Gateway

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Opinions expressed in the Gateway are those of the writer, and are not necessarily those of the Gateway.

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letters

Porno reader no rapist

The article on Pornography' in the October 16th issue of the Gateway by Peter D. Schalin is so thoroughly embellished with complete and utter fallacies, it is difficult to have to limit my comments to just a few of the more vulgar ones. The two worst offences Mr. Schalin commits are (i) assuming that all men are nonrational "robots" and (ii) attempting to rewrite the facts (by reversing the law of cause and effect).

Concerning point (i), I would estimate that at least 20 copies of Penthouse etc. were sold in stores around Campus this last month, yet I did not hear of 20 rapes or related offences being reported. I did not hear of one. In fact, I read a Penthouse magazine myself 8 mos. ago and did not rape anyone. This indicates that there is a little more to it than "Monkey see, monkey do." Perhaps the monkey do." reason why (and this brings us to our second point) is that men are not monkeys i.e. nonconceptual beings who have no control over their responses to stimuli.

The fact of the matter is that men do have the power to control their actions. They are not limited to being creatures who act passively and automatically in response to stimuli. They decide which actions they will perform: they choose the way in which they respond to 'stimuli' and in so doing they determine what they will regard as a stimulus to further action. And for men, it is not imperative that they act even if they are aroused or disposed to some particular form of action. i.e. a person who sees another person who is attractive to them does not immediately pounce upon that person.

This is just not the case. If it were the case, then the globe would resemble a vast orgy, but as this is evidently not so, one can only assume that men are indeed capable of controlling their actions, and to believe otherwise, one must "select" the evidence and "rewrite" the facts to suit oneself

Having briefly shown what is already general knowledge, namely that reading something, porn or otherwise, does not necessarily entail that one goes and acts upon what was read, one is now in a position to answer Mr. Schalin's query of Why is there a constant conjunction between sex offenders

and the use of porn?" If simple reading of the literature does not incite one to act, then what does is one's acceptance of what one reads as legitimate. If someone regards human beings with little dignity and lacks respect for the healthy significance of the sexual act(s), the gloating over hard-core porn and the committing of indecent acts are just two MANIFESTATIONS of this attitude towards sex; they are not the cause of themselves or nach other. And if these two are merely symtomatic expressions of a more fundamental value. then advocating censorship to get rid of "pornography" is like advocating euthenasia to get rid of the common cold. Both treat merely the effects while leaving the cause untouched.

Further, if Mr. Schalin doesn't like reading pornography, he doesn't have to. No one is twisting his arm. If someone else wants to, then its their own business. As long as one does not try to inflict oneself upon another, then there is nothing that anyone can legally criticize. Since we've shown that "Familiarity does not breed contempt" there is not justification for the censorship of whatever some individual(s) deem to be "pornography" (whatever that is).

Jack Adrian Music

Uncleslarger than life

Recently twenty-two members of the university Circle K Club had a successful outing with a large group of boys on the waiting list for the Uncles at Large Program in Edmonton. We would like to thank Southgate IGA which generously donated a large amount of food for this outing.

Uncles at Large is an organization that matches fatherless boys with an "Uncle". Uncles are concerned male adults from all walks of life who can spend some of their spare time in a personal relationship with one of these boys.

The need for uncles in Edmonton is great as there are approximately 300 boys on the waiting list. This means that a boy must wait about two years before he is matched with an Uncle.

The Edmonton Uncles at Large Program was initiated by the Canadian Progress Clubs in 1967 and has been growing ever since. If anyone is interested in becoming an Uncle, or simply wants more information on the program they are welcome to phone the Edmonton Uncles at Large office at 423-1160 or phone Bob Laidler on campus at 432-

> Bob Laidler Circle K

Boo, Vasey

The ad hoc committee of groups and individuals who form the Katie Curtin Tour Committee wish to publicly protest the actions of the U of A Students' Union and its Forums Committee:

Over a month ago plans were initiated to organize a speaking tour with the young Canadian feminist author, Katie Curtin. Curtin will be in Edmonton from Oct. 25 - 28. She has recently written a book, Women in China. This book deals with the tremendous gains of women in China since the revolution and the barriers still to be overcome. Interest in the tour has been exceptional with interviews by all the major media in the city, seminars sponsored by three departments of the University, debates with local feminists, receptions in local bookstores, etc. The tour promises to be one of the largest and most successful of the fall period.

Financial sponsorship has been mainly from departments of the university, women's groups, and the Alma Mater Fund. Despite the broad interest, the SU has absolutely refused any support, financial or otherwise, to the tour.



The right to snarl

I felt kind of sorry for Mr. Karoles when he we through the grilling he did yesterday in GFC, but la recognise that it could have been a lot worse. If Karo hadn't gone out of his way to show the government intentions to listen more closely to the university complaints, I'd probably be still in there listening to

I sense a hearty resentment on the part of university for the provincial government's attitu toward the legitimate needs of institutions in the education duties.

Three recent incidents come to mind which wou show that the government should keep closer tabso the pulse of university life.

One would be the recent dispute in education There is no realway of telling how many student careers hung in the balance when the governmenta the ATA had its dispute over free time to spend with student teachers.

Another would be the recent imposing of the 1 spending increase ceiling laid down by legislatur There are those on campus with authority who feelth measure will cut down on the quality of education Alberta if it is applied to universities.

And the third would be the harangue over the proposed Adult Education Act, which looks like the government hadn't done enough research in to the systems of other provinces, or had listened very close to what the universities wanted in the act.

At any rate, disenchantment with government's attitude, which reflects a sort of norance about what the university needs to carry will likely require the services of a good team diplomats if academic hackles are to be smooth down properly.

Greg Neima

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In mid-September, tour organizers approached Mark Vasey of the U of A Student Union Forums Committee about a \$500 honorarium to the Katie Curtin tour. Vasey said he would need one week to think about it and talk to others on the Forums Committee.

This was done and on Sept 25 Vasey told the organizer of the tour that the money would definitely be released and to go ahead with the tour. Eight days later, a tour organizer phoned Vasey to check some arrangements, only to find out that he now was hesitant on whether money would be available due to financial problems with several of the concerts. He implied that the promised money was now contingent on success of the Woody Herman Concert. Despite a profit of \$1100 on this concert, Vasey on Oct. 8 reneged on his promise and refused any financial assistance.

The tour organizers were forced to explore other sources of funds. Many of the interested groups are traditionally short of funds, so that contributions were small. Only about half the required money for the tour was raised. On Oct. 16, an open letter signed by several professors of the sponsoring departments was sent to all members of the students union. asking them to carry out their responsibility to bring Curtin onto campus by giving the promised \$500. The organizers were able, because of this letter to obtain a hearing at the general meeting of the SU, Oct.

Representatives Katie Curtin tour comm were allowed to present case, but were denied then to respond to many accusati and misinformation seminated during the meet about the tour. Seven out eighteen members of the dent Union, however, didy for the right of students to Curtin on campus. This meet gave hundreds of dollars everyone from the Rodeo to the Debating Club, but in cent could apparently be spa for this feminist author.

The treatment this tour received from the Student ion raises a lot of question Despite broad interest academic, feminist and circles on and off campus by the media, the SU sudd lost complete interest ov two week period. The speal qualifications are in, no do and traditionally Students ion has eagerly sponsoreds tours. The Katie Curtin committee has followed a proper procedures in this quest for funds and is forces to publish this P letter of protest. Forums and Student Union made a del verbal promise for funds then the money was withh

Despite the uncoopera of Student Union, the to going ahead and it promis be a tremendous success

The tour committee the Student Union has bre ed a contract, has not act the interests of students has acted in a totally irrespo

ble manner. The Katie Co

Tour Committee