



Rad Hazard

Potentially the most dangerous present situation, barring a third world war, is the radiation hazard. Nuclear physics, whether it results in bombs, reactors, or radioactive isotopes, produces ionizing radiation. So do the more familiar X-rays.

The effects of ionizing radiation on living tissues are well known. They range from slight temporary damage to destruction, i.e. death. The effects on the functioning of living tissues are less well known, but present knowledge indicates a possible danger far greater than chronic sickness or death to a few unfortunate individuals. In sum, the results indicate possible extinction of the human race as we know it.

The above statement rests on the genetic effects of radiation. Genes are giant protein molecules that by virtue of their peculiar structure carry the 'information' that determines every physical characteristic of every living thing, and the emotional and spiritual potential of every human. How the genes direct the growth of the individual is not known. The fact is they do. It is also a fact that the structure of a gene may be changed, most easily by radiation. The greater the exposure to radiation, the greater the chance of genetic change. This change may show up in defective offspring. Ionizing radiation from whatever source presents a danger of future generations.

In the past, bomb tests have increased the average radiation level of the environment. In the future, inefficient disposal of reactor wastes, or further bomb tests will increase this level further. So will unsafe use of X-rays and radioactive isotopes.

The question confronting us now is: Do we take steps to minimize the radiation hazard before it is too late, even though that hazard may be overestimated? Or do we let things slide in the hope the experts may be wrong, and the radiation hazard may after all be negligible?

Two groups on this campus, the Student Committee for the Control of Radiation Hazards, and the Combined University Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, think the possible danger too great to permit a let-it-go-for-now attitude. Everyone that imagines himself to possess a social conscience must decide whether he agrees or not.

Which Fence . . . Of or De

Since the end of the Second World War, Canada has spent approximately 17 billion dollars on defence. Today we have almost nothing to show for it but huge budgetary deficits and increases in the national debt.

In order that we get a return on our money we must change our whole outlook towards defence. As one of the wealthiest nations of the

world, Canada must contribute her portion of men and money to the common cause. Therefore the expenditures have not been inordinately large in the circumstances.

What, then is the problem? Every political party in this country has overlooked the philosophy of nuclear warfare. All have failed to recognize the truth in the old saw: the best defence is a good offence.

No longer can Canada rest secure in an isolated corner of the globe. Such places no longer exist. Yet the defence policy of all political parties is keyed to these outmoded concepts.

Jet interceptors and Bomarc missiles were necessary only three years ago when the major threat was the manned bomber. But today, although an enemy may use some of these bombers, the main threat is composed of missiles with nuclear war-heads. Intelligence reports vary but if Russia does not have the 300 missiles which could destroy North America, she soon will have.

At present it is impossible to defend against these. Indeed there is no percentage in even trying. Since time immemorial offence has outrun and exceeded defence. Even if all our efforts were put into antimissile defences, we would be unlikely to succeed.

But the same is true for an enemy. With the inability to protect itself from certain destruction Russia would never attack.

Canada then must reappraise its present approach which has little more to recommend it than knocking on wood to ward off bad luck. All parties must realize that the surest way to peace is to make it manifestly unprofitable for any enemy to commit aggression.

At present the United States Strategic Air Command keeps its nuclear-armed bombers on 24 hour alert.

This is not to say that this is wholly representative of the American approach. But it is indicative of the manner in which Canada must think if we are to have anything at all to show for our expenditures.

REFLECTIONS

Wait—hold on a second there brother—you always were inclined to be a bit hasty. This sort of sullen passion got you in trouble once before, remember? Lest you be unduly carried away by your own persuasiveness let us recall that man is more than beast; there is also within him an essential beauty. How else are we to account for the gentle light of wonder, the genius of desire, the haunting music of love and laughter?

Because he has the capacity for intelligence man may transcend the animal. Can you point to a time before he wanted to expand or invent, before he would worship or sing? Civilization may be a gloss, but dignity is not, nor is compassion, nor yet this restless yearning to understand. These can replace cruelty and antagonism as the fundamentals of man's nature. These are the difference between a crouch and an upright stature. I say rationality may yet tame the beast and free the form of loveliness. Who would stake off limits to the reach of mind? Would you, brother?

Man is more than beast. He has the capacity to evolve, or mature, by fundamental change within and not at the surface merely. As a man matures it can become as impossible for him to strike blindly as it once

was to think clearly. Not all men mature, I grant. That a few do gives us hope.

Nor can you deny that societies, as individuals, evolve from less to more intelligent attitudes. Political history illustrates. From family to village to state to federation, men have learned to live together and extend the influence of peace. A federation, based on individual rights, once seemed as remote as does world cooperation now, yet men learned to make it work.

We have always tried to destroy, but we have also tried to build. And I think we can fairly claim a net gain. That our intelligent faculties have been perverted by greed or fear does not, I believe, entirely annul the fact of intelligence. We have dared to think and discover and enjoy. We have yielded to song and to sunshine. Ever we have intuitively sensed the potential beauty to be released into life by a beautiful attitude: by exchanging antagonism for appreciation.

If we have not measured quite up to our vision shall we quit trying? Shall we label an ideal impossible because we have not reached it? Once disease of body was accepted as inevitable, but today we insist on health. Tomorrow our sick minds may be healed of hatred. A new-age attitude, made constitutional, may yet release man from the cumbersome chains of a beast to bondage. —by abel



ON PROPAGANDA

To The Editor:

In reference to the article "Nazis not Beaten" which appeared in the November 22 issue of The Gateway. I am sorry to disappoint many students by admitting that I am not really a member of the Nazi Party.

Over the past year, there has been much publicity about the revival of the Nazi Party. Exhibiting the proverbial curiosity of the University student, I wrote to the Nazis to get the word from the horse's mouth, so to speak. When the pamphlets arrived I was quite shocked at their contents, as those who read the reproductions in last week's Gateway can well understand. However, when I read Mr. Rupp's Letter to the Editor of November 10, it seemed to be a good opportunity to bring to the attention of the student body the nefarious tripe regurgitated by these fanatics. I decided to send these pamphlets to Mr. Rupp, knowing his views on the subject and feeling sure that he would bring this literature to the attention of students. It is gratifying to note the success of his campaign.

I should also like to thank The Gateway for their well-expressed comments on the matter. However, the remark about the "anonymous little rat" burned rather deeply. I am sorry if the propaganda offended anyone, but as Mr. Rupp pointed out, if you can read this propaganda and still say you don't care, then you may as well join this gang of murders.

Respectively your
Incognito Rodent

LEONG APPOINTED

Robert Leong, Commerce 3, was appointed promotions chairman by Students' Council at Thursday's meeting.

The primary function of Mr. Leong in his new position will be promoting campus activities. He will act in an advisory capacity for advertising of Students' Union functions.

Any Students' Union club may take advantage of the facilities provided by the Promotions Committee. These facilities include the sign-board, pep band, majorettes and cheerleaders.

THE GATEWAY

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