

**US aggressive**

Re: US freedom preferable (Feb. 7)

Grow up! You and your "Don't call my country names" ilk nauseate me to no end. If the US is so great what are you doing up here?

When Smathers called the US "one of the most oppressive imperialist powers in history" he was using an objective analysis. You should try this! You are so blinded by your ingrained patriotism you are selectively forgetting your own country's history. Have you ever heard of "manifest destiny" Mr. Graham? It's a philosophy that the US should dominate all the Americas, and has been official US policy for 200 years. It was the driving force behind the violent overthrows of democratically elected governments in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Chile, Peru, and overseas in Iran, Iraq (which failed), and intervention in the elections in Italy and Spain in the early 20th century. These are all well documented facts admitted to in contemporary government reports, your government reports. And let's not forget Grenada; over 100 civilians died in the US invasion of this "threat to US national security," 900 miles away and the size of the Baja peninsula.

Now let's talk about civil rights. The US was the last western country to abolish slavery and one of the last to give women the vote. Refugees with socialist leanings are rejected; formation

of a federal communist party is illegal. The commie bashing of the 50's, the racial violence of the 60's, the condoned police brutality of the late 60's and early 70's are all examples of US aggressiveness.

Mr. Smathers did not say the US was the *only* imperialist regime in history. It is, however, one of two existing today. The Soviet Union is the other. But the Soviet Union does not pretend to be the "land of the free." As for the Peace Corps and the Marshall plan: "winning of hearts and minds" is another official US policy. You speak of those who will not see. Open your own eyes. Your own government admits that the purpose of the Marshall plan and Peace Corps was to promote American Capitalism over Soviet Communism in sensitive geopolitical areas. This was very obvious and as a result the programs were discontinued.

Modern governments are politically motivated, not humanitarian, socially aware entities. If the US is so concerned with the establishment of peace and elimination of suffering in the world, why do they send arms and not food and medical supplies to Ethiopia? Why do they send weapons and not negotiators to South Africa and Israel? Why do they see the kicking-out of American Multinationals as justification for invasion and overthrow and not violation of human rights by pro-American dictatorships?

Canada is in the unenviable condition of being safest, and at the same time, in the most volatile

geopolitical location in the world. Smack dab in the middle of the two most powerful empires in the world we need not fear invasion from any other lesser force. But at the same time we sit on the US, USSR fence and leaning too far one way or the other would topple us. In fact we *are* the fence, and it is in the interest of both powers to keep us there. Canada must attempt independence and neutrality. We are not anti-American because we are pro-Soviet, but because we are too close. We are pandering to our "big brother to the South" to the exclusion of our own people's welfare and independence. The US has been invading Canada since 1812. When they failed militarily they switched to economic and social invasion. I don't want to be American. I love Canada. I love being a Canadian. I don't want American "freedom": Freedom to bear arms, but not socialist ideals, or different coloured skin.

Douglas Hohenstein  
Science IV

**Reject cruise testing**

Re: Cruise missile testing necessary (Feb. 7)

The column by Winston Pei on the testing of the cruise missile by Canada really must not go unchallenged, since it presents several assumptions and cliches masquerading as "truth." He states that cruise testing is "necessary given the current situation of our

national defence." Why?? Cancellation is not hypocritical — it is entirely consistent with our status as a nonnuclear power and peace-keeper. Mr. Pei's first error is to confuse support for NATO with cruise testing. His second, in the same sentence, is to assume the guilt trip applied to us by the USA that Canadians "rely on the U.S. nuclear deterrent." We do no such thing. Suggestions that we have to support cruise testing for either reason is nothing short of illogical, political blackmail. The USA deterrent exists entirely for the "benefit" of the USA. We did not request it, it is there whether we want it or not, and we do not and will not have any say in its use (or abuse). I, for one, do not feel "protected." On the contrary, I feel threatened, since it may be used on purpose, or accidentally, at any time. I hope that it is obvious that such use would be to our, and everyone's, detriment.

Pressure to support testing is based solely on the similarity of our northern terrain and climate to those of the apparent "enemy." If the "enemy" were in a tropical area, you can be certain that the pressure to support testing would be applied elsewhere. We should reject cruise testing because it is destabilizing and because it is a nuclear weapon. There is no real obligation to support testing as a member of NATO, nor as an ally of the USA. If we abhor the possibility of nuclear destruction, it does not necessarily follow that we are abandoning our allies.

There is strength in a consistent moral stance which inspires respect.

Finally, I must say that anyone who thinks that maintaining a nuclear arsenal and delivery systems like the cruise missile will protect us against terrorists is sadly misled. If a small group of people threatens to blow up Manhattan if certain demands are not met, we will not solve the problem by nuking New York City before the deadline is up.

B.M. Patchett  
President, UNDO  
(University Nuclear  
Disarmament Organization)

**Reader choked up**

This is a warning to all Gateway readers. Do NOT read "Opinions" while eating. Eating and hysterical laughter do NOT mix.

D.M. Dudar  
Arts II



**R.A.T.T.**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
DESIGNATED DRIVER PROGRAM	MARRIAGE	TUESDAY IS MOVIE NIGHT DEVITO DOUBLEHEADER 7:30 TIN MEN 10:00 THROW MAMMA FROM THE TRAIN	LADIES	LET THE GOOD TIMES ROCK	16 GREAT BAR STAFF	ELECTRIC
12 THE RATT STAFF AND YOUR STUDENTS' UNION	13 MARRIAGE	14 CLASSIC HORROR ABOUNDS 7:30 FRANKENSTEIN 10:00 THE FLY	15 NITE	17 '60's & '70's CLASSIC ROCK N' ROLL	17	18 MUSIC
19 WISH YOU THE BEST OF TIMES ALL THE TIME	20 PEACH RASPBERRY STRAWBERRY BLUEBERRY BLACKBERRY	21 HITCHCOCK LIVES! 7:30 VERTIGO 10:00 PSYCHO	22 LADIES RECEIVE HAPPY HOUR PRICES	23 GREAT TIME	24	25 NITE
26 ENJOY YOUR SCHOOLING!	27 ON SPECIAL ALL DAY BY THE GLASS OR BY THE PITCHER	28 MONTY MADNESS! 7:30 AND NOW FOR SOMETHING... 10:00 MONTY PYTHON & THE HOLY GRAIL	ALL DAY AND ALL NIGHT	23 CLASSIC R & B	24 GOOD PEOPLE	25 CO-SPONSOR CJSR FM 88.5 LIVE MUSIC WHEN AVAILABLE

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