

# point

## cold cuts clear cut

*It doesn't seem quite cricket for editors to publicly reply to "letters to the editor," for after all, that gives them the last word. But the picture-editorial published in last Thursday's Gateway, despite the fabled ability of pictures to "be worth a thousand words," was apparently less articulate than I had hoped, and there are several charges in the letters below.*

*The most serious, in my view, is that the Gateway's policy of separating news and editorial material has been violated. I can only suggest that after five months of publication, the letter writer still does not understand the paper's format. Fourum five (which often, but not always appears on pages four and five) has consistently carried opinion articles, editorials and editorial pictures, cartoons and letters. It's just a bit awkward to label every item which appears on those pages with the warning "this is not a news story." We have to trust to the intelligence of our readers to make the distinction.*

*The second most serious charge is that my opinions, offered in the form of the picture, were not "researched." On the contrary, before the picture was printed I had a long chat with a delegation from one of the engineering clubs about the queen contest. They explained the point system (of which I was already aware) and their own view that the contest therefore was not exploitative. (I had asked to talk to some of the candidates themselves, but they were said to be too busy with the week's activities).*

*It was my view then, and still is, that adding points for "personal attributes" and for the princesses' ability to convince other club members to defect and vote for them does not change the exploitation of the contest.*

*What it does, is to shift the focus off of the blatantly sexist physical requirements of candidates (let's face it—Frances Flatchest, even with tons of personality, hasn't got a prayer) to more subtle forms of sexism.*

*Now they not only ask that the princesses look like "real women," but act like them, too. Who wins a rival club's votes, the woman who respects her own intelligence or the woman who coyly "plays dumb," inflating the egos of the male "voters"? Who is adjudged "more feminine," the woman who is confidently assertive of her own views, or the woman who demurely echoes the males around her? It's not hard to predict who wins.*

*And it's not hard to see what kinds of pressures (whether they are aware of those pressures or not) are placed on the women who allow themselves to play these male stereotypes of "womanhood."*

*Finally, I did not intend my picture-editorial as a criticism of all of engineering week, unless engineers are willing to admit that the week's only important activity is the queen contest. I'm really pretty indifferent about the whole silliness, but I agree that "esprit de corps" is important to the learning atmosphere of a campus and students in faculties with no fellow-feeling, such as that enjoyed among the engineers, are probably cheated out of a bit of the joy of education.*

*However, if other faculties choose to try to foster that spirit, I would hope that they will not choose traditions which "represent women as meat" to be inspected, prodded and set on display, with the choicest piece being the winner!"*

*I couldn't have said it better.*

*Terri Jackson*

## the anti-sexist bandwagon

How nice it is to revel in the knowledge of the consistency of bandwagon causes! I refer, of course, to the photography in *The Gateway* issue of Jan. 25, depicting the engineer queens — 1973 as sides of beef in a meat market. The photography is attributed to none other than the Gateway's chief executive, Mrs. Terry Jackson.

Every year when Engineering Week comes about, someone blindly lifts up the torch and screams 'sexism!' The engineers are representing women as meat;

to be inspected, prodded and set on display, with the choicest piece being the winner!

I wonder, where has that virtue of unbiased, researched journalism gone to? It would appear that it somehow bypassed *The Gateway*. Perhaps a reiteration of facts might help to give a better perspective view.

The queen is elected on the basis of 100 points. Ten possible points are assigned to an evaluation based on conversations and presentations of the princesses with judges. Fifty points are assigned to individual club efforts, which is evaluated in the following manner:

Activity:	Points:
Skits	40
Campus Day	40
Toboggan Race	40
Boat Race	40
Keg Race	40
Ice Statues	40
Club Organization	60
Club Campaign	80
Total 380 points	

Finally, a vote by engineering students comprises forty possible points, with each student having three graduated votes.

The girls and people (Yes, people!) who were responsible for Engineering Week gave freely of their precious time, effort, and intelligence to help relieve the tenseness, anxiety, and pressure of the high standards demanded in the Engineering faculty. This week of activity can do nothing but aid the

When Mr. Neumann confronts me with such a sweeping damnation of my beliefs—"To a lot of people Capitalism has become a B-52."—I can only conclude that a lot of people don't know what the hell I'm talking about.

Before I "enlighten" anybody, I would like to comment on an attitude which pervades Mr. Neumann's argument, and answer one specific charge he levels against me.

The attitude is one of blatant anti-intellectualism. Mr. Neumann suggests, not so subtly, that the argument of ideas is a mere wordgame, that they have no relevance to the "gut issues" of life, that philosophy is an unnecessary construct, a useless appendage — a "luxury". May I suggest to you, Mr. Neumann, that ideas are vitally important to an individual; that the goals he undertakes to pursue are based upon philosophical convictions — convictions about reality, about life, and about himself — whether he realizes it, or not. And in fact, the only choice he has in the matter is whether he explicitly identifies these convictions and consciously chooses to accept them; or whether he simply acts, not knowing why he did something, or whether it was even the right thing to do in the given circumstances.

May I further drive the point home by asserting that there is a definite, identifiable causal relationship between the prevailing philosophical ideas of a given period in time and the extant social, political, and economic conditions. Examining the "architectural" foundation of history (to borrow your metaphor) can provide us with valuable insight into why things happened as they did, and

## capitalism described, traced, reaffirm

applying this insight, aid us in making things better today.

In response to your charge that my "naivete is promiscuous", I plead not guilty. I do **not** prostitute my mind—it is open only to rational argument. I am, however, in a sense, naive. I find it difficult to accept that other men can prostitute their's—that they can consciously choose evil. But the harsh reality is that the Nixons and Trudeau's do exist, and they're doing their best to screw me, and you, and everybody else—which is further reason why ideas are so important. How can we fight them? With guns? No, that's expedient and merely temporary at best. How, then? With ideas. Ideas are what permitted them to get into power, and it is ideas, nothing less than a philosophical revolution, which will depose them and their kind.

Libertarianism is a political philosophy which holds, as its fundamental principle, that **no** man has the right to initiate the use of force against another man. We believe, after Ayn Rand, that since man is a living organism, who must exercise his capacities in order to fulfill his needs — who must act in order to effect his survival, he must have the freedom to seek the values necessary for the sustenance and furtherance of his life. Through

time, man has developed a system of social interaction which makes possible a quality of life unattainable to the isolated individual. This system is based upon the principle of trade — the exchanging of value for value. This trader's economy opened the door for specialization and the division of labor; it made possible the acquisition and mass transfer of knowledge; it made possible the "luxuries" of three square meals a day, the eight-hour work day and children living past the age of five; it made possible such esoteric professions as poets, artists, composers, philosophers, theoretical scientists, and all the others which compose an advanced culture. It is called capitalism, Mr. Neumann.

Western society has advanced so far, and in so many areas; because, and only when, it explicitly identified, and actively sought the principle of voluntary exchange as an ideal. It is no coincidence that the curves depicting the rates of growth of technology and population, began their dramatic, exponential ascent with the rise of capitalism during the industrial revolution.

The concept of trade presupposes a volitional human being, and a human being acting freely on his own behalf. To put a gun to his head, to force him

# fourum five four

SEXISM! CAPITALISM! COMMERCIALIZATION! ABORTION!

QUEENS!

## space age art

"Cosmonitic Art" withdrawn. An exhibition of work by "space age artist" ANDRE FONTAINE, purporting to have won world wide recognition as the originator of an art school supposed to be known as "cosmonitic art", has been withdrawn by the organisers after it was made known to them that claims made in the publicity material of the artist were being disputed.

Since I originally raised this matter with the SUB general manager and with the manager of the gallery space, I might be accused with interference in Student Union Building affairs. Both SUB managers claim, and rightly so, to be acting within policy guidelines established by Student Union Council in accepting the Fontaine exhibition.

I wish to put before a wider forum some considerations that led to my remonstrance with the SUB managers, whose good faith and propriety within the framework of their guidelines I do not wish to question.

It is little known, both inside the University Community and outside it, that the SUB Gallery space is available for rent to any individual or organisation, at a fee of \$30.00 — per day. Neither the general manager (Darryl Ness) nor the Gallery manager (Cec Pretty) have, nor do they claim to have, any expertise in art. The rental of the art gallery is regarded by both of them as a purely commercial/entertainment venture, in

accordance with Student Union Council policy.

The SUB gallery manager will not and could not apply artistically informed standards nor does he nor can he offer credentials or references of an exhibitor who is willing to exhibit the stipulated \$30.00 fee per day. Any publicity put out by an exhibitor is his own responsibility and should not be considered to be endorsed or acknowledged as factual by the SUB gallery, even when it is being distributed by and in the name of the SUB gallery.

These are the facts as elicited from Daryl Ness and Cec Pretty.

These facts are not generally known, and they are a dramatic and substantive departure from previous years, when the operation of the SUB art gallery was in the hands of a full-time committed, artistic manager responsible and informed gallery director, the very able Mrs. Davies.

The Student Union Gallery of the University of Alberta, to last year probably the most endowed and renowned art gallery owned by any Student Union in Canada, if not nationally, had a further national reputation. Exhibitions organised here were reviewed in "Arts Canada", and exhibited artists were or have become nationally known artists.

All exhibitors in the gallery were accepted on merit and not on a spurious ability to pay \$30.00 per day.

Operating under exactly the same name, one would



Editor Jackson

## rebuke

Regarding Ms. Jackson's picture of the Engineering Queens in the Gateway, if we wanted an ugly piece of frozen meat with no intelligence and no personal attributes for a queen we would have approached Ms. Jackson herself. However, since we don't want a queen with these characteristics, the princesses are chosen accordingly. The princesses and their kicklines have a lot of fun during Queen Week, just as we do. Also, it seems like Ms. Jackson went a long way out of her way just to get a picture to put down the princesses and queen. A little envious, maybe, Ms. Jackson? No, not you.

Garnet Scaman  
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