

Reader Comment

Bill Gourlie

During slack/reading/ski week many students who remain on campus enjoy the chance to mingle with those from other faculties. What with longer lunch breaks and shorter bank line-ups, it's no wonder more and more folks are sporting smiles.

Given this relaxing opportunity to interact with others, students tend to behave in 1 of 2 diametrically opposed ways:

They cultivate friendships and broaden horizons,
or

They harbour prejudices and sow the seeds of alienation. Desirable as it is to belong to the first class, one who is subjected to the depravity of the latter runs the ironic risk of becoming a member of a similar philistine group. Whether or not one calls the process "counter-prejudice," "reverse discrimination" or colloquially "fighting fire with fire," the bottom line is that friendships fall by the wayside, alienation results, and people get burned.

Abusive name-calling can readily be dismissed as puerile. The real danger lies in the more subtle forms of prejudice, be they conscious or otherwise, that are not limited to washroom walls. An example that lingers in the present writer's mind can be found in *The Gateway* itself of all places.

In the article "Lawmen Out on a Technicality" writer Garnet DuGray intimates that "... the ever powerful Law Faculty has stooped to such a low deed as to use an illegal player in their narrow victory over L.D.S." [Div. II]. It's true that the championship was taken away because the player in question had not been able to make the first few games so as to play under his own name, but he was a bona fide law student and by no means an outside ringer as the half-truth suggests.

Then the writer goes on to say that "... the L.D.S. 'A' team captured the crown with an equally close decision over Law 'A' by a score of 33-32." This he does "on a happier note." Bias aside, one wonders about the very accuracy of the report: "Top scorers in the game were B. Gourlie (L.D.S.) with 16 points while B. Fairbanks (Law) hooped 9 points for the losers." The truth is that Gourlie is a Lawman and Fairbanks plays for L.D.S. The reporter reminds one of old Espinasse whose inaccurate law reports are reputed to be the result of his only hearing half of what went on in the courts; and he reported the other half.

It is with ironic contrast that one finds in the same edition of *The Gateway* an objective editorial by Portia Priegert entitled Colored T.V. which states: "Most of us recognize blatant discrimination when we see it."

"But equally disturbing and even more insidious are the subtler kinds of prejudice. Unspoken assumptions and innuendos are just as harmful because they pave the way for mass, unthinking biases in our society."

In conclusion, it is obvious that contributors to *The Gateway* could do with the positive benefits of interaction. Perhaps an open-minded approach to others would make for a friendlier atmosphere on campus, a healthier society and a more harmonious world in which to mingle. Let's outlaw counter-prejudice.

Carter holds citizens captive

Perhaps the most fitting response is to call it infantile and stupid. Perhaps, it is to call it irresponsible and pseudo-patriotic. In any case, what I'm certain of is that the letter written by Bruce Christensen and his friends in the *Gateway* of Feb. 21 was an excellent example of how not to subordinate emotion to reason.

Hostage-taking, needless to say, is a detestable act — before God and man, but then so is the long tradition of name-calling. Recent political events have demonstrated the importance of talking about Vietnamese instead of "Vietcong", of people who are black instead of "niggers" and it is undoubtedly a step back on civilization's forward march for people to be branded "barbarians" or "lunatics" instead of Iranians who have held American citizens hostage for political reasons. There is no reason why any level-headed being cannot reconcile a condemnation of the Iranians' act with an understanding of their reason. The Shah had been reinstated before by the CIA and one wonders why a union of eight university brains cannot understand that at the time of the crisis, anxiety and fear had been built into the fabric of Iranian society. Bruce Christensen, listen. With an anxiety and fear in their midst, the Iranians could not but seek out security and they did it in the most efficacious way they deemed possible.

True, the American Embassy officials do not deserve their ordeal; nevertheless, the hostage-taking incident transcends this tragic fact and illuminates the difference between governments and people. Are not the American

citizens held in captivity because of the political myopia of the Carter administration? Recently at Lake Placid, did not Soviet and American athletes weep, when the moment of parting came? And just then, were their governments not hurling the rhetoric of war at each other?

Bruce Christensen, what the peace of the global community needs now is calm judgement and the ability to look this way and that. Never must you throw these attributes to the winds. Whenever you do, stay your pen. Francis Aleba
Arts II

LETTERS

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Alright, enough already! The great abortion debate has become redundant and really, really, boring. We absolutely refuse to print any more letters on the subject, and we don't even want to see anymore.
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Letters to the *Gateway* should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and should include faculty, year and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters must be typed (or very neatly written). We reserve the right to edit for libel and length.

Fun... Fun... Fun

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Reiteration

My observed fact was that organisms belonging to the species *Homo Sapiens* are examples of the ethical category "human beings" or "persons;" I have no intention of making the Earth an abortion mill for little green women from flying saucers. The abortion question, of course, does not arise for non-biological intelligences. While not addressing the philosophical question of what is humanity, I am accepting the normal position that a week-old baby who cannot parse a Greek sentence (not a verb, John Calhoun) is human, but an adult heifer isn't.

Why has a fetus any less right to life than a newborn babe? What is the relevant difference? If Mr. Andersen has shut up, I'll never have the answer.

On another topic, I must criticise Mr. Sydney Sabine for doing what the authors of "Moslems off the wall" did not do: equating the scum who threaten innocent lives with the entire Iranian people. Helping innocent people to escape the threat of death is good, threatening them with death is bad: passports and diplomatic immunities be hanged. I remember reading where in Britain a rape committed by a diplomat (from Libya) was reported to police: nothing, apparently, was done. Without violating diplomatic immunity, the correct response to such a thing is to notify the government concerned that the alternative to a voluntary waiver of diplomatic immunity would be war. Unlike drug smuggling, however, the rape of an individual woman doesn't threaten the power structure, so not much effort is made.

John Savard
Grad Studies



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