

Reader Comment

by Ronnie Corbett

Quixote's constant critic, the whining and gibbering Charles Farley has been an enigma to me. At first, I was of the opinion that anyone who could label another a "Marxist bigot," a "bleeding heart liberal" and a "leftist pseudo-environmentalist moralizer" in the course of two letters, must be either non-existent (physically I mean, his mental existence has always been open to question), or a practical joker. Secondly however, the thought occurred to me that his actual existence is immaterial. If there was no Charles Farley, as a latter-day Voltaire might have said, then it would be necessary to invent one.

After this week's (relatively tame) epistle concerning *Quixote's* quote "gross factual errors," I deemed it an opportune time to respond. It is worth noting, comrades, that in all the correspondence addressed to the column, one, yes, just one has referred to a factual error. Nevertheless, in order to show my

lack of malice and as a special tribute to Charles, whose deft name and unquestioning wisdom remind one of a young Joe Clark, I offer you *my* thoughts on how to run this University.

1. Depose Sheik Louheed. This parasite of the toilers has leered at us malevolently from over the river too long. This act would also serve as the signal for an invasion of Saskatchewan socialist mobsters from the east.
2. Abolish Professors. Who do these self-righteous overpaid demi-gods think they are anyway? Half of them fall asleep in class and the other half spend all their time huddled into corners of murky libraries, perusing fragmentary tomes on Frisian aphrodisiacs.
3. Blow up the Faculty of Engineering, rebuild it and fill it up with Boat People.
4. Remove all middle-of-the-road wishy washy trash from the SUB Bookstore. The future store would then consist of a single section; anarcho -

syndicalist - progressive - marxist - leninist - stalinist - feminist - radical - Bolshevik thought. In addition, all customers would be required to read at least one paragraph of Chairman Mao's *I Married a Leper* (Peking: Posthumour 1979).

5. Remove mindless disco music and dancing from the vicinity of the campus in view of its tendency to induce either epileptic fits or soporific comas. Students would be compelled to pogo three times a day to one of the following:
 - i) Johnny and the Self-Abusers
 - ii) Joe Cocker and the Four Skin Brothers
 - iii) Ted Turd and the Tuned-Up Toilets
6. Evict the Aggies and collectivize the Agriculture Faculty.
7. All power would be handed over to an annual convocation of the Faculties of Arts and Social Sciences. Day to day decisions however would be in the hands of an All-Peoples' Politburo of

Transvestites and Homosexuals, run by a General Secretary who should be either a confirmed pervert or an Alcoholic.

8. These meetings will elect hit-squads which will be empowered to eliminate all bourgeois nationalist degenerated lurking around Java-Jive.

So you were right after all Charles. The *Gateway* editorial staff really have appointed a dangerous subversive. You should therefore be encouraged to continue your sleuth-like quest for a weekly column of pea-brain thought. Work hard, do not think for yourself, honour the government in word and deed, sing *O Canada* at breakfast and supper, and above all, be apathetic. Only by being apathetic can you hope to pass your exams and go on to greater things. Perhaps even you, Charles, might get the chance to sit in 24 Sussex Drive and do nothing all day. It would be a fitting reward for all your labors.

Phony bridgework

I would like to point out an error which appeared on the front page of the Thursday October 4 issue of the *Gateway*.

The article in question is a short story by the *Gateway* news staff with regards to the latest newsletter on campus, *The Bridge*. This publication is for students in the faculty of engineering and is intended to appeal to all six disciplines of engineering students.

However, I wish to go on record as denying the statement "I wanted to provide a paper for the little man... the engineers." This does not appear anywhere in the first issue of *The Bridge*, and is not an opinion held by myself or any other member of *The Bridge* staff.

I trust the *Gateway* will be a little more careful in ascribing remarks to persons in such a manner in the future. Misquotation is not a funny matter... particularly when three "little", like Little John was little, fourth-year civils object to my alleged choice of words.

Ken Lawson-Williams
Bridge Editor

Marxist barbarians

I am writing to address the members of the revolutionary marxists eluded (sic) to in a previous issue of the *Gateway*, within a political summary (sic). I suggest comrades that one of your tools for change is primitive (sic) and barbaric. I believe that revolution within a framework of violence is outdated. I do agree that the only constant thing about mankind is change. In today's world I believe the most effective means of change is by election within a parliamentary system. A system, which I suggest utilizes a much greater variety of expertise and human resources in key decision making, compared with the previous examples of totalitarian regimes which have historically transpired through violent marxist revolutions.

In summary (sic), I do not dispute a mandate for change, since change is inevitable. But I believe a better method for utilizing previous individual human resources is the parliamentary system. It's just my opinion.

Konrad Kuzminski
Pharmacy 4

Quixote

by David Marples



Mike Walker's guide to campus politics was a welcome, but somewhat misleading explanation of the current outlook of Alberta's students. Both communist parties and the Revolutionary Workers League are examined in some detail, whilst the PCs received a space allocation befitting a virtual unknown at the foot of the page. Admittedly, the CP and CPC campaign openly on campus, but how much support do they actually have amongst the student population? I would venture to say very little indeed. Student support for these parties has experienced a gradual decline.

On the other hand, the recent election results indicate strong student backing for the ruling PCs. A conservative student outlook is not however applicable to the University of Alberta in isolation. The swing towards conservatism is not merely a campus, provincial or even national, but rather a worldwide trend, which has recently encompassed many of the English-speaking nations. For example, in Australia and Britain, ruling Labor governments have been thrown out of office and replaced by rigid Conservative regimes. Joe Clark's government is likely to be much more moderate, but is still illustrative of this tendency.

Moreover, radical student protest on a large scale appears to be something of the past. One reads of the anti-Vietnam protests and the shooting of four Kent State University students in 1970, of students manning barricades in Paris in 1968. Such events are likely to be remembered as part of a unique era; the period of the Vietnam War, which acted as the catalyst and motivating force of many student demonstrations and compelled students to take an active

interest in the events taking place at the other side of the world.

The decline of radical student politics can however be attributed to a second factor, namely the lack of exemplary "model" states on which to base an ideology. Mr. Walker's guide reveals that the CP still doggedly follows the Soviet Union, while the CPC, in its efforts to venerate Stalin, has been reduced to idealizing Albania as the only available model. The Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 and the subsequent infringements on human rights in that country and in the Soviet Union, have made a farce of Soviet pretensions to being a socialist state. Students are justifiably reluctant to support parties which back such violent and intolerant regimes.

Perhaps more than ever before, politics are dominated by the two super-powers, U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R., who are waging a war of attrition in virtually every major trouble-spot of the world, including Africa, the Middle East and South-east Asia. The tendency is for smaller nations to join one side or the other, with a struggle to obtain the support of waverers on the part of the two powers. In such circumstances, there is small wonder that the prevalent political climate on the campuses of Canada is either one of disillusionment or disinterest, with a feeling of irrelevance to the world situation.

Yet despite the swing to the right in provincial and federal politics and the monopolization of power by the U.S.A. and U.S.S.R., the present is an important time for the student voice to be heard. This is particularly the case in Alberta, where oil resources ensure a prominent role in the future of Canada. Unfortunately our priorities have become twisted to the extent that Ontario is said to present a greater threat to Alberta's oil reserves than do the giant private oil companies based in the United States.

My contention is that student politics can be centered on Canada and still be as effective as those of a decade ago were against the Vietnam War. There is a need, for example, to protect Petro-Can, to protect Medicare, one of the most advanced health systems in the world and perhaps, above all, to endeavor to make Canada independent of outside influences. It is not necessary to identify with East European states in order to achieve this. One need only look to the true interests of Canada and the Canadian people. The role of Albertan students in the future of Canada could be by no means insignificant.

