

# Dragged through the mud

Sir: Robin Hunter (letters 29 September) is quite right: "it's difficult to avoid being pejorative in rebuttal." (referring to David Orrell's letter of the previous Thursday). He certainly fails.

It is not a question of Britain "amputating" Ulster at all; in 1922 it was rather a question of the Irish Free State "amputating" itself from Britain, and *trying to take with it a territory which emphatically did not wish to be similarly "amputated"*. As an aside, it is instructive to note that Canada can trace one important part of its origins to a similar action by a British Government.

To say, as is repeated ad nauseam, that a majority of the whole of Ireland wished to secede from Britain is to miss one point — as the great Victorian constitutional expert Dicey pointed out, if 3 million Republicans can tell 1 1/2 million Unionists: "you can't stay with Britain, you must secede with us," then surely 50 million Britons can tell 3 million Republicans: "well, then you can't

secede at all." The Republicans seem to be denying to others the rights they claim for themselves.

Ulster is run as a democracy — it has elections conducted in almost exactly the same way as Canada — in fact, in elections for the European Parliament even (according to some people) more advanced than Canada in that there is proportional representation; proportional representation has not prevented the Unionists from gaining a majority. Mr. Hunter, however, does not seem to think that this matters — although I expect that he is incensed at the suppression of the majority in South Africa — "grass-roots goon squads" indeed!

The Unionists have been in Ulster since the early 1600's, longer than most Europeans have been in North America — and the Unionists did not massacre the aboriginal inhabitants and poison their wells!

In his slightly irrelevant conclusion, Mr. Hunter accuses "Margaret Thatcher, the British Empire, and the Atlantic

Alliance" of "debasement" of democracy. The truth is that the first and last named have been instrumental in *defending* it — for the present. That word has really been "debased and dragged through the mud" by various East European and Far Eastern Communist states, and their fifth-columnists on this side of the Wall, together with certain Third World and Latin American dictatorships.

Robert Orr  
Grad. Studies

## LETTERS

Letters to the *Gateway* should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters should be typed, although we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Gateway*.

# And just for the record ...

In your issue of September 24th, two articles appeared discussing CJSR, and the never ending drive for campus FM. As these articles contain errors in fact, and questionable interpretations of fact, I hope to be permitted to comment upon them.

In the first article, it is reported that FM licenses were applied for in 1974 and 1978. In fact, CJSR has never applied for an FM license. It is true that in 1971 and 1974 FM projects reached a certain impetus. Then, as now, staff were working towards an FM future. However neither project succeeded at the time, for many reasons, not all of them financial.

The article also claims that 'they are considering a carrier (current) activity...for Lister Hall.' In fact, CJSR is presently licensed for such an undertaking, and has been so, barring a brief time, since 1971. It is true that our carrier current license is up for renewal. A re-application will be submitted to the CRTC shortly, and is largely a formality in this case.

The article further states that 'another...project is to build a recording studio.' I imagine that this remark alludes to the activities in our Production Control rooms, which were renovated during this past summer.

Finally, the tone of the introductory paragraph requires comment. 'How things never seem to change', it snipes. This presumably refers to the fact that CJSR has been actively working on the present FM project since

late 1978. To denigrate the project, and the station, because the project has not yet completed can only indicate a profound ignorance of the problems involved.

Surely it is to the stations credit that a coherent effort can be sustained for so long a time, as things are measured around the Students' Union.

This unduly negative tone is carried over into the second of the two articles. A few errors of fact creep in there as well. It is true that last year, council approved CJSR's FM project. It is not true that this approval was contingent upon University funding. In fact, the motion referred to 'outside funding'. The University was considered one possible source. In our view, the intent of the motion was to authorize the project, without committing Student Union funds.

Where the money was to come from was left, quite explicitly, up to CJSR. Although last year the University turned down our request for funding, they did not 'turn (us) down flat'. Even though funding was not forthcoming at the time, some important concessions were made, of almost equal importance.

The article goes on to observe that, last year, 'opposition to the project was not as adamant', implying (wrongly) that it is so today. In support of this interesting claim, it quotes from Dawn Noyes, one of the two dissenting councillors at last year's vote. Space forbids that I should

deal with her claims and arguments singly. I will instead observe that her claims are false and her arguments specious. It seems to me strange that the report found it unnecessary to refer to the counter arguments which last year persuaded the vast majority of council to support the project.

It may also be as well to note, in passing, that Ms. Noyes, as chairperson of SORSE, represents a S.U. organization which, rightly or wrongly, felt it would be inconvenienced by CJSR's proposals for (physical) expansion. Those specific proposals are now, temporarily, in abeyance.

The article then quotes Mr. Bechtel as saying '(the executive) want to make it clear that...FM expansion will not be approved.' I take this to mean, and conversation with the executive confirms, that the Students Union will not finance the project. This is not news. For at least two years, CJSR has recognized that the Students' Union is not in a position to finance FM.

The thrust of the project was, and remains, to find a means of executing an FM operation under this additional constraint.

Finally, the article reflects concern that station operating funds are being diverted towards the project. This is not the case to any significant degree, as any examination of the books will indicate.

Steve Cumming  
Director CJSR

# More space needed for the intellectual feedback

Let's face it: the age of pithy epigrams and economical writing is over. *Gateway* should realize that things Nietzsche could say in a sentence in 1881 require at least 1,000 words when written by today's university student.

Thus I suggest that you raise your present, rather theoretical limit of 250 words per letter to 2,000 words. An additional 500-word allowance should be given to writers discussing problems of worldwide importance, who need the extra space to work themselves up into a righteous

lather.

Also, a 3,000-word ceiling should be granted to Student Union officers, candidates for public office, and spokesmen for special-interest groups, who require a great deal of space to tell us how altruistic their motives are, how profound their philosophy is, and what a wonderful, wonderful world this would be if only we accepted their proposals.

Furthermore...

Greta Garble  
Histrionics II

Editors's note: Enough of that!

# Reasoning for IRA

While I do not condone the violence perpetrated by the IRA, I think it is important to understand some of the reasons behind it.

The history of the Irish-British conflict is a long one, going back over 800 years. In the 12th Century, Britain invaded Ireland, stole the land from the natives and granted it to loyal British subjects.

The Irish were left with barely enough land to subsist, and were plunged into the poverty which they still find themselves in today. They were made into second-class citizens in their own land. The only jobs available to them were the ones too menial or too degrading for the Protestants.

Why then is it surprising that they should resort to violence?

The IRA is only the latest of a long series of Irish Nationalist forces resisting the British presence. Britain, however, has always had the might to quell these uprisings.

It was only in 1922 that Britain gave up southern Ireland and The Republic of Ireland was formed. The Irish do not want a partitioned land. They want and always have wanted, a united, free

Ireland.

Their determination must be admitted. That men like Bobby Sands would choose to die by starvation to draw attention to their cause shows how strong the Irish will is. But then, the Irish are used to starving.


During the famine of 1839, one-fifth of the population starved to death and countless thousands were forced to emigrate. Britain's conscience was untouched. Further evidence of the strength of Irish resistance can be seen in news photos of Irish youths clashing with police. These young people will soon be strengthening the ranks of the IRA.

What Britain hopes to gain by remaining in Ireland is a mystery. She clings to Ireland as a last vestige of her once great colonial power.

The Irish have resisted her presence for 800 years and they will very likely resist for another 800, or as long as it takes. Britain must somehow be encouraged to give up her false claim to Ireland.

Give Ireland back to the Irish.

Raymond Gossen  
Science III



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