

EDITORIAL

What do we need?

"Hey, did you catch the MLA forum on Thursday?"
 "Yeh, I was there, what did you think?"
 "It was pretty loud at times, but that just makes for a more interesting time."
 "I guess so; what did you think of the candidates?"
 "Not too bad, I thought Koziak was typical."
 "What do you mean by typical?"
 "Well, he mumbled when he was talking, he got flustered easily when attacked and he spewed out a lot of government doubletalk and statistics."
 "I didn't think he was too bad; he did mumble."
 "A fine representative of our provincial government."
 "Who did you think was better?"
 "Gordon Wright for one."
 "Oh, come on, the guy came across as a ponderous, pompous old fart who looked like he slept through the entire forum."
 "Well I guess you have to know something about the issues before you make a statement like that."
 "Why? I'm talking about how the guy came across, how he related to the audience."
 "He addressed the issues well and he rebutted everything anyone threw at him very well."
 "Like what?"
 "Well, look how he handled the guy who asked him about abortion, he said that the NDP are neither for nor against it, they believe in the right of a woman to control her own body."
 "Oh sure, it's a marvellous answer, especially considering that abortion isn't even a provincial matter, it's federal."
 "Well if it's federal then why did that man ask the question?"
 "Why did the NDP include a statement on abortion in their campaign literature?"
 "Anyway, Wright still carried himself better than Koziak, and if you'd consider how both stand on issues that pertain to the university you'd see which is the better candidate."
 "What issues would those be?"
 "Just take a look at how they stand on tuition, Wright advocates, in principle, a position where no student should be kept from university because of lack of funds."
 "Okay, let's look at that; did you see that guy who asked Koziak the question about the 5000 students on aid, and whether this was an accomplishment or indicative of the PC's mishandling of the economy?"
 "Yeh, so?"
 "Well, there are 5000 students receiving aid now but if the NDP brought down a free tuition policy wouldn't that mean that 20,000 students would be receiving aid? Would that be an accomplishment?"
 "Look, Wright advocated that position in principle."
 "Ah, a lot of principles and no action, is that what you want from government?"
 "Oh, come on now, you can't tell me that the PC's have provided good action-oriented government."
 "Yeh, the PC's haven't been the best, but then again, good government is a contradiction in terms; at least they have a proven track record."
 "Uh huh, they've proven that you can stay in power without doing anything for the people; look how they're wasting the Trust Fund."
 "At least we have a trust fund."
 "What?"
 "I don't think an NDP government would have created the Fund to start with, I'm glad we at least have some money for when the oil boom finally comes to a standstill."
 "Who says the NDP wouldn't have started the fund?"
 "I do; I have yet to see a socialist government save money, if they did they wouldn't be socialist."
 "Any government could have managed Alberta in the seventies."
 "Perhaps, but we're in the eighties now and times are tougher, if the issues are crucial and urgent then vote for the party, if not then vote for the man. I happen to think the issues are pretty crucial right now and what we don't need is a rookie government."

Andrew Watts

Vote, n. The instrument and symbol of a freeman's power to make a fool of himself and a wreck of his country.

Ambrose Bierce, 1911
 The Devil's Dictionary

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Staff this issue:

Snow falls about the small group as they prepare their assault upon the ivory tower. Nate LaRoi and Tom Wilson probe the perimeter, searching for a gap in the defence. Flash! Martin Beales has seen the light, and Peter Block rushes to the circuit breaker. Beth Jacob and Mark Roppel cover the outer courtyard, while Greg Harris and Zane Harker search within. John Roggeveen and Brett Cullman are spreading a paper trail to cover their retreat from the inner sanctum. Michael Leitch and Heather-Ann Laird synchronize their watches and agree to meet later at a neutral location. Aaron Bushkowsky and John Algard race from the tower, carrying a large grey box, and are passed by the fleeing Dale Lakevold, bearing a large silver cup. Victory at last! And what is in that grey box?...

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« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

Grammarians, heal thyself

Regarding Mr. Cox's editorial "Why PC at all", David, where do you place your generalized version of "rich old white Anglo-Saxon protestants"? Between Uncle Tom and Shylock; or after Hop Sing? Do you think our radical characteristics are easily identifiable?

Doug McQueen
 Arts II

P.S. Mr. Roggeveen — as an English major I often read a story for just plain entertainment (yes, I'm a Robert E. Howard fan). What I find myself indulging in is playing "what's wrong with this sentence" — "huge bonfires leap across the skies, and our pagan fathers huddled in the shadows, staring wistfully as their bloated sun sets to the west."

How long before the Gateway staff learns to edit properly? How long is forever?

Managing Editor's note: In the margin of his letter McQueen puts the words "leapt" and "stared" to replace the allegedly incorrect words. In fact, only "leap" is wrong; "staring" is correct. In addition, McQueen omitted a question mark and an apostrophe needed in the structure of his letter. Gateway has graciously supplied them.

In addition, since the Gateway seems incapable of correcting its own errors, we are going to do the second-best thing and point out the errors of our critics (actually this policy was partially implemented last week). Be forewarned!

Conservatives see red

As members of the U of A student's (double sic) union (sic), a portion of our registration fees are diverted to support the inane activities of a few pseudo-journalists, the writers and editors of the Gateway. Since the newspaper receives (sic) funds from the student body as a whole, it is little to expect the publication to represent a cross-section of student views. Where does it say that every U of A student is a socialist? A privately-owned publication may have the right to present the partisan ideologies of its (sic) employees and supporters, but as a student's union (triple sic) financed paper, the Gateway has the journalistic responsibility to publish the views of a legitimate cross-section (sic) of the student body.

We find it ludicrous to ask for a vote on the Cruise missile issue while presenting one side of the debate, (both pages one and two of this issue display anti-Cruise philosophy). Lickewise (sic), Peter Block's (Blockhead pherhaps? (sic)) coverage of Julian Koziak's (sic) forum was unacceptably one-sided. Karl Marx would have given a more objective review. We are thrilled to observe that the editorial staff revoked Mr. Block's (Blockhead's?) assanine (sic) comment, but we cannot ignore their choice of headlines for "Letters To The Editor" (sic). A letter justifiably criticizing (sic) the leftist views of this newspaper is headlined by "Pinkos infiltrate the Gateway".

In the following edition, a rebuttle (sic) is headlined "Thinking People Usually (sic) Socialist." Well Mr. Watts, you have poisoned one opinion and attempted to offer legitimacy to another before either letter has begun. Mr. Peter Keohan's letter is somewhat confused, his major point however, that the Gateway is failing in its role as the voice of our university, is more than clear, and the headlines should have introduced the letter as such. Ms. Luba (?) Slabyj who, along with the Gateway, is so blinded by the tears of socialist whining that she cannot differentiate "Keohan from Keohane" (same person Luba(e)?; Gateway(e)?), is given immediate "credibility". If the Gateway can offer credibility, by Mr. Watt's headline.

This biased presentation of issues (politics, Cruise, et al.) is totally unacceptable. To reiterate, Mr. Watts, we are obligated (sic), by registration procedure, to financially support the Gateway. Either represent our

views, which personal experience tells us are common views, or refund our money.

A view from the Right.

David Goodhart
 Science II
 David T. Williams
 Arts II

P.S. If we wanted left-wing views, we would have talked to Mark Messier.

Managing Editor's note: Andrew Watts, who wrote the pro-PC editorial of a few weeks back, does not write the headlines for letters; I concoct almost all of them. I am a rock-ribbed conservative (some say fascist) and do not believe thinking people are usually socialist. I merely wrote the headline to fit the letter. As to the "pinko" headline I made it humorous because the charge of rampant leftism is ridiculous: for the first time in my years here, there is (I think) a slight preponderance of conservatives among the paid editorial staff — quite a change from two years ago when Peter Michalyszyn and myself formed a split Tory caucus.

This should all be obvious from the paper (e.g. my Chopping Block on disarmament of a week ago, which caused one irate reader to phone in and tell me that I "obviously" believe Russia is trying to take over the world).

If the Gateway still doesn't represent your views (perhaps you are a Single Taxer, or some other variety of conservative) you are in no way prevented from writing a letter or joining the newspaper. This applies to leftists too (Dave Cox often gets lonely up here).

As to Keohan(e), see the following letter and note.

**** Apology ****

I am writing this letter to rescind the remarks made about Mr. Peter Keohane in my previous letter to the Gateway of October 28th, 1982. I mistook Mr. Keohane for another individual by the name of Peter Keohan. In the heat of my anger over the contents of this individual's letter, I made certain rude and rash remarks that I am now most thoroughly ashamed of. It was a perfectly honest mistake, but an extremely damaging one, and I hope that Mr. Keohane can forgive me for any harm done to either his or his family's reputation.

As for my remarks concerning the nature of Louis St. Laurent High School, they are utterly inexcusable and I hope that I have not too deeply offended any alumni of the aforementioned school. My humblest and sincerest apologies.

Luba Slabyj
 Arts II

Managing Editor's note: As the person in charge of the Letters page I apologize for overlooking the discrepancy in names, and, on behalf of the Gateway staff, apologize for any suffering the letter may have caused Peter Keohane.

Generalizations are rot

Having read Miss Luba Slabyj's letter (printed in the October 28th edition of Gateway, p. 4), I find myself wondering how much serious thought she could possibly have put into it.

What worries me most about Miss Slabyj's letter is her superficial treatment of upper middle class students, particularly those students who attend, or have attended, schools like Cartier McGee/Louis St. Laurent. I am a graduate of Louis St. Laurent. I am also a member of the upper middle class, and my upbringing has probably left me with some conservative values. (Please note the small "c.") My social background, however, does not prevent me from using my brain and making my own decisions. Miss Slabyj seems to imply that all upper middle class students have the same political beliefs, and that their beliefs are directly related to their financial status. I prefer to think that most students (upper middle class students included) who show enough interest to even have political