EDITORIAL

CUP is not amused

I believe I'll wait until next Tuesday to write about the election. A week will give me time to get my thoughts in order and organize them coherently, which some of you cited as something I rarely do.

Fortunately, though, I am not wanting for a topic. Fortunately, we belong to Canadian University Press, or just plain CUP.

CUP really likes us, I really think they do. We (the *Gateway*) give them so many excuses to send us nasty letters and make snide comments about us in their papers. The members of the Western Region (WRCUP) particularly enjoy poring over the *Gateway* looking for something to rake us over the coals about. Witness the fact that in our letters section today is a letter from the WRCUP Human Rights Co-ordinator titled, "Naughty Gateway spanked."

Apparently we upset Miss Burke over our *Getaway* issue which appeared December 15. Although Miss Burke writes that she could have written twelve wonderful pages, listing all the instances where the *Gateway* has violated the Code of Ethics, she has decided to just *send along a bit of analysis.*

Thanks. I sincerely mean that. I, for one, enjoy getting these letters. I laughed.

All our violations, according to Miss Burke, have *been in the area of sexism.* The *Gateway* is, according to Miss Burke, *a college rag.* The *Gateway* according to Miss Burke, exemplified the fact that *sophomoric humour at the expense of other human beings is neither original nor stimulating.*

Why do I get the distinct impression from that last statement that Miss Burke really took the *Getaway* personally. Perhaps it's because she did.

The one thing that I have found is that the very frantic feminists do not have much of a sense of humour. When someone pokes fun at them and/or their cause, they react extremely poorly.

I think that when someone becomes so strident about an issue or a cause, they tend to lose sight of what exactly they are trying to accomplish. They lose the ability to laugh at themselves. They lose their perspective.

You must retain a certain amount of self humour. If you totally lose the ability to see yourself as others see you, you'll do more to hinder your cause than help it along. People will transfer your stridency onto the cause you work for. This is harmful.

Miss Burke, the *Gateway* does not laugh at sexism or women being abused. In fact, many of the articles which probably upset you in the *Getaway* were written by some of the more progressive feminists on staff. They, however, have retained the ability to laugh. A sense of humour goes a long way to enabling a person to keep their perspective. If you lose your perspective you lose sight of what you are trying to do and you lose the people you are trying to educate.

Yes, sexism is a problem. But don't lose your sense of humour. In short, Miss Burke, go forth and multiply with a tree if you can't take a joke.

Andrew Watts

Science and religion

Christians hold that their faith does good, but other faiths do harm . . . What I wish to maintain is that *all* faiths do harm. We may define *faith* as a firm belief in something for which there is no evidence. When there is evidence, no one speaks of *faith*. We do not speak of faith that two and two are four or that the earth is round. We only speak of faith when we wish to substitute emotion for evidence . . . We are told that faith could remove mountains, but no one believed it; we are now told that the atomic bomb can remove mountains, and everyone believes it.

Bertrand Russell

Relativity

Sometimes men come by the name of genius in the same way that certain insects come by the name of centipede—not because they have a hundred feet, but because most people can't count above fourteen.

G. C. Lichtenberg, 1799
Reflections

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Staff this issue:

Literary collaborators Gilbert Bouchard and John Algard contemplate their newest play, "Lust Labors Lost," starring local talents Ken Lenz, as Cupid; Renee, Michaud as the mad doctor; Mark Roppel as the dirty old man; Heather-Ann Laird, the raconteur; Mervin J. Jungle, the vestigial virgin; Jack Vermee, the local club MC; Nate LaRoi, the detective inspector; Pierre Menke, an indiscreet civil servant; Martin Coutts, the justice of the peace; Kevin Kaardal, as the devil; Dave Ludwig, the dragon slayer; Sandy Dickerson, the lady errant; Anne Grever, the woman in charge; Martin Beales, the scapegoat; Bill Inglee, the troll; Zane Harker, the lonely traveller; and Jeanine McDade, as the Empress of the skies.

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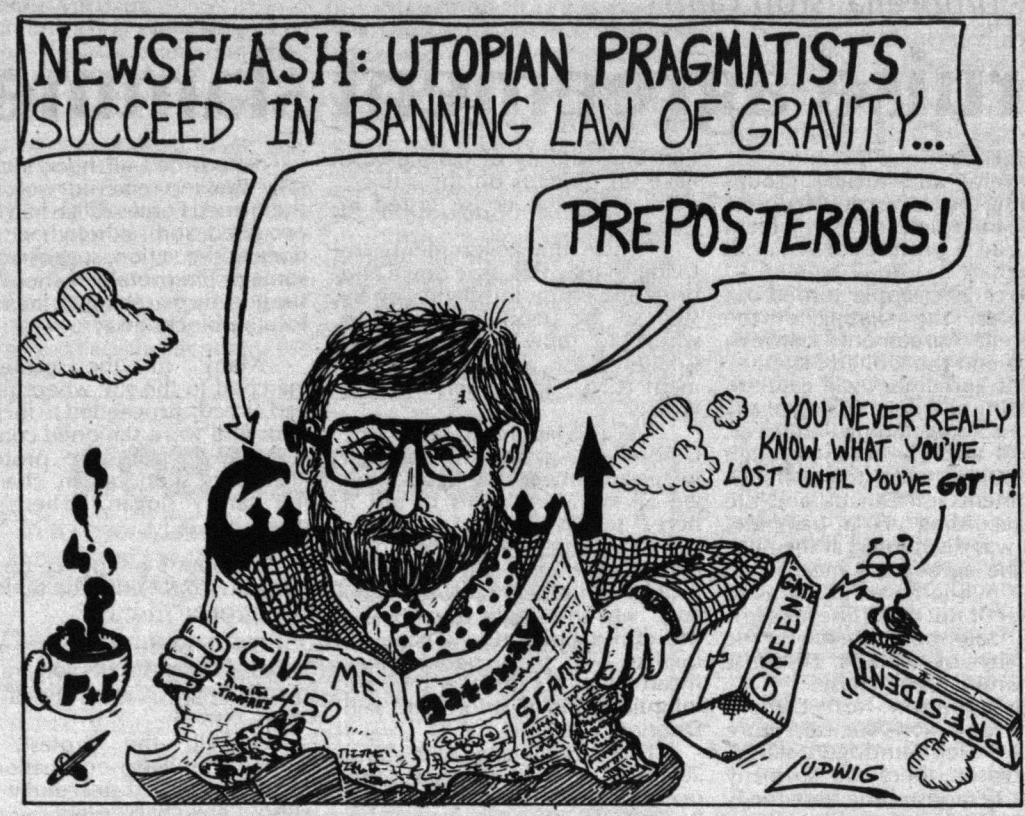

« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

Only Israel tries its own

The following is an extract from an editorial in the Globe and Mail, *February 10, 1983:*

"While Israeli opinion debates the Kahan Report, some rather offensive kibbitzing has been heard from other parts of the Middle East. In Lebanon, Prime Minister Shafik al-Wazzan, offering the country's only official reaction, said "the report really uncovered to the world who really was responsible." Well, yes, it certainly did — but not in the way Mr. Wazzan implies.

The Israeli inquiry established that Israeli authorities bore only "indirect responsibility" for the massacres at Sabra and Shatilla. They had no part in planning or carrying out the killings of innocent civilians. They were unwitting accomplices to Lebanese Phalangist militiamen who gave reality to Amin Gemayel's grieving cries of revenge for his slain brother.

Not only has Amin Gemayel, since succeeding Bashir Gemayel as President, made no attempt to bring the killers to justice, he has persistently denied that his brother's private militia had any role in the massacres. And this determination to look the other way has been tacitly supported not only by the Lebanese people, but by the silence of Palestinian and other Arab leaders.

For Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, the only culprits worth dwelling on are Israelis and Americans. Giving vent to his sense of selective outrage, he greeted the commission's findings with a demand that the Israelis and Americans face an international war crimes tribunal. He was echoed by Syrian state radio, which insisted that "Israel's rulers pay for their crimes and appear before a people's court like the Nazi criminals."

Of all people to be showing the way to Nuremberg! The PLO has murdered Israeli school children at Maalot, Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics and Israeli and foreign tourists at the Savoy Hotel on the Tel Aviv shoreline. It has also killed thousands of innocent Lebanese in Damour during the Lebanese civil war. If these were not war crimes, what were they? Battle honors, presumably, for PLO terrorists.

More recently, the PLO has disclaimed responsibility for violence against Jews in Western Europe, and blamed the attacks on dissident Palestinians such as Abu Nidal. But Mr. Arafat has never offered to set up a commission of inquiry to determine who was actually responsible, and the world has never expected him to do so. After all, the idea of the PLO investigating terrorism is patently absurd, if not a contradiction in terms.

Nor could anyone imagine Hafez al-Assad, the President of Syria, holding an inquiry to determine who ordered the Syrian armed forces to butcher 30,000 civilians in the rebellious town of Hama. It would be 'an investigation of a citizen above suspicion'. In Israel, by contrast, there are no citizens above suspicion. It is the only society in the Mideast where democratic institutions exist to expose abuse of power. It is, indeed, the only society in the region where such a concept even has any meaning.

If that is currently the curse of Israel's leaders, may it always be the blessing of its people."

We at the University of Alberta suffered the loss of our right to learn more about the events in the Middle East by the unlawful disruption of an open forum last Dec. 3. It is a pity that this institution, neither threatened nor surrounded by enemies as is Israel, can't even uphold the basic democratic ideal of freedom of speech.

Charles Davison, Law II
Max Pinsky, Law II

Jungle law back at U

Out of fairness to the recent University Disciplinary Committee Hearing, Hillel has refrained from making any formal statements to the media. The hearing is now over, the decision has been given; and there is no longer any reason to remain silent. Indeed, despite all recent attempts to silence us, we are determined to have our point of view heard.

We are aghast at the finding of the Disciplinary Committee, not for what it means in relation to the guilt or innocence of the person charged, but for what it says about rights and freedoms at the University of Alberta. To be blunt, they are neither respected nor protected here. Basically, the finding of the Disciplinary Committee means that at this campus, registered clubs who host forums featuring guest lecturers have no means of preventing their complete disruption. Campus Security will do nothing to stop off-campus, extremist hooligans from participating in the closure, and the Student Code of Behavior provides no recourse against students and other on-campus agitators who instigate it.

At the University of Alberta it is each man for himself. This is the law of pre-civilization. Physical force equals power. Hillel refuses to abide by a reign of savagery. We will continue to strive for democratic principles at this University. Now, more than ever, we shall be heard.

And, as for abrogations of our rights of assembly and speech, such as that which occurred on Dec. 3, we have one last thing to say: NEVER AGAIN.

Hillel Students Association

Take it to the top

My attention has been drawn to the letter of Sheila Read in the *Gateway* of February 1. It is unfortunate that Ms. Read feels that her experiences with the Library system have been so unsatisfactory. It definitely is not the practice nor my experience that the Library staff are rude, loud or incompetent. I have asked Ms. Read to meet with me to determine which experiences caused her dissatisfaction.

I would urge that the library users who have a complaint about library policy or the behavior or attitude of our staff, bring the matter immediately to the attention of the appropriate Library Division Head in Cameron Library, Rutherford North or South Libraries, Law Library or Education Library. It is only through this direct contact that such difficulties can be resolved.

Peter Freeman
Chief Librarian and Director of Libraries

Naughty boys spanked

I have been collecting a portfolio of clippings from the *Gateway* for the last few months. Please don't take this as a compliment. "The Gateway Papers" are nothing to be proud of.

I would have written, questioning your choice of art, news topics, or language before, but each time I'd get one letter written, another *Gateway* would arrive, and I'd have something new to write about.

So instead of sending a twelve-page, point-form list of various Code of Ethics violations, I thought I'd just send along a bit of analysis.

The *Gateway's* violations, which have all been in the area of sexism, follow a certain trend. The *Gateway* in fact projects a certain personality due to the consistency of style in their violations.

In simple terms, you come off as a bunch of naughty little boys, waiting to get spanked. Now this sounds unfair, since I know there are women on your staff, but that honestly is my impression.

You insult women, and particularly the concept of feminism, with what you undoubtedly think is dry and witty humor. Then you sit back chuckling, waiting for the correct line types to impotently fume at you. "The shape of things to come," "Calendar (portion of letter missing)to be nothing more than gratuitous moons at the CUP Code of Ethics.

Just between us journalists, you're not really naughty, or controversial, or challenging, or

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