

## EDITORIAL

### Of snakes and saints

Okay, we all know that St. Patrick's Day is coming up, right? So what is the Irish saint famous for? Green socks? Parades? Loud parties where they talk with fake accents and drink green beer?

Well, all those are valid answers but the one I am looking for is that the old boy is famous for driving all the snakes out of Ireland.

Now, let's think about that for a minute. Was that a nice thing for a saint to do? What had all those little snakes done to him? I mean, here they were, all these innocent little snakes, hanging around and chewing the fat, and some geek comes along and drives them all into the sea. Did St. Patrick have something against snakes? And if so, what does that say about his personality? I think we're dealing with a guy with problems.

Plus, what happened to all those snakes? Did they die? And if they did, wouldn't that amount to serpenticide? And if they didn't die, where did they go? Were there all these huge snake refugee camps? What did immigration officials say?

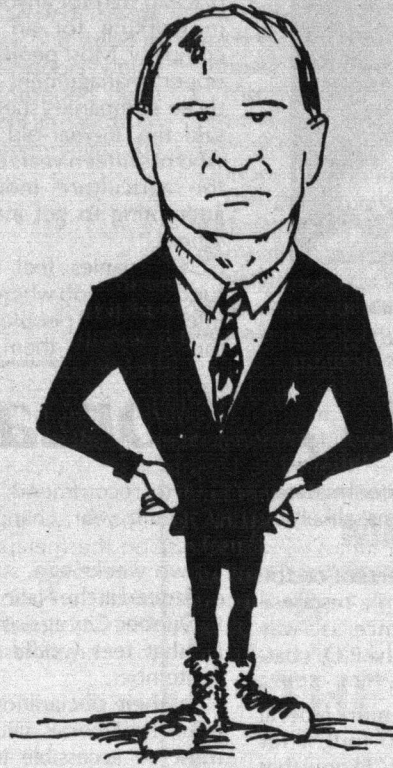
And if they did leave, where did they go? Did they go to England and become Eton scholars? Or did they get jobs cleaning out drain pipes at Buckingham Palace? And if they went to France, what did they do there? Did they find work squeezing wine grapes one by one?

If you ask me, the unanswered question of what happened to a whole nation of snakes is just one more example of snake discrimination. And it's time we changed that. Snakes of the world unite! Re-gain your proper place in history! — You have nothing to lose but your teeny, tiny little chains!

And if you gentile non-serpents want to celebrate St. Patrick's Day properly this year, take a snake out to lunch.

Gilbert Bouchard

## KREMLIN UNVEILS ITS 'NEW AND IMPROVED' LEADER!!



WHAT'S SO 'NEW AND IMPROVED' ABOUT THIS GUY?  
HE CAN BREATHE!

BECKERS-GATEWAY-85

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### Ken letter number one

Re: "Mixed missiles" and the U of A group for disarmament;

I must admit to being caught somewhat off guard by the letter of I. Narayana. (The Gateway March 12th, 1985) After a rather droll replay of the Soviet position at the Geneva Arms talks, Narayana claimed as sources such well known publications as *The Military Balance*, and the *International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)*. My surprise was not at the content of the letter, but rather at the sources that caused the conclusions reached. I have read all of the publications cited (and a good many more) and have reached different conclusions.

Firstly, the cruise missile as a "first strike" weapon is laughable. An effective "first strike" implies a warning time to the attacked party less than the reaction time of the attacked party's forces. Reaction time of a 1950's vintage U.S. Titan II ICBM is officially stated as 60 seconds. Let us assume the USSR has matched this technology in the intervening quarter century. For the U.S. to use the Cruise in a "first strike" role would require some 250 or B-52 bombers (each roughly DC-10 sized) to take off from one of 20 known airbases, fly for about 8 hours to reach Soviet air space (after being refueled by one of some 600 Boeing 707 sized KC-135 tanker aircraft), and then fire thousands of cruise missiles, each of which would fly for an additional three hours to reach its target. All of this must happen without any of the Soviets' various spy satellites, AWACs aircraft, or 6,000 air defense radars detecting anything, or giving even a few minutes warning. Dream on, even Yankee technology isn't that bad.

Secondly, I. Narayana contends that the Warsaw Pact will counter U.S. cruise deployment, and that it would be "rather naive to suppose the Warsaw Pact

will not follow suit and develop a similar weapon." Guess what? The Soviets already have. If indeed I. Narayana has seen the works of *SIPRI* and *The Military Balance* he/she should know that the USSR has had deployed, since about 1962, several hundred nuclear cruise missiles of the air, ground and sea launched variety; however, they are less advanced than U.S. models.

Finally, the contention that NATO's intermediate nuclear forces are somehow in asymmetrical priority with the Soviet SS-4, SS-5, SS-20, SS-21 and SS-22 missiles is misleading. In addition to its rather large missile force, the USSR maintains a significant nuclear-capable air force in Europe. Ever hear of the Backfire bomber? As I'm sure I. Narayana and fellow travellers of the U of A anti-nuke group know, both *SIPRI* and *The Military Balance* indicate a Warsaw Pact superiority over NATO of well in excess of two to one in both aircraft and missile-delivered theatre nuclear forces.

The U of A group for nuclear disarmament may get its "facts" from *SIPRI* and *The Military Balance* but they seem to get their conclusions from *Pravda* and *Whence the Threat to Peace*.

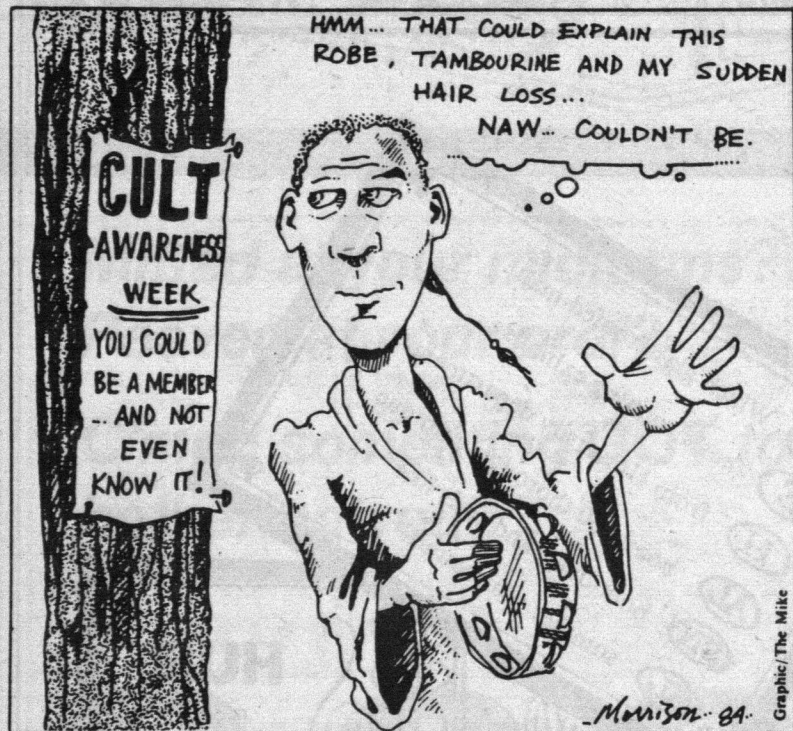
Kenneth G. Bosmar.

### Praise for the pink

On behalf of GATE, I would like to commend you on both the International Women's Week and Pink Triangle issues of *The Gateway*. They were at once informative, sensitive and interesting.

We hope that *The Gateway* will continue to publish these valuable supplements in future years.

Walter Cavaliere  
Social Services Director  
GATE (Gay Alliance Towards Equality)



## Correction

An ad in the Mar. 12 edition of the *Gateway* contained incorrect salaries for editorial staff. The correct salaries are:

News	\$650/mo.
News	\$650/mo.
Entertainment	\$500/mo.
Sports	\$500/mo.
Managing	\$500/mo.
Circulation	\$250/mo.
CUP editor/advocate	—
Production	\$500/mo.
Photo	\$750/mo.

All salaries are under review.

## The Gateway

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**Editor in Chief:** Gilbert Bouchard  
**News Editors:** Suzette C. Chan, Neal Watson  
**Managing Editors:** on leave  
**Entertainment Editor:** Dean Bennett  
**Sports Editor:** Eva Pendzich  
**Photo Editors:** Bill St. John, Tim Kubash  
**CUP-Advocate Editors:** Ray Warnatsch, Denise Whalen  
**Production Editor:** Brougham Deegan  
**Advertising:** Tom Wright  
**Media Supervisor:** Margriet Tilroe-West  
**Circulation:** Paul Chu  
**Typesetting:** Linda Derksen, Janine McDade

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Chivalry still exists. Ann Grever, Pat Sytnick and Susan Sutton were very impressed with Hans Beckers when he flung his coat over a mud puddle for them. Not to be outdone, Shane Berg threw his coat, hat and pants over a puddle for Cindy Rozeboom. Ingenious Warren Opheim, observing a puddle in Anna Borowicki's path, ran home to get some blankets. Lisa Trolymow slapped Don Teplyske as she mistook his act of valor: grabbing a beer from her hands. Bill Doskoch explains: "she might have spilt it and got all wet. Anna Taylor is still upset over the deaths of Andrew Spence, Brian Receveur, Dave Boyd and Tim Hellum, who, rebelling against this trend, walked through a huge puddle without covering it. They all drowned."