

Trial does have a purpose

In the *En Garde* column (10/11/82) John Roggeveen states that since the crimes allegedly committed by Albert Rauca occurred forty years ago, and he has 'behaved well since', he should not be punished, as no purpose is served. Regardless of whether a 'purpose' is served; if a crime has been committed, it must be punished. At his extradition hearing, Rauca's own lawyer stated on Mr. Rauca's behalf 'that of course there is evidence'. He further said 'If the allegations are true, then he must be punished.' In view of the evidence against Rauca, it would not be reasonable to allow him to stay in Canada if there is no means of prosecuting him here. His own lawyer is saying that Rauca must be tried; the argument is only about the venue for this trial. This evidence mentioned included sworn affidavits from eight eyewitnesses.

Mr. Roggeveen says that Rauca should not be punished, as no purpose is served. But at least two purposes would be served by trying him. Justice would be served, and it would impress upon people - other war criminals in particular - that Canada is finally treating seriously the killing of civilians during war.

Just because a crime was committed fifty seconds or fifty years ago does not effect the seriousness of the crime. If Adolf Hitler was found living, should he be absolved of guilt if he had 'behaved well since' the Second World War? Or if I was to murder thousands of people, including relatives of Mr. Roggeveen, disappear, and return fifty years later, would Mr. Roggeveen feel that I should not be punished?

M.P. Wagner
Engineering III

Odd way to judge Rauca

Roggeveen feels that the passage of time has absolved Rauca of his crimes against humanity. Does he mean to suggest that he who is best at the game of 'Hide and Seek' shall be declared innocent?

Peter F. Thompson
Law I

Did Rauca enjoy crime?

I am stunned that your tabloid put into print the dangerous ravings of John Roggeveen with respect to accused mass murderer Albert Rauca. If it were possible to cancel my subscription I would do so without hesitation.

Reading Mr. Roggeveen's piece, the uninformed reader would conclude that Mr. Rauca, described as a 'nice' man, is being hounded by Canadian authorities in order to impress upon the world the 'seriousness of killing people during war.' This implies that the accusations against Rauca stem from some incident involving soldiers, battlefields and war. The reality however, could not be further from the truth. Rauca is accused of rounding up 10,000 civilians in his native Lithuania and having them murdered in cold blood. He volunteered for this assignment, it is asserted, and quite enjoyed it.

Clifford Olsen only killed a dozen or so in Vancouver, the Son of Sam about the same in New York. Would Roggeveen submit that these murderers should be freed? After all (in his own words) "Putting them in jail isn't going to serve any purpose. For one thing, revenge won't bring the dead back to life."

My grandparents and most of my father's family were among those that Rauca and his colleagues murdered. They were rounded up from their homes, gassed systematically and then baked in ovens. This summer I travelled to Auschwitz and saw for myself the rooms full of human hair, eyeglasses and other remains of the 4,000,000 people who were murdered there. I wept as I held in my hands the 30 or so cards carefully made out for each of my relatives, showing when they were admitted and on what date they were murdered. Most of them were children.

No, John Roggeveen, Albert Rauca is not a nice man. The grandfather I never had was a nice man. And I don't think making Albert Rauca spend the last few years of his life in a prison is a 'vengeful and bloodthirsty action.'

David Gort
Grad Studies

Ownership correction

The lead article on Page 1 of your issue of Tuesday, November 9th, mentioned in part that "the SU would allow Universiade total use of Dinwoodie Lounge and the 2nd Floor Cafeteria for the feeding of the athletes". I wish to point out that this statement is not entirely correct in that the Cafeteria does not belong to the Students' Union but is part of the establishment of Housing and Food Services. In addition, half of Dinwoodie Lounge is the property of the University, the other half belonging to the Students' Union.

The point of this letter is simply to set the record straight in that it is not the Students' Union alone that is responsible for the total use of the Students' Union Building nor is it the Students' Union alone that is agreeing to the use by Universiade of various sections of the building.

Paul Robison, Chief Liaison Officer
Housing & Food Services, WUG

Anti-nukers turned down

Recently, the U of A Group for Nuclear Disarmament together with the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament applied to the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA). Our request was turned down, however, this in itself is not what we find upsetting, but rather, the reasons for its rejection. Most of the members who rejected our request stated that they did so because they felt the union should not involved itself in "political" issues.

Is not the very existence of a union "political"? Is it not "political" when the union lobbies for wage increases, better working conditions, etc.?

Nuclear disarmament is a political issue, but it is also

much more. It is a moral and humanitarian issue; it involves the life or death of every human being on this planet, regardless of their political affiliations. It is an issue that we each must take responsibility for and not pass off to someone else to take care of.

We would like to encourage any members of NASA as well as any other interested people to attend our events. We will be showing a short film entitled "The War Game" on November 23, 24 and 25 at 5 p.m.

Finally, regarding an item in the *Gateway* Nov. 9 about the Student Anti-Nuke Committee: We would like to make it clear that the U of A Group for Nuclear Disarmament is an autonomous organization not connected to the Student Anti-Nuke Committee.

Barb McKinley, Chairperson
U of A Group for Nuclear Disarmament

Managing Editor's note: This letter is printed as it was received; it did not state what the Group applied to NASA for. Presumably it was moral support.

Danger to free speech

Since the recent Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the Sabra and Shatilla massacres, I have begun to wonder if, perhaps, my limited knowledge of Middle Eastern affairs has been somewhat one-sided. Recent criticism of the Israeli government, even by the media, has forced me to re-examine my own beliefs and to make a serious effort to learn more about the Palestinians in Lebanon and the Middle East.

Yet a welcomed attempt to provide such confused and queuing souls such as myself with this information has been thwarted by our benevolent censor, Mr. Ray Conway.

Last Wednesday a table erected by the Arab Students' Association was ordered dismantled by Mr. Conway after two complaints of "racism". What fascinated me was the amazing ability of Mr. Conway to judge and condemn the material in the pamphlets without having read them.

But apparently the "powers that be" are not so omnipotent as they would have us believe. For after dismantling the A.S.A. table Mr. Conway did humble himself to read the "offensive" material - only to discover that it was *not* offensive. At least Mr. Conway had the decency to admit his mistake and write a letter of apology to the Arab Students' Association. However, the damage had already been done when sound and factual information was denied to students.

In future, I suggest that before such precipitate action is taken the material in question be most thoroughly examined and serious consideration be given to the motivation or biases of the complainants. If such precautions are not observed, freedom of expression and student access to differing points of view at this institution may be in severe jeopardy!

Carol Shaben
Arts III

Andersen indoctrinated

Dear Madame,

Jens Andersen's opinions on Jerry Falwell (*Gateway*, Nov. 9) need further comment since Jens failed to understand the Falwell phenomenon. Perhaps because Andersen has been so indoctrinated into the 18th-century epistemic notions of scientism with their inherent anti-religious polemic that he has lost rational objectivity.

If you watch Falwell's TV show you'll notice that the major portion of the show is devoted to fundraising. He spends very little time on biblical hermeneutics or exegesis. His confident, inclusive style very effectively charms money out of the lonely and disenfranchised. He gives them a sense of belonging to a powerful elite, i.e., the Moral Majority. To become a member of these self-righteous elect, Falwell suggests that these people purchase their salvation with a substantial cheque made out to Falwell every month. Then he will bestow the symbol of God's approval by sending them his version of the Bible.

Falwell very strongly identifies with "Americanism": if you're against him, you're against "America". But here an interesting question should be raised. Should an obligation of the state be an obligation of religion? Isn't that subverting religion? Doesn't that make God subject to Ronny Reagan? It is true that historically both economics and politics always sought legitimation from religion. Is Reagan using Falwell, or Falwell using Reagan?

Jens unfortunately fails to differentiate between Falwell's fundamentalism and traditional Christianity. Let me draw some of the more obvious contrasts. Fundamentalism sees mankind as basically evil; Christianity sees mankind as basically good but capable of evil. Fundamentalism states that Christ saved mankind and the individual only has to accept Jesus as personal Savior; but traditional Christianity not only accepts Christ's redemptive act but the free individual must acquiesce by the living-out of the intention, i.e., positive action must bear out the stated intention. Fundamentalism holds that the King James version of the Bible is literally true; traditional Christianity sees the Scriptures and Tradition as twin sources of God's self-manifestation to all mankind. Fundamentalism seems to be racially exclusive to the English-speaking world. Also, fundamentalists are not allowed to read the entire Bible; some of the Bible's books which do not support fundamentalist opinions have been dropped. Fundamentalists constantly accuse traditional Christianity of excessive rationalism and humanism. Rome is one of their favorite examples. Do you see the economic and political implications?

So, Jens, before you dump your mouth again about religion why don't you run your opinions past the old retired priest at St Joe's College? Father Frank will be an invaluable source of scholarly information even for a hardened atheist. Or, is your mind closed?

S. McTavish
Arts

Letters to the Editor should be a maximum of 250 words. Letters must be signed, and include faculty, year and phone number. No anonymous letters will be printed. All letters should be typed, although 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*.

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Dec. 1-2 'CHANT OF JIMMY BLACKSMITH'
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Dec. 6-7 'THE LAST WAVE'
Dec. 8-9 'GALLIPOLI'
Dec. 10-12 'PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK'
Dec. 13-14 'EARTHLING'
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