

# Editorial



Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words in length. They must include your signature, faculty, year of program, I.D. number, and phone number. Requests for anonymity are at the discretion of the Managing Editor, but the above information is required regardless. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

What is the Reagan Administration accomplishing through lending its support to the Nicaraguan Democratic Opposition as it wages a campaign to overthrow the Sandanista government of Nicaragua? Is it truly serving those often lightly bantored about ideals of fostering freedom and supporting democracy?

To answer these questions, one need not begin by debating the relative merits of land distribution, of the closing of La Prensa, of mass literacy and health programmes, or of the frequency of elections in Nicaragua. One can simply begin by examining the means by which the Reagan Administration has waged its campaign against the Sandanistas, and by determining what the costs of these means have been.

One fundamental cost has been pointed out by two particular events; first, the World Court's condemnation of the United States "breach of its obligations under customary international law not to intervene in the affairs of another state," and secondly, the capture and subsequent confession of Eugene Hasenfus, who smuggled arms into Nicaragua for the CIA, which was acting against American law.

The Reagan Administration has debased one of the cornerstones of the freedom and democracy that the United States have so proudly rallied behind during their two centuries of union: the rule of law.

The founders of the United States realized that only through subservience to the law would the danger of unbridled, individual powers — the politics of force — be avoided. And the United States brought this concept to the international community — to the United Nations, and to its judicial organ the World Court, where its merits were recognized. However, the Reagan Administration thinks it knows better; it thinks it is above not only United Nations law, but above American law as well. It must be told that it is not above the law. The Washington based World Federalist Association has launched court action against Ronald Reagan, George Schultz, Casper Weinburger and CIA Director William Casey, charging them with breaching American commitments to the United Nation Charter, and similar charges may well stem from the Reagan Administration's violation of Congressional dictation.

Should these attempts fail to make the Reagan Administration account for its actions, there will be so much less of the already endangered freedom and democracy of this world.

This violent world needs the example set by the American system. A small group of leaders cannot be allowed to rob it of that.

Rob Schmidt



J.B. Walton

# Letters



To the Editor:

On Oct. 08 a highly entertaining, intelligent national figure spoke to a group of students at this campus. Your paper chose to completely ignore the presence of Eugene Whelan, the former Liberal minister of agriculture, and instead your front page carried an article on a right wing talking head who most likely is a closet bigot. The choice of featuring Bill Vander Zalm and totally ignoring Eugene Whelan seems odd.

Although Mr. Whelan has cleverly used his "Jolly Green Hat" to promote his "Country Bumpkin" image, he is truly a national figure and deserves better treatment. It would seem that what is needed to get the attention of your paper is a big smile pasted on an empty "Talking Head" who believes the world is great as long as there are no "Frogs" and every disadvantaged person is given a "Shovel" to earn his keep. If the mandate of the Gateway is to report on issues of broad student interest then maybe your paper feels that being a Liberal is a non issue. A crash course in "Liberalism and Whelanese" might be in order.

It may interest your paper to know that Agriculture in Alberta is being attacked from all sides and is in danger of being wiped out completely. While the great "Defenders" of the West are being clobbered and embarrassed by the other "Talking Head" to the south, your paper doesn't take the time to ask the opinion of a respected worldwide agriculture expert. It would appear that you accept the Tory policy of trusting the Americans to be fair and whining and bitching when they are not.

Although there may have been mistakes made Mr. Whelan has never stopped fighting for the Canadian farmer. At no time during his ministry was the Alberta farmer as vulnerable as he is today. Mr. Whelan was a farmer who spent 22 years at the seat of power, was a cabinet minister and the first Canadian to become President of the World Food Council. He has a clear knowledge of world agriculture problems and fully understands the subsidy wars that seem to have the present government stumbling around in a futile attempt at finding clear policy to protect Alberta farmers. While the entire global agriculture picture is drastically changing the Tory respond with the thinking that the Canadian farmer is obsolete and throw imaginary money at real problems. There is no doubt that a great number of students on this campus are worried about the future of the Alberta farmer and your actions in ignoring a world expert in agriculture problems puts your paper in a position of ignoring its mandate.

I would hope that the Liberal Party and highly visible national Liberal figures such as Eugene Whelan do not fall outside your mandate. In any event, we all know that "Jolly Green Hats" that put a little humour into a student's day are a lot more fun than "Talking Heads" who supply little more than "Teeth, Chin, and Hollywood Glamor" or as a famous Irish racetrack poet once said: "Full of wind and piss like a Tinkers Greyhound; good for nothing".

Ed Vickers  
153661

To the Editor:

I was distressed to read the article on The Survival Game in a university newspaper.

While pretending to murder people might be an enjoyable pastime for some, I don't think this game can be defended on any moral grounds.

To the charge that these silly 'shoot-em-up' games promote violence, glorify war, or create aggressive activities in people, the author simply states that no "concrete evidence" has come to light to support these charges. The game, by its very nature is an aggressive activity. What kind of evidence would the author like? Let's listen to the author's own self-indictment: "I aim and I'm rewarded with a cry of pain. Ecstasy. Time to see who I've killed. A giggle escapes me... people died agonizing deaths. This, I suspect, is the addictive part of the game."

I'm sure the argument could be made that the game is just harmless fun, "like dress up cowboys and Indians for all those kids over 18." The problem arises when people like Ms. Lundrigan believe they are "in the pro camp" because they've suffered a few bruises and scrapes to "capture the enemy's flag." This young lady did not "go into combat" at all. As an American veteran of the Vietnam era let me assure you that this game has about as much resemblance to a real fire fight as *Miami Vice* has to real police work, which is to say, none at all. Face these aspiring little Rambos and Rambettes with real weapons that tear real holes in people and I'm sure their attitudes would become different very quickly.

Historically war has always been seen as fun and games or a "grand adventure" at the start. In my own generation many friends played the survival game in southeast Asia with far more serious consequences. War is not a game, it is a shameful atrocity and should not be portrayed otherwise. If the youth of today want thrills and physical challenge let them find a "moral equivalent to war" in climbing mountains, kayaking or helping those less fortunate. If they can't get their kicks without pretending to kill people, something is very wrong.

T. Hocking  
Graduate Studies

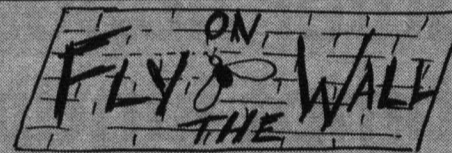
Letter to the Editor:

As a Science Councilor, I have particular interest in the fact that Students' Union has refused to provide office space to the African Students' Association (A.S.A.) for its activities.

It is my belief that Barb Higgin (VP Internal) whose decision led to the above expulsion is a capable S.U. executive. Moreover, I wish not to comment on her decision because I am not involved in the Building Services Board. However, it was drawn to my attention that Rick Stedman, the Club Commissioner, was in favour of granting office space to African Students' Association. Yet I wish to remain neutral on this matter and to that end my participation in ethnic associations has been minimal in the past two years.

The next Students' Council meeting is 7:00 p.m., Nov. 4th. It is well known that any students are welcome to observe the proceedings of the Students' Council.

Ken Hui  
Science Councilor



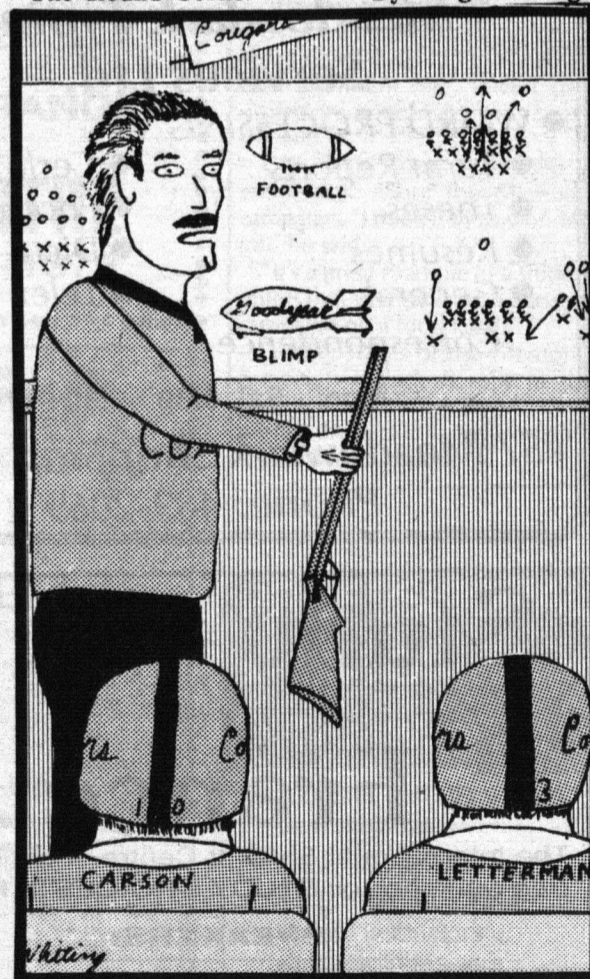
J. Dylan

It is test time here in my night class. For some of the older students, this may be the first test they've written since high school. For the woman beside me, it is the first she's written in twelve years — she told me. For the woman on the other side of the room, the one rocking back and forth in her chair who occasionally glances down at her notebook then raises her head and shuts her eyes and moves her lips as she tries to remember what she just read, it is the first test she has written in fifteen years. I overheard her telling a friend.

This woman has it particularly hard because she is sitting beside a girl who is telling another girl what she did on the weekend. The woman doesn't look like she appreciates this. In fact, she looks right ticked off by it. The guy with the headphones at the front of the class isn't ticked off. He's listening to the baseball game. He doesn't look worried at all. The rest of the students are either talking, or cramming, or sitting quietly.

Finally the teacher walks into the room. The woman beside me smiles nervously and wishes me luck. The woman on the other side of the room stops rocking. The girl beside her shuts up. The guy with the headphones turns off the radio. And as the teacher announces the time duration on the test, the guy's face goes chalk-white. I don't think he knew about it.

The Round Corner By Greg Whiting



"You've heard of the shotgun offense..."

# The Gateway

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