

Editorial

Geneva charade

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, not a member of President Reagan's Geneva summit contingent, has had a letter published in *The New York Times* recommending that Reagan not trust the Soviets to abide by treaty obligations. The response has been somewhat hysterical, pundits pontificating that Weinberger has intended to sabotage the arms talks.

My response is: so what. This is new?

Realistic examination of the political records of both the United States and the Soviet Union lead to the conclusion that sabotage of arms negotiation is established policy for both nations.

How else should we interpret the recent events surrounding former KGB agent Yurchenko's defection and subsequent claims he was kidnapped by the CIA and administered drugs to ensure his cooperation?

How else should we interpret the United States' increased activity in Afghanistan?

Or Reagan's not so distant stand-up routine in which he condemned Russia forever and announced the commencement of bombing to obliterate the foreboding spectre of Communism from the face of the planet?

Realistically, we are forced to consider the possibility that the arms negotiations are simply an enormous public relations ploy and that each nation is participating only in order to make the other appear the aggressor and root of all evil in the world today.

Can either nation be bargaining in good faith when their governments continue to ransom the future generations of Earth and blame their actions on the other?

It seems the only real hope for a reduction in the tension between the two superpowers is possessed by the people of these two nations. Real progress appears to be possible only as the result of a grass-roots movement on the scale of organized religion.

Yet this hope, too, is impossibly far-fetched.

As much as we might be able to denigrate Sylvester Stallone's artistic contribution to the film community, we cannot deny his recent success. For no explainable reason, Stallone seems to have his finger on the pulse of ordinary Americans everywhere. His fictional characters appeal in a mythological sense to some deeply-rooted primeval American urge for vindication? justice? superiority?

In his next film *Rocky IV*, an evil Russian boxer enters the fray. Having reunited the divided halves of American people, blacks and whites, by creating a brotherhood between Apollo Creed and Rocky Balboa, Stallone turns his attention to the international arena. This Russian boxer kills Apollo in the ring and therefore threatens America's new reconciliation with her checkered past. Rocky must avenge Apollo's death and...

If this film is as successful as Stallone's last, *Rambo*, in which he processed an entire platoon of Russian soldiers like Gainer's does hogs, any hope for a lasting, gentle peace seems absurd.

The citizens of this global community, east and west, north and south, if they want to guarantee any kind of future for their children, must develop a sensibility that does not take pleasure, even vicarious pleasure, in the slaughter of their enemies.

And this seems the most unlikely hope of all. In ten thousand years men have evolved, technologically, an astronomical distance. When once the most dangerous weapon in the human arsenal was a rock and a sling, we can now split atoms and liquefy the earth's surface. Sociologically, we have evolved very little. We are still jealous, vengeful, petty and ultimately childish.

Until we have learned to deal effectively with these emotions, very little of what Mikhail Gorbachev or Ronald Reagan do on our behalf in Geneva will make a difference. Someone else, equally as pusillanimous, will come along to fill their place and we will have to start all over again.

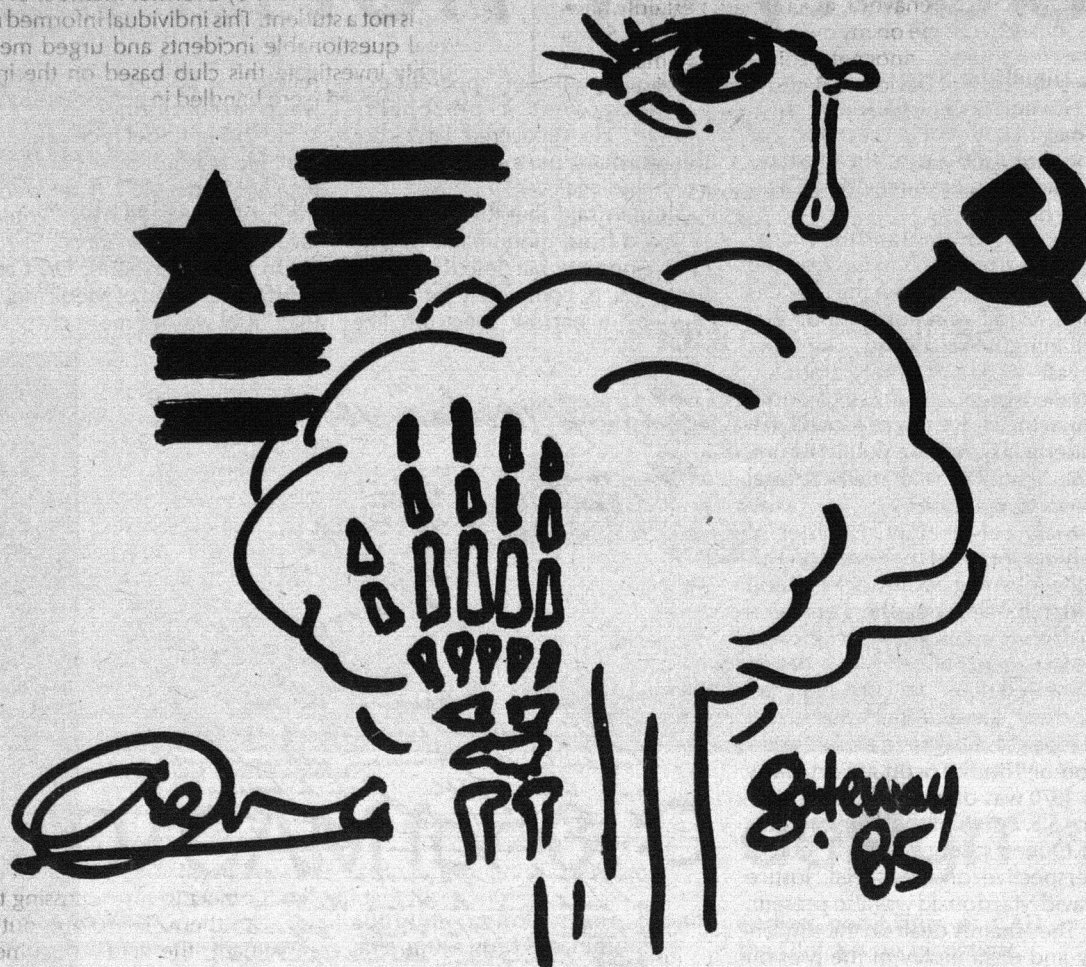
Mike Evans

Correction

We apologize for having referred to Don Getty as Paul Getty, and having mis-spelt Alberta.

We hope no inconveniences were caused.

...been received. The letter to which M...
...not stated. This individual informed...
...questionable incidents and urged me...
...investigate this club based on the...
...Hallway



Letters to the Editor

Amazed and appalled

Not long ago an article was published in the *Gateway*, "On Defense of Pornography". I'm a university student and consider myself fairly open-minded when it concerns sexual issues, but I was appalled by Dr. Christensen's defense on child pornography. I'm amazed that an obviously sick-minded man is given the title Dr., a person whom society respects for their knowledge, and that he hasn't been dismissed from his position at the U of A. Keegstra's teachings seem far less harmful than Dr. Christensen's philosophies against the most innocent victims, children.

How can sex with children be justified? An infant can't agree or disagree, and children are hardly capable of understanding. Our young are vulnerable and innocent. No one should have the right to rob them of that innocence or force them to discover too soon what they're incapable of understanding.

How can having sex with a child occur without force. We must protect children from having to confront a seemingly physical world.

As Dr. Christensen agrees with pornography overall, does he also condone snuff films, a cheap pornographic movie that kills women after sex, not just on the screen, but in real life. Last time I checked, this was murder. How can anyone defend this!

I think Dr. Christensen should also consider wiping the dust off his generalization against men. Maybe in the 18th century whores were used for sex and wives kept pure to perform their specified tasks, but this is the 20th century.

Perhaps his overall research on the entire subject needs reviewing. Maybe current information would help clear the air on the destructiveness of such pornography. The stance that U of A's Dr. Christensen takes is the same as many convicted criminals have taken, such as: rapists, molesters and even murderers. I applaud Dr. Christensen's impeccable taste in peers.

P.J. Clark

Politics and parks

I am an immigrant woman. Consequently, I have not the right to vote.

I thought Albertans did until I was informed by new Premier Getty via his inauguration address that they,

in actuality, don't.

The new Premier and his cabinet appointees, it seems, will vote for them, whatever they themselves seem to think.

One of the main reasons I chose to come and live in this country was my Albertan husband's love of the land he grew up in, with its vast parks and wild forests. He is an apolitical person and not prone to unwarranted displays of emotion.

But when he began to read what Premier Getty proposes to do with the Kananaskis, well, suffice it to say, he did not continue reading.

The *Edmonton Journal* of November 5 articulated an elderly (why did he feel he had to remain anonymous?) Edmontonian's feelings on the subject as well, that "Indian names such as KANANASKIS reveal more about the heritage of Alberta than the names of recently retired politicians."

"KANANASKIS" or "THE PLACE WHERE TWO WATERS MEET" is, to anyone who has hiked or backpacked in it, a more than special place despite, rather than because of, its development.

I come from a highly industrialized metropolitan area. I thought when I came to Canada that somehow the very presence of such enormous wilderness areas would serve to unify the people in helping to preserve it - particularly from the interplay of politics.

In Alberta, it seems, this does not happen.

I can only hope that former Premier Peter Lougheed will see fit to graciously decline this gesture.

If he truly loves the Park and its heritage, as is claimed he does, how can he act any other way?

If not, I urge Albertans and others who care to write and petition all involved in this unreasonable act.

C.L. Carroll

Northern morality

Dear Editor:

Jon Arnold's emotional plea for respect in the November 13 *Gateway* ("Christian rationale") moved me close to tears because, you see, I have a similar problem. I believe in Santa Claus and people laugh at me because of that belief. I have proof of Santa Claus' existence, just like Mr. Arnold has proof of God's existence; if there is no Santa, then how do all those presents get under my tree each year? Are Mr. Arnold and I the only logical people around?

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"Give me all your Jeff McDonalds" sneered John Watson. Terrified, Kabir Khan dug into his pockets. "All I have is this Robert Galbraith, a Leif Stout and this old Suzanne Lundrigan." "Take my Dave Donnelly, but please let me keep my Gilbert Bouchard," whimpered Kathleen Beechinor. Hans Beckers clutched his Gord Stech, Greg McHarg handed over Bruce Gardave, Ron Damant and Alex Miller, while Lisa Trofymow hid Myles Kitagawa, Rod Cambell, Tim Enger and Ashram Mustapha in her purse. Hot on the heels of enterprise Edna Landreville erected a booth and cried "Louise Hills for sale! Get your Rob Schmidts here! Buy two Tim Hellums and get a Fernell Tarnowski free!" "Take me...please," pleaded Brougham Deegan, "I'll give you all my money, oh please" to no avail.

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