

Editorial

So this is prosecution

A professor who used his position of authority and trust to sexually harass his students has been found guilty and punished.

However, since the offending professor will be free to return to his position on July 1 at his present salary and seniority, that small victory seems blighted.

The effects of this five month incident on staff morale, instructor-student relations and the university's image in the community-at-large have been debilitating, to say the least.

Incidentally, this is the first time in the history of this university, according to Vice President Academic Peter Meekison — that a professor has been convicted of sexually harassing a student. Does this indicate that the U of A is a haven of pristine morality? If it isn't, our systems for exposing and prosecuting individuals engaging in this despicable type of behavior have been and remain inadequate.

Hopefully, the university will take the opportunity to critically examine its procedures for handling sexual harassment problems and take appropriate action as needed.

It would be terrible if this tiny bit of blight that has been exposed turned out to be symptomatic of a far deeper malignancy.

Bill Doskoch

Media roles

David Letterman, Monday evening, served as bookends to a special report on the opening of the Geneva summit media super-event. Because I wanted to see how Tony Randall dealt with Letterman for calling his *nouveau beaujolais* something that looked like "piss" (it was, of course, bleeped out), I did not switch to the late night movie on ITV, but waited out the interruption.

What I saw made me think about the impact of the media on what we call news.

Though the special report consisted merely of the two superpower leaders arriving, stopping for pictures and proceeding inside to begin negotiations, there was one central image left behind which, I think, Reagan and his staff had created to take advantage of the media they knew would be there.

Reagan managed to make himself appear the amiable, patriarchal figure of international politics, conducting a younger and less experienced Gorbachev through the ceremonial rigours of media appeasement.

And that made me ask myself this question: what is the role of media in a technological global village? Certainly Reagan's ease in front of a television camera has nothing to do with arms negotiations. But in the public relations battle, Reagan won the first round. And, in a real sense, the preponderance of media coverage of this event has turned it into a public relations battlefield. Is this the proper role of our news agencies?

We are all familiar with the accusations of complicity levelled at the media, especially television, when the news event involves hostages or terrorist action. I think we could also agree that the media tend to desensitize us to real human suffering. Television coverage of Viet Nam, while it made a distant foreign war more immediate, also made it a prime time entertainment. The frequency of violent death on TV has made it less appalling somehow.

But TV is not all bad. It took a BBC documentary of the famine in Ethiopia to raise public concern over the fate of literally millions of starving people. Predictions of the Ethiopian catastrophe have been in the print media for five years, but it took the television camera to make us respond.

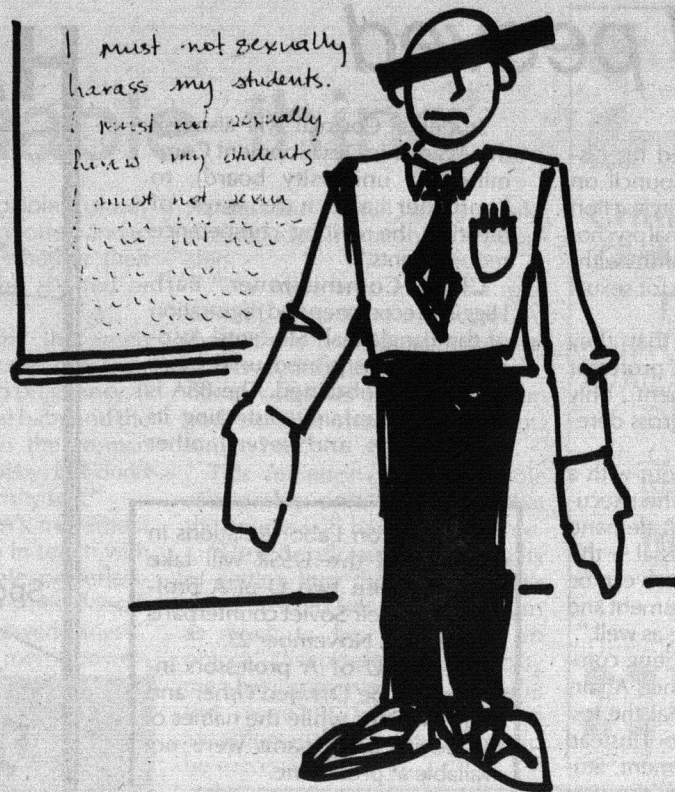
Naturally these thoughts made me turn toward the role of *The Gateway* on the U of A campus. While we have a directive of our own, I am curious to see what the student body feels is our role on campus.

Certainly we have created news. I doubt very much whether more than twenty percent of the student body cares about the latest chapter in the saga of Floyd Hodgins, but we still produce articles about him because we believe he makes good copy. But I don't think Floyd is the only example of *The Gateway* creating news.

I would like to take this opportunity to solicit responses from the student body as to our role at the U of A. As managing editor, it is my responsibility to compile, edit, etc., the letters page, and if there is sufficient interesting commentary, I would like to present an overview of your opinions in the next issue.

Do us, and I think, yourselves a favour. Let us know what you think.

Mike Evans



PROF. X HAS WRISTS
SLAPPED FOR SEXUAL
HARASSMENT

Penis

Gateway '85

Letters to the Editor

Faith defender

Re: Mr. Gordon Turtle's letter called Northern Morality, Nov. 19 issue.

Mr. Turtle's point came out loud and clear; that is — believing in Christ is just as silly as believing in Santa Claus. In response, I would just like to state three simple points.

First, no other so-called "religion" is supported by history as much as Christianity is. For instance, all prophecies stated in the Bible have come to pass, except ones predicting the end of time, and we all know that the world has not ended yet.

Secondly, God does not condemn us to eternal damnation; we have condemned ourselves by not believing. Since Adam's first sin, man has become sinful. God is Holy and Righteous and has the perfect right to condemn the whole sinful race. But because of his loving kindness, he has chosen to give eternal life to those who believe.

Thirdly, since I have a personal relationship with Christ as does Jon Arnold, I would like to say that there is no life like it.

Calvin Haws
Science III

Bikes again?

Dear Gateway,

After my concerns about unsafe cyclists was printed in the Gateway of Oct. 29/85, I was certain that angry responses would subsequently be written, and alternate views expressed. But I expected intelligent rebuttals not the type of non-thinking, blind and illogical garbage that was sent in by Robert Sears and Don Bobey and printed on Nov. 13. Although I had originally decided that I would be content with my

original letter, these "Concerned Cyclists" have forced me to respond.

First of all, Sears and Bobey seem to be unaware that *The Gateway's* letters editor places his own titles on each letter printed. Thus the term "Bicycle Boobs" was not my own but the result of the letter editor's fertile (and particularly insightful, in this case) imagination. While on this subject, the title "Bicycle Boobs II" is a very accurate name for Sears' and Bobey's letter because after reading their views they certainly appear to merit the term.

Secondly, I fail to see the logic behind your decision to equate the problems many cyclists exhibit with imagined personal characteristics of myself. Sears and Bobey seemed to revert to name-calling simply because they could not find any fault to my arguments, but needed to express their displeasure at my pointing out their own lack of consideration for others by lowering themselves directly into the caricature of the average cyclist that I described in my previous letter. 'Nuff said there.

Finally, I wish to explain my reasoning behind the style of attack used in my first letter. Many times I have read pleasant, well-meaning, and otherwise bland letters in *The Gateway*, that have attempted to make some attack upon some problem, but have not elicited any feedback from other readers because either they didn't express their displeasure strongly enough or the readers grew bored with the laid-back style and quit reading before reaching the crux of the writer's argument. In order to avoid this, I wrote my views in a rather antagonistic style, hoping to make cyclists think about how they conduct themselves while cycling and to promoting change if they see themselves in my letter. OBVIOUSLY most cyclists are not the uncaring, insane and otherwise animalistic people that my letter described and Sears and Bobey

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Today's exciting staff box episode may be found on page five. Look, look everyone, your name in print!