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the usual letters on 'negro' and 'nigger' and a message for uncle ernie. also a couple of special ones—a letter from hogtown and a letter from michener park married students' housing. if you don't see your letter here, be patient. we only have so much space, and lots of letters.

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a nothing letter from nothing people

A few weeks ago, Casserole editor Ronald Yakimchuk sent questionnaires out to 15 campuses in Canada. The questionnaires were sent in an effort to obtain information for a feature on student representation on various university boards, and student power in general. Here is the reply we got from The Varsity, University of Toronto. We run it not because it is really a notable letter, but because it is an excellent illustration of just how petty some people can be.

Dear Sir:

Regarding the information on the extent of student power on this campus which you recently requested—since The University of Alberta has withdrawn from the Canadian Union of Students, we feel it is not advisable to supply such information. The president of the Students' Administrative Council, Tom Faulkner, has declined to supply our reporter with the information for this reason.

Sincerely,
Donni Bohnen
Cable Editor
The Varsity

letters

don't believe nothin'

Comments on "Students . . . Slavery", Jan. 26 Casserole, by Jerry Farber, Professor of English, Cal State.

I for one don't care whether the students computered into my classes don't believe half the—(supply your own four-letter noun) I say there or not, as long as those students also agree not to believe half the—(same noun, please) printed in The Gateway. Especially when it is written by English professors.

R. Wiebe
Dept. of English

a fundamental illogicality

As one of the slavedrivers, I was interested to read "Student as Nigger" in last week's "Casserole". Perhaps your excision of its more shocking phrases reduced the emo-

tive force of its language, and so you may have performed a useful service. By stripping off some of its power to make us blush, you have bared its fundamental illogicality.

Mr. Farber's rhetoric exploits a common weakness in thinking; we are all inclined to generalize from insufficient evidence, to jump to conclusions; and Mr. Farber invites us to do so. From his own experience (Trust me), he describes in colorful circumstantial detail some eight or nine, he bids us conclude that typical academics (all eight or nine) are stupid, fearful bundles of neurosis, who enslave their students by giving them orders, and who perpetuate the cycle of slavery by persuading or compelling red-blooded vital youth into their own anemic image.

Now the last thing I want to assert is that my colleagues and I are utterly the reverse of his eight or nine examples. Teaching, like other walks of life, numbers among its professors stupid, weak, foolish

people. In a group of 1,000 or so, it would be surprising indeed if some were not sick in the head or the heart, foolish, dictatorial, longwinded, dull, vicious, unimaginative, unjust, fearful. All of us being subject to headaches and hangovers, in any group of 1,000 or so all are eventually going to be dull, foolish, dictatorial, and so on. But from these undeniable truths, clear to anybody with eyes, ears, and a mind, to infer that all 1,000, if professors, will be frightened castrati cowering students so as to hide or compensate for their eunuch condition—this is no more reasonable than to counter the assertion by the other assertion that all professors are mentes sani in corporibus sanis and who says otherwise is lying in his teeth. We readily identify the absurdity of the latter statement. What a pity that we do not see the equal absurdity hiding in Mr. Farber's typical examples.

Perhaps Mr. Farber has been dismayed to find that professors are not all-wise philosopher kings (Pla-

to's model). If so, we should pity him his surfeit of idealism. But what can alone save him from the charge of demagoguery is the suspicion that his own outburst of emotional language has done for him what it is supposed to do for others—to rouse the passions and lay the critical reason in a stupor on the floor. As any observant student knows, his typical professors are mini-truths. And to present partial truths as universal truths is dishonest if intentional and dumb if the reverse; the sort of things Mr. Farber's hideous professors do daily. By writing his article, I fear, Mr. Farber has enshrined himself as horrible example number ten.

Jean MacIntyre
Department of English

the great hypocrisy

I write this letter with a degree of disdain towards the present Alberta government (as represented by Premier Manning) and towards the narrow-minded people who have elected it.

The essence of my argument lies in Mr. Manning's absolute hypocrisy which he adequately demonstrated during his address to the students on Jan. 31 in the students' union building theatre.

During his speech, Mr. Manning advocated the development of the "ideal" person as being superior to the development of the "ideal" society. His subsequent answer to a question, asked by me, which opposed this view, was almost so ludicrous as it was hypocritical. In his answer (obviously avoiding the question or demonstrating his misunderstanding of the word "ideal") he opposed a group of people imposing their ideas upon other people.

Here shone the great hypocrisy! One has simply to consider Mr. Manning's impositions on individual morals (i.e. censorship) of the people of Alberta.

And please. Let not the ignorant cry arise—"the people have elected him (Mr. Manning) and are thus in favor of the impositions."

Although this cry may hold true considering our Alberta society as a whole, it certainly does not echo the views of the few intelligent who refute such impositions on their morality.

And it was Mr. Manning, shining in his full glory, who stated the superiority of development of the individual to that of society.

Jon Malinowski
arts 2

bloody awful

I certainly feel bloody awful over Roland Joseph, ed 4, being "cut to the quick" (Gateway letter, Jan. 30) over the use of the word "negroes" in a short short.

I hesitate to imagine his reaction when he hears such individuals as Martin Luther King Jr. refer to themselves as negro. Surely Roland Joseph must realize the absurdity of referring to each individual racial-national group every time it becomes necessary to address everyone with black skin.

It appears he is very sensitive and embarrassed by his membership in a small racial minority on this campus. If such is the case, I suggest that perhaps he should enroll at an institution of higher learning in a place such as Leopoldville where he will feel more at home. I'm certain such childish remarks as his cannot be tolerated by either individuals with white or black skin.

Ray Pratt
comm 3

a letter from michener park

It has long been Gateway policy to run only signed letters. If a person isn't willing to associate himself with his statement, accusation, or whatever, then it probably isn't worth running.

Last week, however, we received a letter from a Michener Park student. The letter was signed, but the writer was afraid that if his name was published, it would "make things quite unpleasant" for him. It is unfortunate that such a situation should exist, but it does. We have therefore decided to respect his wishes, and run the letter anyway.

—The Editors

In a recent editorial comment on the proposed rent increase at Michener Park, The Gateway suggests that the residents ought to start demanding some answers. I agree, but unfortunately getting good answers is much easier said than done. I can assure you that many questions have in fact been asked, many times over, but answers have been sadly lacking.

Mr. Bone, in his unwillingness to admit to some rather obvious blunders, has become a master of that ancient and thoroughly disgusting art of "passing the buck." His latest "answer" regarding the rent increase is a prime example of his deftness at diverting attention away from himself and placing the blame with others. Rents must be increased, he self-righteously proclaims, because that nasty organization, The University of Alberta, stubbornly insists that Michener Park be financially self-sustaining. What utter rubbish! The university's position in this regard was made clear long before construction at Michener Park had even begun. Why has it now suddenly made an 18% rent increase imperative? This is clearly a case of poor planning, and Mr. Bone ought to admit it. His vain attempts to wash his hands of things gone

awry is an insult to our intelligence.

To make us feel better, Mr. Bone states that anyone who succeeds in renting a two bedroom apartment on the commercial market for less than \$130 is lucky. What kind of double-talk is this? Isn't Michener Park's very raison d'être to provide married students with accommodation which rents for significantly less than commercial housing? Someone goofed, Mr. Bone. You know it, we know it, everybody knows it. So why don't you admit it? What good does increased floor space do if students can't afford it?

But the matter of increased rents is only one instance of faulty planning, no doubt the most serious, but certainly not the only one. Why is it, for example, that some tenants who were scheduled to move in at Michener Park were advised to give the mandatory 30-day notice to their previous landlord, and then ended up storing their furniture and living in a motel for two weeks or more because the apartment at Michener Park was not yet ready? And after we finally got moved in, why weren't the drapes installed for another two weeks or more?

Mr. Bone's typical buck-passing answer to these questions (and many others like them) was

that the contractor had failed to deliver on time. But isn't someone getting paid to see to it that the contractor does deliver on time? Did anyone ever check to see whether the contractor's promises were realistic and likely to be fulfilled? Why wasn't a penalty clause included in the contract to prevent late delivery? Blaming other people works for a while, but then the credibility gap becomes just too wide.

Mr. Bone's projected figures indicate that he plans to spend \$7,000 for window washing and janitor service. If this figure is based on past expenditures, I'd like to ask him how come most of the apartments were so filthy that the floors had to be scrubbed with SOS pads? How come we had to clean our own windows, and how come the ones that could not be reached without a ladder have never yet been cleaned? Has anyone ever ascertained that these costly services were in fact satisfactorily rendered?

And while I'm at it, I have another bone to pick (Ha, Ha — ecch!). Once notice has been given to a landlord, the tenant must vacate his apartment by midnight of the last day of the month, and theoretically his right to inhabit his new quarters becomes effective just after midnight of the first day of the next month. Now no one likes to move at midnight, and so tenants usually occupy newly-rented accommodation sometime during the last day of the month. Legally this means that the new landlord can charge you rent for that day. But how many actually do so? I have moved more often than enough, but it wasn't until we moved into Michener Park that we were charged for an additional day's rent for mov-

ing in before midnight of the last day of the month. And this after numerous delays and postponements stretching over a period of months. Unscrupulous commercial landlords indeed!!

But wait, Mr. Bone can "explain" everything. "You didn't really move into a Michener Park apartment on the last day of the month. You moved into a motel because your apartment was not yet ready, and since we paid the motel bill, it's only fair that we should charge you for the first night's rent." Again the real issue has not-so-cleverly been avoided. Why were we forced to move into a motel in the first place, pray tell? Mr. Bone thinks he is being very generous by paying the motel bill, but shelling out a month's rent of \$110 and then spending two weeks of that month in a grubby two room motel, living a temporary existence, is not exactly what I'd call a bargain. Incidentally, Mr. Bone's project-budget makes no mention of payment to motels. Perhaps it is included in the "contingencies" category, but it would be interesting to know how much this little case of poor planning cost us. It must be a pretty penny.

May I conclude this exercise in catharsis by posing one final question. It it really necessary for two Michener Park apartments to be occupied by non-student personnel? One may be justifiable, but I seriously doubt that two are necessary. Michener Park was built for students, and there are students waiting to get in, though at \$130 per month they may have cause to reconsider—that's 53% higher than the original estimate of \$85!!

A Michener Park Resident