

Varsity Voices

Reply to Reply

To The Editor:
 Re: Your reply to my letter in last Friday's edition.
 You show your ineptness in your answer. You are either trying to avoid the issue (which is to be expected) or you are assuming that anyone who "wears a turtle-neck, sports a beard, rides a bicycle, reads avant-garde poetry or smokes a pipe," i.e.: by your definition any non-conformist, is incapable of making an intelligent statement. If the latter is the case, then I must retract my former statements—that is definitely controversial!!!

While I'm here, I would like to address your writer of the editorial "Anti-Hawrelak Demonstration" (Oct. 25) and letter writer "Sincerely" (Nov. 1), and anyone who agrees with them.

You are under the misconception that the four men were jeopardizing the public image of the university, who were courageous enough to stand up against what is obviously a public moral wrong, while the rest of the university—faculty, staff and students—was content to sit on its apathetic apple-box and watch what could well be the beginning of the collapse of our civilization!

These four men should be commended for their dedication in risking their lives and positions to UPHOLD the public image of the university. They have all received THREATS of death and damage towards both themselves and their families! They were well aware of these consequences and deliberated a long time before making their decision to act—and yet they DID ACT!

Don Wells
 Arts 4

Birds and Bourbon

To The Editor:
 "Soak one pound of split peas for two days in 100-proof bourbon. Distribute the peas outside your windows, on the ledge or fire escape, and then sit back and wait. Soon hordes of pigeons will descend to eat the peas. The effect of the 100-proof bourbon on a pigeon's constitution is amazing, and soon they will fall to their own natural death."

"True, it is killing pigeons, but perhaps it would appease sentimentalists to know that they died with a smile on their faces."

This was clipped from TIME Magazine (a letter to the editor). May I suggest this method for getting rid of the bothersome pigeons since I'm sure the men at Athabasca have most of the necessary ingredients.

C. K.
 Science 1

Demonstration

To The Editor:
 Because I am a university student and must live with people who are NOT university students, I would like to express my opinions regarding the thoughtless actions of a minority group of idiots who have invaded the local political scene.

These placard-bearing "free-thinkers" on Monday evening descended upon the downtown administrative building seeking audience with the mayor or God or someone.

Anyhow, they were stopped by an equally fanatical but oppositely oriented group of Edmontonians. Edmontonians are a foolish lot who adhere to the obviously out-moded (by the students' measure) belief that the candidate with the majority of votes in a thoroughly democratic election, has the right to serve his term of office. The "free" thinking students now threaten more "peaceful" demonstrations. It seems the magic words "Moral Issue" are drawing more and more idle clods to the side of the students.

This "Moral Issue" centres around the students' belief that anyone in Canada, regardless of race or religion, can run for office, UNLESS we, the nation's action and acne, don't like it.

Actually, Canada's Bill of Civil Rights answers that ANYONE, so long as he is not:

- (a) a fugitive from the law
- (b) in prison
- (c) dead

has the inalienable right to run for office, REGARDLESS of color, creed or past.

It would appear that people who are supposedly students and still have time to pack affectatious beliefs and slogans with this much frequency are either not getting enough work to do, or ARE getting enough work but are too stupid or too lazy to do it.

From this we deduce that those persons involved are either incompetent, lazy or stupid, probably all three. Edmontonians are to be commended for their pride and their restraint: they merely spat upon their idiots; had they less restraint, they would have urinated upon them.

Jim Bishop
 Sci. 2

Commonplace Things

To The Editor:
 I often think that we university students set our standards too high. We pass off too many beautiful things around us as commonplace.

The other day I was in a uni-

versity washroom, looking at a toilet. It wasn't an outstanding or different toilet, just a plain functional one. But how many people saw its stark lines, its shiny, stainless steel handle, with its little eddies, mad whorls of light throwing out a sanitary challenge to the world.

But what young men with dirty shoes, what young girls with happy smiles down by the river, see these things?

Who realizes that the toilet was designed for contemplation? How many of us these days stand and watch the maelstrom of roaring human drama revealed before us in the toilet bowl? Do we see the whirlpool of force, the wall of water sweeping, as it were, the paper order of man's life away. As the poet asks us:

"Where is the man without a soul
 Mirrored in the toilet bowl?"

I am, alas, forced to conclude that only I and a few others appreciate the beauty in these so-called mundane things. Others are content to utter platitudes and spew triteness in the wind about these beauties. I can only hope and pray that in time more and more people will appreciate the overflowing beauty of such things as the common university can.

Flushed with success, I am sir,
 Your correspondent,
 McBowell

Phone Book

To The Editor:
 It has recently come to my attention that time has ceased to move on the campus of the University of Alberta. I refer of course to the recent edition of the Students' Telephone Directory.

For the benefit of those who may not have noticed, the 1963-1964 edition was the twenty-fourth annual. However, the 1962-1963 edition was also the twenty-fourth annual publication.

What is the reason for this? Perhaps it is an insidious plot perpetrated by the female populace to prevent their aging one year? Perhaps it is an economical measure by Students' Council, who desire to save our money by printing the same phone numbers twice?

Perish the thought that the whole plot was a subversive effort by some enemy within to create confusion amidst the student body and ascend to power.

A more believable solution to the question is the idea that the publication was prepared by education students learning to count.

"... It is true that responsible letters to newspapers constitute one of the most important uses of the written word..." --Anonymous

Whatever the reason, let us have the true year made known, whether it be the 24th, the 25th or the diamond jubilee. I trust the reporters of our noble newspaper will persevere over adversity in pursuit of **Quaecumque Vera**.

R. Johnston

To The Editor:

Errata

There was an error in your

last Gateway "Feature" which I would like to see corrected. The line which reads: "Places where the death penalty has been established have shown no rise in the murder rate" should have read "abolished" instead of "established" . . . although both forms are probably accurate statements. And thank you, by the way, for your kind coverage of my views.

Sincerely,
 Richard Laskin, Ph.D.
 Assistant Professor

Richard McDowall's Musings



It was time to put on another record. Wiping off the record with a soft cloth, I flipped the tone arm over to the middle part of a particular piece I wanted to hear. Before I could make it back to my favorite listening place, the telephone rang.

Picking it up I was pleasantly surprised to hear the voice of a good friend of mine who happened to find out my telephone number, and seeing that he was only going to be in town three days, I was glad that he did find my number.

As he closed his conversation very sophisticatedly, he said he would bring over a bottle of 1958 Chateau Margaux. The words no sooner hit my ear than I could taste the delicious red Bordeaux wine in my mouth.

Upon his arriving, I couldn't wait to get a taste of this wonderful wine which I had only tasted once before, as I remembered. Looking into the utensil drawer I found a small combination corkscrew and bottle opener. I pushed the pointed end of the metal into the cork and twisted until no metal showed.

As I pulled on the corkscrew I knew the cork was in tight. Tugging a little harder I felt something give and looking down discovered not the cork but the metal bottle opener in my hand.

I had pulled the corkscrew of this latest fashionable implement out of its socket and there it lay, deep in cork with only the single balled end of the screw sticking out. Now we had to find a pair of pliers so that we could extrude the cork—but nowhere could we find any.

Our tempers were building, so finally I walked upstairs to knock on the door of an elderly couple to ask for pliers or a corkscrew. The charming woman gave me a corkscrew of which type I had never before seen.

It was long, well-constructed, sturdy and composed of a single screw attached to a large metal ring by which one pulled. Asking her where she found such a corkscrew she answered that she had brought it over from France forty years previously.

"Surely manufacturers don't make corkscrews like this any more," I said. She laughed and smilingly told me that she had shopped for a good corkscrew throughout Edmonton for years and had not yet been able to find one suitable.

As I thanked her she said rather humorously, "We live in such a fast-moving society, composed of mass production, industrialization, and automation that we cannot even manufacture and sell a half decent corkscrew."

A corkscrew is quite an insignificant tool of living, but I thought how appropriately this incident showed the decline in quality of material. We are so interested in figuring out ways and means of combining the jobs of various implements under one underdeveloped piece of equipment, that we sometimes lose sight of the purpose and object of the tool.

