

### Mac attack

On September 27, 1984 the Gateway published an unsigned promotion article for computers in education. In effect, it was a free advertisement for some commercial enterprise selling machines. When we examine the roster of speakers in the article, it is easy to see who stands to profit from the alleged convention. How naive can you be? It is nothing more than blatant propaganda for a special commercial interest group.

Admittedly, computers are very handy machines but hardly artificial intelligence since they cannot enter the world of morality and social interaction. They are no better than the people who program them. Although they can be powerful tools to indoctrinate an unsuspecting public, they are nothing but machines. Conversely, it is immoral to reduce a person to a thing, a manipulable object; but, should we give a machine human dignity?

What I find so obscene about the free advertising is that the financial advantage of special interest groups is taken for granted, and that there is no critical evaluation of the usufruct of computers. Why can't Apple, etc., buy advertising like people selling ash-trays? Secondly, why is the Gateway pleading the cause of this special interest group? The world is glutted with these kinds of machines each claiming to be the best; are all manufacturers given a fair market chance? Why should we have to swallow the propaganda of Apple Canada or Control Data Corporation and not have to gag over other manufacturer's propaganda? They all want to sell machines. Can't the Gateway be a little more critical?

J. Van Damme  
Grad Studies

### Basic comment

As we have noticed, there is a certain misrepresentation of facts in the Gateway of September 5, 1984. In the article "Student Council busy as bees" there is an implication that Brinton McLaughlin was "writing a computer program to be used by the Exam Registry." This is not quite true. The Exam Registry data base was written by Creative Software — a student business.

for Creative Software  
Eugene Margulis  
Bob Banks  
Linda Tausher  
Gord Urquhart

### CHOPPING BLOCK

by Jens Andersen



Kubla Pete

In Edmonton did Lougheed plan  
A higher learning factory  
Where Sask the northern river ran  
'Neath towers overpriced to man  
Down to a flat, wet sea  
So thrice five blocks of landscaped ground  
With streets and sidewalks were girdled round  
And here were classrooms bright with fluorescent chill  
Where discoursed many a fogbound Ph.D.  
And here were labs, with glassware filled  
Enclosing white-frosted priests of chemistry.

But oh! that Students' Union Building which slanted  
down a slight hill athwart a bus-stop shelter  
A savage place! as wholly disenchanted  
As any lair that 'neath pale moon was haunted  
By keeners howling over student issues!  
And from this pit, with ceaseless turmoil seething  
As if its tenants in too-tight pants were breathing  
A spate of firings presently was forced  
Amid whose swift political burst  
Hot statements leaped like suspects jumping bail  
Or livid sheep beneath the preacher's flail  
And 'mid these zealous shots, at once from leftward  
Was flung the war cry, "Impeach the bastards!"  
Five radicals petitioning with this drastic motion  
Through CAB and SUB the crusaders ran  
Then reached the apathy native to man  
And sank in that lifeless ocean:  
And 'mid the fizzle Lougheed heard from far  
Cynical voices prophesying more!  
The Saviours of the SU Building  
Come and go in endless waves  
First they slay the frauds preceding  
Then they follow to their graves.  
It is a perpetual-motion device  
A funny treadmill, with tireless mice!

A keener with a microphone  
In a vision once I saw  
It was a dull Canadian lad  
And all the dreams he ever had  
He swore would come tomorrow  
If I could spark within me  
His faith so bright and strong  
To such a deep deceit, 'twould win me  
That with wordplay loud and long  
I would build a world in air  
With lovely schemes! With dreams of mice!  
And all the wise would stop and glare  
And raise the shout, Beware! Beware!  
His drug-filled mind, his glassy stare!  
Weave the barbed wire round him twice  
Just use your eyes, and keep your head  
For he in academe hath fed  
And drunk the bilge of paradise.

Ice man burdened block by block  
comes down our street, touching  
each and every hearth with  
frigid iron tongs  
through cool morning, our ice man  
wanders, street by street, chasing  
children from his cart, till noon  
sun drives him home, with his load of  
soggy straw.

Bovine skull that dog drags to door step,  
and sits there, gnawing on the  
dried flesh still clinging to crevasses of bone

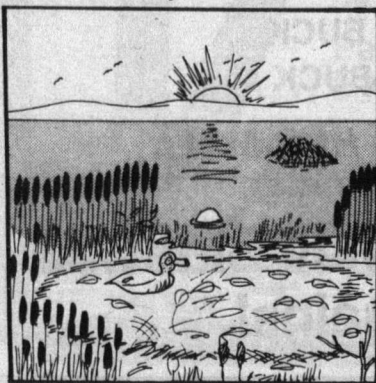
try so hard to separate the farm  
from our yard, one half animals  
the other half people

but now and then, plopped on our door  
step, cow skull dog sucks on, tugging at  
dried flesh, clinging to cracks.

I'll breakfast in a diner  
down the street  
Where I can see your window  
and wonder what you look like  
pouring a single  
cup of coffee  
Its mate still hung  
on its peg.

### Bear Country

by Shane Berg



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