

# EDITORIAL

## Severing ties with the East

The head of the department of Religious Studies, Dr. Cahill, seems determined to go counter to the wishes of students and society slashing a number of non-Christian religious studies courses.

For one, the provincial government seems to be more on the ball than the old alma mater. The Tories have shown great sensitivities towards religious tolerance and promoting understanding between groups and also in developing the pacific rim as the future cultural and economic trading partners of Western Canada. So why is the U of A seemingly the government's work by slashing the non-Christian religious studies courses particularly since the courses hardest hit are those pertaining to the far east?

Gone are courses in Chinese Buddhism, Indian Buddhism, and Taoism. How is slashing these courses going to help us improve relations with the far east? To understand a nation and its people so as to effectively trade with them a knowledge of their religion and culture is vital (would you try to arrange a huge sale of Alberta pork to an Islamic nation?)

Not to mention that enrollment figures in religious studies points undeniably to the fact that U of A students want to study the non-Christian philosophies. 131 students are enrolled in non-Christian religious studies as opposed to 83 in Christian studies. Shouldn't this be an indication of how the courses be allocated?

Just how much input does the individual student have in this institution?

There is nothing more frustrating than discovering that there aren't enough interested people for the university to offer a course that you want (and some times even need to graduate) but it is nothing short of infuriating to discover that the university decides not to offer a course independent of what many people want to study.

Gilbert Bouchard

## AIDS'll teach 'em

Homophobia and shortsightedness may have pushed North America to the verge of an epidemic of AIDS. "This disease may follow the course of some of the major epidemics in history like smallpox and the plague where large segments of the population are affected," said Dr. Jon Ziegler, a University of California AIDS researcher in the April issue of *Mother Jones*.

Already, we are hearing of more and more cases of heterosexually transmitted cases of AIDS. The *Mother Jones* article points out that more than 50 women have caught AIDS through sexual contact with infected men and two men have apparently contacted AIDS from two infected women. The days of speaking and thinking of AIDS as some "curse" on homosexuals is gone — AIDS is out of the closet in a big way and is on its way to becoming a major sexually transmitted illness.

Unfortunately the spreading of AIDS to the general population does little more than vindicate the bruised egos of the gay civil liberties movement. The damage has already been done. The ignorant legislators who have known about the treatment of AIDS since 1978 but have deliberately dragged their feet or have underfunded the research because it affected only a few "undesirable" minority groups, have created a situation where even if massive funds were poured into AIDS research no a cure (or control) would come far too late to save perhaps some millions of mainstream North Americans.

Maybe AIDS is a curse after all. A curse on the million of Americans who allowed their legislators to ignore the death of a misunderstood minority. Hopefully, the coming AIDS crisis will teach America a lesson in tolerance and charity — if anybody survives the coming AIDS epidemic.

Gilbert Bouchard

\*\*\*\*\*

## Correction

In the April 4 editorial, there were two numerical errors: the alleged total cost of the Gateway to the students, according to the "concerned individuals" should have been \$115,000, not \$105,000 and the alleged total amount of foregone revenue should be \$38,000, not \$34,000.

\*\*\*\*\*

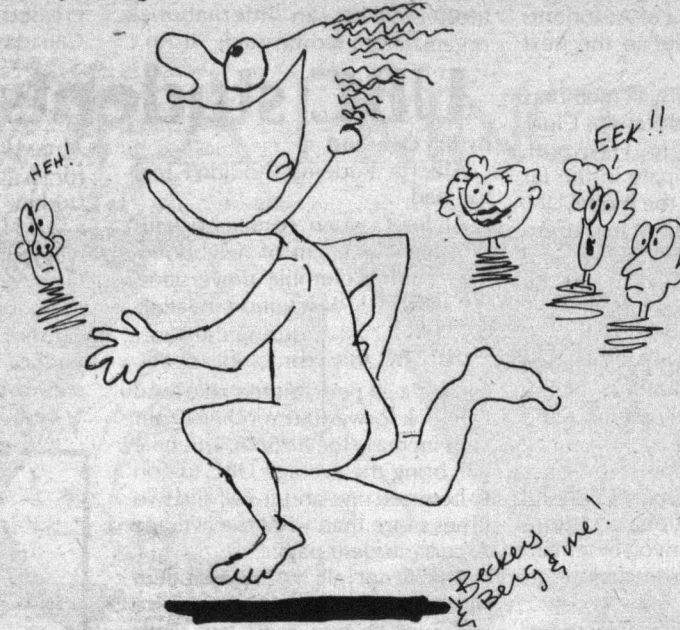
## Gateway Staff:

There will be two extremely vital staff meetings:

- 1) Thursday, April 11 at 4 pm
- 2) Friday, April 12 at 4 pm

Be sure to come. Be sure to have fun. Be sure to bring party hats.

THE END OF THE YEAR!  
TIME TO SAY 'WHAT THE FUCK'  
AND RUN NAKED THRU QUAD!



# LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

## Priorities

This letter is in response to Georg Newton's letter in the March 26th issue of the Gateway. In that letter Georg pointed out that he had not met any Christians who professed a belief in nuclear disarmament. Unfortunately, your statement reflects the fact that there are probably few who believe in disarmament as opposed to the vast majority. My circle of friends are probably a minority within the Christian community. From this point Georg, you pointed out that action is more important than belief. Well done. Unfortunately from here on you equated the words of Christ from 1 John 3:18 — that love must show itself in action — to actively protest the nuclear arms race. The priorities of Jesus Christ were for actively loving mankind by meeting the spiritual and physical needs in an immediate sense — not through marches or protests. Christ did not join the Zealots of his own time to protest and actually defy the Roman government. His own words were "render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's." Whether we are here for another 30 days or 30 years, meeting the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of our neighbours, co-workers, and next of kin are more important than leaving those people behind to actively protest nuclear war.

Mark Greenshields  
Education V

## Hold the raving

Half-truths, suppression of the facts and fervent emotional rantings are no way, Denise Whalen, to convince people that your cause has any validity whatever. The comparison of animal research to Mengele's experiments during the last war cannot be accepted as valid. Animal research for medical purposes has provided very valuable cures and treatments for many diseases, and will continue to do so. Mengele's "research" had no goal other than torture for torture's sake, which is not quite the same thing.

On what do you base the idea that "much" of Canadian and American animal research is for the benefit of military application? I would like to see some supporting evidence for this claim. Your weak attempt to link animal research to national defence is clearly meant to encourage the Peaceniks to jump on your bandwagon.

Finally, your blatant support for break-ins and other illegal acts puts you at the same level as the types that bomb abortion clinics. Your misguided sense of justice could be better spent joining pro-life or Greenpeace, who already have lots of people just like you, than forming a campus branch of the Animal Liberation Front.

Andrew Bizon  
Engineering I

## Myths in progress

I have to object to the distasteful comic on page 6 of the April 4th "Eye Sea" by Griswald Ookenheimer (whoever that might be). It reflects a blatant insensitivity towards the current plight of millions of starving Africans and depicts a level of humour that I thought the Gateway was above. The implied cannibalism of a missionary by the 'natives' is another societal myth that I thought had long ago been lost. Obviously the Gateway is trying to compete on the same level as the *Grind's* "Bathroom Walls" which itself is a whole other story.

Tom Koppel

## Bunny-love terrorism

Re: "Second Wind", Gateway, April 4.

WARNING! Silly suburban girls with strong emotional ties to stuffed bears and bunnies and displaced maternal instincts are forming a terrorist organization on campus.

Targeted by the group are U of A professors and employees of select faculties engaged in scientific research. These dedicated men and women stand accused of mass murder, total immorality, unmitigated sadism, blind greed and ambition, a contempt for students, conspiracy to test nuclear weapons, and generally being Nazis.

Sound fanatical? You bet! But despite recent warnings about cults and E. Zundel's conviction for hate literature, Gateway staffer Denise Whalen is advocating criminal activities aimed at the University, all in the name of Animal Rights.

It is not known whether Denise and her "compatriots" wear leather shoes or fur collars, eat hamburgers and fried chicken, or use cosmetics tested on the eyeballs of laboratory animals. Why not call her to find out?

David Knight

# The Gateway

April 10, 1985, Vol. 75, No. 49

**Editor in Chief:** Gilbert Bouchard  
**News Editors:** Suzette C. Chan, Neal Watson  
**Managing Editors:** Marie Clifford  
**Entertainment Editor:** Dean Bennett  
**Sports Editor:** Eva Pendzich  
**Photo Editors:** Bill St. John, Tim Kubash  
**CUP-Advocate Editors:** Ray Warnatsch, Denise Whalen  
**Production Editor:** Brougham Deegan  
**Advertising:** Tom Wright  
**Media Supervisor:** Margriet Tilroe-West  
**Circulation:** Paul Chu  
**Typesetting:** Linda Derksen, Janine McDade

The Gateway is the newspaper of the University of Alberta students. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. All opinions are signed by the writer and not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway. News copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm 282 (ph. 432-5168). Advertising: Rm 256D (ph. 432-4241), Students Union Building, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G7. Readership is 25,000. The Gateway is a member of Canadian University Press.

"This is it!" come the excited cries of Gateway staff and volunteers, "now we can go home and do what we've REALLY wanted to do all this time; chew our fingernails till our pudgy, inkstained fingers reemerge." Thanks to all the cute, gangly-limbed, doe-eyed volunteers who systematically entered the Gateway office to blush furiously, and scurry away with hot assignments in their shaking palms. Oh, you were all sooo sweet! And cuddly! And oh so adorable. Kisses!