

Atkey out of touch

The recent announcement by Employment Minister Ron Atkey outlining his plans for revamping the Canadian unemployment insurance program serves notice of the Tory government's lack of concern for the average Canadian. It is true that the present system is in need of reform, but Atkey's elitist proposals are aimed at the wrong people and in the wrong direction.

In an *Edmonton Sun* story (September 9), Atkey is reported to have expressed concern over the fact that 4300 immigrants are being brought into Canada to fill holes in the labor force. "I wonder where all those people are who claim they can't get jobs?" he is quoted as saying. This reaction to a complex problem is typical of the Clark government's facile and narrow-minded interpretation of the national problems they face.

Clark's election promise was to curb unemployment, yet Atkey apparently feels convinced that unemployment will become a bigger problem in Canada in the coming months. The government's plan? Rather than attack the problem at its source through job creation and control of the hiring/layoff practices of private business, Clark, through Atkey, sees fit to make the victims of unemployment suffer even more than they already are.

The Tory government's intended policy towards employment is a dire message to students: no matter what the situation in Canada, if you do not have a job — summer or post-graduate — you are obviously lazy and therefore deserve to suffer. Likewise, if you are a worker out of a job due to illness or pregnancy, you will also see a cut in your insurance premiums under the proposed "reform" plans. Increased penalties for being fired or quitting a job are also being examined, even if the job you leave pays only minimum wage and offers the worst of working conditions.

So, if you are a waitress working nights for \$3.00 an hour, and you are fired for refusing the sexual advances of your employer, then you will pay for your "prudishness". And if people think that situations like this are not occurring every day, they are wrong.

Atkey will be bringing up these points at a federal-provincial conference next week, and with the selection of topics like these, it is easy to see where government sympathies lie. They lie with the automobile manufacturing corporations for example, who will lay off thousands of workers to solve their economic problems, while protecting their incredible profit level. It's profits before people for big business and our weak and ineffectual federal government continues to support the trend.

We'll never see Ron Atkey holding down a minimum wage job. But the boys in Ottawa sure can find jobs for old friends. Robert Stanfield is currently burning up federal funds to solve a question, the answer to which is painfully obvious.

Gordon Turtle

the Gateway

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If it happens on campus...it's news to us.

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Ireland's instant solution

I feel obliged to reply to the "Reader Comment" of September 11 by Mr. David R. Marples. In Mr. Marples' zeal to present his bigoted Marxist viewpoint, he does not let facts stand in the way of his argument.

To compare British internment camps to Dachau and Belsen is absurd. Whatever conditions might exist in such camps, they hardly compare to the killing of noted and respected figures like Lord Mountbatten. He served this country and his

own well in the struggle against the perpetrators of Dachau and Belsen. The British Army's presence in Northern Ireland is necessary to protect the Protestant majority from these sorts of vicious crimes by the Catholics. They are only doing their job, protecting a democratically elected government from savage attacks by terrorists.

Mr. Marples appears to be another of those "bleeding heart liberals" who support so-called "freedom fighters" around the

world and call those who hold more sensible viewpoints "bigots." It is not a matter of bigotry. The last thing Ireland needs is such people in foreign countries such as Canada coming up with instant solutions to its problems. Britain's new prime minister has shown her fortitude with her recent visit to Ireland. Perhaps with this sort of strong government a solution can be found.

Charles Farley
Comm. 2

Now you know . . . everything

If this letter is published, it will be my 51st letter to appear in your pages . . . and also probably one of my last.

I disagree with many things said in your center spread on the boat people: one that I agree with, though, is very important. The West has been blind, for many years, to the refugees who stream to Hong Kong from Red China. While Teng Hsiao-Ping (Deng Xiaoping) may be moving the country towards democracy, I remain to be convinced. Although Western governments have reacted to the boat people with compassion, they have also asked Vietnam to stop the exodus . . . presumably, if East Germans were yellow, we would ask the GDR to build a higher wall.

I also took exception to one aspect of the Reader Comment in the same issue (Sept. 11) on Ireland. The deliberate, senseless murder of an innocent person should be reacted to as such, rather than searching for any "causes" to "explain" (excuse?)

God knows

A couple of friends of mine last year took some Religious Studies courses, and they were good courses. When they went for interviews with the various Catholic School Boards however, they were told that these courses didn't count, that they needed Catechetics or Christian Theology. These apparently are taught at St. Joe's here on campus.

It might be nice if the registration people got their act together. My friends wasted a year!

Apparently the school boards want religion teachers to know what they are talking about: what will they think of next!

T. Roy

I liked registration!

After reading Charles Ferguson's letter to *The Gateway* in Tuesday's issue, I was impelled to write and comment myself. I am also a first year university student, but I didn't experience any of the hassles that many people told me I would have. The reason for this was due to the very helpful, informative people who spoke at the Mature Student Orientation. Now for the multitude of you out there who were just out of high school, the alternative would have been the Student Orientation Program. Perhaps it is the fault of the high schools who do not inform or

stress the importance of such a function. But I must honestly admit once you are informed at this orientation, registration is a breeze to go through. There wouldn't be any hasty thoughts of an alternate system, for the one they have now is very efficient.

To all of you who took the time to inform us at the orientation, and the cheerful people in the Arts Faculty that I came in contact with on registration day, a big Thank You!

Lorette Lear
Arts I

Some of you may believe me when I say that the Soviet Union is a repressive tyranny, on a par with South Africa, Chile, and worse than most Third World despotisms. Others may not. The case for this assertion has been argued more persuasively than I can do so, and in many places. Especially by those with direct experience with the system.

Yesterday, the optimists were learning Russian, and the pessimists were learning Chinese. Today, the optimists are learning Chinese (Mandarin), the pessimists Russian, and the paranoid are learning Albanian.

Looking at recent developments in southern Africa, it looks as if we're quite willing to depend on Iron Curtain countries for the chromium, manganese, etc. that we need for our missiles (pointed at them). Lots of luck.

Really, though, when we allowed the Communist tyranny to acquire a nuclear capability back in the late forties, rather than forestalling it, World War III was all over but the shouting. Would you vote for a President willing to risk nuclear war? Tyrants, of course, don't get voted for. They like their own necks too — but they can take calculated risks, whereas electorates tend to get panicky.

Let's see now . . . I could criticize the ecologists, who advocate the notion that threats to the environment should be stopped even when they do not interfere with its ability to support man, because "man is a part of nature", in a world where children starve.

Or the women's libbers. Yes, women are people too. It is true that children need a parent at home . . . but it isn't fair that that parent should always be the mother. And of course I'm for equal pay and against sexual harassment.

However . . . must athletes be denied a rather elementary element of human dignity so that women can compete as sports reporters? Is it sexist not to be bisexual . . . after all, can a feeling of "love" that is circumscribed by the kind of genitalia the other person possesses really be anything but exploitation in the all too relentless logic of the Movement? (Incidentally, the term "male chauvinist" was used by the CPUSA in the fifties.)

On the optimistic assumption that civilization does not break down, I tried to lift the lid on the suppression of longevity research last year . . . and the only thing I aroused was the ire of two gentlemen of the cloth. Maybe people don't even care about their own necks.

John Savard
Grad Studies