

"Gateway asinine" says vp

The irresponsible journalism and asinine comments of the *Gateway* staff this year, have reduced the *Gateway's* credibility to heretofore unexplored depths. I resent the regular cheap shots you have taken at me since mid-October. However, your latest editorial (Jan. 10) has finally exhausted my generally good-natured demeanour.

Firstly, let us examine the source of your "facts." When I asked where you had received your information on the Cambodian situation, the reply from one of your cohorts was that he had read it in an English newspaper. Given the unlikely event that all you read in the paper is correct, by your own admission, a minimum of 1000 tons of food per day will be

needed to stave off starvation. Question. How many tons of food does 1000 or even 100,000 dollars supply? Obviously in this situation our discussion in terms of hundreds is of negligible consequence. Our gesture is simply that — a gesture.

Another of your "facts" was that most of the relief entering Cambodia had gone towards Vietnamese troops (from the U.S.S.R.) or to the Khmer Rouge troops (from the U.N.). How can you ask for relief money when by your own admission, it will likely fuel the war effort and merely add to the suffering. Perhaps your fascist tendencies are not as latent as you might believe?

Thirdly, you continually, querulously whimper that we, the

executive, do not represent students. Tell me Gordon, how does supporting a war among lesser developed countries represent our students? Rather it is your paper that does not cater to students. You just use it as a petty, political sounding board. For instance, at this same council meeting, I presented a final budget of great interest, or at least relevance to students. As usual — absolutely no mention!

You, Turtle, complain of executive neutrality on political issues. We're not neutral. We just don't believe in throwing the students' money away, and it is my job to point out when we are in danger of doing so. In fact, had we given the originally suggested \$1000, it would have had the effect of turning a break-even budget into a deficit budget.

Lastly, Mr. Turtle you have called the council a joke and abrogation of democracy. Well, this motion was amended and passed in full accordance of democratic principles and parliamentary procedures. I submit that it is not the council, but rather that rag you call the *Gateway*, which is the joke.

Anyway, I've got nothing against you for taking cheap shots at me. It is simply a reflection of the quality of your newspaper as well as your character.

Willie Gruber

More guns

Just before hitting the sack on Monday Dec. 15, I chanced to watch the report concerning the upgrading of the NATO weaponry. What I saw and heard made me wonder and tear at man's near future. The chief emphasis of the report concerned the replacement of relatively obsolete weaponry with long range nuclear armaments. The supporting argument focused on the need for powerful weaponry to provide bargaining power at SALT tables; more short term built ups, in hope for long term decreases. However, the differences that exist between the nations today turns this hope into wishful thinking.

Differences have always existed amongst men, gradually progressing from family to tribal, and now to international conflict. Where are we to go now as the world shrinks with advances in technology? There is no more room for the conflict! History shows that man gradually learns from error and to ask the world to resolve its differences today, is as to asking a bird to fly without the feathers of its experience. The future is thus grim and yet very bright; ultimately the greatest test in the history of mankind.

Just sit down and think about it! World unity is not a dream any more, but is now necessary for our survival. But let us get to the heart of the matter. The question does not merely concern Russia versus America, but includes all of our prejudices and hatred, and in the end it is your concern and mine. Are we ready to leave the nest of our differences and fly?

Jalal Mills
Sci 2

LETTERS

Letters to the *Gateway* should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and should include faculty, year and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters must be typed (or very neatly written). We reserve the right to edit for libel and length.

Lines Commemorating The Appearance Among Us of A New Harbinger of Reason and Impartiality: Occasioned by his august epistle of Dec. 4, 1979

I
What a source of joy sublime, there's a Voltaire in our midst!
Beware ye sons of pious souls, your'e a'gin the prince of wits!
No slick and silly superstition shall our modern sage deceive,
He rightly rails a'gin that Christ who taught men to believe.
In place of that old hackney'd code which spake of faith and love,
(Mere fantasies, we will agree, that the modern mind's above)
Our learned Lord hath to us giv'n, ah! grace on grace bestow'd
A newly fangl'd Revelation, wherein he be the Incarnation and
Wisdom's sole abode.

II
Yet, if thy mind encumber'd be with shades of dark suspicion
That Master Marples heralds not a modern dispensation,
A new Season of Reason, then kindly pilgrim upon his works
peruse;
Espy therein "the impartiality of approach" with which they be
diffus'd;
See in what marvellous mode his discerning mind doth machinate,
How indiscriminately, and blithely too!, all Faiths doth denigrate;
That religion of Christ, particularly, his scathing strokes abuse,
What simple blokes like Newton, Pope, and Thomas Aquinas
confus'd
For truth, the epitome of Philosophy, our iconoclastik Quixote,
Doth heroically choose to refuse.

III
Still, if proof ye desire of wayward Man's heady doubting tenor
Then know for sure within our midst connives the odd dissenter
Who values not, and scarce believes. Common-senses new
custodian
But rather finds within the mind of our self-confess'd historian
A tendency to rant and cant and an ego as bold as that Aryan
Savant's of old.

IV
What! Who? Let me assure ye, genteel reader, set your soul at ease,
I ne'er ha' cross'd with such a cad but speed'ly hasten'd the decease
Of his unbelief! I ratiocinate, circumnavigate, rattle and
reverberate
Our learned Master's lore. Urgently I echo his written words of
warning
That "religion narrows", faith fools, and be but fable, fears
adorning;
Then, by his history's varied vistas guided convenient it be to
behold
How all Faiths, both young and old, tried and trite, fit one mold;
Through such sound intellect, I then do show how love for the One
And fellow-man be but a sly sophistic sham — certainly suitable to
none
Who deign to follow this new Son.

Daniel DeFolio
Arts III



Quixote

by David Marples

One of the most noticeable features of the Seventies was the dramatic development of the mass media, which has obtained a hitherto unprecedented degree of control over our lives. In 1970, the average North American watched three hours of television per day. Ten years later, the figure has not only increased, but also both TV and radio are openly attempting to exercise a pervading influence upon the viewer/listener, to shape one's views and outlook, one's material and consumption needs.

This can be illustrated by TV commercials, which are fast becoming reduced to the most basic techniques of persuasion. One need only witness the Brick Warehouse advertisements to be convinced of this. Michael Bell reappears at ten minute intervals and simply shouts out the latest sale at the top of his voice. The increasing frequency of commercials may reflect the financial needs of the various TV networks. On the other hand they tend to promote a consumer-oriented society as more and more commodities become indispensable to the average housewife.

A second and perhaps more significant influence of television is the current pseudo-authoritative style of newsreading, especially on the American channels. Few critics dispute the superiority of the CBS news presentation hosted by Walter Cronkite, and indeed Walter seems a wise old sage. Having thumbed his way through a few selected news items over a twenty minute period, he invariably ends on the ludicrous note "And that's the way it is" followed by the date. We have thus reached the stage of "definitive" news reporting, that is, if one believes Walter.

Although Canadian news services offer a somewhat less pretentious interpretation, TV coverage of major events can still be misleading. All three political leaders utilized the benefits of TV exposure during the 1979 election campaign. Both Clark and Trudeau were able to give the impression of constantly being on the move, with the former usually shown descending the steps of some plane. Television answered the needs of Clark's campaign organizers, which were not to present their leader to the electorate, but rather to portray an image for public consumption. We may expect further development of this tendency towards deceiving the public, using television as a medium.

Radio has kept pace with television, particularly on the early morning programs. It is a rare household today which does not wake up with the transistor. The stations make efforts to outdo each other in slickness of presentation. Statistics indicate that most Edmontonians start the day with a phenomenon known as a "Wes Montgomery morning." The host however is overshadowed by his newscaster, who reads each item in one long nasal bellow, as though announcing the end of the world. Of course CHED is by no means unique, but it has perfected the techniques required to monopolize Edmonton broadcasting and the listener's constant attention.

This is achieved not merely by melodramatic newsreading, but by a variety of devices, designed to ensure that the radio station becomes an integral part of the day-to-day life. The public is encouraged to purchase T-shirts bearing the name of the station and to plaster their car with stickers. Others, no doubt, wait with bated breath for the singular honor of being named "Good Guy of the Day." More than ever before, the public are encouraged to phone in for competitions and album prizes, a process that might provide an interesting dialogue but for the tendency of both CHED and its rival CFRN, to treat the caller as if she/he were mentally defective.

The revolution in broadcasting which characterized the past two decades is not altogether lamentable. We have gained a closer acquaintance for example with international events which are relayed into our homes almost as they occur. For some, television and radio have become psychological props with which to face life's problems. We should recognize, however, that we are being subjected to a formidable form of control over our behavior and actions. One would hope that further expansion of media broadcasting in the Eighties will be accompanied by a corresponding responsibility to the public.

THE STUDENTS' UNION requires a GATEWAY EDITOR



The Editor-in-Chief shall:

- be responsible for supervising all aspects of the editing and producing of the *Gateway*.
- use his or her discretion as to what material is published in the *Gateway*.
- submit the annual budget for the *Gateway* to the Administration Board in compliance with By-Law 700.
- ensure the smooth operation of the Students' Union newspaper.

Salary: under review

For further information, please contact:

Gordon Turtle, Editor-in-Chief, *Gateway*, at 432-5168, or in Room 282 Students' Union Building.

Deadline for Applications:

22nd January, 1980, 5:00 PM, to Room 259, SUB