

# the Gateway

## EDITORIAL

### Are you sure?

The most repugnant type of person, to my mind, is the heresy snuffler, whether it be a left-wing ideologue searching for reactionary political errors in Joseph Conrad novels, or some Chamber of Commerce Torquemada snouting out pink passages in high school social studies texts.

The distinguishing mark of the heresy snuffler is not just disagreement with persons of opposite opinion. Disagreement, after all, is as natural to the human race as eating or breathing. What distinguishes heresy snufflers is their obsessive devotion to their own opinion, a monomania that almost invariably results in an attempt to throttle the free speech of opponents, using the argument that any opposition, real or imagined, is some sort of heinous crime against humanity.

The holy crusade waged by some feminists against "sexism" in the media is another good example. The avowed aim of the feminist crusaders is to present a "true" and "undistorted" picture of women to the public (i.e. to depict them as the fine, noble, upstanding creatures they are, or could be, if it wasn't for the patriarchal capitalist system). Such pep-talk and glowing imagery - see, for instance, the heart-warming photos taped to the door of the Women's Centre - seem to be linked inevitably with attempts to squelch contrary portrayal, not by honest, counter-argument, but by hitting below the belt and suppressing contrary opinion.

A case in point is the petition circulated by feminist Suzanne Bizon requesting that Charing Cross Bookstore take *Heavy Metal* and *National Lampoon* off its shelves. I am aware that a number of objections may be made to the accusation that this is a blow below the belt: Dan Biochi, manager of the bookstore, made the original suggestion to start a petition to a woman who complained about the magazines, and he willingly took them off the stands when 20 signatures had been gathered. Moreover, the removal of the magazines is apparently not part of any concerted or widespread effort to censor the magazines.

Nonetheless, the removal, though it is a trifling bit of suppression which will not adversely affect Charing Cross nor the reading public, still clearly indicates that neither Bizon nor Biochi feels any qualms about tramping on the freedom of those who see the world differently than they do.

Well, you ask, why should they, if they dislike the publications? Why, indeed, should anyone refrain from gagging, if possible, their opponents opinions?

In answer, I can only state my own prejudices: to me it seems dishonorable. If someone sincerely holds an idea, or expresses himself in a certain manner, it is not for me to censor it simply because it violates my pruderies.

True, I may give my own view, and even perhaps say that I believe with every molecule in my body that a certain work is disgusting, pernicious, pathological, contrived by an imbecile and attractive only to jackasses, but even such a strong opinion is, at bottom, still an opinion. To pawn it off as a God-given gospel truth and to stifle any opposite views is symptomatic of the delusion of infallibility.

Yet Bizon and Biochi obviously feel no such modesty about their own opinions: the two magazines are objectionable, and store-goers will be deprived of them. To question the verdict is heresy.

From what I have seen of *Heavy Metal* I would have to concur in their judgment - the magazine is trash. But Bizon's statement that the *National Lampoon* is slanted against women is palpably absurd. The magazine is violently and implacably slanted against the human race. Their old poster showing Che Guevara with a pie in the face says it all: nobody but nobody is sacred.

That is my opinion. But as long as I have any say in the matter, space will be available in the *Gateway* for anyone who disagrees with my conclusion or any other conclusion printed herein.

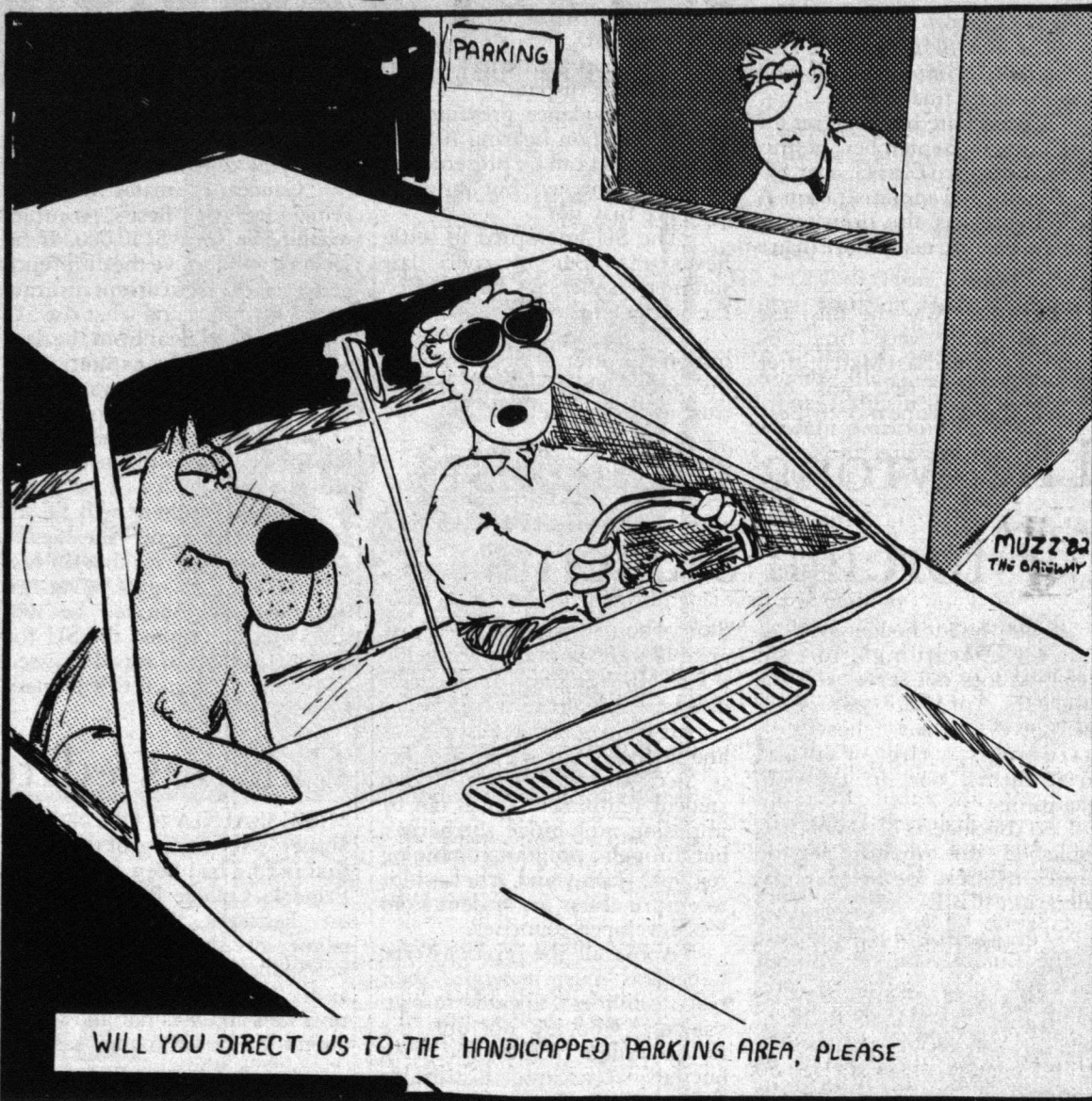
The only limitation on expression should be libel laws and considerations of clear and present danger. In bookstores as in newspapers, amen.

Jens Andersen

#### ...a note

Lest any readers think the *Edmonton Journal* is the only faulty newspaper in town, as I would have apparently said in Tuesday's editorial, allow me to correct what are the indiscretions of our own typesetter: The *Edmonton Sun* was the paper that called the SUB robbery a "daring daylight hold-up and spectacular shoot-out." Sorry, readers.

P.M.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Pressure politicians for disarmament

Mr. Sharon, in his letter to the *Gateway* (February 9, 1982), brought out many valid points concerning the proliferation of nuclear arms in the world today. President Reagan's current foreign policy is, at best, confused. Also, the deployment of the Pershing II missile in Europe is questionable because the Soviet Union will undoubtedly attempt to regain the strategic balance in one form or another. And, of course, nobody wants to see a nuclear holocaust.

But Mr. Sharon's apt points tend to become lost in an extreme anti-American stance. A question of this importance deserves to be presented in an equal way so that all aspects of the issue are brought to light. While no one wishes to see World War III begin, those same people do not want to see an American President standing in the White House, waving a piece of paper and declaring "Peace in Our Time".

The nature of the other superpower should be discussed for this balance. The current doctrine espoused by the Soviet Union is that capitalism is an evil destined for eventual collapse, after which a truly global Marxist state can be set up. To this end, any dynamic socialist state has a duty to hasten this collapse. To this end, the Soviets not only intend to "equal" the U.S., but intend to surpass it. So both powers are currently attempting to gain an edge in nuclear arms.

Mr. Sharon implies that both Schlesinger and Reagan are ready for the rubber room. Unfortunately,

they have a lot of company. Current Soviet military doctrine accepts that nuclear weapons will be used in an open conflagration with the United States.

Only recently have the Soviets recognized the concept of "escalation" from a conventional to a nuclear war. Soviet views must be taken into account because many members of their military consider war to be inevitable and a natural event in the triumph of socialism over capitalism. I'm not yelling "Red" here. I am simply stating the concepts of the Soviet military from their literature.

As for the SALT programmes, it is becoming increasingly obvious that neither country intends to seriously limit nuclear arms. The United States does not trust the Soviets any more than the Soviets trust the U.S. So both smile, shake hands, and promise to phase out obsolete weapons. Today's rate of technological advance tends to negate the provisions of a SALT treaty within a decade.

Any way you look at it, Canada is going to be in the middle of WW III. Who isn't going to be affected? As for American intelligence releases, I suggest some reading of the Soviet News Agency, TASS. I submit that both may manipulate facts in their own country's favour. In fact, I would request a B.S. detector for the majority of TASS releases.

Once more I wish to point out that nuclear arms limitations or disarmament is a relevant and worthy cause. But it is important to have facts, and the Soviet

Union is a major factor in any consideration. The communist system is based on a concept of force, and much will have to be done to convince them to even reduce this. The process of persuading both countries will be long and complicated.

The politicians (yes, politicians) must be pressured in all countries to act on this. Peace may be everyone's business, but the world can't fit around a conference table. Elected (or otherwise) representatives with authority must be sent. It would not do the world any good to see another "Munich" detente, either way.

Brent Bennett  
Arts I

## LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject, regardless of how much you normally run off at the mouth. The fact that you are hot under the collar doesn't impress us in the slightest. Also, spastic, disjointed and semi-intelligible writing is pure migraine to read, and should be saved for your professors, who deserve it. Thirdly, the statement "I think" is just a theory, and considering the evidence - 3,877 predictable letters on every subject - a rather dubious theory. Finally, we reserve the right to hack, chop, or shred any windy, illiterate, or defamatory correspondence. Furthermore, if you persist in sending us such diatribes, *Gateway* special assistants Vito and Ernie will take whatever extralegal measures as are necessary to insure that you bother us no more.

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The *Gateway* is the official newspaper of the students at the University of Alberta. With a readership of over 25,000 the *Gateway* is published Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter session, excepting holidays. Contents are the responsibility of the editor; editorials are written by an 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 the Canadian University Press and of CUP Media Services Ltd., is located in Room 282 Students' Union Building, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7. Newsroom 432-5168; Advertising 432-3423.

Staff this issue: Hope sprang eternal around the *Gateway* as staffers pondered interesting ways to while away the drowsy summertime days. Anne Stephen, Jordan Peterson, and Kent Blinston decided to open up an insult concession in HUB for "inexpensive, yet quality abuse." Ken Tsai, Martin Beales and Peter Jarvis planned to re-bottle developing chemicals for sale as "no-name brand Grecian Formula." Geoffrey Jackson, I. and J. Levantal, Russell Mathew, and James Stevens planned a move to upstate Wisconsin, the yogurt capital of North America, since there is "more culture there than Edmonton." Allison Annesley, Garnet DuGray, and Fausto Radici vowed to push Universiade 83 to include "Twister". And Michael Skeet and Murray Whitby planned to strike if their demands for a "17 per cent increase in issues" weren't met.