



Aspidistra

by Alison Thomson

This week's offering, which I hope and trust will prove to offend no one: a *who's the author and in what work?* quiz. The quotations are all ones I can honestly say I recognize; the accuracy of them I checked in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*.

1. There is but one step from the grotesque to the horrible.
2. I'm called away by particular business. But I leave my character behind me.
3. Tonsant Weader fwowed up.
4. I invoke the genius of the Constitution.
5. Cover her face; mine eyes dazzle: she died young.
6. The chapter on the fall of the Rupee you may omit. It is too sensational.
7. ...the unspeakable in full pursuit of the uneatable.
8. Festina lente.
9. The three great elements of modern civilization: Gunpowder, Printing, and the Protestant Religion.
10. ...ad, kindly light, amid the encircling gloom, Lead thou me on; The night is dark, and I am far from home, Lead thou me on. Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see The distant scene; one step enough for me.
11. A Bad Thing: America was thus clearly top nation and History came to a .
12. This long disease, my life.
13. You have deliberately tasted two worms and you can leave Oxford by the town drain.
14. My desire is... that mine adversary had written a book.
15. He is an Englishman. For he himself has said it. And it's greatly to his credit. That he is an Englishman.

Answers:
 1. Arthur Conan Doyle, *Wisteria Lodge*.
 2. Richard Sheridan, *The School for Scandal*.
 3. Dorothy Parker, in a review of A.A. Milen.
 4. William Pitt.
 5. John Webster, *The Duchess of Malvi*.
 6. Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*.
 7. Oscar Wilde, *A Woman of No Importance* (he's referring to fox hunting).
 8. Suetonius, *Divus Augustus*. (It means hasten slowly).
 9. Thomas Carlyle, *Critical and Miscellaneous Essays*.
 10. John Henry, Cardinal Newman, *The Pillar of Cloud*.
 11. W.C. Sellar, R.J. Yeatman, *1066 and All That*.
 12. Alexander Pope, *Epistles and Satires of Horace Imitated*.
 13. Rev. Spooner. The gentleman's proclivity for this sort of thing gave the expression "spoonerism" to the language.
 14. The Bible, in the book of Job.
 15. Gilbert and Sullivan, *HMS Pinafore*.

Score:
 12-15 Correct: amazing to do this well on someone else's selection of quotations.
 8-11 Rather good.
 4-7 Probably about average in these degenerate times.
 0-3 You too can be a *Gateway* editor.

Different paths to freedom

It is heartening to see that the infamous events of Engineering Week have spawned such a heated debate about sexism, feminism and the need for a Women's Center. Unfortunately many of the letters and articles in the *Gateway* have tended to provide a rather narrow interpretation of the feminist cause.

Women's movements have historically undertaken a broad range of social, political and cultural issues which have affected not only women but also men and children. As well as fighting for the right to vote, our grandmothers worked for parental and property rights, better wages and working conditions, improved health and educational services and penal reform.

Although the modern women's movement began with an initial idealistic concept that women could be united as an homogeneous political force, it has become obvious that women, like men, have different political perspectives as well as individual concerns. However, most men and women who call themselves feminists would share a basic philosophy regarding the need to break down the sexually stereotyped roles of women and men in order that they may participate on an equal basis in the home, in the workplace and within relationships.

The strategies to reach this goal vary greatly. For some feminists, the means to this end is women gaining an equal footing

with men in terms of employment opportunities and wages. For others, the battle revolves around the stereotyping of male and female sex roles in the media and in daily encounters. Many women feel that women must be able to control their bodies and their reproductive systems in order to achieve equality with men.

While some women are only able to discover their strengths and skills by withdrawing from men and interacting only with women, many feminists feel that it is crucial for men to divest themselves of their own debilitating sex roles and to be given access to the traditionally female pursuits of parenting and nurturing. Sexism is an oppressive force and must be dealt with on every level of a person's life. Like its cousins, racism and elitism, it damages the purveyor as well as the victim.

It is not surprising that many people will not call themselves feminists because the media has consistently undermined the women's movement by presenting feminists as men-hating, ugly, humorless, negative, hysterical bra-burning bitches. In reality, feminists come in a variety of guises, shapes, ages and sizes. They even include males like Jon Voigt, John Lennon, Alan Arkin and Phil Donahue, to name a few well-known men who call themselves feminists.

Feminists work on a variety of causes, many of which are not controversial or sexy enough to gain much media attention. And over the last twelve years, feminists have made significant impacts on all of our lives and our consciousness.

The battle is not won, however. Women still earn much less than men (58% of male wages, and the gap is widening), and even women with equal education, seniority and experience are paid less than men in the same job, according to a recent provincial government survey. Women's access to the work force is limited by the lack of good daycare, adequate contraception, retraining programs, opportunities and encouragement. And these situations force men into the role of the primary wage-earner and curtail their participation in the family. The list of problems and concerns is endless.

A Women's Center on this campus would be of enormous benefit to faculty, students and workers of both sexes. It could provide the information, resources and spirit necessary to tackle a problem whose solution will liberate women and men. That anyone could argue that a Women's Center is not needed is proof of the misunderstandings that such a center must address.

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LETTERS

Letters to the *Gateway* should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters must be typed, though we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Gateway*.

You guys are still missing the boat

I congratulate Peter Michalyshyn on his election as *Gateway* editor for 1981-82. I look forward to reading *Gateway*, but lately I've been consistently finding the most worthwhile material on the back page.

During the past three and a half months there have been, in Edmonton and beyond, a number of significant events:

- a large number of 'classical' concerts have been performed by the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and other groups;
- a number of fine recitals, and a brilliant performance of "Noah's Flood," later broadcast on the CBC, were mounted by the U of A's Music Department;
- Alberta's Minister for Education made a proposal for radically changing the whole approach to the training of teachers;
- numerous political events occurred, including a threat to Joe Clark's leadership and President Reagan's threat to cut education spending.

All of these events ought to have been reported and discussed in *Gateway*. Regrettably, I can recall little published in your paper since December apart from repetitious pieces about Garneau, sexism, the women's center and now international women's day. There are thousands of us men out here in the university, and we know you're trying to give us a new perspective on life, but for

heaven's sake, can't you be a bit more subtle about it?

Let's hope that Peter's nomination means that more real issues will be discussed. Let's have more sports, more discussion, and

more good reporting, and let's hope that *Gateway* will entertain and enlighten its readers more skilfully next academic year.

Peter West
Department of
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