

gateway

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EDITORIAL

Righters or writers

Can you judge a man
By the way he speaks or spells?
Is this more important
Than the story that he tells?
Mister, you're a better man than I. — The Yardbirds

Of late the *Gateway* has come under attack for a variety of sins.

Several letters have been received which have criticized our editors for their lack of grammatical form, for what I would term technical errors.

I think proper construction is important, but I feel it is secondary to what is primary (naturally). What is primary is what is being said. Ideas.

I do enjoy the congratulatory letters from our readers for "the invention of a new grammatical form!" (if only because our creative nature is being appreciated). I find it amusing that Jens Andersen's comments on biblical issues are maligned as the stupidity of a quack, because he has supposedly misnumbered a commandment, or not used the proper name for God. I stand all amazed that our chief editor is thusly judged. An absolutely appallingly poor command of even the most basic and obvious rules of grammar far outweighs his dismal efforts at intelligent comment and is an intense embarrassment to the undersigned, the *Gateway*, and the university in general. And why? Because a typographical error in one sentence featured two verb tenses.

I must wonder, however, at the intelligence level of those who would seem to presume that pointing out technical errors somehow invalidates the message. How naive. Or perhaps I am naive, in presuming they are even interested in what is said.

But this technician's kind of attitude seems to pervade this university in general. I vividly recall a fellow student poring over a paper searching for grammatical crimes against humanity.

The reason? For each error the professor deducted one full stanza. Now that's how to study English!

Would to God that student and professor judged said paper for congruency of thought, for expressiveness, for communication etc., etc.

A case point is the late Ma Murray, who gained an international reputation as a journalist, not on her word-perfect command of English, but rather for her outspoken opinions.

No, dear reader, I much prefer letters that attack our paper for its contents. Missives that bewail this or that attitude, or that attack us for lack of coverage, are much more refreshing. They indicate, to me, that this paper is being read and considered. And is therefore of some value.

But let it never be said that the *Gateway* does not extend the hand of fellowship to all who would become involved in our fine production. For those of a contemplative, reflective nature perhaps you would like to do a story, or at least continue to write us. For those who would correct our grammar (or the numbering of our sins) — well, we can always use proofreaders.

Jim Miller

Surrealistic cantata with flowing multilevel images

Re: THE WALL. I agree with most of Mark Roppel's comments (Sept. 28) and recommend the film to anyone who likes surrealistic art. It is impossible for photography or painting to compete with your previous mental imagery if you like the album. The mind is a supreme video-instrument. So you should be prepared to not like some of what you see in the film.

The Wall is a surrealistic cantata. For you older folks who pretend not to like loud sounds, the appropriate sound level is cantata loud, below the dB-rattling level required for the appreciation of Heavy Metal music. If you have the luck to be able to listen to

all 83 minutes of the records without the intrusive sound of someone closing a door or flushing a toilet or asking you a question, you will find it to contain multilevel images that flow and change, but retain a central theme. The image changes are sometimes in rapid sequence, as in Dylan Thomas's poetry. In any such work, if you don't find a theme yourself, the one someone else found won't lead you to appreciation.

A subplot on the record that was generally missed in North American, and probably also within the sound of Bow Bells in East London, was the change of accent in the school scene. The students' complaint was in-

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NEWS ITEM: U.S. OFFERS TO PUT CANADIAN IN SPACE BY 1984.



ONE SMALL STEP FOR SPACE TRAVEL... A GIANT LEAP FOR CANADIANS!

« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

Supplement not for fund-raising

I noticed a report in the 30 September issue of *Gateway* to the effect that members of the Students' Union Council have questioned the propriety of President Greenhill

greeting the people of Alberta in the *Edmonton Journal* supplement of 26 September. Specifically, it appears that Council members have seen a relationship between the supplement

and a brochure issued by the Office of Fund Development entitled "What We Do Affects You."

The relationship is simply this: our 75th Anniversary theme is "Scholarship and Innovation: What We Do Affects You."

The *Edmonton Journal* supplement, prepared by the Office of Community Relations, was not related in any way to fund raising; its sole purpose was to inform readers about the University and to thank the people of Alberta for their support during the last seventy-five years.

Inasmuch as well over sixty percent of our full-time student body is drawn from the metropolitan region of Edmonton, it seemed entirely appropriate that President Greenhill be invited to participate. It is a shame that his participation has been misunderstood.

C.J. Simpson
Acting Director
Office of Community Relation

God and math at U of A

The *Gateway* must be admired for their sense of humour in allowing such quacks as Jens Andersen to print his stupidity. You gave him ample rope.

The latin word for six is sex, and sex is what the sixth commandment of the decalogue is all about. The seventh commandment deals with justice.

The word 'Jehovah' is not a valid word; it is a mistaken transliteration by some illiterate translators. Critical translations of the Bible do not use that word to designate the name of God. If you want to know what name of God is used, look it up!

Jens, why don't you do some honest scholarship before you unload your mouth. I might agree with you completely about Winkie Pratney if you weren't so damn silly about it.

With every best wish
Ron MacDonald, Arts

Managing Editors note: The sixth commandment (Gen. 20:13) is "You

shall not kill." The seventh is "You shall not commit adultery." Being a professional paranoid I checked the numbering beforehand.

Having heard of Kurt Vihvelby's that *avant-garde* jazz pianist (whose name I forget), and realizing what the initials of Dylan J. John Wesley Harding signify, I am quite aware of the proper Hebrew name for God. However I am also partial to archaic words like "Jehovah" and "invalud" words like "God" or "Dien". When in Germany I will do as the Germans do, and sing "Ein Feste Berg Ist Unser Gott" and the bell with proper Hebrew.

Sun is simply rotten

In his editorial, "Orange vs. green", Andrew Watts implies that because the *Edmonton Journal* has gone downhill, the Sun has somehow become a good newspaper. This kind of half-baked logic seems to be typical of his editorial style. Inadequate logic, however, might not be his worst journalistic fault. An absolutely appallingly poor command of even the most basic and obvious rules of grammar far outweighs his dismal efforts at intelligent comment and is an intense embarrassment to the undersigned, the *Gateway*, and the university in general. One wonders how an individual who cannot even manage to maintain consistent verb tenses in a single sentence can summon the audacity to begin to rate other journalistic endeavors.

Let us set the record straight. A rigid format and familiarity with such hardly qualify as standards by which to judge newspapers. Get serious. How can "cheekiness" belong anywhere when such "cheekiness" includes consistent and revolting sexist, racist,

anti-labor, militarist, tasteless, and reactionary stories, editorials and photographs? Does being in the Sun make these things alright? Do they belong anywhere? Mr. Watts seems to think so, or at least states that he does. No. Mr. Watts, the alleged demise of the *Journal* is quite irrelevant to the fact that the Sun is simply a rotten newspaper. Even the complete disappearance of the *Journal* would not alter this fact.

And let us not whine about the sports section. One page of sports without Terry Jones is far better journalistically than an entire section with him. By virtue of this fact alone, the sports pages of the *Journal* have effected a tremendous improvement.

Get with it Mr. Watts. If you do not improve, do us all a favor and follow the aforementioned Mr. Jones to a newspaper whose quality is perfectly compatible with your own journalistic skills.

Ken Flater
Randy Gurlock
Arts

There's lots of money in the trust fund to bribe all you voters," said Peter Loughheed. "Send me Alan Alda by Priority Post," said Heather-Ann Laird. "And Robert Redford too," exclaimed Terry Lynn Paugaard. "A billion dollars can't buy the time I need," muttered Igor Gavanski. "Then I'll take it," chimed Zane Harker. "How about hiring an assassin to get rid of some of those letter-writers," countered Brent Cullman. But, Martin Bales, Stacy Bertles, and the ghost of John Algard just looked at the layout pages in disgust and chanted "20,000 beers is all we need."