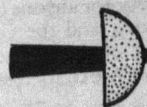


En Garde!

by John Roggeveen



Another Roggeveenesque hodge-podge, straight from the lip, on just about everything:

- Gallup polls: Does it not make you a wee bit leery of the concept of free will when you realize the Gallup organization makes pretty accurate estimates of the populace's opinions on the basis of a sample of, at most, a few thousand people?

- Lughead: Did you catch Petro Pete's news conference about a week ago in which he said unskilled laborers need not apply for work in Alberta, because jobs are going to Albertans first. Now, if Lughead's economic recovery is coming in the spring, as he claims, tell me why aren't there going to be enough jobs for everyone, eh? Find out in the spring.

- Civic saving: Mayor Cecil says our city must cut 977 jobs to prevent our taxes from getting too high next year. Purves could save 3 city workers' jobs and save the taxpayers some City Council-induced agony by convincing himself, Olivia Butti and Paul Norris to resign. Norris is the most odious of the three. Word has it he is running against Alexander Haig in the 1982 Moronic Missing-Link Look-alike Contest.

- About face! Did you see our Honorable Minister of Education Dave King on CBC's Provincial Affairs, trying to convince people of the greatness of the brand-new purely-voluntary Provincial comprehensive examinations for grade twelve students in academic programs. Not being compulsory, these examinations are going to be virtually useless in improving our impotent education system. Tell me, Dave, who was it that got rid of the departmental exams in the first place? The Retrogressive Conservatives you say? Such decisiveness!

- Late PoliSci Papers: Has anyone done a study of meaningless political slogans? Canada has had its share: The Land Is Strong, The Just Society, Now More Than Ever, for Alberta Leadership, The Future Is Here. There are undoubtedly many more.

Some are sure to come from the Utopian Pragmatist slate in the upcoming SU elections. Watch for them. They're going to be the best slate to run in an SU election since Harvey Groberman led his Liberal Democrats to defeat some years back. How do I know? I got it from Jens Andersen, an infallible source if there ever was one.

Teachers won't sign oath

Managing editor's note: A xerox of the following letter was sent to us by an academic at a West Bank University, who wishes to withhold identification. The universities which have members on the Passport Committee apparently includes Bir Zeit University, Al-Nagah University, Bethlehem University and Hebron University.

In a covering letter the writer says, "Although thoroughly opposed to terrorism, we cannot sign the political statement. ... Since the (below) letter appeared at least twelve more teachers have been ordered to leave the country; one Canadian has been forced to stop teaching; thirty members of staff from Bir Zeit have been summoned before the Military governor over the next few days and they fear the worst."

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

We — about 100 lecturers and professors holding foreign passports and teaching in universities in the occupied West Bank — are writing you as academic colleagues with an urgent request to assist us in defending our academic freedom and our right to teach.

Before processing our annual applications for work permits, which are required for foreign nationals employed by West Bank institutions, the Israeli authorities are demanding that we sign a highly political document, which, when first presented to us read:

"I hereby declare that I am fully committed against indulging in any act and offering any assistance to the organization called the PLO or any other terrorist organization that is considered hostile to the State of Israel as indicated in the Act for the Prevention of Acts of Belligerence and Enemy Propaganda (Amendment No. 1) (Judea and Samaria, No. 938) 5742-1982, such acts being of a direct and indirect nature." (unofficial translation from original Hebrew) Since its first presentation to us in August 1982, we have been informed that there have been minor changes in wording, i.e. "terrorist" has been changed to "hostile" and the words "direct and indirect nature" have been dropped.

To date, twenty professors at Al Najah National University in Nablus, including the President, Vice-President and several heads of departments, have been expelled for refusing to endorse the declaration. Nevertheless, the foreign passport holders remain united in their opposition to signing the document, both on legal and ethical grounds. As academics, we believe that being forced to sign public political statements as a prerequisite to teaching is a serious infringement of academic freedom. As foreign nationals working in territory whose status is defined by all our governments as disputed, we believe we should not be forced into the political arena.

As foreign nationals teaching at internationally-recognized universities, our sole "commitment" is defined in our contracts which spell out our duties, obligations, and responsibilities. There is no political dimension to our contracts.

The declaration provides the Israeli authorities with no legal powers they do not already possess, especially inasmuch as we have already signed undertakings that commit us to abide by the "laws of the land." Indeed, a military source quoted in the Israeli daily newspaper *Ha'aretz* on September 26 affirmed: "From a security point of view, the oath neither adds nor subtracts (sic). If we have to expel a teacher, we'll do it with or without the oath."

In our view, then, this document is a political statement. The attempt to link it to the issuance of work

permits amounts to coercion of foreign nationals (whose only role here is academic) to involve themselves with local political issues.

We appeal to you to support our right not to be forced to take political stands, a right academics around the world have labored to defend. This crisis has grave implications both for the rights of individual academics and for the future of higher education in the West Bank. Your immediate action on this issue is greatly needed. We urge you to:

1. Contact the Israeli Embassy in your country and demand the following:
 - a. the return of all expelled faculty members
 - b. the withdrawal of the declaration
2. Request your academic associations and governmental representatives to institute an inquiry into this issue and to make a formal complaint to the Israeli government.

Any other action that you can take in our behalf, particularly to bring this issue to the attention of the general public, will be greatly appreciated.

Ad Hoc Foreign Passport Holders Committee
November 4, 1982

Science truths not absolute

It is with reluctance that I agree somewhat with Jens Andersen; if some form of verification could be applied to the various theories taught in Arts courses many would be found inadequate. However, as anyone who has done at least some elementary reading in the Philosophy of Science knows, only the lower levels of scientific thought are demonstrably verifiable. The upper levels of scientific thought are strictly a belief system (Isn't that the realm of theology?). For instance, what about Einstein and Bohm and the dominant probabilistic interpretation of quantum mechanics?

It must be admitted that Einstein's general theory attracts scholars principally on aesthetic grounds, an appeal that few people outside of mathematics can appreciate. But doesn't mathematics really come under Arts?

Historical presuppositions inherent in language parameter our thinking, and thus language permits us to see only those things that are within our ideological constructs. Since Jens' dogmatism tells me that his mind is made up, I will not confuse him nor attempt to convert him to critical scholarship.

Unfortunately thus far, scientists and engineers have been more concerned with the chip and the technical possibility of a nuclear holocaust rather than with the dignity of the human person and the quality of life. As the conceptual programmers of society, I agree, Arts, Law and Education are more guilty. It has been the prerogative of these faculties to supply members to the provincial and federal legislatures.

18th century epistemic notions of scientism saw the math and test-tube boys as the possessors of absolute truth. A rather absurd notion. I would suggest that each Faculty searches for truth from within their discipline (with the possible exception of psychology; Arts is very happy to see Psych as part of Science!) Ideology is an interesting notion to observe in others, isn't it?

Sincerely
U. Deis

(Jens, I understand you are well read in Homeric nomenclature?)

Anybody who goes to see a psychiatrist ought to have his head examined.

Samuel Goldwyn

"Wimmin" vs. humans

Putting aside the recent battle between the Engineers, Artsies and Commies over who holds the lowest link in the food chain, I would like to write about a recent occurrence in the outside (as in non-university) world. Last week a group calling itself the Wimmin's Fire Brigade firebombed three outlets of the Red Hot Video Company in British Columbia. They described their attack as "an act of self-defense against hate propaganda". What bothers me is the fact that these 'wimmin' are using their sex as an excuse for terrorist activities. They are trying to justify a deliberate criminal act by claiming self-defense as their motive.

Bullshit! I have seen pornographic films before and

continued on next page

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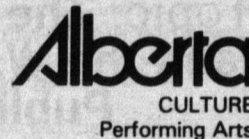
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Rm. 282 SUB, Thursday, 4 p.m.