



Nobody's perfect

I bring to your notice two points arising from recent reading of *The Gateway*.

1. The correct version of the Burns quotation which you used as a headline is:

O wad some Power the giftie gie us

To see oursel's as ithers see us!

2. If *the Gateway* is really a bi-weekly publication (as stated in your masthead), then who is putting out the other three issues which appear every two weeks.

Andrew Clark

Dear Mr. Clark:
How embarrassing.

Ed.

Let us proliferate

Dear Gateway:

Back when Watergate made the headlines, and after it was all wrapped up, comments were heard in the media to the effect that Watergate proved the strength of the American judicial system, as things would probably have been far different had Watergate happened anywhere else.

Well, now we know: it happened in India. Now that India is no longer a democracy, its possession of nuclear weapons capability is a much greater threat to world peace than it had been before.

Closer to home, we have an enormous resource-hungry giant just to the south of us. As it is presently constituted, the United States is our greatest friend and ally - and all that stands between us and the Soviet Union or Red China (take your pick, there's not much to choose between them.)

But the current energy crisis could bring about a vast economic depression, and the consequent downfall of American democracy. It is well known that neither Britons, Americans, no Canadians have the same spirit of patriotic sacrifice they once had: which makes this danger real.

Without adequate energy, there would be left no choice for the U.S. but to try to adjust: but the drop in the standard of living would be very great, and permanent. Fission power has its hazards, though I do not agree with Dr. Ettinger's estimate of their magnitude, but here is one thought: Uranium mining is very hazardous, depending on the type of deposit mined. The greater the need, the more the hazard, there for. The Maritimes are a depressed area, and they have had problems there with uranium-mine safety. So, they answer this question: What kind

of a drop in the standard of social services would be necessary to entice people to sell several years of their lives for a steady job?

A poorer society is almost always a less just one: this is well borne out by history. And a less democratic one: therefore less inclined to have second thoughts about taking us over for our resources.

The U.S. does a pretty good job today of protecting us from that big bad old Russian bear. But, they are unhappy about our ideas about increasing our maritime limits, as they are quite devoted to the idea of freedom of the seas. Thus, any new limits we may set will remain quite unenforceable, especially on the Russians: we can hardly threaten to sink their ships, should they encroach.

What does all that I have been saying add up to? To defend our fish from the Russians, our oil from the Americans, and our wheat from India, we have no choice but to hand in our six month's notice, so that Canada will have time to develop fusion power after civilization breaks down everywhere else, through lack of resources.

Six month's notice of what? Of withdrawal from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty - and of becoming a nuclear power ourselves.

Yours sincerely,
John Savard
Science 4

No-fault faulted

Dear Sir:

In order for your readers to better assess the pros and cons of public versus private insurance ("Let's Go No-Fault") I think it important that the following facts be stated:

1. The Alberta Federation of Labour, currently circulating the petition on campus, can hardly be described as non-partisan. Federations of Labour (the body, not necessarily individual members) have traditionally supported the New Democratic Party.

2. The only government operated schemes in existence were all introduced by N.D.P. governments and, according to well publicized reports, disastrous results might well be the ultimate cause of the defeat of two of them. I refer to Manitoba with its accumulated deficit of \$25 million and British Columbia with its first year loss of \$34.9 million.

3. 'No-Fault' as currently used in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, is already provided by the private insurance industry in Alberta and has been since April 1, 1972.

4. The vehicle premium charged by government plans are meaningless for comparative purposes. The only valid comparison is total cost. In Alberta, the total cost is clearly indicated in the premium one pays. In the other western provinces, in addition to the published vehicle rate, additional premium/cost/subsidization is collected by way of:

Driver's license insurance fee, demerit point surcharge, accident involvement penalty, out-of-province use surcharge and outright subsidization by way of gasoline tax.

5. According to the report of the Alberta Superintendent of Insurance the private automobile insurance industry paid out 89.6 cents of every dollar collected in 1974; a far cry from the "...average only 63¢" quoted.

6. Do you not think your readers should be told when and where the research carried out by the Wall Street Journal took place and on which date it was reported? It does have the familiar ring of a similar claim made by a pro-government insurance group in Manitoba, in May 1970. They too, issued a brochure which said in part: "The kind of auto insurance plan proposed by the Manitoba Government Committee has been endorsed by...The Wall Street Journal (the voice of American business)..."

This statement was brought to the attention of Mr. William McSherry, News Department Manager of the Wall Street Journal who replied in part as follows: "Your remark that this newspaper has 'endorsed' the public auto insurance plan is false and misleading. I would appreciate your advice concerning this matter and your assurance that the piece concerning this misinformation will be taken out of circulation immediately."

7. By what wild stretch of the imagination can the \$1.5 billion a year paid out to trial lawyers in the United States relate to Alberta? Obviously the Alberta Federation of Labour is not aware (and I am sure your Dean of the Faculty of Law will confirm) that all U.S. lawyers engaged in insurance litigation do so on a contingency fee basis. Quite understandably, a very large number of U.S. claims are involved in time consuming and costly legal battles.

8. This situation does not exist in Alberta.

It is disappointing that the President of the Students' Union apparently did not see fit to obtain substantiated information before endorsing the petition.

Yours very truly,
Richard A.S. Cooper
Alberta Manager

In reply

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Thank you for your very eloquent defense of a rather outdated and failing system.

If the private insurance operators in Alberta are defending their plan, could it be that they are making healthy monetary returns, contrary to the statistics stated by the Alberta Superintendent of Insurance?

Maybe they are trying to cover something up? Could it be true?

Graeme Leadbeater
President

Kicked out

My apologies - I would like to extend my humblest regrets that:

a. being of average intelligence I find that I must study and work at getting half decent marks.

b. home is probably the noisiest and most disrupting place to attempt to work and therefore -

c. I have to utilize university facilities to accomplish the aforementioned efforts.

Therefore, bear with me when I say I get somewhat pissed off when some rude old man walks into Rutherford (Old) at twenty to five on Saturday afternoon and shuts off all the lights. It wouldn't be so bad if there was some place to go - but, to my knowledge, there is not viable alternative to compare with Rutherford (Old) as a study hall. So myself and others like me face the loss of valuable study hours so that old man can go home and watch the hockey game. Please, for once, will someone give a damn!

Douglas Bremner
Commerce 4

Attention Gateway Staff Photographers:

There will be a photo seminar in room 236 starting at 3:00 Friday afternoon. Topics covered will be basic camera operation, film and print development, and etc. until 7:00 or Hallett runs out of juice.

Gateway

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