

meaningless. Such phrases as "escalation of the nuclear arms race", "insanity", and "global destruction" dominated their speeches. With pretentious sincerity, they longed to save us from ourselves. Fortunately, they were so ineffective, we are safe from them.

Canada, as a member of NATO, is taking our share of the responsibility for protecting the West. Our allies do not have nuclear weapons just to annoy a few fringe citizens, but rather to protect our way of life. Anti-nuclear protestors perpetually fail to consider the alternatives. Twice in this century, the US has had to rescue Europe. Twice, using conventional weapons, millions of people died. Do the anti-cruise people believe this could not happen again? Perhaps they prefer to take the chance that other countries, and not Canada, would be attacked. Perhaps they wish to surrender our democracy to the Soviets. How selfish of them to choose the trigger of a gun over the button to the bomb for people to die. The Soviets will not disarm, and we will not. The anti-nuclear groups choose to ignore this reality.

The socialist battlings will continue their protests and prattlings, but at least for the moment, we are safe from them.

Brady Harrison  
Arts III

## Nuke the bums II

The question is not will nuclear war happen, all one has to do is open his eyes, but should it happen? Should mankind have the right to continue? One could argue from a Christian point of view, and say nuclear war is all part of God's divine plan.

But is there a God? No, Christ was a man, and every God invented by civilization has been invented to serve man's emotional needs. I realize religion serves a function, so I'm not against it. I realize also that a portion of the population has to believe in it to justify our destruction, but the truth is that man is not worthy to continue.

Not in the moral sense, but in the biological sense. We being the dominant species, may have got that position by our aggressive instincts, these

instincts are now counter-productive, thus we now must destroy ourselves to allow the evolutionary process to start over once again. Hopefully in another couple billion years a more superior dominant species will develop.

Garrett R. Hall  
Arts II

## Essay contest on level

In response to Patrick Mahoney's letter of March 6 criticizing the campus disarmament group for its essay contest:

The U of A Group for Nuclear Disarmament makes no apologies for requiring that the winning essay promote disarmament. Obviously, our group was not formed to promote arms build-up — would you expect an anti-abortion group to give a \$100 prize to an essay discussing the advantages of early termination of pregnancy?

Mr. Mahoney wonders at our motives for sponsoring the contest — we are aiming to encourage people to think about nuclear issues and to share their ideas with others through an essay published in the Gateway. I fail to see how this, as Mahoney suggests, discredits the peace movement and I suggest that he consider again just who is being unreasonable.

Angela Mluzewski  
U of A Group for Nuclear Disarmament  
Law III

## LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words long. They must be signed and include faculty, year of program, and phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, or very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

## CHOPPING BLOCK

By Jens Andersen

"Why don't you write something about the new U of A entrance quotas?" our beloved managing editor asked me. (What does he think this is, the K-Lite request line?)

Personally, I am all in favor of quotas. One glance at the results of the Writing Competency Exam, or the letters to the editor the Gateway gets, and one can instantly see the need to purge the intellectual deadwood drifting around campus.

Mencken once said that anyone who could think straight could write well.

James Thurber

The corollary about people who can't write is obvious. We should stop avoiding the unpleasant truth and admit that these people are ineducable. Give them the boot. No mercy.

Furthermore, I think that the funding cutbacks which caused the quotas are also a good thing.

It has been argued that the quintessential Canadian trait is blandness, but I think incompetence has the edge over it. If governments were to fund universities more generously, it would undermine this high level of substandardness.

Much better to maintain the current two-pronged approach of letting every applicant with a body temperature of 37 degrees Celsius, and their retarded cousin, into university, and then keep funding at rock-bottom levels so that the education they receive is worthless. This way we can maintain our tradition of crackpot teachers, bungling engineers, ugliness-for-ugliness'-sake artists, barely-qualified doctors and dentists, etc., not to mention the blinkered Artsies, lawyers and



businessmen who will be the politicians and bureaucrats of tomorrow, and who will ensure that our cultural circle remains unbroken.

Eagle-eyed readers may have noticed an apparently incorrect use of the word "their" in the above copy. In fact, it is a new, improved, non-sexist third person singular possessive which eliminates the usual problems with the word "his". This particular usage, though incorrect, is so prevalent that most people don't even notice it is wrong. Thus it has the added advantage of "feeling" natural, unlike some other artificial solutions to the problem ("they", for instance, is infinitely superior to the contrived "s/he", which cannot be used in everyday speech).

I offer the innovation as my contribution to Women's Awareness Week.

And what else — or rather, who else — should we be aware of during this week? Well, how about Carly Simon? The only recent release that can match her song "You Know What You Do To Me" for its beauty and passionate intensity is "Billie Jean", but even "Billie Jean" pales a bit next to it. Why the hell isn't this song resting at the number one spot, instead of new-wave bubblegum like "Karma Chameleon"?

And how about Christina McCall-Newman's penetrating look at the Liberals in her book *Grits*? It was re-released in paperback last fall, and though a trifle dated, is still required reading before the election.

Also re-released in paperback is Sheila Ballantyne's 1975 novel *Norma Jean the Termite Queen*, one of the few "masterpieces" published in the past decades which actually deserve the title. Penguin apparently put it out to coincide with the first paperback release of her recent novel *Imaginary Crimes* (which I may get around to reading and reviewing one of these days).

And what about women in general? I think all of us should take time this week to ponder the great contribution that women in every walk in life have made to the progress of our society.

There! I knew I could come up with a condescending platitude if I really tried.

## Bear Country

by Shane Berg



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