

Editorial

Confrontation

The past few issues of *The Gateway* have contained a considerable amount of copy examining the relationship between sex and power in a patriarchal society. The opinions expressed in this paper, combined with my own upbringing and personal ethical bias have, by and large, left me in a state of painful confusion, especially those of Ann Grever's editorial in the last issue and those of Elaine Palmer to be found on this issue's letters page. To wit:

"One in three women will be raped sometime in her life." -Grever

"...If sex can be bargained for, it can also be stolen." - Palmer

The first statistic is simply horrifying.

To risk sounding like an insensitive clod, the idea of thirty percent of all the women I know being raped during their lives is so foreign to me I initially imagined a neighbourhood where seventy to eighty percent of all women are raped because my mother, sister, grandmothers, aunts and female friends have not been. Keeping identification with the problem at arms length I was able to avoid recognizing the implications of the statistic.

But then I discovered I was wrong. At least one of my women friends has been raped. She dealt with it well and frankly, I admire her for it. She is not bitter nor paranoid; but she is cautious. Me? I still roam the streets alone at night and I don't think twice. I find it nearly impossible to imagine being afraid to do so.

The second statement, Palmer's, I find equally troubling but from a different perspective. Part of what makes male/female relationships exciting and different from male/male or female/female relationships is the sexual dynamic and I won't trade that - which is not to suggest that I harbour a secret desire to sleep with every woman I meet. But there is an intangible in male/female relationships that enriches them.

Unfortunately, many of the efforts being made to re-educate society toward the very real threat posed to women by violent men, for it is violent men, not passionate men, who rape, have significant negative consequences. I feel strongly very often that radical feminists are trying to sterilize relationships between men and women and to reduce sex to a clinical exercise solely for reproduction. Original sin becomes possession of a penis. Those ideas are perverse.

But then I am confronted by the vision of my friend being brutalized by a man she barely knew. And my imagination makes me sick.

Men seldom recognize what must be an enormous psychological difference in male/female sexuality. A woman takes a man *inside* her and, when raped, is wholly violated. She cannot wash away the dirty feelings that so often accompany rape. The damage, psychological and physiological, is internal.

I think a large part of the problem is that good men appear to acquiesce to the violent urges of the minority in their everyday lives. I know that when a group of "guys" who are unfamiliar with one another are together they think they have to talk like pigs to be respected as men. I've been there and participated. We talk about who we last slept with and what it was like and And sometimes, I think, we are ashamed.

Yet at the same time, there is nothing I hate in print more than the confessions of some Caspar Milque-toast liberal trendy-lefty putz emasculating himself for the sake of sounding like a liberal, socially conscious, sensitive fellow. That kind of journalistic tripe is embarrassing. I do know, however, that I find rape so morally repugnant that it generates in me little cinematic vignettes of violence that would make a rapist look considerate. But I only feel this way when the rape has some kind of personal impact on me: for strangers I am merely sorry.

How do we deal with the problem? I'm not sure. I think it has something to do with cultivating a cultural nobility that we do not possess now. I think it has something to do with not abdicating responsibility to the mob mentality, a decidedly primitive mentality. I think I'm beginning to be too damned confused to think. And maybe that's another part of the problem. I am not jamming out deliberately.

Mike Evans

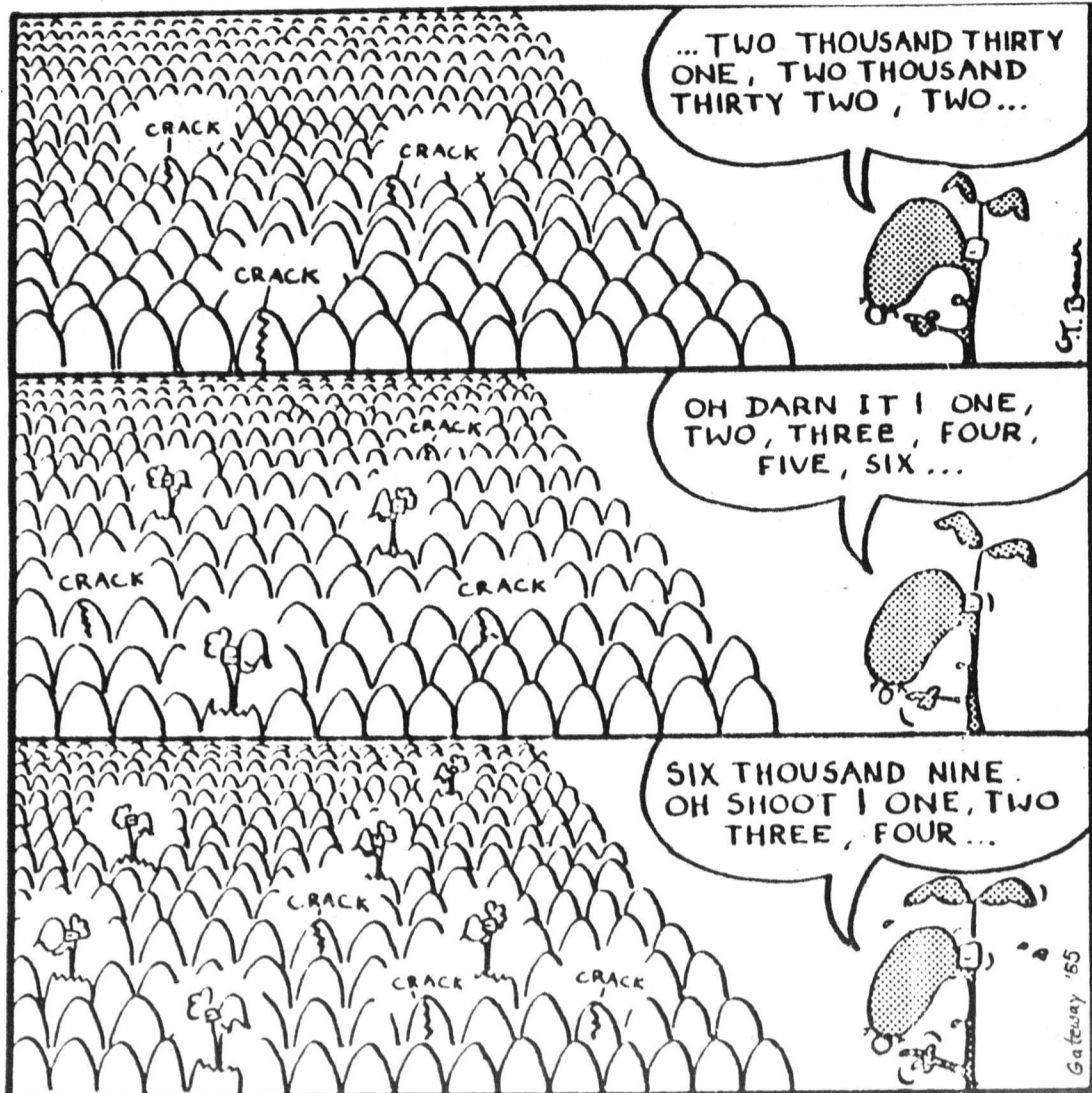
Norm Ovenden

assistant city editor of the *Edmonton Journal* will be conducting a newswriting seminar in the *Gateway* offices, Rm. 282 SUB at 4:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 26

Cume on down. Heel teach u how to rite good.

Correction

A Garneau resident named in the "Residents want LRT to go underground" story of September 19, 1985 as Don Wimble is actually named Donald L. Grimble. We apologize for an inconvenience caused.



Birth of a proverb.

Letters to the Editor

R.S.V.P.

In response to Ann Grever's editorial on rape, I think she makes some valid points, but I disagree that "men have to realize the fear their mothers, wives sisters and girlfriends live with...." Men do realize fear and this is why some of them rape. By being vulnerable and fearful, women endow men with power; and if sex can be bargained for, it can also be stolen.

I believe that women need to show that they have control of all aspects of their lives, and that to do this they must change their attitudes toward themselves when they feel vulnerable or powerless. If girls were encouraged to stand up for themselves, fight for themselves like boys are, if men knew that women were effectively trained in self defense and that while they can defend themselves, they are smart enough to avoid potentially dangerous situations whenever possible; if they knew that wives, girlfriends and dates could and would impose sanctions of some kind or take legal action to show that they will not stand for their basic rights to be violated, then men's attitudes might change and all we'll have to worry about is protecting the truly vulnerable — children and disabled from the evil power mongers of the world.

It would be ideal to get at the root of the problem: to raise children who don't grow up to be evil power mongers. I haven't a clue on how to attempt this on a large scale. I can only do the best I can in my tiny sphere of influence, by becoming more aware than ignorant, more concerned than apathetic.

In response to the interview with Mr. Changey, I think a waste of time, money and space on your part, *Gateway* people. The man has nothing to say. I think you should have described him as "A basically normal guy who wants publicity."

And finally in response to the Executive of the

Education Students' Associations response to the seemingly slanderous headline quote, the oversensitivity displayed by taking offense is indicative of insecurity and more detrimental to your image than anything Woody Allen could have to say about you. And don't take your anger out on me for reading *The Gateway*... I only read it to feel a rush of superior intelligence and maturity. Doesn't everyone?

Elaine Palmer
Rehab. Med. IV.

Queen concerns

The Queen Mother and Prince Philip have honoured Alberta with summer visits.

The constitutional importance of Canada's Crown was emphasized after the recent Ontario election. PC Frank Miller advised Ontario's Lieutenant-Governor that the PC's hoped to govern when the Legislature resumed. On that basis, the Crown permitted Miller to meet the Legislature.

When Miller failed to win the first vote of confidence, Lieutenant-Governor Aird accepted Miller's letter of resignation and asked the Liberal leader if as Premier he could command the confidence of the House. The Queen's Representative has a clear duty to see that the Legislature has a chance to function.

The need for a politically neutral chief of state is imperative for the health of our democracy. The

Letters continue on pg. 5

The Gateway

Vol. 26, No. 7, Sept. 26, 1985

Editor in Chief: Suzette C. Chan
News Editors: Bill Doskoch, Ann Grever
Managing Intern: Mike Evans
Entertainment Editor: Dean Bennett
Sports Editor: Mark Spector
Photo Editor: Bill St. John
CUP Editor: Denise Whalen
Production Editor: Cindy Rozeboom
Advertising: Tom Wright
Media Supervisor: Margriet Tilroe-West
Circulation: George Onwumere

The *Gateway* is the newspaper of the University of Alberta students. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-In-Chief. All opinions are signed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Gateway*. News copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm 282 (ph. 432-5168). Advertising: Rm 256D (ph. 432-4241). Students Union Building, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G7. Readership is 25,000. The *Gateway* is a member of *Canadian University Press*.

"Let's start a cult!" cried Edna Landreville to Lutfulkabir Khan and Janine McDade. "But what shall we worship?" agonized Roberta Franchuk and Paul Simao. "Bunnies? Please? Can we worship bunnies?" begged Pernel Tarnowski, clinging to Suzanne Lundrigan's leg. "How about worshipping me?" suggested Gary Dhillon, who was promptly laughed at by James Macdonald and beaten out of the room by Kathleen Beechinor and Gilbert Bouchard. "I nominate Blaine Ostapovich for global dictatorship," screamed the frenzied Alex Miller. "Yay," said Tim Hellum. "Rah," shrieked Greg McHarg. And they rushed out to conquer the world, all except John Watson, who went home to bake some cookies.