

En Garde!

by John Roggeveen

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An argument for free tuition. Ever since I came to this university, I noticed a number of inequities. I never really bothered about trying to change them, for I was merely an insignificant member of the student masses. I always said I would do something about these inequities if I was ever in a position to do so.

Well, I won't go so far as to say that being a Gateway columnist gives me the power to change anything, but the least I can do is tell you about the inequities. Maybe sometime you or I will get the chance to alleviate, or better yet, eliminate them.

The inequities are obvious. It's harder to get through university when you have to work your way through, simply because it's difficult to do homework and keep a job at the same time. It's harder to get through university if you have parents, brothers and sisters who never got above grade ten. They're of little help if you're trying to do a calculus problem, or name the arteries of mammals. It's harder to get through university if you have few friends also going. The university is a very competitive place and you can get left behind quickly without friends to help you choose courses, choose professors, and do assignments. It isn't easy to make it through university when you don't know anything about university until you get there. By the time you find out where you're at, everyone's ahead of you. Far ahead.

Listing these problems and inequities in this way makes them look less significant than they are. They are of great significance, and thinking about them for a moment will point this out.

All of these potential blockades exist for people of lower socio-economic status. We do not need to bleed tuition fees 'out of these people, as an additional hurdle.

Now, you may say that we cannot afford to give

free tuition. Bunk. Tuition fees account for only about ten per cent of the University's revenues. The slight tax increase involved would be negligible. And, taxes would come from those who can afford to pay. The government can find the money for oil industry subsidies. Why can it not find the money for universities?

You might also argue that no one should get a free ride in society, including university students. If you argue this you have had your head in the clouds or stuck up somewhere else, because anyone who knows anything about the university knows that no one gets a free ride here. Not only must you study your buns off, but you must also forego a great deal of money you would have gotten had you worked instead of attending university.

Moreover, the university-educated make a very large contribution to our society. A greater contribution than most people can imagine. And, as a result, we need all the university-educated people we can get. Even if people don't get a university degree, any amount of education they do get is surely going to be of benefit to them, and probably to many others too.

In this age, the age of computers and nuclear weaponry, we cannot afford not to have a highly educated society. The extra cost involved at the start would be offset by the extra gains at the end. Access to education at all levels should be a right in this country. Post-secondary education should be tuition-free.

• Thanks for the compliments, criticism, comments, discussion, arguments, stand-offs, and letters. It's been a tough year, but a good year. I learned a lot.

P.S. I still think Robert Altman's film, *Health*, is a piece of garbage, Dave Cox.

P.P.S. And Jens, everything comes down to philosophy, even if it is a disease.

rather to ensure that their use is never seriously considered by either side.

Steve Samuel, Science I

Dr. Schug's orgy guide

Nearing the end of the school year we find everyone engaging in such studious activity preparing themselves for the upcoming finals. Why? It seems to me to be a totally irrational act to study hard for those meaningless exams because, come graduation, you're all going to be unemployed anyway. Not only that, but the threat of a nuclear war is becoming more eminent (sic) by the week. I therefore propose that people, instead of engaging in unnatural hermitic practices, should propense to more social oriented activities — namely, parties. Thus, planning for a party can be a tedious chore indeed. To simplify matters, just follow these criteria I have

set out for you.

People to invite: single women.

People not to invite: jocks — they usually, once sufficiently drunk, tend to exploit their physical strengths on small people's faces.

Robert Greenhill: He doesn't drink for fear of cutting loose and allowing his beard to be shaven off (although his younger brother would make a likely candidate for the Universiade Drinking Team®).

Snobs: These people always tend to bring the mood of the party down to a level of a funeral held for an earthworm.

Campus celebrities: These people tend to think they're the life of the party, but in actual fact make complete asses of themselves.

Food: Be careful as to the choice of munchies you put out. Don't bring everything out at once, rather bring each plate out one at a time so the ungreatfull

continued next page

CHOPPING BLOCK

by Jens Andersen

The furore has abated somewhat over the Catholic bishop's statement, "Ethical Reflections on the Economic Crisis," but since the crisis and the statement are still with us, and since I was curious about what the bishops had to say, I picked up a copy of the statement from the NDP Club.

In a word, it is a yawner. Not a trace of the Marxism that right-wing alarmists like Barbara Amiel found in it (unless you count the traces of socialist terminology in the document, most of which entered the common speech long ago - e.g. "economic justice").

Nor is there anything unusual in the hackneyed, hand-wringing liberal ideas put forth by our national servants of god. Wage and price controls and more taxes on investment income are the most radical ideas they come up with.

The only other noteworthy thing about the report is its vague, slippery, cliché-infested, and generally horrendous English. Take this typical statement:

Indeed, we recognize that serious economic challenges lie ahead for this country. If our society is going to face up to these challenges, people must work together as a "true community" with vision and courage.

The first statement is simply a truism; the second is meaningless. What the hell is a "true community"? And how is our present society "false"? One suspects this is just a roundabout way of expressing the central liberal dogma, that people should be nice to one another. But this thought was probably expressed evasively because anyone with half a brain knows you can't make humans nice, any more than you can make tigers into vegetarians. If you could, there would be no need for government and laws.

And the poetic bit about working together with "vision and courage": has anyone argued in favor of blindness and cowardice?

Here is another one:

An industrial strategy should be developed to create permanent and meaningful jobs for people in local communities.

A heartwarming sentiment, which one can hardly disagree with (although one would pity the people in "unlocal" communities, condemned to



temporary, meaningless jobs). But is it feasible? Plainly not. There is no way to insure that a market will always exist for any product or service; hence, no job can be guaranteed.

Nor is there any way that jobs like garbage collecting or ad copy-writing can be made meaningful beyond their main purpose of making money. The most one can do is try to fill these positions with inferior people, and bring capable people into positions requiring a high degree of skill.

But here we reach the fundamental difference between myself and the bishops. They believe, "the cries of the poor and the powerless are the voice of Christ, the Lord of History in our midst." I believe 95% of these vermin are oppressed by nothing worse than their own stupidity, and differ only in intelligence from greedheads like Pocklington, Conrad Black et al.

Having survived quite comfortably and happily in this world, with only an average amount of brains and luck, I cannot meet someone who is barely getting by (at least in the Western world) without thinking, "He is probably an ignoramus."

The April issue of *Popular Science* tells of a newly developed 2-cylinder auto engine that gets 150 horsepower and 60 miles per gallon of gas. Furthermore, it does so without any fancy high-tech stuff; the trick is done simply by heating the air-fuel mixture to 440 degrees F before combustion, using the heat from exhaust gases.

Up until now such heating has caused insoluble pre-ignition problems, but the inventor, *Popular Science's* own Smokey Yunick, has overcome them by an allegedly simple method which he is keeping a deep secret from all the GM, Chrysler, Ford and other car manufacturer's representatives who make the pilgrimage to his garage.

My knowledge of auto engines is pretty limited, but I am willing to bet that the secret, which has the reps furiously scratching their heads, is nothing more than water injection, a technique sometimes used to prevent valve-burning. My suspicion is intensified by the fact that three heat exchangers are needed to heat the air-gas mixture, which seems like a lot unless there was water in the mixture too.

Ah, the end of another year. Looking back it seems I've accomplished a respectable amount of commentary, but stacked on my desk are hundreds of scarcely touched clippings about this, that and Lubor Zink.

I suppose this overload is Jehovah's way of punishing critics for their presumptuousness: he simply creates more phenomena than any human commentator can handle. Nevertheless, I will be back in the Gateway next fall to take another stab at the futile business. See you then, or during the summer in the *Summer Times*.

In the meantime: it's been a pressure.

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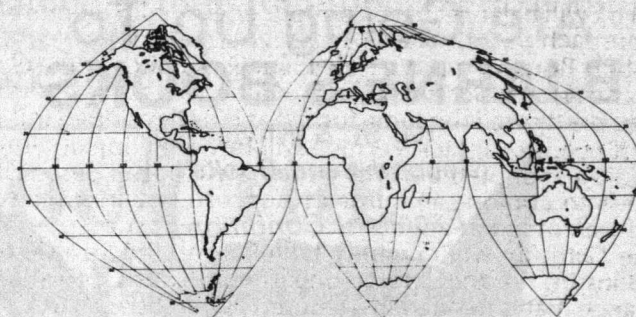
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