whichever party he chooses in the forthcoming provincial election. But since he has elected to announce his views to the campus electorate, he might at least have produced an argument worthy of the name. I find it somewhat difficult, for example, to understand why a high vacancy rate should be considered one of the problems of government; unless of course the government is made up of landlords?

More serious is his reason for choosing the PCs, namely the lack of a viable alternative. He admits, nevertheless, that the Tories are "lazy and complacent," that they have created a bureaucracy in the legislature etc. He might have added that only during an election does Lougheed offer a few sops to the public, such as the mortgage relief program. A government has to stand on its record. Power is a privilege, not a right. Yet rarely has a democratically-elected government showed such cynicism and contempt toward its electors. A supporter like Watts is unable to discern a single positive facet in the government he seeks to re-elect.

And what of the NDP, "the only other party worth considering"? They have to learn the "ropes" by being in opposition. Why? What could they possibly learn by sitting opposite the vacuous nonentities who make up the present government? What could they learn from a leader who exhibits all the eloquence of Dave Semenko with lockjaw? Should they sit passively, making copious notes on how to fritter away a heritage fund, or the joys of double-billing medical patients?

I think our editor has been reading the *Sun* too much.

Brian Cohen  
Grad. Studies

### Save the Wales!

I should like to voice my concern over your biased coverage of world events. While your ersatz newspaper spent considerable time AND newsprint covering the brave terrorists of the Maza; but you have spent no time AT ALL on Davies, Williams or any of the others who have not shot unarmed men, kidnapped women or run over children but have still struggled for a free nation of Wales by a hunger strike as long as the Hon. (murderer) R. Sands.

More Welsh speak WELSH than Irish understand IRISH. Lets have real news and not editorial fantasy.

Gwen Feyrock  
Arts II

Managing Editor's note: Aside from a few minor corrections this letter is printed as it was written.

### The way the ball bounces

I realize that this complaint may seem trifal (sic) as compared to the other issues of the day, but I feel it is for the benefit of those that will someday leave this place (hopefully) to face those more important issues. I am directing my complaint to the HUB management and more important the arcade in there.

Being another one of the multitude of pinball fanatics, I try to find time each day to have a few games. I therefore go to the arcade in HUB. But what I find there gets me totally pissed-off. First of all, the asshole that is supposed to be there giving out change is never there. He is usually tied up in a game of fouzeball or off visiting somewhere in the mall. I've had to wait up to five minutes for change sometimes and then he ends up giving me 17 or 18 ones back.

Another thing that really pisses me off is the games themselves. I work at another arcade in the city (of much higher standard) and some of the things I see here are unbelievable. On one game a gate is supposed to close off the slots on the side so that the only place you can lose a ball is down through the middle. But instead, they have it wired open. On another game I've played, if the ball is moving too slowly it is pulled into the middle (by magnets I suppose) and it is lost down the middle.

On the game Gorgor, you cannot get your ball to go into the hole that awards an extra ball, it just bounces over it. There is also the case of the game of Star Flight. The rail at the bottom by the left flipper is broken and has been replaced by a rubber band, so when you try to trap the ball, it just bounces over and you lose it.

I just lost two in one game this morning because of that, and that is partly the reason I am writing this letter. There are many other examples that I have not mentioned but my only wish is that they would clean up their act so that we aren't more frustrated when we leave than before, when we went in.

Another Pissed-Off Pinball Addict