

EDITORIAL

No clear danger

Scene: a beat-up desk strewn with press releases, layout dummy sheets, old newspapers, unedited copy, and other typical debris. Behind the desk a weary editorial writer is scribbling on small slips of paper.

"Re-instate the death penalty for those who commit modern art," he writes on one of the slips, then crumples it and tosses into a small cardboard box on the desk. He continues writing on the paper slips:

"Socialism is simply a perverted form of capitalism....The human brain — a distant second in politics behind the adrenal gland....Philistinism in Edmonton and the cancellation of the Randy Newman concert....Racism and sexism in the media — a harmless phenomenon....Trudeaumania 1968 and Trudeaphobia 1982: the herd instinct at work....Sheila Ballantyne's *Norma Jean the Termite Queen* one of the best books written since World War Two....the reason why the reformer is almost always as bad as the establishment pig, if not worse....party politics; a disease worse than herpes....the case for sterilization of student politicians.... the case for retroactive sterilization of Mackenzie Porter's parents....despair: the only way out."

After all the slips have been written, crumpled and tossed in the box the editor shakes the box, reaches in, and pulls out one of the paper wads. He unfolds it:

"Racism and sexism in the media — a harmless phenomenon."

There are, I suspect, a few people who will suffer heart attacks upon reading this assertion. In fact my sensitive super-vision detects the new Human Rights Co-ordinator of the Western Region of Canadian University Press, horror contorting her face, sitting down and typing an urgent communique to the *Gateway* office:

"My God, Jens! What if in 1990 the U of A was converted by the nefarious PC's into an institution containing 95% Engineering students and 5% students in other faculties, and the engineers began kicking in windows, burning copies of *Mother Jones* and lynching an occasional Artsie in Quad. Would you print a letter saying, "Kill the sub-humans in Arts," or a Molson's ad showing an anthropoid lout roasting a succulent wimp on a pile of burning books, while slaking his thirst with a brew?"

The answer, of course, is no. I would pull out my U.S. constitution, yell "clear and present danger," and promptly get lynched myself for abrogating an innocent engineer's freedom of speech.

But this is a hypothetical answer to a hypothetical question. In reality we are nowhere near this scenario, and the unhypothetical examples of "racism" and "sexism" which present themselves, I maintain, are harmless enough.

It is only after working for this rag four years, for instance, that I have finally encountered an advertisement that was even *alleged* to be racist. It is the Southern Comfort ad which appears in this issue.

If the rumors are correct, some CUP papers have already banned it on the grounds that it perpetuates a stereotype of negroes. The catch with this reasoning is that it assumes readers are so stupid that when they see a negro playing a banjo, they will automatically jump to the conclusion that all negroes are banjo-pickin', waddy-melon slurpin', chidin-chompin', etc. etc. etc.

I don't believe for a second that the human race is quite so stupid. And if they were, one would have to ban not only the ad, but also pass laws against negroes playing banjos, or eating watermelon and chidins, because any such negro also "perpetuates the stereotype."

I will go further, and propose Andersen's First Law of Psychological Inertia and Media Ineffectuality: "Individuals who habitually use common decency in their dealings with persons different from themselves will never be significantly corrupted, by even the most blatant hate propaganda."

Corollary: "Individuals who habitually despise and mistreat persons different from themselves will never be significantly reformed, even by the most eloquent consciousness-raising propaganda."

In short, the leopard doesn't change its spots. Take a look around yourself at the people you know, and see if it isn't true.

Has the voluminous outpouring of feminist literature over the past few years made any headway against misogyny, lechery or discriminatory attitudes? Has the even greater outpouring of titillating pornography stifled feminism in any way, or turned a single decent man into an ogre? Did my own lustful (i.e. normal) youth, greedily devouring *Playboy* (and worse) prevent my eventual indifference toward porn (well, almost), or my appreciation of Sara Mayfield as the best of Mencken's numerous biographers and analysts? Did John Roggeveen's statement that alleged killer Albert Rauca was a well-behaved man who shouldn't be prosecuted cause a wave of forgiveness towards Nazis?

I beg your pardon for asking such silly questions.

Jens Andersen

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Staff this issue:

"The court calls Martin Beales." Zane Harker, prosecuting attorney, asks the witness to recount how he and Bill Inglee determined that John Roggeveen was a liberal. Heather-Ann Laird records the response. Kent Blinston, Aaron Bushkowsky, and Mark Roppel await their turns in the witness stand. Jim Gerwig appears disinterested. Margo Schmitt winks at Gilbert Bouchard. Judge John Algard watches a rather nervous Jack Wermee. Clerk Tom Hayward stares at the clock, hoping for an early lunch break....

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« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

Swing-a-low sweet chariot

Here's a letter to a the *Get-a-Way*.
Dem Americans are a hard a to get use ta. Dey gotta da space a race all a wrapped up all a way up a Uranus. An' you don' a gotta worry if a you get sick up a dere because a dey gotta little bag you can a get sick in.
Even da pope a he says a dat's a marvellous in-vention, an' a he's a Polish! When a he dies he's a gonna getta dat dere space a shuttle an' a Canadiana Arma — you know dat arm da Canadiana maid. (He's a gonna die 'cause a dere's a con-a-tract on a him.) An' a dat a arm is a gonna fling a him ta heaven. An he's a nice a guy he says a any won else a can'na go along even if a dare moslem.
But one a thing I'm a gonna tell a you. If a da pope don a die he's a gonna go on a world a mission an' raise a lots a money to buy a holy a cruise a missile. 'Cause a its a gonna be half a price pretty soon, eh. And den he's a gonna blow all a dem bad a guys to hell.

Anthony Bentz
Arts III

Get 'em while they're hot

To all Exam Registry users:
Please note that the Students' Union Exam Registry will not be receiving any more orders for exams after Thursday December 2nd. From this time onwards we will have all we can do to fill the orders already taken. We will begin receiving orders again on January 10th of the new year.
As it now stands there is about a 4 day waiting period from the time an order is made to the time it is ready for pick-up. We expect the waiting period to become longer as final exams draw near, but we will endeavor to make it no longer than one week.
While our list of exams is fairly extensive, there are some departments which do not send us any exams, most notably Psychology, Sociology and Physics.
If we do not have an exam that you want, try contacting the department directly. Some departments are now operating their own registries. If this is no help go speak to the professor of the course. Some professors may be willing to make past exams available to students who request them.
Although our hours vary, we are open at least every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon.
Once again, to avoid disappointment, order early (before Dec. 2nd)!
Good luck on your exams!

B. Bruce
Exam Registry Director 82-83

Universiade on wry

The Big Cheese, by the Phys. Ed. Building is looking very good these days. I'm sure we'll be able to sandwich a lot of events into it.

The Campus Caterer

Science, engineering rote

Perhaps in their letter to the editor in *Gateway*, James Walsh, Kieren Hayden, Peter Land and Damian Hayden are confusing the University with NAIT. Do they want a skill-training school or do they want to explore the world of ideas? Arts students explore the world of ideas and Education students study the distribution of knowledge. In both the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Education students are expected to think for themselves. You might call that the "Free Enterprise" system at work.
In our post-Capitalist economy the major decisions are made by the multinationals like Standard Oil of New Jersey or some other foreign oil company. Engineers and scientists are expected to become "company men" or "team players" and sell their soul to the company, never to think for themselves! The multinationals expect the universities to train rather than educate the students. The engineer and the scientist are simply required to

memorize the text and to regurgitate the text on the final exam. The last thing a scientist or engineer is allowed to do is become creative.

Arts and Education students are expected to emancipate themselves from the ideology of the foreign multinationals. They are expected to become free men and women.

It is a moot point whether we belong to a professional association like doctors, teachers, or engineers, or whether we belong to a union. Even the hookers have their fees set by their pimps these days.

I really wonder if our letter writers know the difference between capitalist and socialist. I would suggest that they have been so indoctrinated that they think one is absolute good and the other absolute evil. Call that thinking! I would suggest that no one be allowed to graduate from this university unless that person has read at least Plato's *Republic*. (No! That is not some new kind of computer!)

U. Deis

Northwest is the best

For shur, here's a response to that letter written in the November 16 *Gateway* by the pinko's to the east.

Do you want to hear about the most productive society we could be in? Using our present system as a starting point, we would first eliminate all the inefficient and wasteful components: small business, big government, and the eastern end of campus. The last two are obvious, but why small business? When feelings of self-worth and pride interfere with profit motivation, productivity is sacrificed for these narcissistic cravings. Well, since I've eliminated three quarters of our present system; where would we place all these people? In big business, big unions, and a token government (referee). This way all the corruption could be tapped and used to its utmost. If it ever comes to this, there is no telling what man would do since it would in no way be profitable to blow himself sky high.

Just for those who didn't notice: the sun may rise on the east end of campus, but it sets on the west end. Also, even though it gets warmer the farther you go south, nothing happens in warmer climates besides decay. This brings me to the scientific conclusion that the place to be on campus is the Northwest.

Leonard Sanche
Engineering II

No more sermons, please

Editor, the *Gateway*:
Please stop your editorial tirades against the anti-nuclear movement. You are rather far off the mark in your last two editorials, where you try to suggest the "correct" responses that anti-nuclear demonstrators should have to a) Remembrance Day and b) the Litton plant bombing.

As someone who is completely opposed to the arms race, let me explain my views on these two "issues". I find it rather hard to get overly worked up about Remembrance Day because it tends to be far too much a glorification of heroes of past wars, and thereby of war itself. I would feel much more sympathetic grief if the poem which epitomized the spirit of this day was "Dulce et Decorum Est" rather than "In Flanders Fields".

As far as the bombing of the Litton factory goes, I agree with you that in principle we ought to be one hundred percent opposed to acts of violence, which are antithetical to the democratic process. But if no one was killed, I once again find it hard to feel too broken up over the fate of the plant where the guidance systems for the Cruise missile were manufactured. I think participating in the armaments industry is an immoral act, virtually on the scale of actually using the bombs themselves.

Spare us any pontificating from your Conservative position in the future. You may feel these sentiments, but there is frankly little reason why anybody else should.

Yours amicably,
David Cox, BA (Honors)
Special Student, Arts V