

Free fanatics!

Recent letters to the Gateway slamming nuclear awareness efforts and viciously defending that priggish opinion, disturb me. Is not such arrogance too common? Alberta seems plagued with racists, zealots, and fanatics. Jim Keegstra and Max Solbreken were allowed to rise to positions of power. Minority groups are oppressed and degraded, and those people forced to survive on welfare and unemployment are despised. Even hockey fans wallow in petty hatreds and slander.

Ignorance and intolerance can, and should be controlled. Necessary is an open, inquisitive, and editorial Press which may expose stupidities by providing information or merely a letter forum.

More important is an enlightened public who will recognize destructive or ego-serving ideas and practices so that criticism and action may be focussed against them.

I congratulate the Gateway for providing a forum for debate, and encourage students to participate in defining right from wrong, wise from foolish.

David Knight
Law III

Free coffee!

What a garbled story! I was misquoted not once but twice from the first minute of my talk to the campus NDP club on Nov. 15. Luckily most of the rest of what I said went unreported.

The lead paragraph quotes me as saying "the issue of foreign investment in Canada boils down to a choice of Americanized prosperity or poor Canadian purity." I said no such thing. I said that this was the conventional view of the foreign ownership debate and that it is wrongheaded. On the contrary, I argued that high levels of foreign ownership both diminished our sovereignty and stunted our economic development in the long run.

I was also quoted as saying that concern re foreign ownership has abated in recent years because of "our seeming inability to control the influx." If you substituted ability for inability, you would have the gist of my point. Why can you not get a simple story straight? The next reporter gets a free cup of coffee from me.

Gordon Laxer

Poetic worms

Written on a carrell in the Cameron Library:
"No one in a civilization as advanced as ours could believe that a woman could make a fortune by remaining a virgin. (That's for all those feminists (sic) out there)"

In reply to the worm who left that little gem of wisdom for all us "feminists" out here, perhaps you would feel more manly (though that must be a difficult emotion for a worm to feel) if all women were back in the kitchen where they belong. If you work hard and convince the masses of the urgency of your cause, maybe it will happen. Look how far Jerry Falwell has come. In the meantime however, some of us would prefer not to read your comments in the library. Leave them in the bathroom where they belong.

C. Squair
Grad Studies

P.S. A refresher course in spelling might be in order before you apply for any jobs.

Reagan's style

Dale Mounzer (Gateway 14 November) denies Ken Cochrane's assertion that "President Reagan's victory was because of style and not of substance." I think it would be most difficult to prove why my fellow countrymen and I voted the way we did. Still, I wonder how many Americans who saw the Presidential debates, witnessed Reagan's alarming ignorance of foreign and domestic realities, and still voted for Reagan had based their decision on "substance?"

But Mounzer has anticipated my question, and he proceeds to give evidence of Reagan's "substance." First, Mounzer's economic news: "inflation at a record low, decrease in unemployment, a powerful American dollar, lower interest rates, and an overall boom in the American economy..."

Is Mounzer telling us the whole story here? Is it worth remembering that unemployment dropped

only after it had risen to double-digit levels after Reagan had been in office over a year?

Should we Americans gloat over our strong dollar, or should we bemoan the hell it's playing without foreign trade deficit?

Should we consider our current economic situation a "boom" when more Americans live below the poverty level today than have since Lyndon Johnson was President, when small businesses and farms continue to fold at an appalling rate, and when federal deficits (which surely will wreck the US and Canadian economies) continued to accumulate?

Reagan's economic incompetence should be plenty of evidence as to his "substance," but Mounzer goes on to remind us of some of Reagan's diplomatic successes. He tells us that "since President Reagan took office in 1980, western defence and solidarity has [sic] grown stronger and stronger, witness the overwhelming support members of the NATO alliance have given the President's foreign policy."

I would have much less trouble appreciating this "overwhelming support" if Mounzer had furnished some examples. Was he referring to the millions of citizens of NATO countries who took to the streets in 1981 and 1982 to welcome new U.S. nuclear weapons to their soil?

Or the EEC's support for the mining of Nicaraguan harbors? Britain's elated praise of the U.S. conquest of Grenada?

Or does Mounzer have in mind the trans-atlantic harmony that accompanied the construction of Soviet oil and gas pipelines to America's allies in Western Europe?

At least, Mounzer goes on, things in the States are better under Reagan than they were under Jimmy Carter. After all, it was Carter who "fostered economic chaos and military weakness; allowed the Soviets to invade Afghanistan; [and] fanatical Iran to hold America hostage." Wasn't it? I don't think so.

As a nominal member of the U.S. armed forces during Carter's administration, I feel at least a little qualified to say that the U.S. was no less militarily capable then than it is today. The only military improvements Reagan has brought are in morale and in the number of complicated, unserviceable, and expensive weapons being bought. The mismanagement, the corruption, the shortages of ammunition and spare parts, all that is still around, in spades.

Did Carter "allow" the Soviets to attack Afghanistan? I doubt the Soviets sought his permission. Did Reagan rescind the grain embargo Carter imposed in response to the invasion? Yes. Did Reagan "allow" the Soviets to force martial law on Poland? Yes.

Did Carter allow "fanatical Iran to hold America hostage?" I was in Georgia and Alabama through the entire crisis, and the only fanatical Iranian I saw was a U.S. officer cadet in Airborne training at Fort Benning.

No, the Iranians held 52 American citizens hostage in Teheran, and eight U.S. servicemen were killed in a very brave, if poorly planned, effort to rescue them.

How many American servicemen and diplomatic officials have been killed in Lebanon since Reagan took office? I think the total passed 300 with the last embassy bombing.

And to what end? Is this how Reagan won back for America the respect of the world? Is this why America "stands tall" today? Or is our war by proxy — so far — in Central America the reason?

Finally, I must agree with Mounzer that most Americans are not "plastic" people. No, judging from the way most of us voted in the last election, I'd say most of us have wood between our ears.

Jim Howland
Graduate Studies

GWSNRTZP?



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ARE YOU HAVING A CHRISTMAS PARTY?

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This is just to remind you that the University's new liquor policy has been in effect since mid-September. Copies of the policy (if you have misplaced yours) are available from the Office of the Dean of Student Services.

To help you host a successful function, we remind you of the following points:

Be sure to apply for your "exclusive use right" at the Office of the Dean of Student Services at least two weeks in advance of your function.

If the room in which you plan to hold your function is not listed on Schedule A of the Policy on Liquor Functions, you must apply in writing to Mr. D.C. Norwood, Assistant Vice-President (Finance and Administration), for permission to hold the function in the room of your choice. This permission must be sought *immediately*.

All liquor for on-campus functions must be purchased from one of the liquor outlets on campus (Housing and Food Services, Power Plant, Room at the Top, Dewey's, or Physical Education and Recreation). You may not consume any liquor on campus which has not been supplied through one of these outlets.

For further details, please refer to the Policy on Liquor Functions. Questions can be referred to Ms. B. Bowes, Office of the Dean of Student Services (4145), or Ms. M. Roxburgh, Office of the Vice-President (Finance and Administration) (4730).

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