

SECOND WIND

Second Wind is an opinion column for Gateway staff.

Geoffrey Jackson

The other day I sat down with a group of friends and acquaintances at Java Jive, and soon became part of a lively discussion. Sex, marriage, and birth control were the main topics under debate and all sorts of prints came up.

One girl gave a frank and amusing recount of the nasty side effects the pill had upon her. The men listened sym-

pathetically and expressed hopes that a male pill will soon be on the market.

Marriage was debated, as was abortion and sexual ethics. The discussion was basically calm and fair; everyone felt free to talk openly of their relevant experiences.

About an hour into this debate I drew back and realized something startling: such a discussion would have seemed unusual in 1975, improbably in 1970, and impossible in 1965. Somewhere over the last fifteen

years it has become possible for a group of young adults, only casually acquainted with each other, to discuss subjects that were once taboo. To me, this seems to be a very good and hopeful thing.

The sexual revolution brought a number of evils such as the current preoccupation with the physical and the obsession with youth and beauty in our culture, but it also created a new environ-

ment for communication. Today people at least can talk about sexual matters in a clear headed and open fashion: a social achievement that I think is without precedence in history.

So now whenever somebody starts to deride modern society as being totally degenerate I remember that coffee table discussion and the calm, intent, guileless faces of those involved. It would seem that we're not as decadent as some would hope.

Editor needs lobotomy

I am sic unto death of the self-love and hypocrisy which Jens Andersen continually attempts to pass off as culture. The latest (and definitive) example of his article "Journey to the land of make-believe" (Jan. 28).

How long are we expected to accept his attempts at humility ("I am almost beginning to believe I am a person of consequence") while reading about the number of mirrors and matchbooks in his hotel room. Is his every move and experience really that interesting? He clearly thinks so.

Let me run through a few more of his quirks. He exudes an air of cultural omniscience while bragging about the fact that he has "missed everything from American Graffiti to Apocalypse Now. He tries to portray himself

as "just plain folks" while putting down everyone around him. Is Jens an oasis in a cultural wasteland? He clearly thinks so.

If his approach to movies is close-minded and ignorant, it can't compare to his approach to the others. Is music any good? Yes, Jens feels, as long as the musician isn't a faggot. Is fine art good? If he can understand it, yes, Jens feels. If it is abstract or in any way complex, he'll just make fun of it.

Isn't it time the Gateway got rid of this one-man love affair? Surely there are more articulate, informed, broad-minded and morally consistent people who could take his place. How about P.J. or one of her friends at The Bridge?

Scott Rollans
Arts III

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 are necessary to ensure that you bother us no more.

No waste at library

Ms. Dianne MacDonnell, in her letter to *The Gateway*, (January 28, 1982), complains that she was unable to pay a library fine when she wanted to. She also commented on the costs of processing and mailing out bills. She did not indicate where she went to pay the fine.

Usually, fines on overdue material do not appear until the day after the return is registered on the automated system. Fines can be paid at the Circulation Services Office, 2nd floor,

Cameron Library, at any time provided they appear on the current record. At month's end all outstanding accounts are produced on the automated system and mailed out. At no time does anyone "type out" a bill.

Fortunately, not too many of the 20,000 users incur fines which, incidentally, are imposed to encourage the return of library material to the benefit of all.

Yours sincerely,
Calvin Evans
Assistant Librarian
Public Services

Lay down your arms

The U of A Group for Nuclear Disarmament has been formed in order to allow students to express their support for disarmament and to provide them with an avenue of action for the termination of the arms race.

The arms race must be stopped, to ensure our survival, for those who believe that a nuclear holocaust is avoidable, and for economic reasons.

Five hundred billion dollars

will be spent on weapons in the world this year. The super powers spend two-thirds of this, the Pentagon spends \$285,000 a minute. During the next five years it will spend one trillion dollars.

Anyone interested in the fight for nuclear disarmament are encouraged to attend the organizational meeting on Feb. 4 at 5:00 p.m. in room 270A in SUB.

Barbara McKinley
Arts IV

Seek and ye shall find

I would like to again draw the attention of your readers to the Lost, Found service provided by Campus Security.

Very recently an advertisement was carried in University media reporting the loss of two rings. These rings had been held in our found depository but unfortunately the loser had not contacted this office and we had no way of identifying her.

Frequently glasses and other personal items are turned in but they have no identifiable characteristics and we depend upon reports from the losers to trace ownership.

This is one of the many services provided the University community by Campus Security.
W.F.G. Perry

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Odds out on SU election

Dear Editor,

SU politics are very boring. Really boring. So boring that they put me to sleep.

You say that there is an election coming up? Yawn. Who cares? I'm starting an election pool. Throw in a buck with your guess for the percentage of the voter turnout and you too could win big money. The odds are set at a hundred to one pay-off for anything over a thirty percent turnout.

It's not that I'm apathetic, it's just that I don't think that any of the really important issues are being effectively covered by the candidates. It's the same old stale approach - cutbacks, SU debt, and rhetoric on everything in between.

What happened to the good old days of the joke slate? What makes the situation even more depressing is that the positions really do hold some power and influence. Once in office, though, mediocrity seems to be the only outcome. Whether it is the system that prevents effective management, or a lack of talent that prevents effective management is a topic for debate.

I just don't care anymore. I really don't care.

Please don't vote: I've got my money at two to one odds for a two percent voter turnout.

Ed Blackburn
Arts III



let yourself go

on a money-free vacation.

Club Med

EDMONTON TRAVEL
9006-112 st. 433-2494

the Gateway

NOTICE

to all Gateway Staff

Staff meeting for the express purpose of choosing five members to sit on the committee for selection of Gateway editor-in-chief for the 1982-83 term.

4 p.m., Thursday, February 4, 1982

Room 282 SUB

PLEASE ATTEND

SU ELECTION

NEED SOME EXTRA CASH?

The Students' Union requires staff for the General Election on Friday, February 5. Help us out and earn \$4.00/hour at the same time. For further information, please contact the SU Returning Office (Room 271, SUB) or the Receptionist SU Executive Offices (Room 259, SUB).