

Incidentally, the Chinese, your noble proponents of "fetus as person", have a government that is notorious for enforcing a stringent birth control program which includes abortion — by the choice of the state.

Andersen?

Nuke the bum

RE: Jens Andersen's Chopping Block, Gateway, Oct. 25, 1983.

Mr. Andersen does not seem to be aware of the magnitude of power of present-day nuclear weapons, and ought to read the first half of Jonathan Schelle's *Fate of the Earth* to get a few facts straight.

Sure, there were survivors of Hiroshima — those who were not near the centre of the blast. That, however, was only one bomb, a bomb about one thousandth the power of today's nuclear bombs. The only limitation today on the destructive ability of a nuclear bomb is the ability of the earth to withstand the shock of the bomb.

In addition, an attack by, say, the USSR on the U.S. would entail enough bombs to destroy every American city several times over. That's how well stocked they are with the toys of paranoid and trigger-happy leaders. Even without American retaliation, the resultant radioactivity would affect every human being drastically. And now for the crunch, Mr. Andersen. The heat generated by the blasts (and there would be more than one) would be so intense as to render almost all bomb shelters literal 'melting pots'. Finally, American integration. Inhabitants not melted instantly would have to remain in those shelters for one or more years, while waiting for radioactivity to subside. Pretty Sartrean, is it not?? I'm not trying to moralize — just to state fact. It just isn't as easy to avoid the effect of a nuclear bomb as some people think. One lousy nuclear bomb really can ruin your whole day.

J.M. Laramee
Grad Studies

Are We Out of Control?

I refer to the ongoing trend to degenderize any word that implies a sex distinction; more so if this distinction is masculine. For example, workmen becoming workpersons, or mailman becoming mailperson. How far will this foolishness go?

Will we soon have to deal with absurd connotations like, "persondarin oranges?" Will mathematicians use a personissa or artists personila paper? Imagine a car being advertised as having personal steering and personal transmission. Parents can watch their children grow into personhood and authors will now use personuscpts. Weathermen will use personometers and sanitation workers will crawl into personholes. We may see Water and Sanitation being taken to court by the Canadian Society of Proctologists for infringement of franchise.

Personally, and I use the word with caution, I think the whole issue is a pile of personure. Who are these people that suppose a right to force their personical ideas on the persony of us? The evidence of their personipulation of our society is personifest. Stand up for your rights. Don't be reduced to a pathetic creature in a sexless society of eunuchs. A society being created by a group of insipid identity stricken individuals suffering from

the delusion that they can save themselves by foisting their foolishly perceived solutions upon everyone else. Frankly, I think if they could personage to enjoy wearing a dress or getting a personicure a little more often the rest of us who don't suffer their problems would be spared the annoyance of suffering their solutions. We would be spared having to devote some of our precious time to contending with their silly depersonds and we could get on with the more important aspects of life, there being many much more worthy of our attention.

Steen Bache
Science II

Isserlis: right on the nose

After spending my first two years of university in English, I quickly became disillusioned with its irrelevance to any sort of practical career. Thus I was extremely impressed with both the sensibility and coherence of Mr. Isserlis' column (*The Gateway*, Oct. 12). In a world filled with ineffectual, naive and unproductive "artists" of all shapes and kinds, it is about time that someone as intelligent as Mr. Isserlis speaks for the productive and constructive members of our dynamic society. It is evident that the "artistic" aspect of Mr. Isserlis' multifaceted nature allows him to express his sensible ideas excellently, and yet he obviously does not let this "artistry" cloud his objectivity or his overall philosophical standpoint: to use an old cliché, "He keeps his feet on the ground."

Clearly, Mr. Isserlis has pinpointed the crucial problem in our often too-idealistic Western society: that literature (and the study of it) has in a paradoxical way corrupted our society in rusting its metaphorical gearworks. No society can function initially without a strong economical basis. From prehistoric systems of barter to modern stock exchanges, trade is essentially the basis of every society.

Psychiatrists' offices are overflowing with people futilely searching for "themselves". Think of the senselessness of their self-destructive depressions: a tragic scene of a lot of unkempt, sad-faced people haunting cafes and smoking too many cigarettes — adding a drain on Medicare with their artistic lung cancer.

Literature is meant primarily to be enjoyed, not interpreted. Writers are, after all, just people who are able to record their ideas coherently and in a logical and understandable manner. And a story is just — a story. Those who vainly presuppose non-existent meaning or "symbolism" in a story (which the writer probably never intended in the first place) are pathetically misguided: let us ponder the "human condition" at our moments of leisure, but let not these "introspectives" try to make something resembling a "career" of their obsession!

Eliza Stanton
Commerce IV

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should be no more than 250 words long. They must be signed and include faculty, year of program, and phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, or very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

THE BLADE

by Dwayne Chomyn

Today the Blade gives you two enlightened opinions for the price of one.

By 1985 the debt owed to the University by the SU must be paid in full. Unless the SU decides to do something really foolish I expect the debt will be cleared much faster.

The question arises, once the debt is clear, will the SU hold a referendum to lower the SU membership fee so they can give back the money we gave them last year to keep them solvent? I doubt it.

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SUB... The final frontier. These are the voyages of the SU Enterprise

Thus begins another journey into the final frontier - the Students' Union.

In this episode we find the Captain discussing a very important matter with the Minister of Finance I. M. Right from the Federation on the bridge of the Enterprise.

"Mr. Right," asks the Captain, "why are you publishing ads in various magazines and papers which undermine SU Enterprise policy?" The ads referred to portray the members of the Enterprise as being wealthy consumers ready to rush out and purchase stereos etc." Not only does this serve to undermine our ability to negotiate with the administration but it is not true. A recently released government report informs us that as early as August 11.8 per cent of our members were unemployed. As

a group their real wages dropped 21 per cent making them the hardest hit employees in society."

The Finance Minister turns to the Captain, "Mr. Dunghill, need I remind you that truth has no place in advertising. Further, even if your members are unemployed or working for lower wages doesn't mean they don't have lots of money. Besides, I couldn't sell advertising if I told the truth."

Captain Dunghill responds cautiously, "Mr. Right, although I want you to sell advertising there must be a way of doing it which isn't so misleading. Secondly, even if the members of the Enterprise are not poor, our negotiating position draws on the facts and says they are. Need I remind you that you are employed by Enterprise and you should carry out your duties in a manner consistent with policy."

"Listen," says Mr. Right, "the advertising is in the best interest of the Enterprise. Sure I could tell the truth and show pictures of students begging but what would that accomplish?"

Captain Dunghill responds, "students aren't that poor but they're not as wealthy as your ads imply."

Mr. Right makes his final appeal. "These ads will really affect no one who could serve a purpose detrimental to SU policy."

From this it is obvious that Mr. Right has run the show for so long that he has forgotten that once in a while he is required to follow.

"Policy is to be executed by the staff," exclaims Dunghill.

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