

# Editorial



Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words in length. They must include your signature, faculty, year of program, I.D. number, and phone number. Requests for anonymity are at the discretion of the Managing Editor, but the above information is required regardless. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

## A little bit closer to nuclear war

Say it ain't so Joe . . . say it ain't so.

This weekend Mikhail Gorbachev made Ronald Reagan an offer that he couldn't refuse. Reagan, in his infinite wisdom, turned him down, choosing the SDI pipe dream over a concrete, plausible, and indeed desirable reality.

Gorbachev arrived in Reykjavik ready to deal . . . his final offer to the U.S. was the something the U.S. has been pushing for a long time.

Under the Gorbachev proposal the two superpowers would cut all numbers of nuclear missiles in half. As for intermediate range missiles all would be removed from Europe save for 100 to be maintained by the U.S.S.R. in Asia and 100 to be maintained on U.S. shores.

In exchange, Gorbachev asked that work on SDI be restricted to laboratory research over the next ten years.

Ronald Reagan said no.

His *charge du camp*, George Schultz tried to explain that the existence of SDI alone could assure that effective arms reduction would take place; a curious turn of reasoning.

Ronald Reagan is befuddled with the belief that SDI will guarantee the safety of the U.S. from nuclear attack . . . a belief jeered at by the top physicists in the States . . . physicists who are currently in Ronald Reagan's employ.

No matter, Reagan insists on clinging to the SDI dream grasping at fantasy when the very real chance to move towards a nuclear free world has been offered him on a silver platter with caviar on the side.

Gorbachev has essentially suggested that the two superpowers actually effect a reduction of arms, all the while allowing that Reagan can tinker in his laboratories with SDI toys.

Everyone should be happy.

Reagan's scientists' have been saying SDI won't work, they can go on saying that while playing with federal funds.

Those who would cloak Ronald Reagan's hawkishness in dove's feathers have been pointing to the fact that SDI is just a research project which is advancing technology would be happy and Ronald Reagan should be nappy with the knowledge that somewhere in Nevada, minds are tinkering to build his long sought-after Peace Shield.

But no. Ronny insists on having permission to launch all this into space. All this being . . . equipment which the finest minds say will never work.

For the sake of preserving his delusions Ronald Reagan has pushed us all closer to prospect of full scale nuclear war.

At one point while explaining the negotiations Gorbachev bristled at the Reagan proposal to both research and test SDI, "It would have taken a madman to accept that. Madmen are in hospitals, not leading countries."

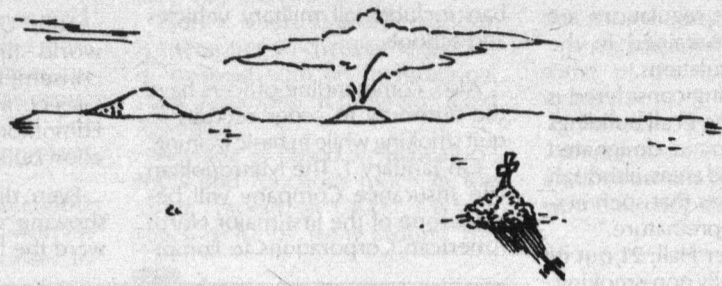
Mikhail, just think of the U.S. as on gigantic geriatric ward.

You and I can go to sleep tonight knowing that arsenals sit waiting to blow our respective brains out.

Kiss me good night Uncle Ronny.

Suzanne Lundrigan

**ICELAND (is'land), n. a sparsely populated island in the middle of nowhere.**



**Fig.1 (A VIEW OF ICELAND FROM ANY DIRECTION.)**

**GOR-BA-CHEV - REA-GAN SUMMIT (fi-as'kō), n. [Slang] see ICELAND.**

**WELL, AT LEAST THIS TIME A SNOWBALL HAS A CHANCE IN HELL..**



LUDWIG '86  
the Gateway

## Letters



### MENSA defended

To the Editor:

Re: "Clubs can be selective", *The Gateway*, Tuesday, October 7, 1986.

Reference is made in this article to MENSA as a club on campus which practices discrimination. The statement is made that MENSA is "limited to persons of certain IQ levels." I would like to clarify the apparent meaning of this statement.

First of all, MENSA is an international organization, not a campus club. The club on campus is called U of A MENSA and although it is associated with Greater Edmonton MENSA, it is a separate entity with its own bylaws and executive.

Secondly, one of the stipulations for acceptance as a university club is that any member of the Student Union body must be eligible for membership. This rule (as it was stated to us) was therefore worked into our bylaws. Anyone can join U of A MENSA. You do not have to be a member of MENSA Canada. You do have to be interested in meeting people, exchanging ideas, learning about the trials and tribulations of being "gifted", as well as finding out more about your own interests, abilities, and potential.

Perhaps I should clarify the use of the word "gifted". This encompasses a wide range of human pursuits — the Arts (singing, dancing, painting, acting, etc.), the Sciences, education, health care, athletics — the list is endless. With this in mind, there is no need to make the common mistake of equating MENSA with solely Einstein-type qualities ie.  $E=mc^2$ .

If we must be classified as discriminatory, then an interest in learning is our only requirement. Maybe a "certain IQ" is needed for that: I don't know. Don't forget, university is a discriminating organization. If you don't have the marks, you can't join!

Diane Salter  
Nursing II

### more MENSA

To the Editor:

Re: October 7, 1986, "Clubs can be selective"

"...Stedman points out that the CSA is not the only club on campus to have practiced 'discrimination'. He mentioned MENSA (limited to persons of certain IQ levels)..."

This statement, taken from the above-referenced article, is not wholly true. Mensa Canada and Mensa International do indeed restrict membership to persons reaching a required score on IQ tests. Taken in context, though, the statement would seem to refer to the university club, U of A Mensa, to which any Students' Union member can belong, in compliance with Students' Union by-laws. This is clearly stated in Section II, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the U of A Mensa constitution.

Kelley A. Cunningham  
Business II

### Biff's no dummy

To the Editor:

Re: comic strip *The Worse the Better*.

OK, so maybe we cringe at the characterization of the Library as a guerilla battlefield. But cartoonists Berg & Janse (*The Worse the Better*, Oct. 9) are right — it is an academic jungle out there, and it pays to be suitably armed. Biff is however not without support in his commando quest to find a book in Rutherford Library.

Along with over 900 students to date, Biff probably had the smarts to attend a Library Instruction session (Boot Camp to you survivalists in the audience) at Cameron Library.

Since September, the Library has offered daily library use skills classes introducing the library online catalogue, as well as advanced sessions on subject research techniques. These run until December 4.

P.S. Thanks to the Gateway too for its recent article on the introduction of the library's expanded online catalogue system.

Doug Poff  
Information and Reserve Centre  
University Library

### Copicard blues

To the Editor:

On October 7th at 5:55 p.m. I purchased a COPICARD from the Cameron library. Three of the machines which I attempted to use only took change; the other three refused to work for my card. A man standing beside me also tried to make my card work. I then returned my \$10.00 card to the circulation desk and asked for my money back. I was told by three employees that it was impossible. I said that I had just bought the card from them and that it wouldn't work. They continued to say that I must find another way to be reimbursed. One clerk suggested I go to the Printing Services at 8:30 a.m. the following morning and that perhaps they would attend to my problem. I do not believe that I should be put out of my way by being sent all over the university to correct someone else's errors! I don't have this kind of time to waste. As it is, I lost time that night and more time trying to collect my cash will be lost as well. I have really been put out of my way, not only because I work full time and attend university part time at night, but because I should not be responsible for defective merchandise. If the libraries can't refund money, the clerks should be instructed to relay this message to purchasers prior to the transaction being made, not after receiving the purchaser's money for defective copicards. I did scrawl out a quick complaint to this effect while at the library waiting for further information with regard to reimbursement. However, I was still late for class and minus my required copies. I shall continue, in the future, to obtain my copies for 10¢ each from the drugstore machines near my home.

C. Beauchamp  
Arts IV

**"I think I've got the solution to this nuclear bomb thing... they're dangerous, get rid of 'em."**

**— ALF speaking to President Reagan on sitcom "ALF".**

## The Gateway

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And the saga continues... Whilst everyone was out looking everyone for HER, Daddy-O could be heard pacing the floor, squeaky shoes and all. "Relax", Mark moans, "It's not like she doesn't know her way around this joint." "But she may have been attacked by the killer kaasa monster!" exclaimed Rod Campbell. "The WHAT?!" cried Brad Johnson. "Of course EVERYONE knows its a distant relative of the Manchi landi species," instructed K. Graham Bell. Randal Smathers and Alex Shetsen just scratched their heads in total confusion. At that moment Ken Hui popped his head in the door "Sorry I can't come in, but do you know where Suzanne Lundrigan is?" "NOOOOO!!" chorused Jon Ludwig, J. Dylan, Greg WHITING and Harold Courtney in perfect barbershop harmony. Roberta and Jerome were still arguing about whether or not she had been wearing her penny loafers or leather sandals. Alan Small interrupted in disgust, "I don't see what this has to do with the price of steroids in Brandon Manitoba?" Blaine just rolled his eyes and whined incessantly into his copy. Norm Selleck and Paul Menzies asked if someone could please let them know what was going on. So Bruce Gardave and Pernel Tarnowski with Stephen Pandke's aid, tried to fill in all the missing details on the mysterious disappearance of S.L. Lef Stout and Kourch Chan could be heard arguing points of detail while Emma tried to mediate... meanwhile somewhere in the dark reaches of the Cameron archives.....