

EDITORIAL

Turkeys

Re: "They Need Your Designer Jeans" advertisement, in the Gateway, September 27; three responses in the Letters to the Editor page:

There is nothing humorous in knowing that there are starving people in this world. (Gateway October 4.)

K. Tkachuk
C. Dow
M. Wood

I can not believe you intellectual (?) people would publish such disgusting, hateful and sick an item as that. (Gateway, October 4.)

Sandy Rennie

As a student of literature, I have been trained in literary exegesis; if there is a message in this tasteless attempt at humour, I would be more than happy to be informed of it. (Gateway, October 6.)

Lisa Schnell

Lisa, this is your lucky day.

Starvation, you see, is a drag. Protein deprivation causes irreparable brain damage. Without food, the human body will consume itself. Moving becomes difficult. Important organs fall apart. Then you die. Given a choice, most people would rather not starve.

Everyone with me so far?

Good. Next step. Even though people don't like starving to death, many are. Millions. It has happened for many, many, years. But not to the same people, of course; you can only starve to death once. That's one of the rules.

Now, then. Concentrate very hard, and try and remember what you've just read while you continue reading. There are millions of other people in the world who have more than enough food for themselves. In fact, many of these people are so wealthy, they can afford to spend food-money on things like blowdryers, Perrier water, and designer blue-jeans.

OK. This is the clincher *All the millions of wealthy people know about the millions of starving people.* It's true. Their mothers told them so at the end of unfinished meals. Not only that, they're reminded of it on the buses, on TV, on the radio, and even in the newspapers.

And millions of people still starve to death. Can you say "grim irony"? I knew you could.

A few wealthy people *do* try to help - sometimes out of guilt, and sometimes out of generosity. But they are a very, very small minority compared to the number of people who could help. So small, in fact, that the situation is grossly absurd. Can you say "grossly absurd"? I knew you could.

The other wealthy people in the world are not deeply offended by people starving to death. That's why there are people starving to death. They are accustomed to this. However, now and then, something they just can't ignore jolts them out of their complacency and *reminds* them there are people starving to death. This is upsetting. It makes them think.

It doesn't make them think enough, however. Instead of becoming outraged at the fact people are starving in a world of plenty, they vent their spleens on those who remind them of it. I don't know why, Lisa. I just asked my Exegesis and it coked out. Maybe yours can figure something out.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Greg Harris

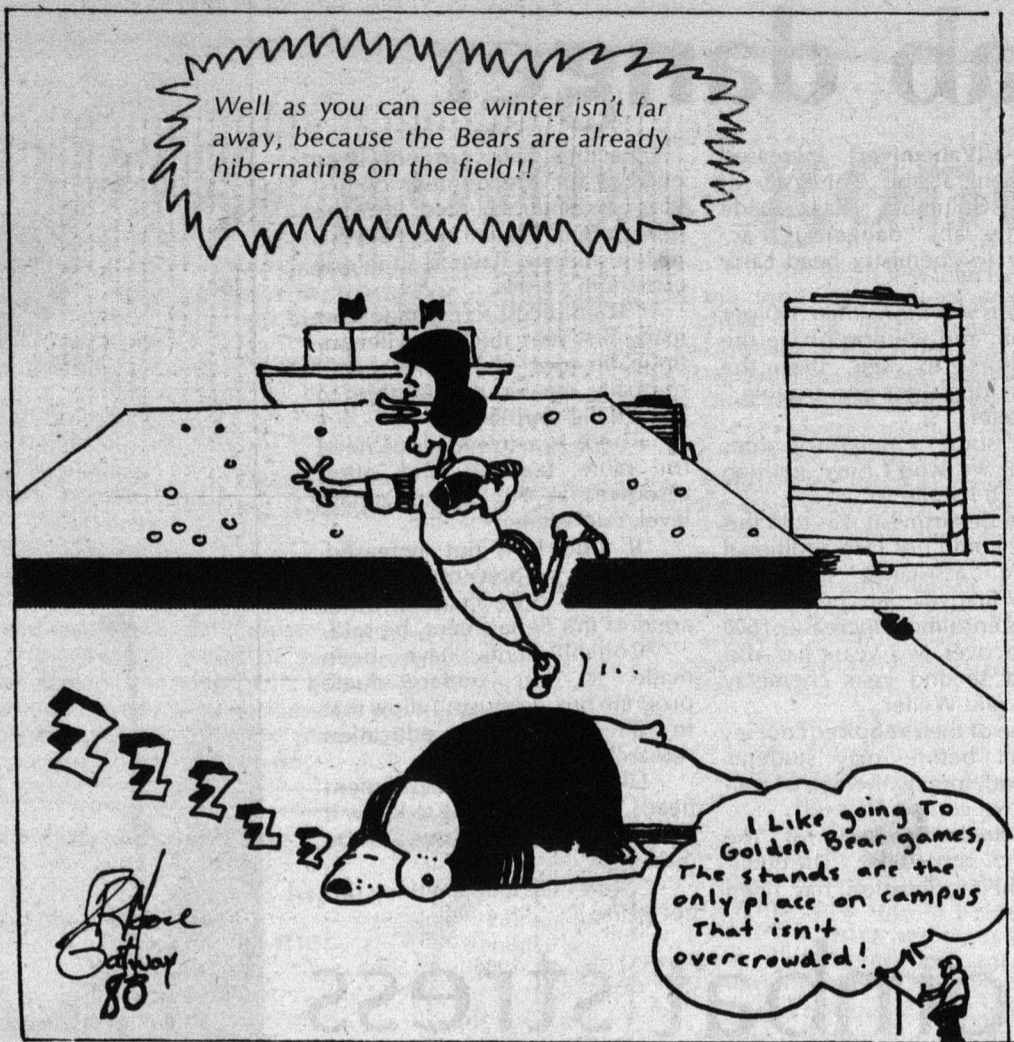
Martin Beales, the Gateway co-photo-editor in September, leaves for London, England, today. Martin joined the Gateway two years ago and quickly learned the intricacies of student newspapers in general and photo-journalism in particular. He ended up as one of the finest photographers the Gateway has ever seen. We wish Martin all the best in his future endeavours. We'll miss him.

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Staff this Issue

Jim told Ann Grever that strong women offended him. Sharon Pickett claimed nude magazines offended her womanhood. "Yeah," said Kevin Arthur, "those guys offend my manhood." Shane Berg told Brenda Waddle that she offended him, and Nate LaRoi shouted that pop music offended him. Patrice Struyk claimed she found ethnic jokes offended her and Cheryl Parsons replied that people without a sense of humour offended her. Cameron Mills told Bonnie Zimmerman that liberals offended him and Jordan Peterson shouted that nothing offended him except Richard Watts. "Richard Watts!" they all shouted with shock and horror, "he offends everyone!"

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« **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR** »

Ad's message dangerous

I have just finished reading our beloved student rag of September 27, 1983 and I am now fully convinced that it is, quite literally, a rag. In fact, dear editor, you might well consider it a compliment if someone was to clean up a mess with your "newspaper" (and I do use the term lightly). I refer, of course, to your advertisement appearing on page twelve which is nothing short of appalling and also, I might add, something of a personal academic challenge. As a student of literature I have been trained in literary exegesis; if there is a message in this tasteless attempt at humour I would be more than happy to be informed of it.

Lisa Schnell
Arts IV

Impressive lampoonwork

As a long-time connoisseuse of the satiric ads (and a fan of GAMES magazine's "Fake Ads"), I very much enjoyed reading the "Jean the Gooks" spoof. I found it a fine piece of lampoonwork, striking cleaning at its targets, and neither vicious nor over-subtle. All in all, an excellent and economical effort deserving of encores.

However, it seems that there are a number of people on campus who can't tell a lampoon from a lumbago attack, much less figure out which way up to hang the thing. At least, this is the impression I received from the several pained and appalled letters that they wrote in reaction to the "ad". If I could spare the time, I would offer these poor people tutoring in High Humour Appreciation, with special attention given to satire in all its forms.

Unfortunately, I can not spare the time, and so must leave them to St. Jude.

Kathleen Moore
Business III

Managing Editor's note: St. Jude is the patron saint of lost causes.

Ernie and Jens: together again

I've got a couple of opinions to express regarding the Sept. 29 Gateway. I would like to begin with the more trivial matter first.

Ernest Braithwaite III (you mean that there are two more of him?! Oh, no!) claims he admires "the finer things of life." Does this exclude proper punctuation and capitalization of written language? For example, *three* sentences were written by his highness which should have been immediately followed by question marks not periods. At least that

was the way I was taught to punctuate a request.

Mr. Braithwaite also wrote that he wished to form "some sort of Military Training Club." Since he referred to this club in a general sense, i.e. not *the* Military Training Club, the capitalized letters should have been written in lower case. And let us not forget that in "Weimar republic," both words should have been capitalized. We should prevent his magnificence from insulting the entire campus at least until he can do it correctly.

Whelp aside, I would also like to respond to Jens Andersen's Chopping Block. You will recall that he claimed the "advertisement" was satirizing designer jeans. Pure crap. A glancing eye would recognize it as an advertisement for the Christian Children's Fund or some other such organization. In fact, in the "sales pitch", designer jeans take a definite back seat to "bony little limbs" and starving kids who "bend to pick a scrap, crawl for cover, or curl up in convulsions." Even Mr. Andersen must find the "Crying, Dying, Day or Night, Foster Jean Relief Fund has the look that's right." moto in poor taste. I am sure the "advertisement" cost the Gateway some money. It would have been better spent on helping the "gooks" you think are so funny. No one is perfect, Jens. We won't respect you any less if you admit your mistake. Who knows? We might even respect you more.

Warren Opheim
Arts II

Libraries close for holiday

As the University buildings will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Monday, October 10, all libraries will be closed unless otherwise posted on location.

Peter Freeman, Chief Librarian
and Director of Libraries

What you do in the water closet is your own business

I think it is quite disgusting to print that kind of advertisement and letter that you published on September 27th. I am referring to the letter by Eugene Changey and the ad on page 12 of that issue.

Since I think that kind of thing is completely myopic and downright silly I will no longer read the Gateway and I will tell all my friends not to either. I think I will go to the watercloset and allow my esophagus to peristalt (backwards). I will also flush all future copies of the Gateway that I can lay my hands on at the same time.

Bob Letts
Science I