

More Razzel Basil Forum

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straint of trade in ideas in Northern Alberta. He admitted at the meeting that he will keep anything out of the newspaper he does not wish to print.

People at the meeting pointed out that Mr. Dean censors articles and letters to the newspaper. I pointed out that Mr. Dean called the Peace Researchers (for whom I have no particular sympathy) arrogant, fallacious, and desiring to exert control over human action. The last idea—the desire to exert control over human action—is allowed in his article to smack of dictatorial government.

Mr. Dean gives no valid evidence. He attacks illogically and emotionally. His chief *non-sequitor* is that because the scientific method has failed occasionally in education it must fail in Peace Research. His second is that people who wish to make the condition of war

impossible desire to control human freedom.

I declared at the meeting that thinking of that irrational nature must come from a fool or a charlatan. I meant that if a man said those things unaware of the illogicalities in them he must be very foolish indeed. And if he did know the illogicalities, and was using them to distort the facts, then he must be a charlatan: an abuser of truth for his own ends.

I use the Peace Research column by Mr. Dean simply as an example of his method which I analysed. It is not unique.

The Edmonton Journal is not a good newspaper. The fact that it is a little better this year than last does not make it good. It is only slightly less bad. If Mr. Dean wished, the paper could have responsible coverage of the arts. It could have greater editorial intelligence

and scope. It could allow a free play of ideas. It does not; and Mr. Dean asserts that it will not.

We believe, in a Democracy, that it is the responsibility of men in power to allow a free play of ideas, not to vilify other men within or without libel laws, not to censor other men's statements so that they become distorted and ineffectual, not to use power to prevent the voice of opposition. When men use license in those things, when they exploit their power and responsibility in those matters, we say they are men with fascist tendencies.

Mr. Dean was asked why he wrote in the way he does in his column. Mr. Dean replied: "for the fun of it." The chief mass media man in Alberta treats—irresponsibly or otherwise—organizations and ideas concerned with human survival and peace, through the pages of the largest newspaper in the Province: "for the fun of it." That fact does not manifest fascist tendencies; it manifests tomfoolery of the most incredible kind; and such a man forfeits the right to be the lowliest printers' devil, not to say the most powerful publisher in Alberta.

For these reasons I said what I said at the meeting. For these reasons I repeat them, for clarification, here. Basil Dean abuses the noblest value of philosophical and humanistic endeavour: the serious respect for truth. His presence was an insult to the membership of the Society. When philosophers and humanists entertain gracefully men who live by vulgarization of fact, distortion of truth, abuse of responsibility and power, the game is up. When philosophers and humanists will compromise the most sacred principles of their "professing" for the sake of gentleness or publicity (one reason I was given for his invitation), then they delude themselves. For they have no principles left to profess.

Robin Mathews
English Department



APATHY ON ARMS

To The Editor:

The general apathy on the University of Alberta campus here in Edmonton is well-known. It seems to me that students at university should be more stirred up about things than U of A students usually are.

New that Little John seems ready to accept (on behalf of the Canadian people, etc., of course) nuclear warheads for his Honest John rockets, etc., so as to please Big John, it would appear that the local nuclear disarmament movement should become an active student organization. We can't all spend our time playing touch football, even though was are said to be won on one playing field or another. And I say students because what has passed for an expression of dissent on this campus with regard to nuclear arms in Canada has stemmed from a group that has struggled through the past two years of existence mainly on the strength of the commitment of a few faculty members and graduate students.

All over Canada there are active student groups opposing nuclear arms for Canada but not here.

If the students here do not feel that they should actively oppose the stupidity of the nuclear policy of the western power bloc, then let them be honest with themselves. They tell me that next Tuesday afternoon, October 30th, at 4:30 p.m., in Room V106 there is to be an organization meeting of those opposed to nuclear arms.

I expect I shall see the same old faces.

Even the Young Canadians for Freedom say they are opposed to nuclear arms. Perhaps they will prove it by being there with less self-assertive and, of course, more subversive members of the university community.

E. J. Rose,
Assistant Professor
English

Ed. Note: By next Tuesday, so they tell me, there may be no need for the meeting—due to nuclear arms.

VANT RECONSIDERED

To The Editor:

(Assuming that "Unconvinced" is female.)

I wonder about "Unconvinced", who denies Dr. Vant the right to indoctrinate the girls of University of Alberta, and who firmly believes in premarital sex relations "if the people are truly in love". If that were I, I'd have been branded free-and-easy some time ago for I've been in and out of love a number of times. I thank God, my parents, my teachers, and all the other in-

doctrinators, for the right values instilled in me.

These were to my benefit, since one must live in society.

Thanks to these values, in spite of the five males who have professed love for me, I came through with my head high and virtue intact. Someday I hope to marry. I shouldn't care to begin a lifetime of dishes, diapers, and dirty clothes with nothing new added to the routine.

I believe we are accidents in the eternal plan; the world was not made for us. This is reason enough to live by the codes set down by our forefathers, who were wiser than we, if only through experience. They developed their ethical codes in the may we must—by listening to the advice of those who have seen the heartache of the indulgers, and the anguish of the children who have compared their parents' anniversary with their own birthday.

"Unconvinced" stipulated birth control. Is it always foolproof? Also, is she really sure she has no conscience? Even if moral conflict can be suppressed, it will remain in the subconscious.

Does the knowledge of birth control give one the right to white dress and veil while the unfortunate, uninformed sister must walk to marriage in a box suit? Can one judge how long a boy's love will last?

Only if a man will sacrifice his bachelor freedom for the sexual privilege can permanent affection be assumed. Surely the bride should have her purity unsullied in return for the sacrifice.

Old Fashioned

Ed. Note: Agreed that society sure enough has us over a barrel all right.

THINK AGAIN

In reference to your editorial in last Friday's Gateway (Oct. 1), "In Defence of a Devil's Advocate":

The attack on the members of the Philosophy Department made by the first YCF newsletter is "misplaced" not because we need an advocate for Communism or devils (that we have such a need is disputable), but because the YCF newsletter is libelous.

There are not any Communists in the Philosophy Department. And the Philosophy Department advocates nothing—except thinking. And we would recommend this occupation to the YCF, if we did not realize that it is already mentally emasculated.

S. Burns
C. Fraser
M. Harris
B. Samoila
N. Schuldes
(graduate assistants
Department of Philosophy)

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FINAL COPY DEADLINE

For Tuesday Edition:
News, Notices 7 p.m. Sunday

For Friday Edition:
News, Notices 7 p.m. Tuesday
Advertising 4:30 p.m. Monday

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