

EDITORIAL

Only screen deep

Who is it who projects across the country the image of MPs not working? It is the vultures who sit up there.... They alone are responsible for the disrespect in which this House is held.

- Jack Horner, referring to the Parliamentary Press Gallery

In the 1979 federal election, only 18 per cent of the money spent on advertising by the three major political parties went to the print media.

Liberal party strategists declared that they "did not care what the print medium published so long as the party received regular television coverage."

Joe Clark showed more concern towards the newspapers' role: "I rely on the press for information. But I also rely on it for advice in a certain sense. I won't identify them, but there are certain columnists whose insight I respect, and I do try and read those columns."

Ironically, Pierre Trudeau, with his regular jabs at the press, still commanded the awe of journalists in 1979.

"The most striking thing about Trudeau is the words he uses, and that is a power journalists understand only too well," said Parliamentary Press Gallery reporter Roy MacGregor.

Trudeau's upper-hand in his dealings with the press deteriorated in the 1980 campaign. You might recall that in May 1979, Trudeau announced his resignation as leader of the Liberals. And when the Conservatives were forced to call an election in December 1979, Trudeau said he would run again; but he virtually promised that he would soon resign even if he was elected in the February 1980 federal election.

"When he resigned and then changed his mind, the Ottawa press corps chose 'deception' over 'duty' when it came time to interpret Trudeau's actions, and when Trudeau snidely walked out on CBC reporter David Halton's question during his first press conference as the born-again leader, it marked a low point in press relations and a marked tainting of the previous awe. It was a long time coming," said MacGregor, in *The Press We Deserve*.

At least it was rather fitting that Trudeau walked out on a member of the electronic media.

"Television has come into its own, and political journalism has veered toward total irrelevance, during recent election campaigns," said the Kent Commission in 1981.

"Newspapers appear to have been heavily influenced by television coverage with its emphasis on attacks and counter-attacks, leadership, color, action, and the 'horse race' aspect of campaigns. Local and regional issues have been neglected," said the Commission.

This doesn't mean that print journalists are necessarily giving much better political coverage; according to MacGregor, the typical political writer is "fairly Conservative in soul, Liberal in print, and NDP in the bar."

Well, he was right about that last point; scotch on the rocks, please.

Brent Jang

Socialists, old and new

Today Molly rang me. (Her son) Tommy is involved with the new group of young socialists. Molly said she had sat in a corner listening while they talked. She felt as if "she had gone back a hundred years to her own youth" when she was first in the Communist Party.

"Anna, it was extraordinary! It was really so odd. Here they are, with no time for the C.P., and quite right too, and no time for the Labour Party, and I wouldn't be surprised if they weren't right about that, there are a few hundred of them, scattered up and down Britain, yet they all talk as if Britain will be socialist in about ten years at the latest, and through their efforts of course. You know, as if they will be running the new beautiful socialist Britain that will be born on Tuesday week. I felt as if they were mad, or as if I were mad....but the point is, Anna, it's just like us, isn't it? Well? And even using that awful jargon we've been making fun of for years and years, just as if they'd just thought it all up for themselves."

I said, "But surely, Molly, you're pleased he's become a socialist, and not some sort of career-type?"

"But of course. Naturally. The point is, oughtn't they to be more intelligent than we were, Anna?"

Doris Lessing, 1962
The Golden Notebook

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Staff this Issue

Cue 1: Music up, lights up. Enter stage right...The audience waits in anticipation, as the new Gilbert Bouchard play, *Nukes on the Barge* at Lake LaFarge, opens here at the Gateway premiere. Stage manager John Algard cues the action, as Bruno Betelnutt, the producer of the play, discusses life in the center lane with editor at large, John Roggeveen. Heather-Ann Laird and Ken Lenz scurry about back stage, seeking leading persons Janine McDade and Trish Saunders. Bev Blair and Nate LaRoi check the sound board and lighting cues, while Charmaine Roux and Jack Vermece bring down the house lights. Mark Roppel, Bill Ingles and Martin Beales step onto the stage and...There once was a man named Luke, whose origins were rumored as Uke; that night on the barge, on Lake LaFarge, he created his very own nuke....

The Gateway is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief; opinions and editorials are signed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway. Copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm 262, Advertising Dept.: Rm 256D, Students' Union Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7. Newsroom phone 432-5168 (5178); Advertising - 432-4241, Ext. 26. The Gateway is a member of Canadian University Press. Newspaper readership is 25,000.

gateway
 VOL. LXIII, NO. 45

« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

Dear John, dear John you poor misguided soul

Re: *Dissecting Sexism, part 2.*

Dear John, or perhaps it should be dearest John...it is time to dissect the sword of patriarchy with the double-headed axe of the patriarchy - and at this moment, I can't think of anything I'd rather take a stab at. We, that is, you and I and everyone else too, have perceptions about our social reality. In your comments about Sexism, I have to compliment you on the clarity with which you perceive just how (and what) the perceptions you have come about. I am not quite so quick to leave my "ready position" and "start fencing". You highlighted advertising. I agree that it is one way we create stereotypes. But, you manage to belittle the magnitude of it all by stating that advertising has only a moderate effect on perpetuating stereotypes.

Dream for a moment dear John! Rest by the fireside on a Friday evening with your legs crossed and a nice book on your lap. Do you realize that if you were taller, had a nicer moustache and wore your hair parted down the middle, that some very popular young women would give you a call and ask you out to the latest SUB dance? And, you could say, in gentle response, "no thanks, I have to babysit. Perhaps another time?"

Dear John - oh Dear John, how could you miss the impact of the word "advertising" by narrowing it to "ads". Women will never be placated that way! You must try instead to show that you really do understand what women want!!

You've massaged the patriarchal guilt by saying that "in the case of women...people have the opportunity to check the validity of their perceptions of reality frequently." I would hazard, at this point, a challenge to you of tautology. (Women act this way; women are stereotyped this way therefore, women act this way). You and I can both agree that the victims of female stereotyping are not just the women themselves, but the men who have only a stereotyped view about women on which to base their "very real" behavior. It appears that women who want to live up to the "stereotype of advertising" to associate with men, run the risk of only knowing men who believe the stereotype. If that is what you choose, dear John, that is the bed you must lie in.

Yes, misperceptions still exist. I'm so tired of the word misconceptions - misperceptions at least leave some fragmented hopes for restitution. But, if you didn't want the Barbie Dolls, perhaps women could be freed of that shackle, and all other shackles (like well dressed, beautiful, sexy, smiling, perpetually happy, supportive good cooks who are entirely non-athletic and non-challenging to the good ole male ego). My God, I'd hate to have to look like Ken Doll too! What do you say to getting together and creating a third stereotype - *real people*? Would that disarm the fencers?

En escrime, Sandi Kirby,
Graduate Studies

Egg-noggins unite!

It has been brought to my attention that many students who have seen the petition for an Association of Science Students have not understood the phrase "actively involved". In order to clarify this problem I shall first give a brief summary of the projected duties of such an association.

An Association of Science Students would both organize events for and look after the complaints of the Science Students. These events would include guest lectures by various members of the Faculty of Science, representing as many of the departments as possible. Various social affairs will also be scheduled. The Association would hear the concerns of the students and present them to the appropriate board; be it Students' Union, General Faculties' Council, or the Faculty of Science.

Now to get back to "actively involved". An

"actively involved" student is one who is willing to use the above mentioned services. I encourage all the Science students to sign this petition and show their support for a faculty association. By giving their support to a Science Students' Association the students are ensuring that they receive services which have never before been offered to Science students. I want to thank you all in advance for your support and encourage you to get involved with the Association of Science Students as it is only through student involvement that such an organization can be successful.

David Koch, Science I

Getting sloshed (wisely)

Final exams now hang as guillotine blade, (sic) above the lily white necks of students across the country. We the Engineers recognize that the single factor which inhibits the acquirement of high grades is not lack of intelligence, understanding or attendance, but a problem of a more serious consequence.

Borderline alcoholism affects most anyone (sic) who drinks to glorious excess. In order to curb the detrimental effects which this damaging social phenomena has on the G.P.A., we suggest some guidelines to be followed during these remaining weeks.

We hope that all those who read this will be lead (sic) down the path of righteousness towards a greater final average.

- 1) Never drink alone. Drink only with friends or people you don't know.
- 2) Never drink during the week. Drink only on weekdays and weekends. (sic!)
- 3) Finally, do not drink alcoholic liquids which have not been made through the fermentation of organic matter.

John (F)isher, Eric (F)redine,
Allan (D)olynny, John (S)obota; Eng. I

Getting sloshed (sportingly)

I believe that it is of utmost importance that student involvement in the Universiade® be advocated. One problem which is evident though, is the fact that not all of us are jocks. For this reason, I believe an alternative field of participation is necessary, namely that of drinking team. This would allow a complete and full representation of that certain group which feels discriminated against because they lack the conventional prerequisites to participate. The competitive spirit of sports can be transferred to their "social art" as some people think it is.

There must be a group of people on this campus who are willing to forward their perfected skill to help Canada pick up a gold medal with great ease. Since this is my idea, I hereby proclaim myself as captain of the team. Interested parties should forward their applications to the Gateway office with a record of past victories. Tryouts will be determined some time in the future. This team, being non-discriminatory, advocates full participation of women in this event; God knows some of them can drink Dean Martin under the table.

Martin Schug, non-Jock participant

Audiophile etiquette

Once again the spring recital season is upon us, and, as part of their degree, music majors are required to give a performance, usually in Convocation Hall. Having attended a number of these concerts, though, there are a few elementary points I would like to lay out clearly for those wishing to attend.

- i) It is rude in the extreme to come banging into a recital hall a few minutes late, without waiting for a break in the music. Please remember, dear dilettantes, that the performer has to concentrate on the piece in progress - each recital is the equivalent of a final exam to a music major.