

## EDITORIAL

### Reality and the single editor

Reality: I'm against it in principle.  
 Why?  
 Well, you see I open the mail around here, mostly press releases that no one else wants to read, occasional bills, and lots of letters to the editor.

Some of these letters to the editor got me thinking the other day; "Are these people living in the real world, or what?" I mean letters from people who are obsessed with grade point averages, or fruitcakes from Ohio who think they're God. I mean is reality in that short supply?

But then again the myopic visions of these letter writers are nothing in comparison to the blatant fantasies that pass for the real world on the second floor of SUB.

It's a toss up to which group is the more deluded, the often ranting and raving student politicians who are convinced that their petty actions actually mean anything on the grand (or even the petty) scheme of things, or we, the junior journalists torn between visions of "agents of social change" and delusions that anybody actually reads us.

Then I wander off to my classes where overworked professors are forced to reduce already watered down thoughts to the lowest common denominator. And any professor who would actually try to relate his teaching to the "real world" would more than likely be shot down by overzealous department heads, and a paranoid university bureaucracy.

The U of A is many things, but it is not a hot bed for reality. Then again, what ever is a hot bed of reality?

What of our great farmlands, Canada's pastoral heartland?  
 I mean aren't people more attuned to the earth and the reality of life on the farm?

Nope! Being raised on a farm I can tell you that farm life is the antithesis of reality. The life and death struggle against hoegrass ain't exactly being in tune with the cosmos.

The what of the business world? What of the lawyers in plaid ties and three piece suits who react suicidally to a fluctuation of the Dow Jones?

Forget them! I mean our captains of business can't even control the economy which is after all an artificial creation composed partly of industries, capital and investments that the businessmen themselves have created.

Not controlling an entity that you yourself have created is no sign of grasping great truths.

But where do we look for reality?

In Robert Greenhill's desk?

In the last two chapters of the philosophy text that you never read?

In the Rolling Stones lyrics?

In the bottom of a bottle of cheap rye?

Actually, none of the above. Reality is an evil to be avoided at all costs.

Humans are in a sense like tiny black holes - just as black holes warp space, bending normal rules of distance, gravity and time, humans by their very nature "warp" reality around themselves. Each and every human being lies in this "warp" - this bent space, which distorts his vision of the universe from day one.

This "warp of illusion" is stronger in cities and large population centres (U of A included) where a multitude of personal illusions merge to form a few major insanities, illusions, and deceptions. Great examples are lies such as the "American Dream", "Justice for All", and the "Equality of Man" and other far fetched delusions.

Just as the warp of space and time is inherent in the nature of black holes, the "warp of illusion" is inherent to every single human being on this planet. This warp probably evolved as a tool of survival to keep the race from being totally disillusioned and pulling a stunt like the lemmings and walking off a cliff.

For example, the illusion of peace and harmony that totally ignores the reality of nuclear weapons: An illusion that allows civilization to function with at least near normal regularity. Without this illusion, stress and anxiety would take an unreasonable toll on civilization's productivity and sanity.

And if reality is what ever is left after all illusion is gone, then the only way to achieve reality is to banish every single human being - along with his inherent mass of illusion - from the face of the firmament. And I mean every single human being. Just one person, just one illusion, and there goes your perfect reality.

And let's face it, if reality only has meaning when it's all alone, it can't be all that great? Maybe it was never meant to be our answer? Reality, who needs it?

As for me, I think I'll go up to Ratt for a beer or two, but first I'll check the mailbox. Who knows, there might be a letter for me.

Gilbert Bouchard

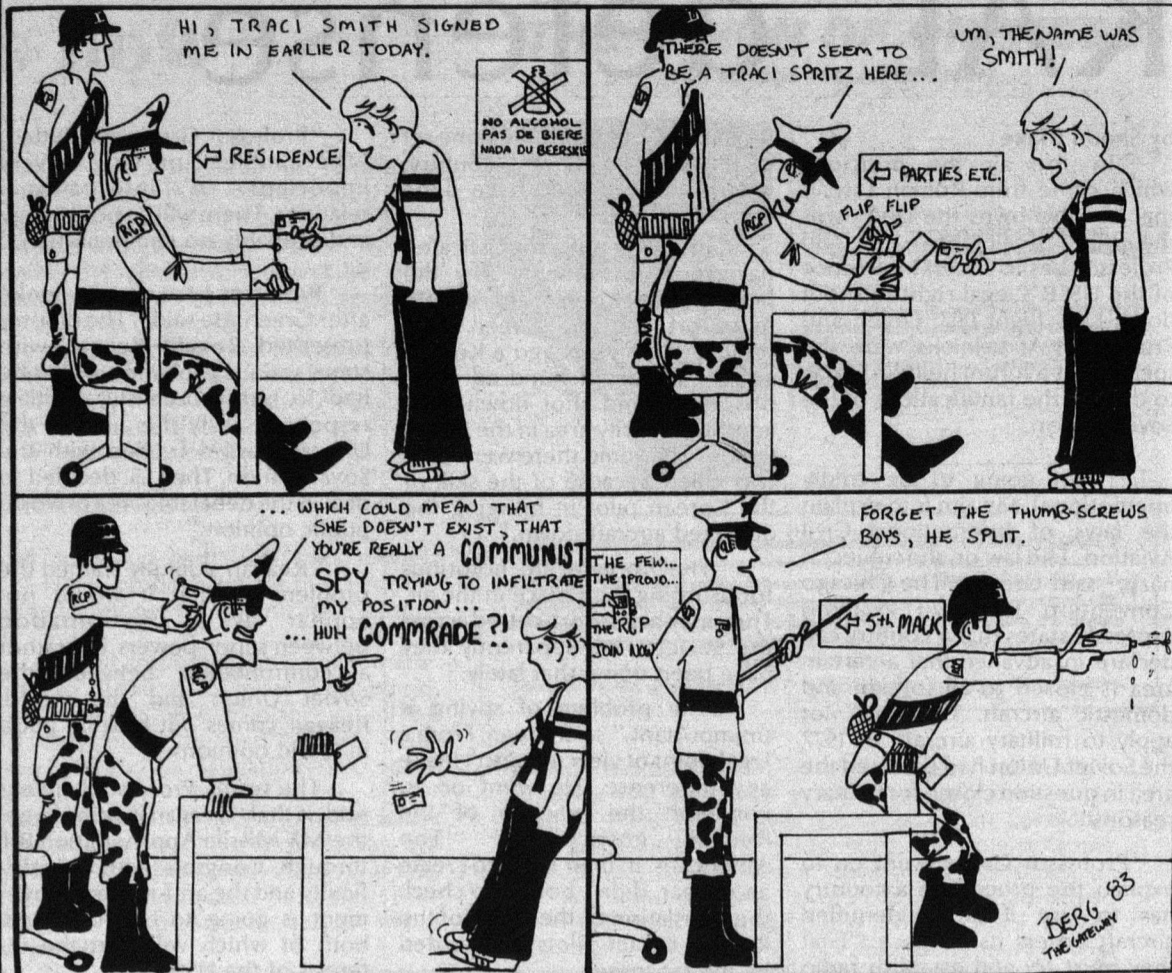
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**Staff this Issue**

Flames surround the castle of Algard and the vigilant Gilbertologists cheer madly. Christopher Coy and Sally-Ann Mowat carry vats of oil to the scene; Bernard Poiras and Mark Lane pour it onto the rough waters. Jordan Peterson and Barbara Eyles stand cross eyed near the blazing walls. Margaret Baer, Rob Johnstone, and Sarah Hickson transcribe the scene, while Shane Berg provides pointed comment. Anil Reddi waxes eloquently on the virtues of fire. Brenda Waddle and Simon Blake march off down the road to gather faggots (wood, fools!)

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## « LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

### Real world?

### What a concept!

Tuesday, September 27 at noon, the film "Americas in Transition" showed. That same day, a former medical student of El Salvador's former university spoke about the situation in his country. These events were part of Central American Awareness Week, sponsored by the Students' Union.

Six people came to the first, fifteen to the second event. This, at a university? (Perhaps the lack of pro-U.S. views doomed the week to obscurity).

The University and the world live together. They are not separated by a wall of books and beer. The University looks at the world's warts, and tries to create an ointment to dissolve them.

The two events, which were critical of United States' involvement in Latin America needless to say, are not, however, the point of this letter.

The point is university students' abdication of their responsibility to learn about the world. A university is one of the few places where this is easy to do.

Like a citizen, however, a student chooses what to spend time on, and time is particularly precious at a university.

Yet, learning about the world, whether from special events and speakers, from foreign students studying here, from books, or from the world's newspapers in Rutherford South is surely worth some of that precious time.

I don't say, "Go help (or quash) the uprising", just have more than a grade 8 level current affairs acquaintance with world problems and their backgrounds.

A university generally has a student body with above average ability. So a university should graduate at least an informed, perhaps even (gasp) critical population, not just tradesmen after jobs.

This is an apolitical plea, based on the assumption that a person is better off and of better use to the world when they're better informed about the world.

If working to fix what is wrong is best, then knowing what is wrong is next best. But being ignorant of what's wrong, especially while at university, is downright bad.

And no, I'm not a Commie stooge, not part of the Soviet-Cuban axis, the origin-abscissa axis, or lumberjack axes, or any other axis.

Michael Wynne  
 Commerce A.D. I

### (Sic) 'em boy!

i'm riting bout the english comptencie eggzam. The peepke at the big office bilding sed i had to take this eggzam in order to go to skool. i wanna bee a football player. But i faled the eggzam so i have to take more lessens and pay 40 dollars too. I cant see

why they faled me, i can talk with other football players O.K.! Coach sez i should not worry bout my english and just to concentrate on my blocking. Coach sez he wil help me get around this english problem too. Why cant they leev me alone and let me eet mi 2 boksez of Shreddies. i like Shreddies too; Coach sez they help me to block. Anyway, i just wanted to cumplain bout english. I just wanna play football.

Orgelthorpe Schenkel  
 Phiz ed I

### Importance of Getting Ernest

In response to Ernest Braithwaite, the boy from down East who criticized us Western Folk for our tastes in music and clothing, I would like to say that his shock and criticism was out of line. First his criticism that the groups which were to entertain us in "Quad" had absolutely no musical value was unfounded. Rock and Roll has been around a long time and with modern telecommunications, even the remotest of areas has been exposed to it in some form. He, therefore, could not have been totally shocked by it being so real. Although it may not exactly be his cup of tea, there is a majority of students who find it appealing. Second, he criticized the code of dress which prevails on campus. Jeans have proven to be a relatively inexpensive but comfortable and durable product compared to dress pants. If a student feels that they are unacceptable, and there are other items he would rather wear, fine, do so as long as they aren't obscene. This student seemed to feel that because of our tastes and appearances, that he was superior, and thus lectured us on our conduct. He is only one of over 20,000 and entitled to his opinion, but he has no right to criticize others for theirs. Had he made those statements as his opinions rather than as a lecture telling us how to behave, he would have been in line with the democratic system.

J. Baker, Eng I

### Old communists don't die... They just lose their classes

Yet another revelation from the learned Shipka. Until today (Gateway, 27 September) I hadn't realized that Lenin had ever co-authored a book with Vladimir Bukovsky. Was the latter perhaps invoking the great man's spirit, or is it that a 113-year old leader, having thrown off the ravages of four strokes suffered a mere 59 years ago, is now at the head of the anti-cruise movement?