



Letters

(continued)

Dear Letter Writers,

For the sole purpose of printing as many letters as possible in our last issue, I have taken the liberty of trimming all unnecessary frou-frou from your short stories and novels. If, by chance, you think I have cut your most witty and prosaic passage I will be available for flogging between the hours of 12 and 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7th, Gateway office. (Bring your own whip.)

Mary Ruth Olson
Managing Editor

Does Soviet goodwill exist?

David Marples' apology for Soviet Imperialism, couched in terms ominously reminiscent of the annexation of the Sudetenland, is so full of misleading information that it would take a whole issue of the Gateway to correct it. Therefore only one of the threads running through his argument (and through both of Bruce Connell's recent contributions) will be followed here.

It is often stated that the Soviet Union has the longest hostile frontier in the world. This should hardly be surprising, as virtually every country sharing a frontier with the Soviet Union has lost territory to it, or to its earlier manifestation, the Tsarist EMPIRE (China), or has been completely swallowed up in its ever-gaping maw (Lithuania).

Since 1945 Britain, France, etc. have granted independence to

innumerable territories of their former empires. The Soviet Union on the other hand, has enslaved a corresponding number, extending their frontiers westwards and southwestwards in the process — thus creating yet another "hostile border".

If the Soviets were really sincere about peace and national self-determination, perhaps they could start granting independence to Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine, Georgia etc. — or at least give them the option thereof, with elections involving a plurality of parties and international supervision.

This might signal Soviet goodwill (if such a thing exists) better than any call for one-sided disarmament.

Robert Orr
Grad Studies

Allegation and innuendo

It is an unfortunate state of affairs when "student politics" must degenerate to the point that allegation, innuendo, and libel are acceptable tactics. In a letter which appeared in the Gateway on April 1, Tony Brouwer has found it necessary to question the integrity of the former chairperson of the Anti-Cutbacks Team, Amanda Le Rougetel.

I must express disgust and outrage in response to expressions employed by Mr. Brouwer in his letter. I found his tirade offensive and unjustified and implore fellow students to express their disappointment directly to Mr. Brouwer. Can the use of the phrase "slimy mud slinging skills" be justified as misguided hostility posing as

poetic license?

Perhaps if Mr. Brouwer had approached this situation with a spirit of "cooperation" rather than "confrontation", a subsequent letter could have been published to the satisfaction of both parties involved. I am confident that the usually reasonable and responsible Mr. Brouwer will denounce his misconduct and in discussion with Ms. Le Rougetel an amicable solution will undoubtedly be reached. I urge Mr. Brouwer to undertake this act of reconciliation as this demonstration of rationality would re-establish a healthy climate of mature political discourse on this campus.

Greg Madison
SU Arts Councillor

Anarchist bashes Bible

In order to clarify and expand upon my letter, re: The Womens Center and Censorship.

Firstly, I am not anti-women, anti-feminist, nor anti-matriarch. I am an anarchist, and thus do not expect to have my opinions liked by anyone let alone any group's of individuals. As an anarchist my instinct is to support those who struggle to liberate themselves, however I draw the line when that liberation leads to dictatorship by one group over another. I seriously question groups that think social change can be gained by calling for censorship or through appeals to the state to enforce 'progressive morality', as the Womens Center seems intent on doing.

Anarchists have long advocated an end to sexual repression, which does not mean women servicing mens whims and needs, but people seeing each other and themselves as yes; objects of desire.

If porn is vile, anti-women, anti-human, it is because it is the pent up fantasies of a sex-negative culture. Porn and erotica in sex-positive cultures plays a different role. Porn and erotica in sex-

positive cultures plays a different role. But porn is not the problem, sexual repression is.

Where did this sexual repression originate in our culture? Why from a book of course. A book that the Womens Center would have more trouble banning than Heavy Metal or National Lampoon. A book that led to and justified the massacre of millions of women, men and children over the last 2000 years. A book that is used to justify oppression of women, gays, heathens and anyone that disagrees with it. I am referring to the Bible. Here is one work that has produced more kinky sex crimes than any other, because it can be used to justify just about anything. Here is the justification for keeping women in the home, gays in the closet and sexual repression dominant in our culture.

So if some feminists can claim porn causes rape, then let me point out the fact that in my view the major source of violence against women is the sexual repression foisted on us by the institutional religion of the death wish: Christianity.

Eugene W. Plawicki
Arts II

More financial difficulties

On January 1, the Students' Union entered into an agreement to provide "for the orderly repayment to the University...of the funds borrowed by the Students' Union." This agreement calls for the Students' Union to pay off its debt by January 1, 1985 and allows the University to scrutinize each year's budget with this end in mind. The budget must be submitted by April 15 and, if the University does not approve the budget by April 30, the Students' Union goes into receivership. The most important item is the amount the summer debt (which exceeded \$1,000,000 last year) is reduced.

A budget reflecting these concerns was presented to Students' Council by last year's Executive and was passed. Five days ago (on March 31), we were informed that accounting errors had overstated our cash on hand by approximately \$300,000. This would increase our debt during the summer months to well over \$1,200,000. Moreover, the extra interest charges (approximately \$55,000) on the \$300,000 mean that our debt at the end of the year will be substantially higher than expected. Both the increase in the summer debt and the rise in our year-end debt are likely to be unacceptable to the University.

We thus have two choices. The first is to refuse to make any cuts and submit the budget as is

Hare Krishna spots irony

I find it rather ironic that although Hare Krishna devotees are chanting on the streets of Moscow (as mentioned in Gateway March 30th) the administrative policies of U of A officials forbid such exhibitions of religious expression on the Edmonton campus.

As one of several local devotees of Krishna who has been physically removed from the U of A campus while attempting to distribute free religious literature I find this policy to be both an insult to the millions of worshippers of Lord Krishna around the world and a threat to the very freedom which each of us holds so dear.

Tim Moore
Hare Krishna Temple

Let's fry the planet

There is no question or that the nuclear capacity of the U.S. or USSR is more than sufficient to fry the whole planet.

We are no longer in a position of "first to push - dies" but are now in a "first to push - wins" position, an unthinkable position just a decade ago. Weaponry, weapons deployment and control have advanced (and I use the term loosely) to the point where limited nuclear war is almost a possibility (ie. the neutron bomb).

Modern nuclear power is not a race to see who can blow up the world more times than the other guy but is a case of developing selective limited nuclear systems that can wipe out the other side's selective weapons first.

Assuming that neither side is trusting or trust-worthy enough to lay down arms and walk away from it all, it would seem that the next best alternative would be a balance of equal destructive abilities. This however, is definitely an unstable situation.

Yet I prefer the thought of American military superiority to that of the USSR.

Patrick Collins

The University then has the right to call in the receiver who will have total control over our finances and operations. He may close whichever services or businesses he feels are unprofitable and, if he feels it necessary, close us down and liquidate our assets. At best, we would lose our autonomy and, at worst, may cease to exist.

The second choice would be to make the painful cuts ourselves and to reduce our summer and year-end debt to an acceptable level. Although all figures are not in, this would probably mean cutting expenditures and raising revenues by \$250,000 to \$350,000. At the same time, by cutting fat out of areas of the budget, and by increasing certain revenues, we will try to keep service cuts to a bare minimum.

We will be preparing a package of budget suggestions

over the next few days and will be contacting student groups that may be adversely affected. As we believe that Students' Council is the ultimate authority in such matters, we are calling an emergency meeting for Thursday, April 8. All interested students are welcome to attend.

Neither option of massive cuts or going into receivership is a palatable one, and we're saddened to make such an announcement after less than a week in office. The circumstances are, unfortunately, beyond our control and the best we can do now is to proceed as Students' Council sees fit on Thursday.

The Students' Union
Executive Committee
Robert Greenhill
Teresa Gonzalez
Mark Hoye
Roger Merkosky
Raymond Conway

Public laundry cleaning

I and most students who read the April 1 issue of the Gateway were hoping that a few of the articles were an April Fools joke. I have checked around and found out that there was no joke so I have a few messages for some people before the year ends.

It doesn't show any class when you have to clean out the Student Union's dirty laundry in public. If Lisa Walter had not been fulfilling her duties as v.p. External while she was in office, it was Phil Soper's job to straighten her out. It does not do Lisa or the students any good to have a knife stuck in her back on her last day on the job.

From the article written about your choice for Clubs Commissioner I can find no reason why Ninette Gironella was not chosen. Her qualifications are more than enough to guarantee her the position. Sterling Sunley's only qualification is that he was a member of the DIE Board.

Unless their is some truth to the rumor that Sterling is a member of the Liberal party on campus and Rob Greenhill was a member this past year. If the rumor is true, you people have a lot of explaining to do.

There is also a rumor going around that the members of the DIE Board are handpicked according to the qualification of whether or not they think the same way as the SU Executive. Is this the same DIE Board that is going to see if there was any wrongdoing in the choice for Clubs Commissioner?

I feel that to be as fair as possible, all names of people

"Laughter" part of "manslaughter"?

A Standard 5 (Grade 5) student in Malaysia once asked her teacher why the man in the newspaper was imprisoned for laughter. The teacher was confused, whereupon the student produced a newspaper cutting with the heading "Accused - Life Imprisonment For Manslaughter".

Many years have elapsed since this incident, and the little girl is now a student majoring in English at this university. However, she is still wondering why a happy word as "laughter" should be contained in such a gruesome word as "manslaughter".

Can anybody please enlighten her?

Choo-Choo Kam

applying should be put in a hat and drawn randomly. What do you suggest?

I was only mildly surprised to see the bullshit in your letter defending the Woman's Centre. People like you do more damage to the W.C. by trying to help, than people like myself do when we show them their weaknesses. I will show you how idiotic your logic is:

1) There has not been a debate in the Gateway between the W.C. and the engineering students. The W.C. has only slandered the female engineering students. Is this your idea of a debate?

2) The two activities that you choose to portray as examples of all activities that engineering students organize are so biased and slanted, that any person in their right mind would see right through them.

3) You state that "Most of us (men) complain about women seeking to dominate us." Friends of mine who saw you at the SU election forum considered you a raving lunatic. Not one of them considered you a man and some weren't even sure that you were human.

Gord Stamp

Students oriented

Were you one of the freshmen who were completely lost, getting put into lousy class sections, not knowing how the registration book was supposed to translate into comprehensible English, looking for Bio Sci and then spending an hour trying to get out of Bio Sci? If you were then you can understand why student orientation is so important.

SORSE (Student Orientation Services) tries to help. We run seminars during the summer to try and prepare this year's freshmen for the rigors of university life. What we need now is leaders. If you volunteer, you will come on a training seminar, where you will learn how to lead while having a good time. Once you have been trained to lead, you will be called upon once or twice during the summer (More often if numbers warrant) to be a leader.

If you think you'd like to be a leader, or if you just want some more information about SORSE, feel free to drop by our office at 278 SUB. (432-5319)

Deb Nichols
SORSE Director