

FOURUM FIVE



Questions

Mr. V. Thakur's "analysis" of the coup in Chile does no honor to himself, to scholarship, and least of all to the memory of Dr. Allende. I will not attempt to unravel the contorted argumentation of his philippic at length, but will only question the statement he made that "now we can safely say that in order for us to have a socialist state, violent revolutions are necessary." It is striking that Mr. Thakur refers to "we" and "us" without telling the reader what group he represents. For whom does he speak? For the people of Chile? For the peasants? For the Marxists? For the housewives? Or simply for a few disgruntled intellectuals? Does this represent the considered opinion of some celestial soviet?

Even more serious than this referential ambiguity is the logical exercise by which the claim is made that the only path to socialism is violent revolution. How am I to interpret that? Should I concede that socialist countries which have not had violent revolutions are not socialist? Or is the converse, that violent revolutions must lead to socialism, to be accepted? And worse, it seems that Mr. Thakur is ready to advocate the adoption of methods in order to achieve his goals that he himself would call fascist if employed by his opponents. Because the problems in Chile and elsewhere are great does not mean that the only way to solve them is to plunge nations into war.

No, Mr. Thakur, the simplistic analysis you have provided is a disappointing demonstration of intellectual irrelevance. A reform ideology

Withholding fees

The Comptroller
The University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is the payment for the first term's instruction fee and general fee excluding the payment of \$31 for the Students' Union. I am withholding this fee until the students council votes on a statement of support for Dr. Morgentaler and the Edmonton Defense Committee.

If students council supports Dr. Morgentaler and the Committee I do not wish to be a member of this Students' Union or in any way support its resolution financial or otherwise. My action is based on the belief that human life is sacred, that the human fetus is a unique and distinct person and as such the mother of this fetus has no right to violate the right to life of this fetus.

I hope that you will respect my position.

Guy Milner

which loses sight of the people it is supposed to help and of the ills it seeks to cure demonstrates itself as bankrupt, and does as much harm to the cause as the bullets of reactionaries. In short, Erst kommt das Fressen, und dann die Ideologie.

Yours,
Arnd Bohm

This ish: Terri Jackson attacked; questioning Thakur's analysis; a disgruntled student kicks out at SU; the abortion argument continues; and more about Jesus freaks.

Wrong title?

Dear Terri Jackson,

With regard to your column "Coping with the System", from the Sept. 20 issue may I suggest that its title is amiss and it really should have been called "Widening the Abyss". To cope with any kind of problem calls for objective analysis of the actual problems, not adding to the we-they syndrome with subjective assumptions and irresponsible statements concerning where and how the hierarchy on campus begins or ends.

The fact that most deans of faculties are men does mean that they are the natural enemies of both women and students in general. To state that these people have rule-bound minds strikes me as bordering on the slanderous. That they are subject to rules themselves seems to have gone unnoticed by you. In addition I know from personal experience that at least in the Faculty of Education, the dean is open to unique cases and individual circumstances. However, I also know that in order for this to be, one has to know some of the basic ways of approaching and being approachable. Waving a red flag and attacking his nose with a sharp spear has no better results with a dean than any other "enemy".

There is a difference between explaining the case and biasing it with bitterness; the first may be a step forward for creative change but the second is great fuel for losing the whole battle. The same amount of energy which you utilized for your biased approach could have been put to constructive use in adequately outlining the structure of our system and supplying real skills and tools for actually coping with it, that would be beneficial to the students in general. Or is this not your purpose? Are you more interested in your vested position and can it only be maintained by controversy whether or not that

No classifications

I am writing in reply to the letter which appeared under the caption 'Jesus People' in the Gateway of Sept. 27, 1973, and I would like to direct my remarks to that letter's authoress.

It appears, Ms. Shute, that you are laboring under a number of misconceptions, the most damaging of which is your assumption that the 18,000 or so students on this campus can be categorized into one of two classes - either the student A-type ("Confused, frustrated") or the student B-type ("Victorious"). Pray tell, Madam- what twisted reasoning and narrow study of psychology led you to such a ludicrous notion? It is nonsensical to refer to 'both sides of campus life' for there are not just two sides to life on this campus, but rather thousands upon thousands. This student body is comprised, not of persons who by definition and so by necessity must fall into either Class A or Class B, but by persons who for the most part are attempting to find some way of expressing something unique within themselves, ie. trying to be a bit different, a bit individualistic.

Allow me, then, to examine your 'Model Students'.

controversy will take anybody anywhere? Can you only generate circulation for the Gateway by fanning flames? I suppose a no-conflict campus would be dull but generating it to "sell" your paper is irresponsible and the press is supposedly dedicated to some level of decency. If it is not, credibility disappears.

I will read in future any offering of yours with a jaundiced eye - but then perhaps that is what you were trying to achieve? It is my suggestion, however, that you help students cope by assisting them in the acquisition of positive attitudes and skills which will ensure change and not debilitate those who would otherwise have some chance for success had you not reinforced the idea that personal gain can be made by crushing others.

P. Richardson

Editor's note: After re-reading Richardson's letter, as well as the article in question, it appears to me that Richardson began reading with a jaundiced eye. The tone of the letter indicates to me that the article merely served as a springboard for Richardson to launch a personal attack against Jackson.

Had he read any other Gateway this year, or thoroughly read the offending issue, or the February 15, 1973, issue of Gateway he would have known that Jackson ended her term as editor last April. I have been quite clearly identified as editor in every issue this term.

Jackson has no "vested position" on this year's Gateway, no interest whatsoever in "generating circulation". She is not even a full-time staff member.

However, since she spent a great deal of time last year dealing with the institutions described in the articles, I felt she was the most qualified person I know to write the series. The series of three, concluded in this issue, was written at my specific request. For the most part, I agree with Jackson's comments.

The specific article in question was intended as an editorial feature, as are the other two in the series, but due to lack of space, we were forced to move it from Fourum five to page eight.

Due to an oversight on my part, the article was not described as an editorial feature. The choice of headline was also mine alone.

Allyn Cadogan

As you seem to dislike Student A, you must surely object to those attributes you listed in his/her description. (He) is subject to the ups and downs of life" and partakes of "a well-balanced life on campus", etc., etc. It would seem to me, Ms. Shute, that you have just described a real human being. Imagine someone who is really affected by, who really relates to, what happens around him- someone who is open to real stimuli- someone with real human emotions and feeling. Not only that, but someone who leads a 'balanced' life. What could be wrong with that? And through what murky thought processes did you arrive at the conclusion that this results in a "confused, frustrated....member of society who lives for himself....and doesn't seem to care much about anything"? And how does this equate with "an over-educated, intellectual bump on a log"? ('Education' is not a four-letter word, Ms. Shute, and one can never get too much of it. And intellectuals are a minority breed of thinkers - few and far between.)

Now to contrast this with the 'Holy Ghost' Christian. We find,

Abortion

Dear Mr. San Filippo,

In answer to your letter in the September 27 issue of the Gateway.

You make the value judgment that a fetus from the moment of conception is a living human being. Some people would not concur with you. Why should your opinion be binding over others who do not share that opinion, particularly on a matter in which, although you may academically hold feelings, you cannot be an integral emotional part (barring the one case where you are the prospective father). Much as you stress the rights of the fetus, you can never know or fully understand the emotional condition of the other prime person involved - the prospective mother whom you seem to totally dismiss after the moment of conception. If we are speaking of the rights of humans, who are you to judge that the life of the "human" fetus is more important than at the least the mental state of the mother at the most, the life of the mother herself? Of course, as a liberal and completely unchauvinistic man (you being probably the only male in our society, male and female alike, which promotes chauvinism, unconscious though it may be) you are fully aware that all we women need do is take the proper precautions before intercourse. Perhaps being a

as you admit, that nothing bothers him. If this is indeed the case, then it must also be the case that 1) he likes everything- in which instance he is a mass of contradictions and will probably awake one day to realize that he is terribly confused and frustrated; or 2) there are many things about which he doesn't care - in which instance he is assuredly apathetic.

(Apparently, when one talks to a 'Holy Ghost Christian', one is enveloped in a feeling that seems to lift one up. From personal experiences I must profess that the feeling in which I found myself wrapped did not lift me up, but rather drove me up - up the proverbial wall.)

Now to briefly examine myself. I do not drink or smoke or "rely on outside help". I do try to "Juggle my time" between studying, relaxing, and being with people, and I'm also concerned about what is happening in my community. And I have peace of mind, which I do not attribute to God, but to an interplay between my character and my experiences (with real people) with the aid of my brain.

Now, Ms. Shute- perhaps you would care to classify me
Anton Kritzingner

male and consequently not having to deal with birth control to the extent that we females do (and you seem to place the entire onus for birth control on us) you are not aware of certain complications. All females are not able to use the most effective forms of birth control, and even the all powerful pill is not foolproof. What about cases of pregnancy resulting from rape? Should the victim go through additional suffering because of some complete stranger's indiscriminately spilled sperm? It is my feeling, Mr. San Filippo, that you are unqualified to rule in an area where you are not a member of the group directly involved.

Deborah Stewart
Recreation Administration III

Congrats

A mini editorial

We would like to congratulate the cafeteria baking staff who, after years of careful study and experimentation, have finally managed to produce a blueberry pie that neither looks nor tastes as if it has come into contact with anything remotely resembling a blueberry.

We, at Gateway, salute this achievement from the same people whose tireless efforts have brought us rubber hamburgers, gray soup (tangy), various vegetable-like substances and coffee that dissolves spoons.

Paul Cadogan

The Gateway

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