

More letters to the editor from pp. 4,5

CONtrary to popular opinion, someone PROtests

I would like to make several comments and a suggestion about your series of Pro and Con columns.

First, let me say, I do not care for Mr. Fierce's self confessed goal of offending his readers in order to arouse "hate wherever he goes."

Hate is a good, strong emotion, and is capable of generating and directing powerful human forces. It has its place in our lives along with love, embarrassment, awe and adoration, etc.

But, to stir it up, or to attempt to stir it up, intentionally over such trivial matters as a Jehovah's Witness pamphlet or Mr. Fierce's Grade Twelve teacher shows a grave lack of judgement.

Seriously, I don't really think there was any such reaction, except in Mr. Fierce's mind.

However, the idea of a student's newspaper, or any paper, carrying a column with the express purpose of offending its

readers leaves me wondering about editorial policy.

I would not object, if Mr. Fierce had some ideas to express - ideas which might contradict or offend my beliefs; in such a case, however, he would be too concerned about expressing his ideas clearly to be overly concerned about offending his readers. I can assure you of my interest in such a column.

Unfortunately, as Mr. Fierce has nothing to say (he confessed this in his first column), he is left only with the concern of offending his readers. And so he lambastes his readers for having difficulty in following his convoluted logic through the mess of muddy 'wit' he claims to have thrown us.

His tactic of using words which he assumes his readers will have to look up in a good

dictionary is evidence, to my mind, of poor column writing and lack of respect. It is equally degrading to both the writer and the reader. Maybe he should be directed to concern himself with being understood, rather than showing off his big words, if he thinks they are big.

Perhaps he could bring a little dignity to the Gateway by making his attacks on Christianity against a publication with somewhat higher standards than those set for the Watchtower. I can understand Mr. Fierce expecting the best from this pamphlet - after all, his own literary style is somewhat reminiscent of the current Watchtower journalists, isn't it?

Really, though, I think even he should know that 'ad hominem arguments with ... extended reductio ad absurdum' should

not be wasted on Watchtower magazine that brings a lot of people a lot of pleasure and Mr. Fierce no harm, except waste his intellectual excitement.

If he must offend us attacking Christianity (a shot in itself) have him launch arguments against ideas a more consistent and a little better written.

Apart from all this, I think perhaps a little editorial guidance might be in order, in the interest of clarity of expression. It might also save space. I am sure Fierce's last few columns could easily be reduced to a few two syllable words, which would also save his readers' time looking up dictionaries.

Of course Mr. Editor, all supervision would take more time than you have available to make a suggestion.

If the column were temporarily dropped, Mr. Fierce would have lots of extra time to not having to research Watchtowers on windy street corners, or look up words for readers to look up, or write a column. With all this time on hands he could probably sign for an English 190 course.

Next year, if he passes, can return to these pages with hope, something to say, ability to say it, and some respect for those he says it to.

In closing, let me say that I am not seriously questioning editorial policy. I find the Gateway entertaining, informative and interesting as a whole. In this letter I am merely objecting to what I consider a trivially offensive waste of space in our paper.

I hope that, as a result of this letter and others like it, you will find something worthwhile to replace it with.

B.R. Starn
Engineering

Languorous luceness

"It's not how long you make it but how you make it long," pouted sultry sometime starlet Selina Suave at the premiere of Louis Malle's latest masterpiece, *Travaillés d'un batarde*.

Selina, a tart, sprite *tres chic* type who Malle found sunning at St. Tropez last autumn isn't one to take her latest success lightly.

"I think all people should be brothers," she bubbles. In fact, that combination of sultriness, *joie de vivre* and an indefinable *erotique* added up to just what Malle was looking for in his new work, a subtle masterpiece with *buffant* camerawork and the scintillating sort of dialogue which sends a delicate *frisson* of pleasure down the spine of the most cynical.

Indeed, scenarist Malle found Selina upstaging Eurostar Jean-Louis Trintignant in the

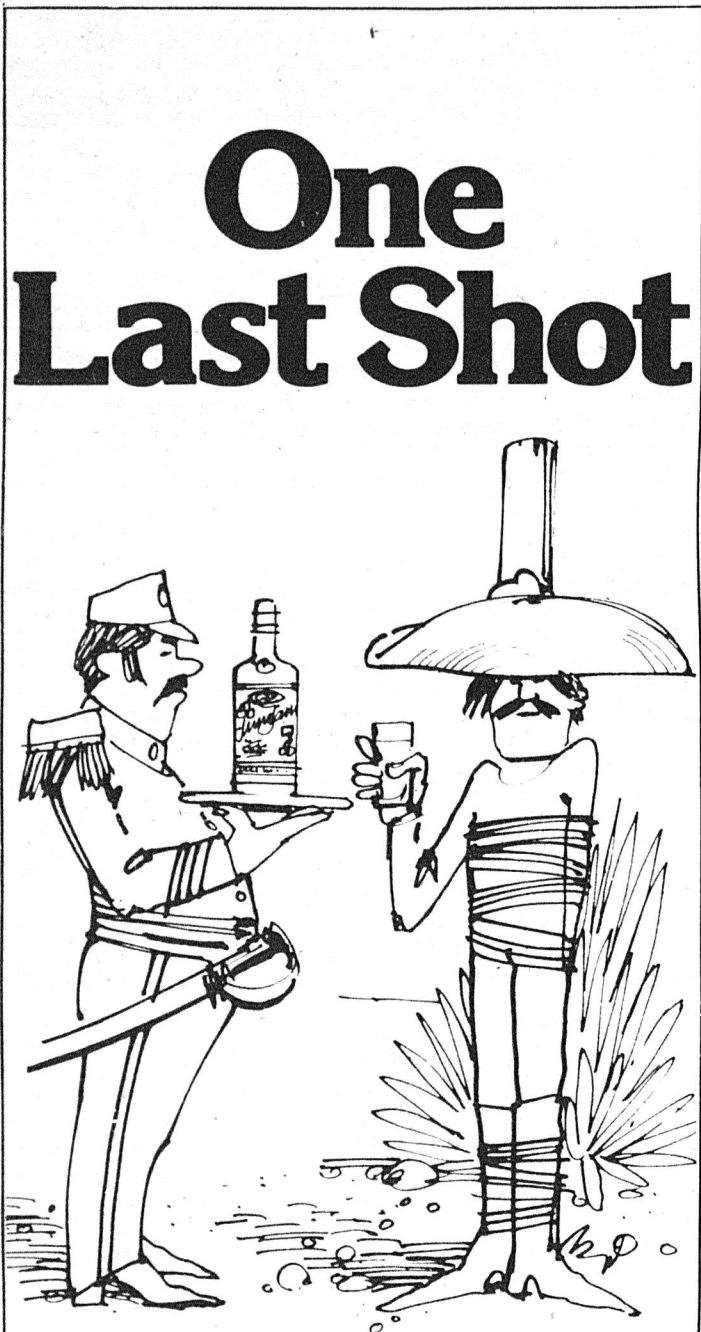
most dramatic portions of the film.

The nuances of Malle's pastiche, spirited in some segments, nonetheless may escape the less sophisticated North American audience. A measure of his success: Even the haughty critics of the influential French daily *Le Monde* were slow to sniff at this latest work, the study of a poor coal miner's illegitimate son who works his way up to become the late president Georges Pompidou's furnace-stoker.

"It's not how you stoke a furnace but the way a furnace stokes," Malle explains of Trintignant's role.

All in all, the package adds up as one of the most delicious entertainments of the season in Vegreville.

Hank Luce
Graduate Studies

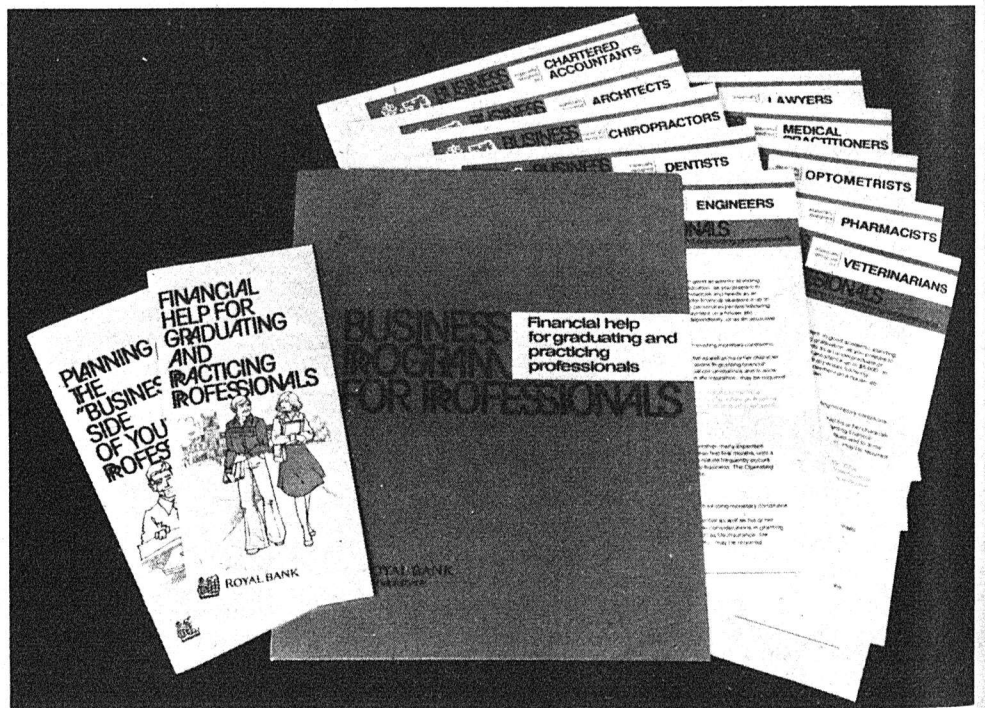


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