

EDITORIAL

U.S. Undemocratic

When I was travelling in Mexico two years ago, I asked an elderly retired soldier from Del Rio, Texas why law-enforcement officers in that state had such a hard-nosed reputation.

"Well boy," he drawled, "If them spics and niggers ain't afraid of you, you gonna have nothin' but problems with 'em. But, if you kill two or three of 'em, they'll say: Oooh, that's Mistah Charlie, you bettah listen t' him 'else he kiiill you!"

The sad fact of the above anecdote is that it mirrors perfectly the attitude of the Reagan administration towards Nicaragua.

The problem the U.S. faces is that despite their orchestrated campaign of intimidation, propaganda and terror or the thousands of Nicaraguans who have died as a result of U.S.-sponsored violence, those pesky Nicaraguans still stubbornly cling to the idea that they should have control over their own destiny.

That a country in the "back yard" of the United States dares to make its own political and economic decisions independent of American wishes is frightening to the Reagan administration.

In fact, they are getting so frightened that on Jan. 31, the Secretaries of State and Defense told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the U.S. has the right to use armed intervention against what they term "un-democratic forces," specifically Nicaragua.

For starters, why not just say, "We have the right to assault or kill anyone we don't like, and if we don't have a rational reason, we'll fabricate one."

That sort of conduct is not acceptable between individuals in a society, so why does the United States regard it as acceptable in conducting foreign policy?

If we as Canadians really do "stand for truth and democracy," as Prime Minister Mulroney says, then we should support both principles and tell the truth to our American friends: that Nicaragua is a sovereign country whose elected leaders, the Sandinistas, enjoy widespread popular support from the citizenry.

We must also make the Americans realize that their discomfort with Nicaragua's desire to follow peaceful policies independent of U.S. control does not give them the right to invade or otherwise interfere with that nation's affairs.

Finally if the United States continues with Nicaragua (or any country), its policy of directly or covertly overthrowing left-wing governments that put the needs for their citizens and not U.S. national interests first (remember Guatemala in 1954? Chile in 1973?), then the U.S. should be recognized as the greatest threat to democracy on this planet.

However, this plea will probably fall on deaf ears, for although the current leaders of the U.S. may be God-fearing men, they also appear to be soul-dead.

Bill Doskoch

One does not have to keep bad governments in to keep Communists out

John Kenneth Galbraith

I would call the democratic left in Latin America the group which secures social advances for all the people in a framework of freedom and social consent

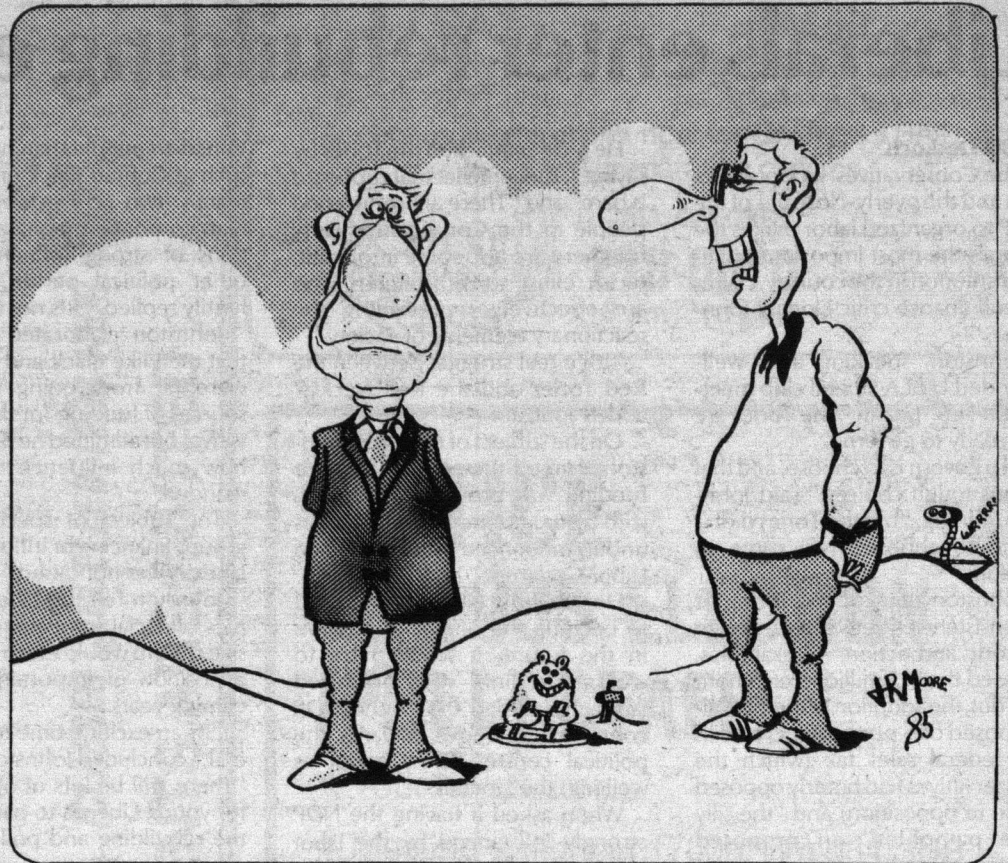
Luis Munoz Marin

The Pink Triangle

What is the role of gays and lesbians in mainline and liberal religions? Are gay employees at the students' union discriminated against? How well has the new gay and lesbian club at the U of A fulfilled its mandate?

These are some of the issues the Gateway will examine in the Pink Triangle supplement on Feb. 14. If you have any ideas or contributions to the special gay and lesbian issues supplement, call Gilbert or Suzette (afternoons) at 432-5168. Articles, poetry or fiction may be submitted to the Gateway office in 282 SUB or through the mail. Please mark envelopes "Pink Triangle". Deadline for submissions is Feb. 7, 1985.

Also upcoming: the International Women's Awareness Week supplement. Deadline for submissions: Feb. 28.



"What do you get when you cross a ground hog with the Toronto Maple Leafs? Six more weeks of bad hockey!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Past VP speaks up

After spending a year in student government, I find that I still have an interest in the new issues being raised in subsequent campaigns. Not until this year's campaign have I felt that I had anything to add or that there was an issue which I could help to clarify.

The Students' Union business area management structures have changed many times with the changes being most significant from 1980 to 1982, the years I am most familiar with. Those were the years of high deficits (as high as \$1,250,000) and high management turnover.

Management and financial problems the Students' Union experienced during that period prompted many changes in key management personnel. For a period during the summer of 1981, the Students' Union's current Business Manager was asked to join our Finance Committee and assist in overall running of SU business affairs as an interim measure until a Business Manager was hired. A Business Manager was hired and then fired. Things just were not working out with that particular individual.

The problems we had encountered in hiring someone unfamiliar with student organizations prompted us to hire from within the Students' Union. Tom Wright, who had a working knowledge of SU businesses and student services was approached. Not only had the need for a Business Manager been established, but the need for one who works well with the students was also seen as being important. The executive was concerned with the various political and student issues. Not only does an executive not have the time or the experience to manage SU businesses but they have no interest in becoming involved in day-to-day business operations. The many types of businesses being run and the

experience required was definitely beyond the depth of experience of any student executive member. The concern of the executive with regards to business operations is quite different from that of a business Manager. While a Business Manager is concerned with the day-to-day running of the businesses, the executive is concerned with changes in business policies and input of the Business Manager and final decisions of this nature are redirected by the executive to the Students' Council. This process ensures that the interests and priorities of students are met.

While we tried a few different ways of managing the Students' Union during 1981 and 1982, largely on a trial and error basis, things finally settled down until a system evolved that worked well and has continued to work well. In writing this letter I have tried to share some of our experiences in hope that similar problems are not repeated.

Elise M. Gaudet

V.P. Finance & Admin. 1981/82

Internal concerns

I have a concern about some of the facts in the article written by Suzette Chan titled "Stamp bans Building Policy Committee."

I did NOT attempt to fire 3 councillors. The Students' Union Executive asked DIE Board if it was a conflict of interest if CUPE members sat on Students' Council. DIE Board ruled that the councillors had the option of quitting either their job or Students' Council. Two councillors CHOSE to quit their job.

I asked Students' Council to remove Gilbert Bouchard as editor-in-chief of the Gateway as I felt he was not dedicated enough to handle the job. I still believe that the facts justified my actions; however Gilbert

The Gateway

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Broadway Bill Doskoch sat beside Mark Olyan, watching Kent Cochrane sip a beer. Olga Jagonik and Warren Opheim sped by, sending Bill Overend into the ditch. John Charles collected mushrooms with Ashley Prest, while Brad Clark caught passes from Tim Hellum and Alex Miller. Chris Menard surveyed the scene and marked time. Greg Owens had a nap on Algard's jacket — poor tired boy!