

## EDITORIAL

### Democracy

The SU election campaign is upon us, and already the vitriol is flowing - the only question is, where will it flow to?

Our example of respect for the democratic process is our present President, and candidate for the Board of Governors, Floyd Hodgins. Mr. Hodgins has insisted that SU employees Gayle Morris and Brinton MacLaughlin take leaves of absence from their positions during the election campaign (they are running for office), but what about Floyd? Is he stepping down? No siree, Bob, he sure as heck isn't!

There are ample precedents for SU executive candidates taking leaves of absence during election campaigns. Andrew Watts resigned as Gateway editor in 1983 when he ran for VP External. Both Watts and Barb Donaldson took leaves of absence last year when they ran for the positions of President and VP Academic. What makes Floyd so special?

Floyd is showing contempt for the democratic process. Not only does he control the executive offices during the campaign, he also has access to his column in the *Grind* - an advantage over all the other candidates.

Elections are the only time students really have access to their representatives. If Floyd is willing to meet his constituents for "only a few hours", how much time will he spend meeting with them after he becomes the student representative to the Board of Governors?

Floyd's attention to his constituents should be reflected by his constituents at the ballot box.

Gilbert Bouchard

### Decorum

A New York subway patron is threatened by four surly youths with sawed-off screwdrivers. He lies to them by offering them each five dollars and then compounds his prevarication by opening fire on them with what had hitherto been a concealed firearm.

In Chicago, a plumber patronizing a corner grocery is accosted by hoodlums. He promptly unsheathes his metal cannon from its plaid scabbard and spits lead death at the fleeing suburbanites.

Incidents like these are by no means peculiar in a North American society that finds itself becoming less tolerant towards violent and random crime.

The short term solution of "eye-for-an-eye" is vicariously gratifying. The Chuck Norris in all of us becomes satiated. But vigilantism as a long term solution is illusory.

What happens when the muggers begin shooting first and demanding money later?

What if a man comes upon a woman in a deserted sidestreet? To find out the current time, he could forfeit his life.

Those few remnants of assault etiquette would surely be swept away.

And what a civilized society needs is its decorum.

Dean Bennett

## GATEWAY SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTS

### Pink Triangle

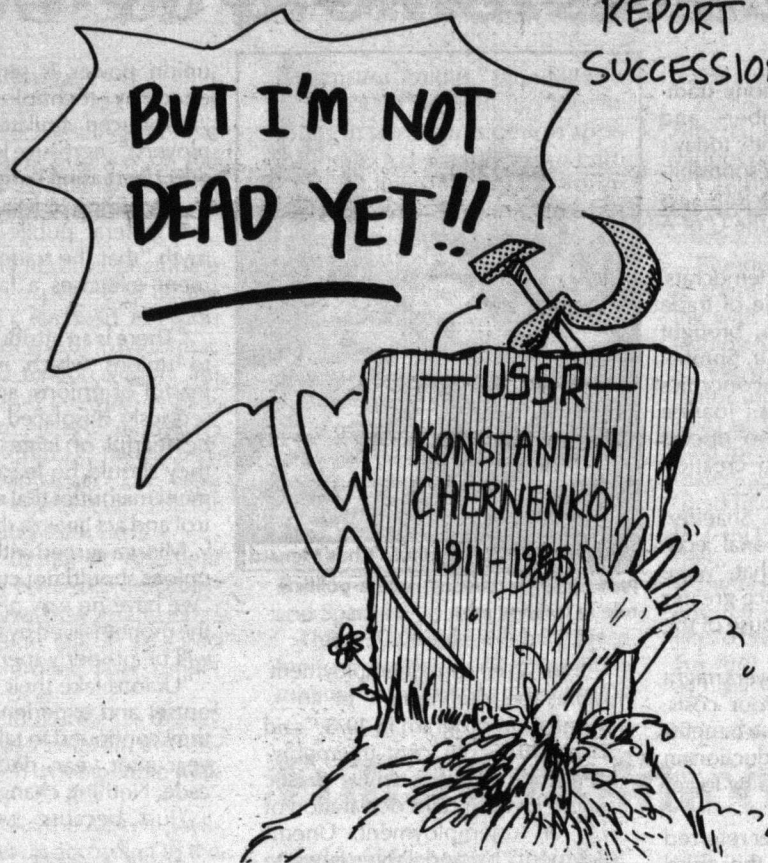
- deadline for submissions: Feb. 7
- publishing date: Feb. 14

### International Women's Awareness Week

- deadline for submissions: Feb. 28
- publishing date: Mar. 7

Submissions may be sent through the mail or delivered by hand. Please mark submissions Pink Triangle or Women's Awareness.

NEWS ITEM: "CHERNENKO OUT ...  
REPORT CLAIMS  
SUCCESSION APPROVED."



1/25/85  
GB/gateway

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### Tragic decisions

I would like to respond to the views expressed by Murray Arnold, Francesca Laurence, and Peter Smyth regarding abortion in the *Gateway* of January 22. All three are clearly anti-abortion, and there is nothing wrong with them having that belief. What I do object to are their reasons for feeling that everyone else should have the same beliefs.

Miss Laurence mentions the right of both sexes "to say No, if not prepared for the natural outcome of sexual intercourse." I wonder if she has heard of the concepts of 'hunk,' 'babe,' or 'heat of passion.' People do 'it' and they are probably not thinking of the pitter-patter of little feet. If the natural result is the woman becomes pregnant, whether or not they should have done 'it' is immaterial, and birth control is no longer an issue. What is important is that a child being brought into this world at the wrong time and by the wrong people for the wrong reasons can be destructive to all those directly concerned.

Murray Arnold brings to light the example of his mother and his birth as a reason not to have an abortion. Excuse me, but I was not aware that she was a latter day Madonna and should be used as an example for all women. Your case, Murray, has nothing to do with the issue of abortion.

Peter Smyth believes that there is something wrong with taking care of 'me.' On the contrary, I believe that it should be everyone's prime concern (and a possible poli-sci thesis). Punishing these 'selfish' people by forcing them to have a child they don't want is not going to do anyone any good and is cruel to all concerned.

Mr. Smyth mentions "that the child is going to a couple who have been on a list to adopt for two years because they are unable to have children of their own." This is a case in support of the legalization of 'surrogate mothers for hire.' To say that this is a case against abortion, is to say that women are cows whose purpose is to produce offspring. It sounds like a 'Bare-foot, pregnant, in the kitchen' award is coming up.

The finishing point about the ultrasound test is very touching, the baby fighting for survival (man's most

basic instinct)." But it seems to me that man's instinct for survival also belongs to every other species of animal on this planet and is no qualification to being a human. A living being struggling for survival within a woman's abdomen could mean that she has trichinosis.

The question of when a collection of cells within a woman's womb becomes a human being has not been definitively answered. If 'your' god says this happens at the point of conception, then do not have an abortion. But 'my' god, if indeed I have one, may not agree. Emotions should not be used as the sole basis for making a rational decision.

Everyone has made decisions which at a later date may keep them awake at night with regret. That is bad enough. But to regret a decision that someone else forced upon you is a tragedy.

Jim Maxwell  
Grad Studies

### Sophistry

In a recent letter to the *Gateway* ("No absolutes" in the 22 Jan. issue), Daniel Funchello expressed his belief that there are "no absolutely right answers to such questions" as he poses, for example, whether a fetus is human or is living. Yet as any woman who has felt the kick of little feet in her abdomen can attest, that which is growing within her is indubitably alive; and the fact that it emerges after nine months as a human baby rather than as, say, a gerbil or a geranium, argues irrefutably of its humanness. To say that these two questions have no absolute answers is therefore the epitome of sophistry.

The only unresolved questions in Funchello's letter are whether a fetus is a "being" (presumably in the legal sense of having rights, etc.) and whether such groups as pro-lifers have the right to "force people to live as they do and make the choices that they have." Yet all this is not simply prefatory to a consideration of "the morality of baby killing," but is in fact the very nub of the issue.

It would seem to me that if we accept the innate humanness of the fetus, then the pro-death faction is

## The Gateway

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It is a dark and stormy night. Mark Spector and Greg Owens provided lights, as Brad Clark and Bill Doskoc searched for the missing tot of rum. Mark Olyan preferred tea. Bruce Horner joined Susan Sutton for a wee listen to Radio Free Dude. Olga Jagodnik and Audrey Djuwita watched the mercury drop. Shane Berg and Hans Beckers penned by an open window, while Alex Miller, Chris Menard, and Tim Hellum did the intelligent thing. They went home in a cab.