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## MORE LETTERS

### Antolin is not amused

I was interested to read a letter from Ms. Burke of the WRCUP published in the same issue of the Gateway (February 14) with an editorial by Mr. Watts. Ms. Burke's letter cited violations (sic) by the Gateway, especially in relation to sexism; Mr. Watt's editorial responded with a defense of Gateway practices and humor, finishing the column with a suggestion that Ms. Burke copulate with trees if she finds the Gateway not funny. Are we students at Alberta (sic) to read that for any of us who aren't amused by Gateway humor?

Actually, what really vexed me on reading the exchange is that the Gateway staff seems impervious to any sort of criticism, even from external (sic) ("sic" inserted by Antolin) reviewers. One would think, that with the number of criticisms and abuses leveled at the Gateway, there would be some sort of self-examination. Of course there has been none.

Despite its bitter sarcasm, Mr. Watts' editorial is not amusing. If anything, its haughty tone is typical of the utter lack of sensitivity and taste which the Gateway tries to pass off as "humor." Has it occurred to the Gateway staff that criticism might indicate that the paper is sick, and not that its readers aren't able to appreciate it? As a group, you should be grateful that someone cares about the quality of our university's newspaper. That gratitude should be returned to the readers with a quality news service. Naturally, that should include a fair smattering of humor, but please don't confuse humor and poor taste. It's a good thing that you are subsidized, because if you had to sell the Gateway to students to earn the privilege to call yourselves a newspaper, you would be standing in the dole queues with the rest of Alberta's unemployed.

However, this letter is not entirely without hope (sic!), for there is (sic) a time when Mr. Watts will be down the hall in SUB in the offices of the Students' Union. We can only hope that Mr. Watts' successor will not be a Watts clone, and will replace Mr. Watts' style of humor with some sincerity (sic) and integrity. As for Mr. Watts, is there any hope that he will leave his sneering arrogance in the hallway somewhere in the hallway between the Gateway and the post of VP External in the Students' Union?

Michael Antolin, Zoology

### Insulting the slaughtered

The Findings of the Kahan Commission are disappointing but not surprising. The Commission finds the Israeli Government only "indirectly" responsible for the September massacres in Sabra and Shatila when clearly the man who hires an assassin is no less guilty than he who pulls the trigger. The Israeli Government must share equal responsibility with the Phalange militiamen for the horrors of last September.

Furthermore, Ariel Sharon's continued participation in the Begin government is an insult to those who were slaughtered and their surviving relatives, not to mention a travesty of justice. The notion that justice has been served merely by conducting an inquiry is absurd. It is clear that the Kahan Commission was only a vehicle to convince the international community that Israelis are a moral people. Ironically, it is the truly moral segment of Israeli society, led by the Peace Now Movement, which finds the recent developments in Israel most disturbing.

What we now have is a "redemption" in Israel, providing her supporters the opportunity to reaffirm their blind support for a nation which for the last 35 years has denied as entire people, the Palestinians, their basic human rights. Praised by the democratic process in Israel!

What is *democratic* about:

- 1) the brutal invasion of a neighboring country?
- 2) the mass murder of 20,000 innocent civilians?
- 3) the denial of medical supplies, water and power to civilian sections of a city under seige (especially during attempted negotiations)?
- 4) the indiscriminate slaughter of 800 innocent civilians who had been guaranteed the security of their refugee camps?
- 5) 9 months of occupation in Lebanon?
- 6) a demand to build and maintain military installations (listening posts) in an illegally occupied country?
- 7) violations of human rights on the West Bank and Gaza Strip?
- 8) 16 years of occupation on the West Bank and Gaza Strip?
- 9) the on-going denial of resettlement to the displaced indigenous population of Palestine?

**Question:** If the German Government of 1940 had held an inquiry into any of the massacres of that era, would the world have accepted a mere cabinet shuffle as evidence of a vibrant Nazi democracy?

Karen Hamdon, for  
Concerned Canadians For Lebanon

### Absentee carrell hogs

In the past few weeks there has been an increase in students studying in the libraries on campus. This means it is more difficult to find a place to study. I am writing to complain about those students who use unassigned study carrells and tables in the library to leave their coats and books while they go off to do something else.

While wandering through the library, looking for an available carrell, I often see one that appears empty, only to find a coat and bookbag there when I get closer. This happens repeatedly, and is especially annoying when there's no evidence that books have even been taken out of the bag.

Yesterday, after 15 minutes, I found an empty carrell, where I studied for four hours. The carrell next to mine held a coat and some books, but I did not see the student to whom they belonged until 3

and a half hours later when he came by to pick up his belongings. Many students had come by during that time looking for a place to study. This seems to be a ridiculous and frustrating waste of study space.

Today, it is the same story. In the area where I'm studying, there are many carrells "saved" with books and coats, but otherwise without occupants. I realize that taking time to look for books or take a short coffee break is only reasonable, but what excuse is there when students leave for hours?

Is there no way of monitoring this waste of study space?

S. Smith, Social Welfare IV

### How to right wrongs

I suppose that Klaus Barbie, from his cell in France, is finding the latest news from Assam, Indian useful to his defense.

Hundreds of people killed in racial violence, most of them women and children.

What does one do about that sort of thing? Hundreds of innocent people are dead. Due to the primitive state of our current medical technology, nothing can be done about this.

The relative abundance of certain racial groups has been altered. *This we can fix.*

Bringing to justice those who have perpetrated this massacre, even if the death penalty were available, is essential but in itself does not solve this problem. Their children still live, to have more children.

The men who have lost their wives and children: enable them to continue having the children they would have had if their wives were not murdered, and replacements for the children they have lost.

How? Well, there is artificial insemination. The only question is finding volunteers. After all, in a country where women have not yet achieved the measure of equality they have here, we cannot hold them responsible for the actions of their husbands.

Also, the widows of the rampaging tribesmen have the shortcoming that they too belong to the aggressor racial group, and children they produce naturally will only be 50 per cent effective in reversing the genocide that has taken place.

Since the women who were murdered have also been deprived of their right to contribute genetic material to the next generation, more advanced techniques, such as cloning, are really required.

But this is never how the world deals with genocide.

Let us take Nigeria, for example. That country is somewhat on the defensive whenever its civil war is brought up. To proclaim "We are one country now" seems to imply that those Ibo who complain about past events are not welcome; that is how it sounds to me.

But if one could ask: "Since you agree that the killings of Ibos before and during the Nigerian civil war were wrong, what steps have you taken to restore the relative proportion of Ibos to non-Ibos in your country to its value before these wrong things took place?" you might be asked what sort of steps you proposed.

"Well, perhaps a population control program. Only one child would be permitted per non-Ibo family until racial balance was restored."

It would not be necessary for the person you confronted to react angrily. Such a policy could not be enforced; it would only result in more violence. The majority of Nigerians even before the unpleasantness were not Ibos, thus approval of such a policy could not be democratically obtained.

Perhaps someday idealistic young German women will have the opportunity to rent their wombs to Israel. But, in general, the difficulty of keeping the peace is so great that the quest for justice is put on the back shelf.

Two recent incidents, one that of a group of people who blocked the road through their town to law-abiding, tax-paying logging truck drivers, and the other that of a group of people who through intimidation took over an auction sale and thus bought for unfairly low prices the articles offered for sale, come to mind.

Yes, I am fudging things a little. Doesn't justice also have something to do with the way Native people have been mistreated, or how farmers are being driven out of business?

But we must take the police at their word. They know they have no business acting as a surrogate social conscience for the nation; that right belongs to Parliament. They simply exercise "restraint". The only way a handful of police can impose their will on a large, unruly crowd is by shedding blood. This arouses controversy, and is not good for one's career position.

We actively choose to spend tax money on housing criminals in jail, even though they could be executed, decreasing the hazard they present to the general public, in a world where entirely innocent children starve to death.

You have stolen \$100,000? And caused about \$500,000 of damage in doing it? And cost the police about \$150,000 to catch up with you?

We have these gold mines that aren't being used — silicosis, you see. Now, if you manage to earn us \$750,000 by working there, we may let you go free. Naturally, if you take sick and stop being profitable before that time, we'll just shoot you. Oh yes, I almost forgot the extra \$1,000 for this trial, and the extra 300 per cent for all the crooks we don't catch.

Imagine the protests, the comparisons with Nazi brutality. How else do we extract any significant amount of money from the typical fellow who can do nothing better than steal? There is no sadistic revenge here, just simple justice; those of us who don't go around robbing banks shouldn't have to pay for the problems it causes.

Vengeance is not productive. But the lack of even an approach to justice (what fraction of the cost of resurrecting his victim from the dead should a murderer pay?) is discouraging to those of us who try to respect the rights of others.

John Savard