



Letters to the Editor should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, although we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

"I shall return"

I would like to thank the 400 people who believed in my policies and took the time to vote on Friday. I would also like to thank my friends who put up with me during campaigning and listened to what I had to say even though most of you have never voted before and never will again.

I would like to wish the Executive, who will be working for the students next year, the best of luck and I hope your doors are always open to the students.

However, I am extremely disappointed in the 17,000 students who did not give a damn about the Students' Union elections. The students who did not vote have no right to complain about anything that the S.U. Executive does next year. If they cared, they would have been willing to spend 2 minutes of their time making sure that the person they wanted to represent them would be in office.

I am sure that there will be excuses such as:

- 1) There were no competent people running.
- 2) I was not here Friday.
- 3) The S.U. Executive doesn't do anything for the students.

If your excuse was 1), why didn't you find someone competent to run? 2) you could have voted Thursday, 3) the S.U. Executive can only try their best for the students. They have to cut through red tape just like everyone else.

Until next election
Gord Stamp

Defence no excuse for missiles

Last week the Group for Nuclear Disarmament hosted an information table in HUB Mall, providing information and petitions concerning cruise missiles in Cold Lake and the dangers of nuclear war in general. On behalf of the G.N.D. I would like to thank all those who signed petitions; to those who haven't yet signed, they are still circulating. I would also like to take the opportunity to answer a couple of the more frequently asked questions at those tables.

Questions most frequently dealt with the nature of the Soviet threat and the need for national security.

In the short term, it is true that a build-up of arms may make people feel more secure. However, when considering, 1) the current reliance on nuclear arms, 2) the awesome destructive power of this weaponry (e.g. one U.S. Poseidon submarine contains more explosive force than what was detonated in all of Japan and Europe during WWII), 3) the overkill factor (the US currently has enough arms to annihilate every Soviet city of 100,000 or more 40 times over, the USSR theoretically could reciprocate 30 times), and 4) by 1985 there may be as many as 35 nuclear-armed nations, one must really question whether this arms race is making

us more secure. As a corollary to this question, a comparison with the lax attitude shown to Hitler previous to WWII is often drawn. There really is no comparison, as there simply is no defence against nuclear weapons. Previous wars cannot realistically be compared to a war which, within hours, or at most days, would annihilate life as we know it.

There is also the question of deterrence, usually formulated to suggest that if the West doesn't maintain its superiority over the USSR, they'd walk in and take over. In the 1960's the then US Secretary of Defence, Robert McNamara, argued that 400 nuclear missiles would be a sufficient deterrent since they could destroy 30 per cent of the Russian population and 75 per cent of the USSR's industrial capacity. The US currently has 9,400 warheads. In reality just two of the Poseidon subs described above would now constitute an adequate deterrent. The obvious conclusion is that the US could begin disarming, unilaterally, and continue to do so for a long time before the question of deterrence becomes meaningful.

The second question of concern deals with the nature of the Soviet threat, and Soviet expansionism. Soviet control of Eastern Europe is to be soundly

condemned; however it must be kept in mind that this is a direct result of two German invasions that brought incredible destruction on Russia. As pointed out in a previous letter, 20 million Russians died in WWII alone. The Russian desire for a buffer zone must be seen in its historical context. Between the years of 1948 and 1980 the USSR intervened directly on three occasions — Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan. During the same period, the US sent out its troops, on average, once every 18 months, to places such as Guatemala (1954), Lebanon (1956), Vietnam, the Congo (1960), Iran (1953), Laos and Cambodia, to name a few. These were purportedly to "stop communism." However, of the 60 or so nationalist revolutions since WWII, only two, Vietnam and China, have been directly communist led, and none by the Soviets. The threat of Soviet military expansionism is a myth, and this is confirmed by a report from the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff made in 1979. This report asserted that the US is the nation capable of projecting and sustaining its power globally by military force. The US has hundreds of thousands of troops stationed on over 200 military bases and installations around the world.

Finally, the question of whether or not the Soviets can be trusted to respect a disarmament or arms limitation treaty. Let me simply point out, that as of 1980, 14 agreements concerning arms control had been signed between the USA and the USSR, none of which have been violated by Soviets.

Finally, the question of Soviet integrity — can they be trusted? A quote from a report (Congressional Record, June 27, 1980) by the US Joint Chiefs of Staff should be sufficient: "Soviet compliance performance under 14 arms control agreements has been good."

One of the gravest dangers of the cruise missile is the difficulty in monitoring it. Its deployment will introduce a new era to the arms race, characterized by the virtual impossibility of verifying arms control treaties. The cruise missile must be stopped!

The G.N.D. will again be hosting information tables in HUB, on April 1st and 2nd. On Saturday April 3rd there will be a rally against cruise missiles, beginning at 12:30 p.m. at 108 St. and 99 Ave.

B. Connell,
U of A Group for
Nuclear Disarmament

Robust, sprightly jogger scorns buses

Dear Editor,

Coming from a country where there are hardly any strikes, I am shocked by the large number of strikes in this beautiful land of Canada. However, I particularly

refuse to be daunted by the recent bus strike. Hence, during the last six weeks, I must have walked and jogged a total of about 150 to 200 miles. I hate to impose on my friends for rides, and I dislike the idea of hitch-hiking although now it is perfectly legal to do so. Therefore, I preferred to walk from the University to Southgate to do some shopping or even from the University to Kingsway where

my ear specialist is located. I find it hard to keep track of the numerous journeys back and forth.

As a result of the "exercise" I have lost some extra pounds. Not particularly an athletic type, I began to discover the joy of walking and jogging. I was also able to think and ponder more deeply as I walked or jogged along, and have come up with this...

ahem! ... rather interesting article.

When we sang "count your blessings, name them one by one," I thought of how blessed it is that I am still young and strong, and am not stricken with arthritis or Parkinson's Disease especially at this time of "transport immobility." I only wish that I could have a car so that I could volunteer to drive some of the less mobile

senior citizens.

Perhaps many of you have the same experiences as I have. You have perhaps grown more robust and sprightly. Hail to the new bus!

It needs no gas and no insurance policy. It fears no strike and best of all, it beats inflation too!

Choo-Choo Kam

Test-tube twins don't fit in flask

The picture of the two twins born to an Oakville Ontario couple in the March 29 *Edmonton Sun* issue caught my interest. According to the caption they were born in a test tube. I suggest this is an error. Intrigued, I contacted a scientific supply company and learned that the largest test tube normally available has a volume of approximately one half

cup. They did, however, inform me that an "erlenmeyer" flask with a volume of 6 litres was available. I did some rough calculations based on the sizes shown in the photo and I suspect only one child could be grown in each flask. Nutrients could presumably be administered thru the opening in the flask, but one question still remains: Con-

sidering the narrow neck, how were the infants removed at birth?

Dale J. Bunce

Editor's Note: The babies, of course, were not born in test tubes or flasks, but, as Mr. Bunce notes, "in the March 29 *Edmonton Sun* issue."

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