

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

Mind yours

I was in HUB the other day and while I was there minding my own business and bothering no one, some crude boor in an upper apartment emitted a great earthy belch, after which I suspect he sat back, relaxed, smug, self-satisfied and otherwise content with his lot in the twentieth century.

The belch in question elicited a remarkably uniform response from the bystanders; uniform, I should say, within the limits of committed acquiescence: 'That's HUB for you...' to bounding enthusiasm: 'What a clever fellow...' For me, significantly in the words of a friend who claims to be a liberal but who is in fact an unrealized conservative, this whole incident was understatedly 'Quite the outrage'.

It was not quite the beginning of the end of civilization... One solitary, if particularly nauseating belch will not in itself knock down our noblest traditions among which rank highly man's ability to *get on with his fellows*: that is, our sense of having sense enough not to go to war for squeezing the wrong end of the toothpaste or not screwing the tops back on bottles of make-up or forgetting to lower the toilet seat and so on and on...

Yet to hear *Gateway* Arts writer Geoffrey Jackson tell it (in last Tuesday's Second Wind column) - and also a good number of other people - modern (liberal) society is not so degenerate and decadent as some (of us) would hope.

Not *totally* degenerate and decadent. To be sure, the New openness, the New frankness, the New self-expression are great social achievements. I, for instance, embrace the freedom to split an infinitive at will.

But beyond such minor indulgences, all of this self-serving, individualistic, liberating nonsense has caused a marked, or in this case audible, decline in the standard of human conduct commonly called good manners.

It was written recently that "manners... has a fogeyish sound... not entirely egalitarian. Manners seem to imply class (wrongly)... and as well there is a tendency to equate manners (wrongly) with 'etiquette'..."

"Good manners," wrote Sir Harold Nicolson, "are inevitable... since they result primarily from one of the oldest and most enduring instincts possessed by living creatures, namely, the instinct for self-preservation."

If you look about yourself, you'll see how poorly we are preserving. Been to CAB lately? The inhabitants of that unkempt, littered hole in the ground were recently described objectively by a long-time campus academic, who ought to know, as just a bunch of "disgusting pigs" who have lost a sense of respect for themselves and their surroundings.

Why don't intelligent people bother to deposit empty coffee cups in readily available trash cans? Why, to take this to its extreme, even if the trash were deposited, must we hire janitors at all to empty them for us?

It has something to do with the permissiveness that accompanies the 'New Sensibility'. It includes the influence of the feminist movement, television, the breakdown of the family unit, left over '70's narcissism that preaches not self-denial but self-fulfillment, and... politics.

Politics has never been an honourable pastime, of course, but at least sometimes its practitioners maintained a sense of decorum about themselves. In our own microcosmic arena there is little class in the way Mike Walker and Bill Cottle have been slandering one another in the Students' Union election campaign.

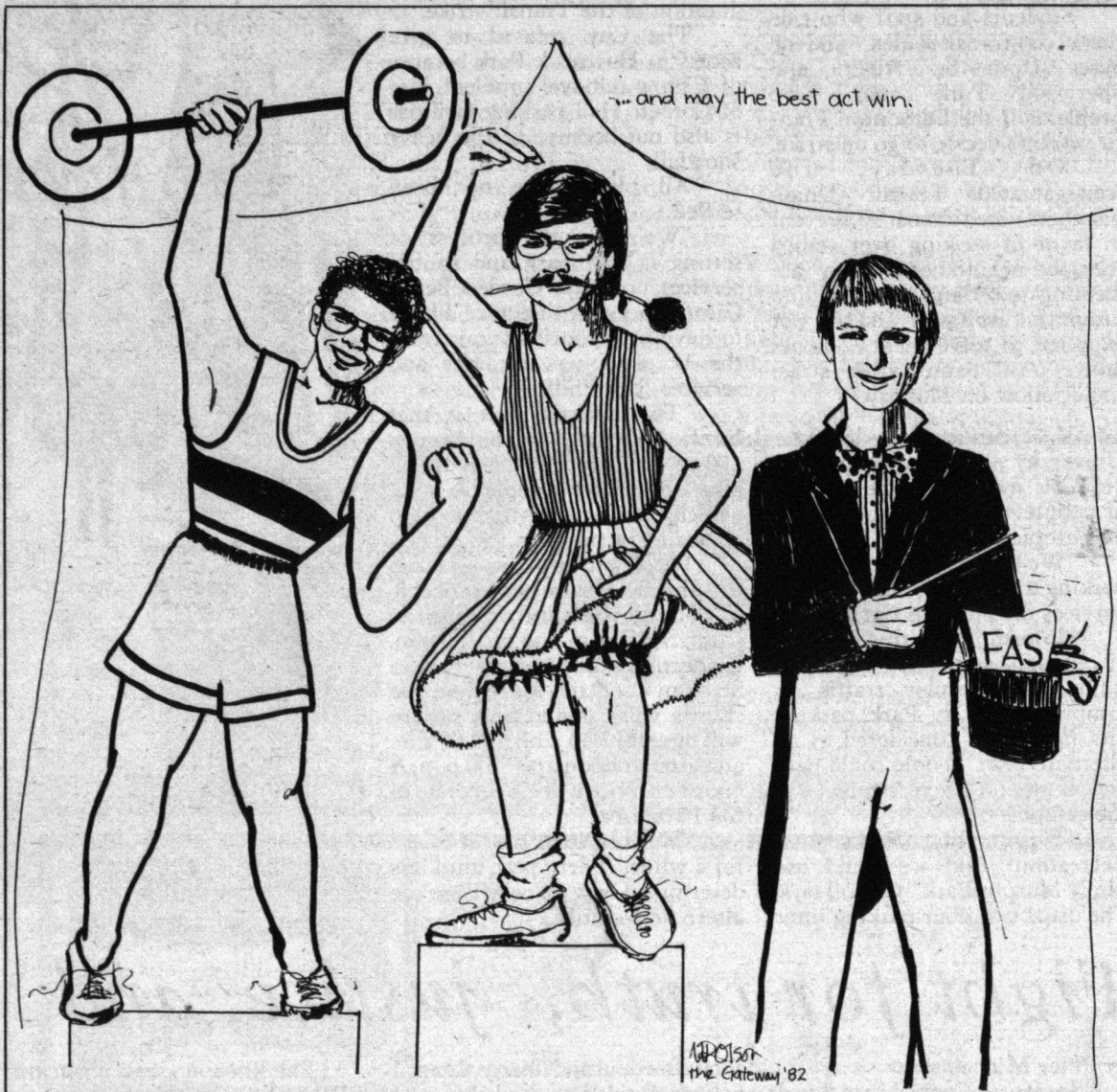
They ought to take a hint from U.S. president Ronald Reagan. Mr. Nice Guy in Washington has confounded his detractors and opponents who heretofore had American's believing that what the liberal press regarded as bad ideas were the handiwork of personally monstrous no-damn-good people.

Reagan may indeed be morally bad and personally monstrous, but he has the 18th century sense to cozy up to the very people slandering him in public in the first place. We all may be "disgusting pigs" but sometimes we try not to act the part. Sometimes.

Peter Michalyszyn

Clinton Rossiter, 1956, hardly an advocate of William F Buckley conservatism:

"National Review continues to interest, amuse, and anger me, and what more do I ask of a magazine? I don't get this reaction from any other journal these days."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Repent or face eternal damnation

Re: The Eyes Haven't Got it, *Gateway*, January 28, 1982.

What is shown in your article is the obvious lack of knowledge and apathy so prevalent in this society. Hell is very real, as seen in Luke 16:19-31, Matthew 8:12, among several other places in the Bible, says that "there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth".

Hell is described frequently in the Bible, and it does *not* paint a pleasant picture. (By the way, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." 2 Timothy 3:16. And Jesus, who is "the way, the truth, and the life", spoke a lot of truth about hell.)

Granted, the "scare tactics" you describe may not be very convincing, or true to life, but only because they're nothing near as horrifying as the real thing. Also, hell, life after death, and the devil may be unknown to *you*, but Jesus told us about each of these, so those of us who have a personal relationship with Christ know quite a bit of each of these things. There is no hope in any other way of life.

There is some monetary gain, and a certain amount of happiness without Christ, but all one can look forward to after death, if he is not saved by the Lord Jesus from hell, is just that: hell.

Being born again is the only escape from hell. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3.

We can't get to heaven by ourselves, because we're not good enough. "For all have sinned, and

come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. And "The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23. So by accepting Christ as our personal Saviour, we can go to heaven. "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief." 1 Timothy 1:12. This was written by Paul, possibly the most active of all the Apostles.

If someone is *not* going to heaven, that doesn't mean he's just going to sleep when he dies.

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." Matthew 5:28-29. Damnation refers to hell; life refers to heaven. The "good" that the Lord speaks of is doing God's will, which is accepting Christ as our Saviour.

Think about it. It's worth your time.

Beth Strong
Education I

Apathy as a platform

I am writing in response to the letter of tired, old Ed Blackburn in the Feb. 2 issue of the *Gateway*. He makes the statement that he is not apathetic. My feelings are that he must have been talking about the "important issues" with Geoffrey Jackson, in his Second Wind column, as they gathered around the philosophical center of campus - Java Jive.

Such a statement a "I don't want to get involved *but* I'm not apathetic is idiotic.

If the same issues keep reappearing repeatedly then any fool can realize these must be the issues of importance pertaining to students. I'm not sure what Mr. Blackburn wants to be issues: perhaps Martial Law in Poland, the El Salvador situation, or the cost of coffee in Java Jive. I wish he

could expand and let us benefit from his infinite wisdom.

As for his mention of the joke slate I would be the first to nominate him as president.

Mark MacNaughton
Ag IV

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, although we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Gateway*.

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Staff this issue: The slates stood on their opposite platforms. Mike Skeet led the New Dummy Party, guided by his faithful campaign manager Mary Ann Nielsen. Flanking the opposition, Kent Blinston led the New Dummer Party. Unfortunately Jordan Peterson affiliated the N. Der. P.s with Marc Perrault and Teri Paulgaard, ardent executive reformers. The NDP group looked fine with James Stevens hiding internally and Geoffrey Jackson externally verbose. Alas the campaign had yet to be decided by the dispassionate voters Garnet DuGray, Terry Hood, Ken Tsai, and Martin Beales.