

harry esteve

editor's note

We felt strangely guiltless, sitting in a vegetarian restaurant in Victoria, drinking Old Stock, the Canadian equivalent of Coors. Later, in a campground on the San Juan island of Lopez, we woke up from dreams of grades, term papers and deadlines — and laughed.

They were an illusion; our only concern was making the hilly three-mile bicycle ride in time to catch the 7:30 ferry to Anacortes.

Even trading my micro-economics book for a thick paperback with a steamy cover had seemed weird at first. It took some getting used to, as I kept feeling like I had to put it down to do some "real" reading.

Spring break had come like an unexpected gift: we couldn't wait to tear into it, yet we were shy to indulge. It seemed barely possible that there could be free time without the threat of unfinished homework lurking to spoil it.

Such is the beauty of the University's hallowed quarter system. Every time I hear the possibility raised of a switch to semesters, I will remember last week — and oppose the change to my last breath.

Consider trying to enjoy an evening fire in a Canadian campground, knowing full well a week's worth of ignored homework looms ahead, then count your blessings.

So we luxuriated. By the time the State Board of Higher Education had made its final decision to remove Community Service and Public Affairs from the University, we were stuffing ourselves on pizza, sitting in a large room of Port Townsend's Palace Hotel. The Emerald was hibernating, the headlines could wait until we got back.

In Victoria's public port, at least three boatloads of University students were docked. The captain of one was a friend of ours, a future law student struggling for a political science degree by this June.

He recounted a harrowing journey from Seattle to Anacortes. Tossed by headwinds and fighting for every knot, all he could think about was the subtle relationships between Marxism and existentialism. But as days of sailing under clear northern skies passed, his thoughts of academia withered, replaced by the sweet trivia of friendly con-

versation and compass readings.

So it was with us. The multiple choices transformed from a, b, c or all of the above, to a side trip to the Butchart Gardens or a chance to spend more time on the San Juans. The answer was made for us — none of the above because of a broken down ferry engine. An essay that had forced me to produce everything I knew about the major sociological problems of religion, family education and capitalism was replaced with a calm dissertation on the feeling of bicycling unknown roads.

The quarter system was meant for us — students who enroll full time in school and have to work nearly full time to pay for it. After nine weeks the wick is burnt to the bottom and we are left floating in murky tallow. Spring break is a requisite.

Returning to Eugene was like being born by the Le Boyer method. No pain, no shock of neglected school work, just welcome back and slide on into spring term. We felt rested, strengthened and ready to resume the cycle.

letters

1984

Well, I don't know, but 1984 is closer than I thought. Reagan hopes to stop virtually all financial aid for higher education, and we are being told that the insurrection in El Salvador is part of the global plot for communist take-over.

The only difference between us and Orwell's nightmare is that, for a little while yet, we still have the power of speech.

We must write our representatives in the big house while it still stands.

Robin Kelly

Nuke freeze

What do Jim Weaver, the State Legislature of Oregon, the National Council of Churches plus a huge number of other individuals and organizations have in common? Answer: They all endorse a nuclear-weapons freeze.

A nuclear-weapon freeze would — if adopted by the USSR and the US as proposed — stop the "... testing production and deployment of nuclear weapons..." In other words, the generals could keep their precious 50,000 atom bombs

which exist already; but it would not be allowed to develop or to build new nuclear weapons. These new weapons which are now about to go in production (MX, cruise missiles, Pershing II, on the American side) would not simply add to the quantity of the arsenals but add also a new quality: They're highly accurate — a cruise missile misses its target by not more than a hundred feet — after a flight of thousands of miles.

A "freeze" is urgently needed to stop the new weapons now.

It's also a first step to get rid of the old ones. Since the "freeze" prohibits the testing of nuclear weapons after some time you can't be sure how reliable they are still. You cannot be sure that they would work well enough for a first strike. (They would be still good enough for a second strike where you don't need high accuracy and where even 10 percent of each side's arsenal would be enough to destroy the cities of the enemy — if you want to rely on this "security" by "deterrence.") To speak with the science adviser of Pres. Eisenhower, Geroge Kistiaowsky, another endorser of the "freeze": "Let them rot."

Jochen Paulus

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