

Some People Have Complained That The Gateway

NO COQUETRY HERE

To The Editor:

Mr. John Barr seems to have an astonishing faculty for seeing what he wants to see. His letter in the Nov. 25 Gateway on the open meeting held for the visiting Soviet students in Convocation hall appears to me such a distorted account of what happened that I cannot let it go unanswered.

Concerning some of Mr. Barr's statements:

(1) I did not see any of the visitors "explode into rage", at any time. Some of their replies were rather acid, but that was all.

(2) There was propaganda in the replies, but it was far from subtle. If they deliberately twisted the meaning of some of the questions, they must have understood them better than I did. There was also evasion of some of the implications in the questions, but it could hardly have been otherwise. It seemed to me, however, that they were always careful to deal with all the points raised in one way or another.

(3) Miss Tsutsarova did not seem to me either coy or sly. However, these impressions are largely subjective. Mr. Barr's description of exchange students as "seedy-looking fellow-travellers" is despicable and worthy of the late Joe McCarthy.

It would be interesting to see Mr. Barr placed in a similar position as a member of a Canadian delegation to the USSR. What did he, and some of the other people who asked ten-

dentious political questions, expect the Russians to do? Even supposing that there were freedom of speech in Russia, and that they need fear no reprisals for speaking their minds, would Mr. Barr have a higher respect for a Russian who joined critics in running down his own country, rather than for one who defended its policies as best he could? Knowing, as we all do, that they have no freedom of speech in political matters, the posing of many of the questions was rude and provocative. Visitors should not be put in the dock to answer for the sins of their governments, especially when they have no control over them.

The whole affair was a sad illustration of the obsession with ideology which characterizes relations between the Communist and Western nations. One hoped that the visit of a student delegation would help a little to weaken that obsession. Evidently it did not, and the fault was by no means all on the Russian side.

C. R. Neill
Grad Studies

MAD, MAD, MAD!

To The Editor:

If many more of these inane, childish cartoons appear in the Bank of Montreal advertisements, I shall be tempted to transfer my savings to an old sock in the bottom of my drawer. If the mentality of those who control the bank is not any higher than that of the creator of the cartoons,

I would feel much safer not doing business with the organization. The humor is about kindergarten level. Inhibitions-outhibitions, saddle for charley horses, My God!

Allow me also to extend my sympathy to Mr. John Barr. Only an incredibly narrow mind could have derived such a reaction as he derived from the statements of the Russian students. And for the love of Alla, how could any normal man say nasty things about Miss Tsutsarova?

Yours truly,
K. Monners.

ECCH!

To The Editor:

Ecch! Ecch! and again ecch! Mr. Barr's letter in the last issue of The Gateway displayed utter and complete narrow-mindedness worthy of neither a University paper nor a U of A student. Did Mr. Barr perhaps towards the end of his letter realize himself how sickening his criticism was?

The delegates were obviously irritated by some questions, but never "exploded in rages."

Previously, Mr. Barr infers that since "the purpose of their visit was to learn from our way of life," the delegates should have been asking questions of the audience, than the audience of the delegates.

In this suggestion, I must concede, our friend is indisputably original.

I find it rather difficult to believe that even a first year arts and science student should think of the theatre and museum as superficial

and materialistic. Furthermore, what right has he to suggest that merely because the female delegate was "well-proportioned", she was even remotely concerned with the so-called "eligible bachelors in the front row." And finally, one finds it difficult to condone the effrontery which assumes that all those who applauded her statement were "fellow travellers" and that exchange students are necessarily "seedy."

Yours in indignation,
Joe Weber, ed 1.

OH, YE OF TOO MUCH FAITH

To The Editor:

"CUCND" could conceivably stand for "Combined Universities Campaign for Nuclear Destruction," if its policy intends unilateral disarmament.

Dr. Mardiros and CUCND advocate a 'fool's paradise' for themselves, and for all those affected when a minority pressure group prevails. Dr. Mardiros must realize that the West's so-called 'Bluff' of Nuclear Chemical, and Biological weapons is no bluff at all, but that the West is truly a formidable and prepared adversary. Does Dr. Mardiros and CUCND advocate disarmament because there is nothing to be gained by war? Even if this would be a mutual, international movement, with all countries pledged to disarm: with or without a checking system, could we still be blind and naive enough to put faith in the Soviet Union, whose record of broken promises and treaties do little to make us believe they would keep a

disarmament pact; particularly when being armed would be so profitable if there were no threat of retaliation in the case of aggression?

The fact that war would end in general destruction of both sides is the West and the East greatest hinderance to war for gaining any desired ends. We have only to recall Hiroshima and Nagasaki to realize that if the enemy has not the capacity to retaliate with equal severity that the use of atomic weapons becomes a justifiable expedient.

Sincerely
Scott Klipper

FORSOOTH

To The Editor:

I would like to comment on the recent article on religion. The final statement seems quite unjustifiable in view of recent and current events on our campus. For example, an Agnostic Conference was held several weeks ago. A study group on "Science and Religion", and one especially for agnostics are holding regular meetings each week. These are sponsored by the SCM which, comprised as it is of agnostics, non-Christians and Christians provides a meeting-place for intelligent discussions on many topics. Panels of faculty members representing widely varied religious and social outlooks are also a fairly frequent and important part of the program. Thus "the day of intelligent religious discussion" is not "far in the future on this campus" but NOW for those who are really interested.

Marilyn Bowman

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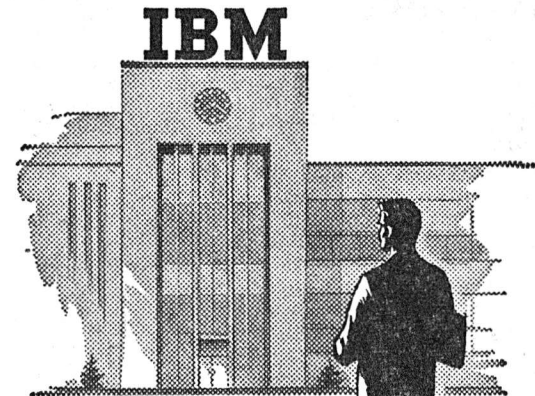


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