

En Garde!

by John Roggeveen

Keep it down to two pages! says the managing scource of the Gateway, Jens Andersert.

There are a great many issues I would like to write about: genetic engineering, abortion, the Constitution, Peter Pocklington, and Sigmund Freud. But, a column on any of these topics would require research. And, research requires time. Time is something I have little of right now. Some people believe that work expands to fill the time allotted. Not so. Time contracts so that work exceeds the time available.

Over the summer, Lougheed's flunky, Attorney General Neil Crawford, declared that freedom of information legislation was only a "fad" and, hence, the provincial government wasn't planning on implementing any such thing.

I wonder what Ged Baldwin thinks of Crawford's assertion. Baldwin is a former Tory MP (from Alberta no less) who spent a great deal of time and effort trying to push through federal freedom of information legislation at the rest-home on the Rideau. He almost succeeded when Joe Clark took over, but was thwarted by the sudden election which followed. The Liberals subsequently passed their own bill amid claims by the other parties and the press that it was inadequate. If the feds' bill is inadequate, what can you say about Alberta which lacks legislation altogether?

•No matter what news editor Rich Watts or his

girlfriend says, *Das Boot* is a blockbuster. I agree it has some cornball moments, but it is still a blockbuster. I am *always* sickened by people who *always* have to find some previously unearthed insights into human existence, or some secret subtle symbolism in everything artistic.

Alfred Hitchcock's mysteries are great movies; among the best. Not because they are insightful or symbolic, however. They are great movies because they are suspenseful. Likewise many great horror movies. A great many of the Marx brothers' movies were great because they were sublimely absurd slapstick. They did some social commentary I'm told, but most of their stuff was snickers and guffaws. How long will it be before English majors realize that sometimes people just tell a story to tell a story? How long is forever?

•Isn't it amazing. A year or so ago all I can remember the federal Grits saying was how much their party was committed to helping out those who needed it most. We saw what they meant when they bailed out Massey-Ferguson, Maislin Enterprises, and Dome Petroleum.

•If you missed the article in Tuesday's *Gateway*, the External Affairs Board of your Students' Union is holding an information campaign on nuclear disarmament next week. Look for their posters and go see some of the films and speakers and find out if Jens the Derisive is right in saying that nuclear disarmament generally gets sidetracked to irrelevant issues and is perhaps insoluble anyway.

Gateway cruises for a bruising

The person who wrote the questions on the Cruise Missile *Gateway* October 26 is to be commended for the brilliant manipulation of language — assuming, of course, that he/she/it is in favour of testing Cruise Missiles. "The Cruise missile should be banned from Alberta. Vote no./The Cruise missile should be tested in Alberta. Vote yes." There is no choice in this survey: if one votes no, one is opposed to banning the thing; if one votes yes, one wants it tested here. So what do the disarmament types do (besides joining peace committees, attending rallies, signing petitions, and holding rummage sales)? I will be nice and assume that this fuzzy piece of writing was done during Press Night at 4:00 in the morning after the consumption of copious amounts of caffeine or more spirited substances.

Stray comments to Peter Keohan: The *Gateway* staff is composed of stupid, uh, student volunteers who have

given up their studying time to try and cover events of interest to students. If you feel they are too left wing then I suggest you join the staff to try and balance it. Armchair criticism is easy; getting off one's butt and doing something about it is a little harder.

Ninette Gironella
Arts IV

Managing Editor's note: There appears to be a fairly widespread belief, judging from numerous written and verbal complaints, that our Cruise survey was slanted or fixed somehow. All but a small minority of the complainants saw the slant as pro-Cruise, and based their arguments on the wording of the anti-Cruise option ("The Cruise missile should be banned from Alberta. Vote no.")

To clarify: "Vote no" means "No to Cruise"; it is not a command to vote against banning (which would make the "Yes" and "No" alternatives absurdly identical). There is a real choice, and we hope no anti-Cruise people refrain from voting because they assumed there was none.

As to the people who complained that the "No" option had the preferred upper left-hand corner on the ballot: you are entirely free to put your vote in any corner you wish.

Finally, to the majority of people who had no problems with the ballot: thanks!

Reality check, please

This letter is in reference to the editorial written by Andrew Watts in the October 19 *Gateway*. Mr. Watts declared that Prime Minister Trudeau was born 63 years ago yesterday and that 12 days later, the Great Depression began. I would like to point out that 63 years ago was in 1919 and that the Great Depression did not begin until 1929. Mr. Watts has placed the Great Depression in the Roaring Twenties and has made a rather shocking, historically incorrect statement. Perhaps, Mr. Watts should check his facts more carefully next time.

Sandra Corbett
Science I

Permission ain't promotion

It was especially frustrating to read the letters to the Editor appearing in Tuesday's *Gateway* (Oct. 26). In particular, two letters which attacked, from a position of ignorance, the New Democrat's stand on the question of abortion.

Gerard Liston's chronic inability to grasp the substance of the abortion debate has become tiresome. Mr. Liston and Ms. Hagerty seem unable to comprehend the obvious distinction between a pro-choice position (the NDP) and a pro-abortion position.

Mr. Liston proclaims that "no other party officially promotes the killing of the child in the womb." This use of slanderous misrepresentation to further a personal moral view must not be tolerated.

We, the undersigned, encourage students to reflect seriously on this attempt to dictate moral choices. Distorting differing perspectives of this complex issue serves only to illustrate the self-righteous intolerance of the "Right to Life" movement.

Greg Madison, Arts IV
Marie Louise Sorensen, Arts IV
Bruce Billingsley, Arts III
Victor Tanti, Arts IV
Orest Wasarb, Arts III
Don Millar, Arts II
Amanda LeRougetel
Darlene Milner, Arts I
Sheryl Jackson, Commerce III

Attack of the killer Tories

Re: Letters concerning pro-lifers and Grant Notley:

I wonder how many pro-lifers can list off the number of "womb" killings that have taken place in Alberta under Tory rule — or is that something conveniently avoided? Can a party be chastised for having the guts to write down something that has been unwritten Tory policy for years? Come on right-to-lifers, your slips are showing — all royal blue and orange.

P.S. Were any other party leaders asked, or questioned on the abortion issue?

Norman Sacuta
Arts III

Lawlessness in Law

On Thursday, Oct. 21, I witnessed a rather disheartening incident while cutting through the law center. Hanging in the foyer was a large sign announcing that Julian Koziak, MLA for Strathcona would be addressing students in a particular room that afternoon. A student took it upon herself to tear down the sign and stuff it into a garbage can. This was seen by two professors and half a dozen students who set down their law texts and applauded the action.

I'm not a Tory fan but I was appalled by the actions of these future lawyers. I've been led to believe that lawyers concern themselves with laudable principles like due process, political freedom, the rule of law, the right to an opinion, and freedom of speech. Obviously this group considers itself the law unto itself.

Gord Harris
Arts 2

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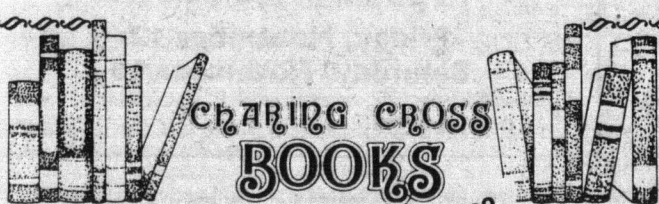
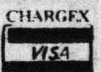
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