

and those of the current members of C.D.C., will stand up to close examination. To imply otherwise, as in the *Gateway* articles, is to do them grave injustice.

Dr. G.L. Mowat  
Acting Vice-President  
Planning & Development

## Dear Berry...

Dear Berry Wesgateway:

Ever since the alleged radiation leak at the Nuclear Research Center, a number of spine chilling side-effects have occurred.

It appears that the radiation density accumulated a bit north of the main entrance and has caused a small Bermuda Triangle to evolve. The first signs of such a happening occurred when a security guard was investigating a call about a rapist being on the campus in that area. He was communicating by walkie-talkie saying he was cutting across the lawn in front of the Nuclear Research Centre when suddenly all communications ceased and a resultant search has found not a single trace of the whereabouts of the security guard. Of course security denies any of the above and several people who have inquired about this incident are now under surveillance at the Hospital Centre for the Mentally Deranged.

Another such incident occurred last week when several students had asked their prof to meet them on the lawn outside the entrance for an important discussion. Again, not a single trace of the professor can be found.

Also, there is an unofficial report going around stating that the fence being placed around the NRC (U of A's idea of starting their own Disneyland) was stopped in the alleged "Bermuda Traingle of U of A," in this area due to a crew of three men and a pick-up truck "vanishing mysteriously in that area, and without a trace.

I must advise you to please notify students of this area and Students Council of the seriousness of keeping their prof's away from this area regardless of their emotional feelings at this time of year.

Again, Better Living  
Through Science  
Fred (the Head)  
Faculty of Science

## In reply

I certainly enjoyed your new format and the change of name on your paper. Also glad to see you will be going daily in the new year. If the last issue was anything to go by, the new look will be a great improvement. The front page news items last Thursday were so much more believable than the usual fantasies you get from the wire services!

Perhaps I could use your good offices to respond to two letters in your last issue replying to a letter of mine in the previous issue reacting to some graffiti (graffiti? grafitti?) (ggrraaaffiitti?) on the subject of attitudes to students from other countries.

Roy Rampling suggests that immigrants who send money home minimize their personal taxes, and syphon off money from the Canadian economy. It would be interesting to see an analysis of how much money leaves Canada in this way; in any case, it has to be spent back here, so it really acts as a stimulus to Canadian export. Also, I am unaware that money sent to overseas relatives is an allowable tax deduction! Mr. Rampling goes on to complain about those students who "dominate tables in SUB poolroom" and speak to one another in foreign languages while they do it! Good heavens, why not? If you were overseas and had to use a foreign (to you) language all day, wouldn't you appreciate the opportunity to get together with some fellow-Canadians and talk English while enjoying some recreation? Isn't recreation what poolrooms are for?



And next, to respond to the "Sunnybrook Farm Syndicate" who allege that if I were to question 100 students walking through CAB, they would make the SUB graphphiti sound like Rebecca of S. Farm. Well, with the help of a couple of other Chaplains, I did question 100 students in CAB last Friday just before lunch (yes, those were chaplains). I am happy to report that the replies, which represented a variety of viewpoints, were all thoughtful and did not remotely resemble a) Rebecca of S. Pharm, or b) the SUB graffiti (I have just checked my dictionary and that is the correct spelling). As a survey, our results cannot be taken seriously, of course. However, the overall impression was of tolerant indifference or qualified approval of the status quo. The qualifications were thoughtful and reflected, by and large, a concern for practicalities. For myself, I appreciated the opportunity to chat briefly with a cross-section of people about a matter of significance, and I would like to thank those who gave us their opinions.

Yours sincerely,  
Fletcher Stewart

P.S. I noticed the letter concerning the unavailability of the Meditation Room for Meditation. This does raise a serious issue. There has been considerable confusion about the use of this room. Existing policy is that it must be reserved for religious types of activities. This has been blatantly stretched in the past, resulting in very messy parties. Somewhat more care is being exercised now as to what groups can book it. Part of the problem is that it is a relatively attractive room for

parties. Another part of the problem is that if it is left unrestrictedly open for individual use, items of furnishing are ripped off or spoilt, and some people use it for other purposes than meditation (which presumably would spoil the mood for those who were there for serious meditation).

Another part of the problem is that the curling rink is directly below, and the sound and cold both carry, which reduces the room's usefulness for religious functions of any type except the most ascetic! I don't see any easy solution to these problems, but certainly the chaplains would be interested in finding a solution. I wonder if those who are concerned about it would like to communicate with one another and come up with some proposals?

## Latest, but not least

This is my first letter to the *Gateway* in quite some time, due to the pre-exam workload. I take this opportunity to look at some interesting events of the past term.

1) Native land claims. Certainly, the fact that Indians' land was stolen by persons now dead does not vitiate their claim to that land. Reason must enter into this as well. For example: as the native people never dug oilwells or built water treatment plants or hydroelectric plants before the white man came, these can not be said to be traditional Indian activities. Non-native land is subject to expropriation for Government projects of importance, provided compensation is sufficient to enable replacement of the land and property. For Native people to demand more than that - is to demand special treatment. If all they want is to be free to live their own lives, why do they always insist on living them on land useful for other things as well, instead of land equally suitable for their activities?

The government should certainly take action to return more land to the Indians throughout Canada. Expropriating it from farmers in areas of importance to the native people would create many buyers for farmland, enabling some of the less successful farmers to finally sell out and make a profit without taking their land out of agricultural use. One point here: restrictions on cities absorbing farmland from

farmers only too willing to sell causes, to some extent, high land prices.

Health care to India must be given a very high priority by the government, as well as all facets of medicine. People are dying or suffering unnecessarily because of lack of cadaver organs. Human lives should not have to depend on charitable impulses of a charitable nature. It should be necessary to fill out some kind of form to assure that your organs will not be used (any reason, however trivial, could be accepted: apathy being the main reason there are so few organ donors, we won't have a dangerously enormous amount of people filling out these forms anyways) instead of the case that exists at present.

Speaking of common sense in Native land claims, a month or so ago one Native people's group felt that 50% of the GNP was a just demand - for a start. Besides the fact that that would leave the 90 to 99.9% of us who are non-native starving for the most part, such an idea is so ridiculous as to leave one incredulous as to how it could possibly be conceived. No amount of guilt would ever cause us to endure poverty in order to maintain an utterly fantastic level of wealth - probably one never before seen on this Earth - for the Native people, or any other small group of people in this country.

2) Speaking of things utterly ridiculous, the comical cover of the October 31st *Gateway* hid beneath it something even more silly - an example of ignorance even more ghastly and horrible than the ghastly and horrible (except for RLS and our favorite blue-eyed Arab) phantoms on the cover!

Of course, I am referring to the letter of Mr. Chomica, "On Life".

"A code is an idea: one can't see codes in microscopes": a code is a method of converting symbols to data. The symbols are visible in the microscope. The data they contain, the "names" of needed amino acids are also physically observable as the resultants of certain symbols. Therefore, the code: the system of symbol (nucleic acid) to data (amino acid) conversion is observable. The statement quoted is meaningless.

"Living things cannot be formed from things devoid of life": why not? Admittedly, we haven't yet; but there is nothing about life that makes it impossible to construct it out of the same chemicals: the same elements, obtained from nonliving sources, of which it itself is made. The complexity of life is not enough to make its duplication permanently impossible: and once a duplicate of a living thing has been constructed, how could it simply refuse to life?

3) How unfortunate that so many spelling errors marred the letter "Rocks Off" in the Nov. 28 *Gateway*. To the person or persons who later wrote the inane reply to it, "Voyeur", I can only say that if one disbelieves in the very existence of obnoxious persons, one is quite mad.

4) Concerning the dichotomy between pure and applied science, attempts to control the growth of technology will be almost as dangerous as attempts to control the growth of pure science. If the people of the past had been consulted about whether or not the Birth Control pill should have been invented, they probably would have said no, due to their fears of promiscuity, loss of the puritan

# Gateway

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