

# the Gateway

## EDITORIAL

### Buckley and truth

You might ask, why all this attention we have been giving William F. Buckley Jr. of late and I would not blame you — most of you — for asking, for we did not add one finishing touch to the 'Great Buckley Standoff': a broad, objective biography of the individual Andersen and I so divergently discussed. So:

*William Frank Buckley Jr. Born New York City November 24, 1925; B.A. Yale 1950, head of Yale Daily News; associate editor The American Mercury (1952); editor-in-chief biweekly conservative journal of opinion National Review 1955; host weekly television program Firing Line 1966; has written or edited a dozen or so books, fiction and non-fiction; syndicated columnist since 1962. In general, devoutly Roman Catholic, quite wealthy, married, one son.*

That's the factual stuff. To get a subjective 'feel' for the man though, Webster's American Biographies tells us:

*Noted particularly for his archly patrician manner and dazzling vocabulary in debate, Buckley (is) held by many to be the principal contemporary intellectual resource of U.S. political conservatism.*

Will Herberg says: *"In the heyday of Gladstonian liberalism, conservatives (Tories) were wont to be called the 'stupid party'... But today the tables are turned: it is the liberals who are the stupid party, and the conservatives who exhibit the moral and political intelligence in the nation. In bringing about this reversal, no one has been more effective than William F. Buckley Jr..."*

And for literary enthusiasts, V. S. Wavasky notes: *"...his ultimate talent is as syntactician. Whether he is adumbrating Aquinas or decimating a contemporary cliché, his sentences can raise their eyebrows, he can set up a victim in parentheses and dispose of him in italics! This mix — the new syntax and the old politics — in addition to exuding literary charm, seems to suited to Buckley's specialty: the essaylet."*

But finally, to give the appearance of objectivity, I must include an uncomplimentary comment from Benjamin De Mott:

*"...Because of class fetishism and stock responses, he's inept at inquiring into the roots of any behavior that shocks him; he can 'understand what they (this or that alien group), are trying to do' only when the aliens share his fundamental life-assumptions...he is favorably disposed to all debator's tricks — even the slippery 'merely' (as in 'merely a proletarian vision) — and to this day he hasn't foresworn the percentage game."*

All of this does not tell you why the Gateway is interested in Buckley. It does not matter merely that I think 'The Great Standoff' was the most thoughtful and provocative thing we have published so far this academic year. It does matter, though, that Buckley, like him or hate him, is one of the great, thought provokers around; he is to tired old ideologues what Daniel Patrick Moynihan called "a near approximation to a hard sweat and a Swedish massage."

And so, remembering that university education, or any genuine intellectual curiosity, is that which, among other things, is thought-provoking, and remembering that our goal, among others, is that the Gateway be provocative, Buckley is welcome; more than that, he is necessary.

So too is Father Greg Chisholm and leader of the Salvadorean Democratic Front (FDR) Guillermo Ungo, articles about whom we have published in relation to perceived American atrocities in El Salvador, or, more recently, the feature by Soledad Rosas on the perceived repressive Pinochet dictatorship in Chile.

In a sincere but small way then, the Gateway tries to provoke reactions to thoughts and ideas often unavailable anywhere else. And to those who think that such balance is a sell out to the right or the left and that some perspectives are simply too dangerous to write about...well, when one seeks out the truth, one first must be able to recognize and weed out the lies.

Peter Michalyszyn

### The unknown filler

"The conservative ethos presumes an attitude of moderation and magnanimity (i.e. a willingness to restrain one's primitive appetites in the interests of civilization)

Lewis H. Lapham.

Item: HERITAGE FUND GRANT for LIBRARIES CUT



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Klein blasted for behaviour

The comments made last week by Calgary's mayor Ralph Klein suggests that he is not the soul of discretion in matters of public welfare. His description of "Easterners" as "bums" and "a lot of creeps" is concise and conclusive, and makes no sense at all.

It fosters only discriminatory and prejudicial attitudes, and may result in cleavages among Canadians in the same city. If allowed to continue, I wonder whether Eastern Canadians will be used as scapegoats when explaining any one of Calgary's growing pains.

Perhaps the Mayor of that city should look deeper.

Perhaps the problem is not a geographical one at all, but rather an age-specific one. It appears that most young people there between 16 and 26 years of age, good or bad, come from other provinces. So is it surprising when crime statistics indicate that arrests are higher for out-of-province youths? Does this justify the mayor's claim that "Easterners" are "bums" and "creeps"?

Among Mayor Klein's hasty conclusions are some neglected considerations. For instance, has the growth of the city's police department, and the increase in reporting crime caused the crime rate to appear inflated?

Has the lack of housing got anything to do with it?

Or, has the reaction of Eastern Canadians toward such tee-shirt logos as "GO EAST YOUNG MAN AND TAKE YOUR FAMILY" affected their appreciation of the city?

Certainly, Calgary's Mayor is attempting to speak to the hearts of his "native" electorate, and his words may well be welcomed by all armchair analysts who love to explain anti-social behaviour with a simple description. Descriptions are not explanations.

When the mayor himself admits to "being a bit of a redneck", what does this do to the city's cosmopolitan image? Admitting the blatantly obvious does not exempt one from ignorance.

Will Moran  
Grad Studies

### Round-up dollars

We recently received an unexpected but welcome donation of \$1500.00 from the Round-Up director of the U. of A. Agriculture Club which was made on behalf of the University students who attended the Round-Up '81 dance, held in October. While it was unfortunate for those who were in attendance that the band failed to appear, it may help to know that the fee the band was to receive has been given to charitable community organizations on their behalf.

In our case, this donation

came at a most appropriate time as Boysdale is currently facing some difficult financial problems in trying to rebuild its facilities after a 1980 fire and at the same time continue our camp program for Edmonton's underprivileged boys and girls, aged 7 - 14.

So on behalf of the Boysdale Foundation, I would certainly like to thank the university students for this donation.

Thanks for caring and sharing  
R. Batten, Treasurer  
Boysdale Foundation

### CANSAVE finance report

Dear Sirs:

Since it is mostly University people who donate to the English Dept.'s efforts on behalf of the Canadian Save the Children Fund (CANSAVE), please allow me to use your letter page for our Annual Report to the University Community.

From the AV Centre, and our CANSAVE Cookbook, and from

Miss Kam's bottle drive: \$457.43.

From the sale of CANSAVE Xmas Cards, by the staff of the English Dept. Office: \$1460.50.

That totals \$1917.93.

With many thanks to all concerned, yours gratefully, on behalf of CANSAVE,  
N. Parker Jarvis

Staff this issue: In the deep mid winter, frosty winds did blow, Gateway staffers worked long and hard, with faces all aglow. Roggeveen Brown and Whitby... (holy fuck I hate writing childish poetic shit like this stupid inane crap that I already started but I'll try and continue) did sing and laugh all day, and when the paper finished, shouted hi-ho yipee hooray. Peterson (notice how I'm just the typesetter and only get my last name mentioned, fucking bourgeois mentality, anyhow) Jacob West and Inglee... (you know perhaps the fact that I'm compelled to write pointless drivel is only a reflection of some dangerous personality defect stemming from a suppressed childhood memory) did do some very good work. (I don't think I'll continue, I'm really such a jerk.)

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