

Ambassador is free to speak

Re: "Ambassador not welcome" Gateway December 1/87.

The above letter contains what I believe to be erroneous contentions.

In the second paragraph of the letter ND spokesman offers the opinion that the Ambassador will defend both the South African government and policies. I imagine that the spokesman is correct in this opinion. However in the third paragraph, it is stated that by allowing him to speak here, our University is giving credibility to the Ambassador's arguments. It also contends that those who have invited the Ambassador to campus see Apartheid "merely as an alternative form of government or a differing political or social ideology."

In the fourth paragraph, the letter states that those spreading messages of hate should not be allowed to express their views in a public arena, and likens the forum to the Jim Keegstra case. The final paragraph notes that Canada's people and government have denounced Apartheid, and that the University should defer to this, and disallow the visit of the Ambassador.

Well, the way I see it, the University is not giving credit to the Ambassador's arguments, by allowing him to speak here, any more than a newspaper give credit to a speech by Peter Botha by the act of reporting it. By allowing the Ambassador to participate in a public forum, the University allows people, such as myself, or the U of A NDs, to question his defense of an archaic and racist form of government, in the tradition of public debate. As to the contention that those who invited the Ambassador to campus have a lessened view of the serious nature of Apartheid, don't you think that is perhaps putting words in other people's mouths? Others cannot presume to know the reasons the U of A Philosophy Club has for initiating this presentation, but it is not possible that it might

be just to allow such public debate to take place?

By likening this forum to the Jim Keegstra case, the writer seems to forget that Mr. Keegstra was charged with spreading hatred not in a public arena, where people would have a chance to question his beliefs, and perhaps provide contrary evidence, but rather in a classroom where the teacher was solely in charge, and debate was apparently not allowed, or even discouraged with poor marks. Once Mr. Keegstra faced the public, the falseness of his statements was brought to light.

While it is true that Canada's government has denounced South Africa's policy of Apartheid, we still have diplomatic relations with that country, thus acknowledging the right of the South African Ambassador to be here. And as for the people of Canada? Why not allow this forum, and let the people ask their own questions of the Ambassador, and see if his defense of Apartheid is able to withstand those questions. Does anyone imagine that it will be?

Apartheid is racist and wrong, few think otherwise. But let it not be said that the students of the University of Alberta, like the government of South Africa, did not permit views to be heard that were contrary to their own, or we will have given up our own dignity, and precious right of freedom of speech.

G. Kasten

"Directory is a dog"

SHOCK HORROR OUTRAGE

Imagine my dismay when the long and eagerly awaited student directory arrived and turned out to be the biggest dog since Ishar. Poorly produced on what can only be third grade pulp waste, this is a disgrace. What did this cost the students in printing bills? Far too much, what ever it was. Even if the advertisers footed the bill, what better way to ensure that they never offer their support again than to affix their name to a piece of

rubbish like this. Blurry printing can maybe be explained by the low cost (and quality) paper and ink necessary to insure a reasonable printing cost, but there is no excuse for the listings.

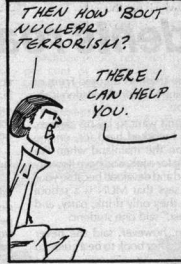
What alphabet did the printer follow? Not the English one at any rate. There are mistakes on virtually every page, and in every section. Now, I am all for giving job equality to

anyone and everyone, but there are limits that are dictated by reason. I don't expect Shakespeare from monkeys, (even an infinite number of them) but neither do I expect total gibberish from what is presumably a professional printing company. Perhaps someone could look into the matter and produce guidelines on the granting of S.U. contracts in the future.

Colin Green



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Gateway Staff Meeting

Thursday
4:00 p.m.
Rm 282 SUB

Agenda:

- Christmas party
- Soccer team
- Soccer game
- CUP, ad infinitum
- Anything else that is on your mind

Join the "IN" crowd

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