

# EDITORIAL

## The joy of journalism

There are days when one wonders: why did I ever get into the journalism business?

In front of me are the notes for two uncompleted stories. The first concerns scrip. A new proposal is afoot (going before the Board of Governors Finance committee Friday) to have a three-tiered system of scrip for light, moderate and heavy eaters in residence. The only hitch is that even the "light" plan apparently will cost students more than the present one-level plan, thus intensifying the present problem facing light eaters, who cannot use all the scrip they are forced to buy, and must sell the surplus at a great loss.

Somehow I don't have the heart to phone Housing and Food Services to hear their excuse that financial and planning considerations necessitate what is in effect a "heavy, gargantuan, and Russian weightlifter" plan. H&FS has been stonewalling on scrip for years and probably will continue to do so.

The second story is a sort of advance notice on the University's 1983-84 operating grant, whose exact size will shortly be announced by the chuckleheads across the river.

Both government and University administration, however, are always reluctant to talk numbers, so why bother phoning to get the inevitable "no comment?"

And even if they did say something like, "It's the six per cent increase you expected, and the University will just have to suffer; nyah, nyah," what would you do? There are volumes of evidence (from the Faculty of Medicine to the library system, from Engineering to Arts) that the University is starving for cash. But who ever heard of Loughheed's lugheads listening to reason? And the student organizations which should be amplifying the message to the point where it will actually penetrate the reinforced-concrete skulls of those in power - all these organizations are succumbing to terminal apathy.

Such hopeless situations, as I say, give a journalist pause for heavy existential pondering. Why doesn't the world receive our brilliant reportage and editorializing on these subjects with grateful hosannas? Could it be that our labors are in vain?

Well, yes, but no more so than any other profession. The doctor always loses the patient in the end, and the dirty dishes and dust balls always get the best of the housewife.

Furthermore, consider the benefits of being a journalist: even if there has never been an authenticated case of anyone changing his mind over an editorial, as a journalist you can still harrass the *dumkopfe* who fail to recognize your infinite wisdom.

(And what could be easier than harrassment, in this world where everyone, from the anthropoids of the right to the parrots of the left, greet any foreign idea with reflexive howls of indignation?)

Also, there is the pleasure of being privy to all the interesting and libellous rumours which circulate in every newsroom, but never get into print. And, if you work for the *Gateway*, there is the thrill of defacing the IUS posters which arrive from Prague twice a week ("Solidarity with the bananas and apricots of Angola!"), snickering at the little blue booklets that arrive just as often from the World Anti-Communist League in Taiwan, arguing politics with all the other know-it-alls in the office, arguing music with them, arguing whether the preponderance of males on staff is a result of rampant sexism...

Last but not least there is the joy of learning a gruelling trade which may or may not get you a job when you graduate, but will certainly deflate your grade point average and cause you to drop courses galore.

If you are crazy enough for this kind of life, come up and see us some time. There's always one more berth on the Ship of Fools.

Jens Andersen

## Devious Zionist plot!

The present massive attack against the Lebanese national movement, the PLO and Syria reveals the aggressive policy of Zionist Israel and its terrorist leadership. The Zionists still believe in the establishment of the so-called "greater Israel," stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates. The basic instrument to reach this end is military force and settler colonialism, which is based on treaties providing for continuous aggression and expansion.

Fayssal Almekdad, Secretary International Union of Students World Student News Magazine (Prague)

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Staff this Issue

The *Gateway* staffers came riding, in cohorts of green and gold. As Byron sat writing, their stories to him were told. And the men on the hill, with the lances and shields Cut loose with nude dances and runs through the fields....It's party time! And tonight's all-star cast includes the vivacious Heather-Ann Laird; personable Gerard Kennedy; sizzling Sarah Hickson; sexy Sandy Vickerson; notable Nate LaRoi; larcenous Ken Lenz; hilarious Zane Harker; tiny Timo Taylor; magnanimous Martin Beales; impish Bill Inglee; magnificent Margo Schmitt; refined Charmaine Rous; perfect John Roggeveen; and John Quincy Algard, local raconteur.

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## « LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

### Illiterate donkey-bum

The *Gateway* never ceases to amaze me. Now we learn that the Managing Editor does not have the brain power to understand English. I refer to Andersen's ridiculous and juvenile comment that was so neatly tucked into Ken Flater's letter on March 17. Perhaps I am being too cruel; after all this is only an institution of higher learning. Why should the *Gateway* editorial staff be expected to comprehend anything more than simple sentences consisting of single ideas?

I realize that Andersen amuses himself by trying to provoke reactions such as mine. Well, it works. However, he may someday realize that there is much more to journalism than "cheekiness" (although I know that your ex-editor likes this style). Are you trying to be provocative Jens, or are you just a donkey's bum?

Your loyal fan,  
Randy Gurlock, Education

denying them equal access and status in common areas is a minor form of oppression, but I feel it's all part of the problem. The problem is not only due to smoker's selfish unconcern for those around them, but also the non-smokers refusal to raise a stink (pun intended) and demand the offending 'but' be put out or removed.

Take a close look at this supposedly enlightened institution's floors; all the butts and ashes and cigarette cartons littering the area around the table where, five minutes ago, social activists were adamantly asserting minority rights, or condemning big business for acid rain pollution, or the governments jeopardizing the survival of mankind with nuclear arms buildup.

Stop and realize that you as a smoker are contributing to the slow death of this planet and all its inhabitants, and if you're concerned, recognize your hypocrisy and start the revolution with yourself.

Roy Van Hooydonk, Ed. IV

### Handicapped are a boon

Re: Jens Andersen's, "Chopping Block" March 22/83.

Is Jens Andersen applying for a job to kill all handicapped human beings? What a negative view of human nature!! Our society becomes more than just tolerable, but actually livable with the use of the positive side of human nature — integrity, respect, compassion. Vanier's work with the handicapped shows an alternative to Jens Andersen's proposal. The beneficiaries of these institutes were the employees, more than the handicapped, because in dealing with vulnerability, they became more fully human, with the sense of community of the human society and the understanding of our human need for personal awareness.

Jens — Nietzsche's philosophy was followed by Adolf Hitler. Is history not on your course of studies? Joanne Lewicky, Right To Life

### Borderline Andersen

Re: Chopping Block, March 22, 1983.

I believe that the only reason Mr. Andersen does not support euthanasia for "borderline persons — morons and such" is so that he might save his own skin.

Disgustedly, Warren Opheim, Arts I  
P.S. If Mr. Andersen does not believe in the sanctity of human life, I would be curious to know his reasons for living.

Managing Editor's note: I live for the smooth edible oil substitutes in the rancid coffee of life. It it weren't for that I would probably slash my wrists.

### Non-smokers oppressed

I am writing this letter as a follow-up to one I wrote earlier last year. I was (and still am) concerned about the lack of consideration around this campus for non-smokers. We are treated as second-class citizens, with very limited recognition of our rights to use campus common areas without our privacy and our health being invaded by some self-destructive smoker.

Instead of just complaining, as is often said of those who complain, I actually did try to effect some changes. I spoke to various members of Students' Council, who agreed the situation was undesirable, and said they would bring up the issue in Council. No results, statements, or changes have been made. I spoke with the person in charge of my own faculty (Ed.) who assured me something would be done, and set about pulling the necessary strings. It has been well over (5) five months and there are still no non-smoking area signs in the first floor lounge of the Ed. Building (and others).

I am amazed at the lack of concern from students and staff, supposedly concerned about human rights, dignity, and oppression. Granted, the severity of smoking around non-smokers and

### Gateway goofs again

As a second year Art's student I was alarmed to learn through the *Gateway* on Tuesday that I was President of the Graduate Students' Association.

I am in fact not the President of that esteemed body and, for the record, I have no plans to be a candidate. Nor will I respond to a draft movement.

Don Millar, Arts II

Managing Editor's note: The GSA President is actually Richard Jehn. Don Millar is President of the Federation of Alberta Students. The error occurred when our typesetter skipped a line. Our alert News Department, of course, overlooked the mistake completely.

### Ruining thy neighbor

There are many myths regarding foreign investment by Northern states in Third World nations. The foreign investor is quick to point out all of the wonderful things that his investment will bring: help towards self-sufficiency, raising the standard of living, and bringing in desperately needed hard currency.

The reality is a far different matter. Foreign investors will only invest if they are assured that their investment will be fully protected. Often part of the deal is the prospective Third World state having to purchase weapons from the foreign investors' state for reasons of "national security". These weapons are very costly and, since they must be paid for with hard currency, take away a significant amount of the hard currency obtained from the foreign investors. These weapons are often turned on the citizens of the Third World state, resulting in ever increasing internal social pressure. Should revolution break out (despite measures taken by the government), the world's political situation can be thrown into a state of turmoil, since the foreign investors usually represent the same interests as their nation state.

Prior to foreign investment the Third World nation in question was often able to grow sufficient food to feed its population on at least a subsistence level. If the foreign investment pertains to agriculture, almost all arable land will be converted to the crop desired by the foreign investor. Often this involves the conversion of a staple crop (eg. maize) to a luxury crop (eg. tea or coffee), which is of little use to the local inhabitants. Therefore, the Third World nation is forced to import the vast majority of its food (often from the foreign investors' state).

This has a number of adverse effects. Firstly, it necessitates the Third World nation having to spend even more of its valuable hard currency (which was one of the major reasons for foreign investment in the first place). Secondly, foreign investment causes high local inflation due to the now essential importation of food and the newly acquired availability of imported luxury consumer goods (which very few can afford, but which everyone now desires). Often the imported foodstuffs will be either alien to the local population (and thus very