

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

Justice for all

Since last September the *Gateway's* letter page has been the scene of an ongoing debate (If one can use so polite a term) over feminism, sexism, women rights, etc., etc. I used to think I understood the issues involved in the women's movement and, what's more, I used to have whole-hearted support for their ideals. Well, I may still support these ideals, but some of my heart has gone out of it.

Why? Because I have seen how the women's movement is capable of the same sort of over-generalizations and over-simplifications that were once the private domain of male chauvinistic pigs.

What makes discussing this so very difficult, for a male, is the awesome burden of guilt we are compelled to carry. Women have been getting short shifted for centuries and we men have a great deal to answer for, no doubt about it. I hate to differ with any feminist position because I recognize the basic justice in their cause. Yet must they state their views in such an antagonistic fashion? If they blame men so directly for the evils that beset them, they should not be surprised when men lash back with feminist jokes and chauvinistic tirades. It's a natural reaction to be expected from anyone who feels confused and threatened.

"Poetic Justice" some feminists cry, "It's about time the bastards felt what we've felt." That attitude saddens me. Do the ladies really want to improve their lot by making men all feel like boors and smucks? Feminists seem all too ready to tell us what is wrong with men but I cannot recall much reference to men's better traits (oh we must have a few!).

I'm trying, as I think many other men are, to understand what women want from us. How should I act? It all seems very difficult. We must remember that it took us centuries to reach this state of confusion and it is unreasonable, and even cruel, to expect to be able to reverse history overnight.

But if one thing would help it would be an ending of this "J'accuse" mentality that permeates the debate. Women bitching about men and men bitching about women will do no good for anyone. There is no grand male conspiracy to keep women down; no man "planned" to be a chauvinist. Nor do I think women really want to castrate everything with hairy chests. Men and women are prisoners of the same social traps; our use of hateful rhetoric only obscures our vision of this fact. It is time for the men to stop sulking and the women to stop acting so martyred; we must talk reasonably to one another.

"One another". Perhaps that is part of the solution. I've just realized that I don't really know any "women". But I do know Anne, and Mary Ruth, and Luba, and Tina, and many other girls. I relate to them as intelligent, individual persons, not as some generic group called "women". If we could get away from such condemning and whitewashing generalities I think much of the brutal hostility would go out of this issue and with it, the incessant, petty, bickering that threatens to turn the truly vital issue of feminism into such a crushing bore.

Geoffrey Jackson

A brick for thought

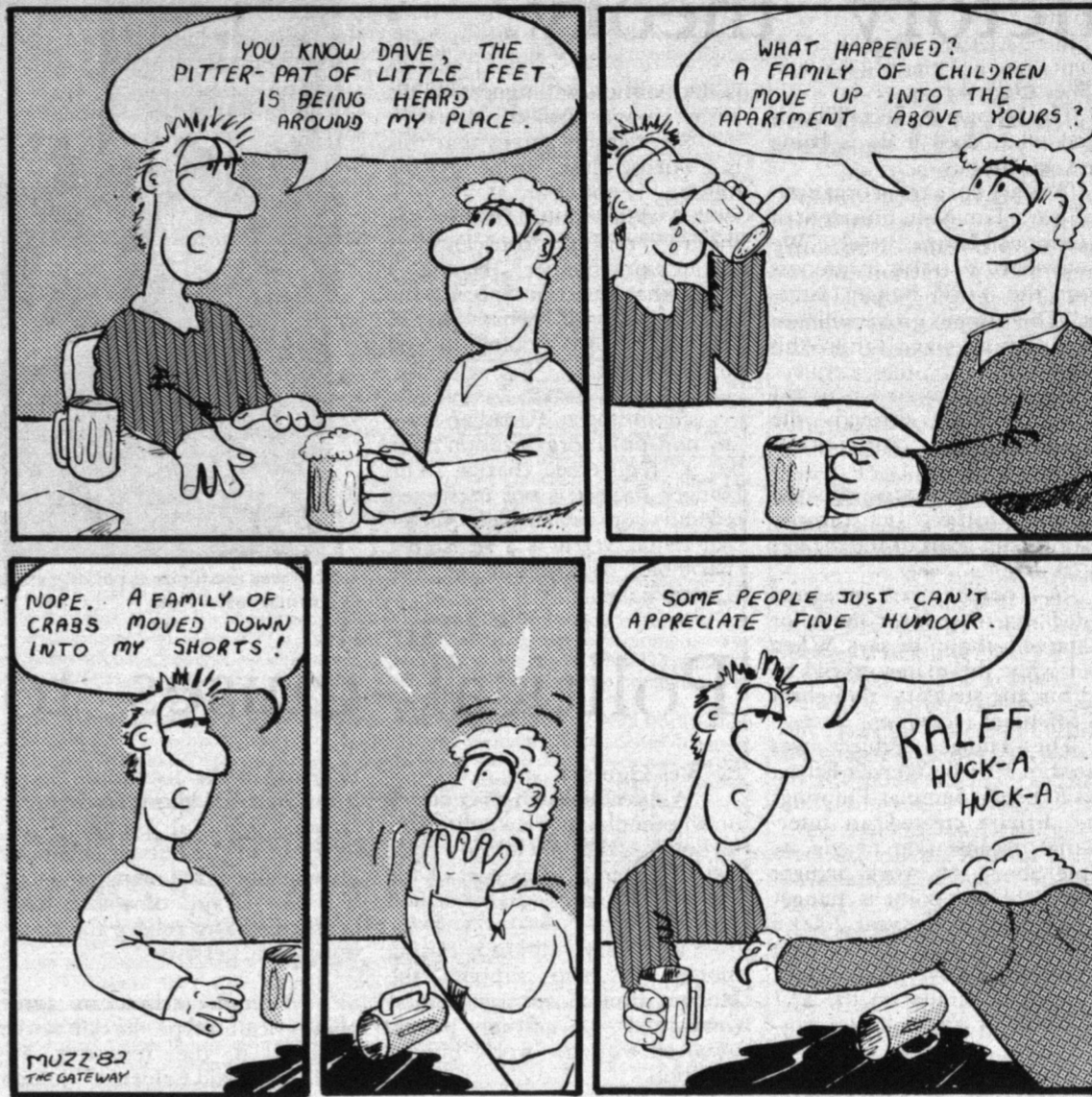
The February 22 issue of the *Engineering Times* has a story about a speech made by A.J. deGradpre, Chairman of Northern Telecom, at St. Mary's University in Halifax. What he said was pretty simple: Canada is not producing enough skilled professionals, especially engineers, and the rest of the world isn't either, so Canada won't be able to make up for the shortage by immigration in the future. He also said:

If we do not solve the problem of Canada's human resource shortages, we could be facing an economic crisis far more devastating to the national economy and national future than the present economic downturn. What we need now is a national mobilization of our educational resources, at all levels, to remedy the problem and provide the country with the trained human resources it needs to grow and prosper.

You may recall that our Engineering Faculty had to establish a quota six years ago because of lack of funding, and that last year only 67 per cent of all qualified applicants to the Faculty were admitted. And all that money just sitting there in that constipated Heritage Trust Fund....

The moral, I hope, isn't too obscure. But all the same it would be nice if someone wrapped this editorial around a brick and aimed it at Jim Horsman's head. Just make sure and throw it hard enough to make an impression.

Jens Andersen



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Inside story on election violation

Dear Editor,

The current SU campaign is getting bogged down on the issue of why it is even occurring. As somebody who is directly involved, I'd like to clear the air on the mailbox issue. First of all, a brief rundown of what happened when: The day before the February elections I went to Lister Hall to distribute old, leftover, campaign materials. Two days earlier I had spoken to a woman in the Lister Hall front office asking if I could place literature in the boxes. She said it was alright as did the person in the post office just before I put the literature in the mailboxes.

I did however violate the regulations. Had the materials been placed on doors, on tables or in people's hands there would have been no violation.

On February 17 Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board (DIE) met. I was surprised to see Robert Greenhill presenting the demand for a new election as he had been uninvolved in the previous election (this is according to Bill Cottle's campaign manager).

Shortly after the voiding of the elections I realized I shouldn't have been surprised to see Robert at DIE Board - he was running for president in the new election. I can say that I didn't know of the illegality until after the election, but that probably won't convince most people. They might be more convinced when they hear Hal Zalmanowitz, chairperson of the Board, doesn't think there was any

"maliciousness" involved and Robert Greenhill said, minutes after the meeting, that he felt the violation was "unintentional."

So it comes down to this: I made an honest mistake, of which Mike Walker was uninformed. It

would be unfair to hold my mistake - on a technical point at that - against Mike Walker or his running mate Jeff Reading.

Don Millar
Arts 1

Tag and tow in effect

Re: Emergency Access Routes - University Campus

While it is appreciated that the need to use private automobiles for transportation to this campus has increased considerably owing to the transit strike, and that certain latitude is being given operators of those vehicles who park in unused transit zones, etcetera, nevertheless it is imperative that

Emergency Access Routes and fire plug locations be left open for obvious reasons.

Vehicle operators are cautioned that the tag and tow policy is being strictly enforced and that offenders will have to face the consequences of expense and inconvenience if they park in those areas.

W.F.G. Perry
Director of Security
and Parking Services

Abortion is a necessity

I would like to clarify the contents of my March 9 letter which, because the topic sentence was omitted, appeared out of context. I intended it to address Gerard Liston and his Pro-Life pack's nauseating enthusiasm for their cause; it was not my intention to insult the intelligence of anyone else.

I do not hate men (I love men, some of my best friends are men) and I apologize for the confusion. Regarding Mr.

Schulte's reply, I must point out that whether abortion is an autonomous option for thinking women, or humane help for unready girls, these two situations while apparently at odds, both make it a necessary concession to the female half of a liberal society.

Melanie Klimchuk

Science I
ed note: Miss Klimchuk's letter of March 9, 1982 was printed verbatim. As stated in the Gateway's letter section, we only edit for libel and length as deemed necessary.

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Staff this issue: Summer dreams abound in the Gateway office. Geoffrey Jackson swaits co-irradiation of working in Szechwan rice paddies before meeting Jordan Peterson and Michael Skeet by a river in Pakistan. Kent Blinston will be in Vladivostok waiting for a train to anywhere. Dave Cox, Allison Annesley and Garnet DuGray are grooming their bathtubs for a race to Samoa. Marianne Nielsen is packing her trunks for a cruise to Anchorage where Gunnar Blodgett will be ice fishing for coke ans. Martin Beales will be leading the troops on a hiking expedition through the Edmonton outbacks to complete a wonderful photo feature for next year's Gateway. Bon Voyage!