

EDITORIAL

School prayers

"And when you pray, do not imitate the hypocrites: they love to say their prayers standing up in the synagogues and at the street corners for people to see them. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you pray, **go to your private room and, when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.**"

Matthew 6, 5-6
The Jerusalem Bible

In the Sermon from the Mount, a portion of which appears above, Jesus Christ instructed his disciples and the assembled crowd on prayer. Prayer should be a private affair between the Father and oneself and it should be simple. And in the Sermon, Christ suggested a prayer for the people — the Lord's Prayer.

Enter our wise and wonderful provincial government, and education Minister Dave King. Mr. King's advisory committee on secondary education, with the zeal and fervor usually reserved for missionaries, is urging that the children of Alberta, irregardless of their belief or lack thereof in Christian tradition, participate in classroom prayers.

This is an attack on the sensibilities of both Christian and non-Christian Albertans. Christian children will ignore the instructions in Christ's Sermon and their non-Christian classmates will be required to pay homage to a god they may or may not believe in? Isn't this a mite intolerant (not to mention hypocritical) and nonsensical?

Our provincial government seems bent on succumbing to the strictures of fundamentalists who, in their "Christian" zeal, often forget the intentions or even the words of the Saviour they supposedly serve.

It's bad that we have Ronnie Reagan (a lapsed Christian who does not attend church regularly) hypocritically supporting the erratic whims of Jerry Falwell. We don't need Dave King wandering off on his own secular witch hunts.

And as Clair Woodbury, the minister at McDougall United Church put it: "Reciting a prayer by rote doesn't mean much. Just repeating words without meaning them isn't being religious or helpful."

Gilbert Bouchard

Gateway Literary Contest

Cash prizes for each of three categories:

Short poem Short story Long poem

maximum 32
lines

maximum 2000
words

maximum 200
lines

First prize (each category) \$150

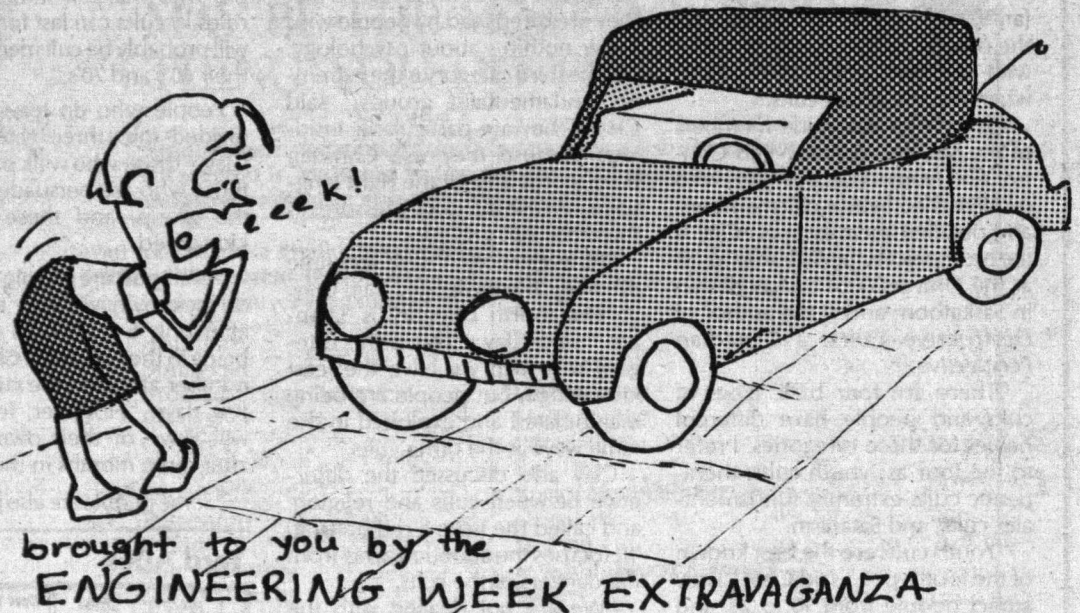
Second prize (each category) \$100

Rules

1. Open to all persons attending a post-secondary educational institution in Canada, except the employees of the Students' Union of the University of Alberta and writers who have earned more than two thousand dollars from their craft in 1984.
2. All entries must be typed with double-spacing on a single side of good quality bond paper. The name, address, and phone number of the author must appear on each page submitted.
3. All entries must be submitted by noon, March 14, 1985. No late entries will be accepted.
4. Each writer may submit a total of three entries in aggregate.
5. Submissions may be in French or English.
6. The winning entries and additional entries selected by the judges will appear in the *Gateway Literary Supplement* on March 28, 1985. The *Gateway* shall hold only first North American serial rights to any entries that appear in this issue. All other rights will remain with the author.
7. Entries shall not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
8. Entries should be submitted to:
Suzette C. Chan
Room 282, Students' Union Building
University of Alberta
T6G 2G7

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Skip I...

Skip:

First I would like to tell you that I will write this in very simple terms so you will not have to get out your "Charlie Brown Dictionary" to understand what I am talking about.

Firstly I would like to congratulate you on your marvelous ability in the use of satire. Why, you and Ronald Reagan should get together and form a comedy routine. I personally think you are both a couple of jokes.

Unless you have been asleep for the last couple of years, you would realize that the tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States increase every year. This is not the time for satire. Not by the leaders of the peaceful nations or by any single person. It is up to us to somehow, by demonstrations if necessary, try and dispose of the nuclear fears that have been built by the governments of our parents and grandparents. They created the problem, we must try and solve it. So take a few bennies and wake up! Your degree in Commerce will do you a lot of good on a charred planet.

Laurence Johnson
Science I

Gord 1, CFS 0

On Tuesday, December 4, Students' Council donated \$100,000 to the University of Alberta libraries to purchase new books. This motion was put forward by Floyd Hodgins and I backed it 100 per cent.

In my opinion, the library system is one of the few areas where this University is underfunded. Year after year, the University has been buying periodicals at the expense of new books. Something had to be

done and our options were few.

We couldn't go to the University Administration and ask that periodicals not be bought so that books would be. I refuse to ask the Provincial Government for more global funding so professors can give themselves pay raises. As we are the highest funded (per student) University in Canada, I will not go begging for more money when we know that the University bureaucracy will absorb the extra funds.

By donating the money to the library, the Advanced Education Endowment Fund will directly match the \$100,000. This is not a permanent solution; however, since the matching grants will probably be discontinued by January 1985, it was an opportunity we could not pass up.

On a final note, the students will receive \$200,000 of new books from [the] \$100,000 we donated to the libraries. What will they have received from the \$90,000 you donated to CFS???

Gordon Stamp
Vice-President Internal

Skip II...

Re: Skip Lauren's letter of Jan. 8

I was so sorry to learn that you were "rattled" upon reading my recent letter. I might suggest to you that the rattling was not caused by my letter but by the movement of the rocks in your head!

I think you, not I, have over-reacted beyond the bounds of reality. Your logic fails to reach me! In your first letter you show yourself as being obnoxious, arrogant and quite cruel to many people. Now you have the nerve to refer to your letter as satire. Don't you think that it is time you changed your deeply warped attitude? It is a pity that the universe is not unfolding the way you had planned but I am sure you will conceive of a way to blame that on me! I cannot understand your vision of "my buddies" and I firebombing your house. Do you often have these

The Gateway

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All-star layout night here at the good old Gateway! Bill Doskoch and Kent Cochrane took over the first three pages and finished in time; Audrey Djuwita dashed in and out; Elaine Palmer took notes; Ann Grever trimmed copy; Don Teplyske stayed home; Mike Evans played tapes; Bernie Poitras studied; Mark Spector went for pizza; Greg Owens went to RATT; Paul Phillips was on assignment; Alex Miller worked; Tim Hellum cleaned up. And in from the field, our favorite Cuppie, Brian Receveur.