

EDITORIAL

The real seducers

Fags, fairies, fruits, queens, pansies, lezzies, queers, perverts, sadists, child molesters...

What obscenely bigotted terms we use on anyone who offends the dominant sexuality of our time.

What is dominant is, of course, heterosexuality: loving somebody who isn't quite like you, somebody who, in scientific jargon, is of the opposite gender.

In a way, heterosexuality is a strange concept: you are supposed to be at your most intimate with a male or female, yet, because males and females are quite different, we'd never be able to relate on a truly personal basis, not like two males or two females could.

But, no, you don't understand, they'll say. What you're talking about is friendship. So what is love, I'd ask. Stumped, they'll say, well, if we all went around diddling each other who would perpetuate the species?

Of course, God in his Wisdom remembered almost as an afterthought to give humans a plaything to toy with when they got lonely. Zippo, now there are four billion of us. Sometimes, though, you'd wish He could have been a little more innovative.

Sometimes I wish we could be a little more human. What's so wonderful about heterosexuality that isn't wonderful about homosexuality? It ain't natural, they'll say. But isn't it?

Isn't it just ingrained in (most of) us, that everybody is heterosexual, from the time we start watching "Sesame Street" to when we start at a school that won't hire homosexual teachers?

Of course it is. Television, which represents the real world for oh, so many of us, tells all the boys and girls that Richie Cunningham is the All-Canadian (pardon me, didn't I say American?) boy whose greatest triumphs include getting a double date with the famed Falachi sisters. Thanks, FonZ.

The belief that homosexuals are out to subvert the FonZ is the basis of heterosexual hysteria. The upper five percent crust of our population that doesn't watch television might admit that homosexuals can do what they want to on their own turf, but keep 'em away from my impressionable darlings, they'll say.

"I ain't gonna have no creepy fag seducing my kid in school," is not an uncommon line, one that becomes especially appropriate before Valentine's, when Junior is sending love and kisses to all his little girlfriends at school!

Little does Junior know that it's not a homosexual teacher who's seducing him, it's his own parents. They're luring him into a world where heterosexuality literally breeds on itself, and the alternative — homosexuality — is suppressed.


But we're not buying the old, bigoted line anymore. We know it won't be easy because you're intolerant and like it that way: it's your nature. But it isn't ours.

Peter Michalyshyn

the Gateway

VOL. LXXI NO. 47
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1981
SIXTEEN PAGES

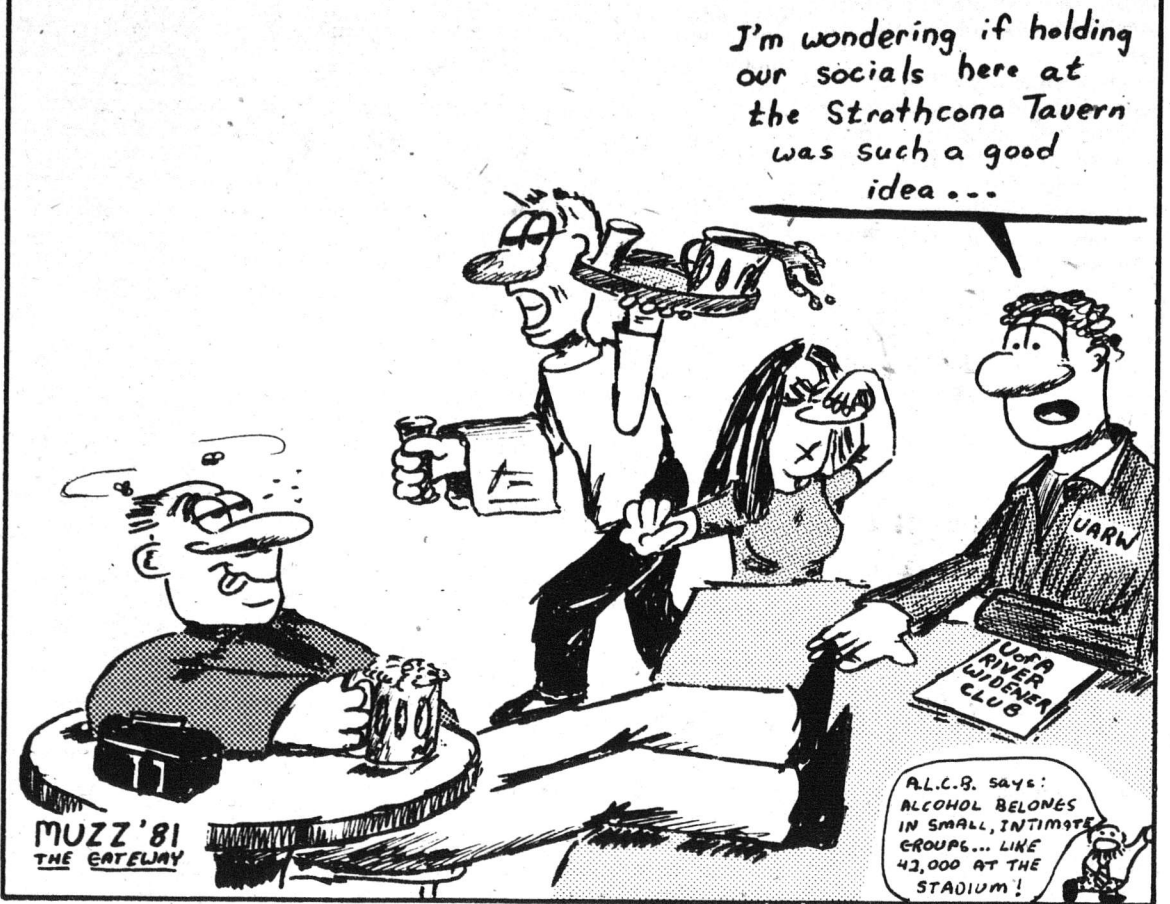
Stardate 26381. The crew was getting a bit nervous about the Klingons, but Mr. Spock loosened them up with a little Vulcan humor (and when his eyebrows got tired he started twitching his ears). The Captain sniffed around (while Spock twitched his nose) and discovered (oh no!) imposters!!! Wes Oginski (dressed as Bones), Ben Yee (Sulu), Murray Whitby (Scott) and Pat Just (Uhura) were less than convincing, so Captain Quirk had Scott stuff them in the warp drive. But just as the Captain was about to make his usual stirring speech about right and justice and the Federation Way of Life, one of the extras got between him and the camera. "Get these damn extras out of here," cried Quirk. So Elda Hopte, Elaine Sax, Mary Ruth Olson, Cathy Emberley (who was asleep), Maureen Laviolette, Peter West and Jim Cook (who was eating birthday cake) were put in the transporter and beamed to another show. Meanwhile, Spock was twitching every body part he could think of and doing a hilarious impersonation of Jerry Lewis. And the crew all put their phasers on stun and pointed them at themselves - until they realized it was redundant.



Editorial Staff
 EDITOR - Keith Krause
 MANAGING - Jim McElgunn
 NEWS - Mike Walker and Peter Michalyshyn
 PRODUCTION - Robert Cook
 ARTS - Jens Andersen
 SPORTS - Shaune Impey
 PHOTO - Bill Inglee and Ray Giguere
 CUP - Geoff McMaster
 AD MAKE-UP - Doug Smitheman
 ADVERTISING - Tom Wright
 MEDIA PRODUCTIONS - Margriet Tilroe-West
 CIRCULATION - Mike McKinney

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. With a readership of more than 25,000, the Gateway is published by its proprietor, the Students' Union, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter session. Contents are the responsibility of the editor; editorials are written by the editorial board or signed. All other opinions are signed by the party expressing them. Copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. The Gateway, a member of Canadian University Press and the Youthstream Network, is located in room 282 SUB, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7.
Newsroom: 432-5168 Advertising: 432-3423

Item: A.L.C.B. BANS AFTERNOON BEER SOCIALS



Act now to end mutilation

Re: female genital mutilation. This article should shock anyone with a conscience into action. Not only is this a form of female victimization but an outrageous, sadistic and blatant example of child abuse. The question posed is: what are we going to do about this matter? Sit back in comfort with a copy of Shakespeare or the Bible and an intact clitoris and say "Tsk, tsk, this primitive custom doesn't concern me or my wife, sister, mother, daughter, or girl friend"?

Who is to blame? The press and a genteel public protected us from this unpleasant reality. Such articles are considered to be in bad taste but that does not prevent the publication of child pornography.

Several years ago I read an article that made a passing reference to clitorectomies being performed in Egypt. The fact was shrouded in an air of clinical terminology and sounded almost as acceptable as appendectomies. This article did not reveal four year old girls being mutilated with filthy implements, nor did it mention their little legs being bound for several weeks so that they might die in just a few short weeks in their own excrement.

A hearty congratulations to the Gateway staff for, daring to enlighten us. And now a call to arms! There are a few minor obstacles to overcome in the eradication of this inhumane practice, the first pertaining to attitudes. Anyone thinking something is impossible saturates the thought processes with defeat, but there exists another form of humankind who foresee nothing as impossible.

I cannot make myself write mankind. It is man that has done this to woman and helpless little girls, as man repressed woman through the ages. To man we owe the atom bomb, footbinding in China, the caste system in India, witchhunts in the middle ages and so many of the other things which play a part in the good life,

including female genital mutilation.

Let's examine a few of these quaint customs in detail. Footbinding was instigated by one man for the purpose of perverse sexual pleasure. Little girls were subjected to child abuse. Each little foot was wrapped in ten feet of tight binding and over the course of a year or two these little feet which should have been growing received ten pairs of shoes in progressively smaller sizes. Men thought a bound-footed woman had a better fitting vagina, voluptuous buttocks, and those cute, short, sexy, little crippled steps were so attractive. Sometimes men stole the slippers and masturbated on them.

This custom lasted one thousand years, ending only in the twentieth century. Some elderly Chinese continue to suffer with crippling deformities, able to recount the details. One Edmontonian died recently, an aged victim of this practice.

Moving right along to Western civilization, that is a misnomer, we have witch burning and hunting, brought to us with a manual by Sprenger and Kraemer, two Dominican monks blessed by his unholiness Pope Innocent VIII, another misnomer. Later, certain sanctimonious Protestants pursued this endeavor with religious fervor and vigor.

Footbinding, witch hunting and small pox have been eradicated and female genital mutilation can meet the same fate. The rationale for female genital mutilation is so reasonable: horny little four year-old girls might become promiscuous. If penises and testicles were being chopped off at a rate of 74 million and 148 million respectively, there would be the biggest worldwide public outcry imaginable but as women are often considered to be second-class citizens, sub-human, objects of sexual pleasures, and breeders, the practice flourishes.

Can anyone envision the United Nations, Amnesty Inter-

national, the Catholic and Protestant Churches tolerating male genital mutilation? If women had the technology to give one hundred of the world's leading men uteruses and breasts so they could experience a natural childbirth, sore breasts from nursing and never another orgasm, the world would probably see a decline in population and an end to female genital mutilation. In lieu of this, exists an alternate action:

- 1) Ensure that the article in the March 17 issue of the Gateway is brought to the attention of all editors of university papers;
- 2) Begin petitions protesting this practice;
- 3) En masse make our protests known to the Canadian and American governments, the United Nations and the governments of all other concerned nations;
- 4) Pressure governments to withdraw economic aid to countries which allow these mutilations by making them an offer they cannot refuse. Once the men of these countries feel the impact, a decline in female genital mutilations may ensue.

A grandiose idea? Perhaps. Do you have a better solution? It appears to be safe to assume that all concerned Gateway readers await your ideas. The little girls of the world need our help. As editor of the Gateway, would you forward copies of the March 17 article to other editors of university papers throughout the world?

Who will volunteer their sources to collect signatures for a petition? How could it be done most efficiently? I do not have all the answers, but on this campus the leaders of tomorrow live. In these heads are the ideas needed to implement a program to end this brutality. Perhaps one member of each class could collect the signatures of those concerned citizens who demand to see this outrageous practice eradicated.

Terry Swan
Education IV