

Shredding pro-gay views

I certainly do not wish to bore the readers of the *Gateway* with more Back-to-the-Bible-Time comments. I realize that the Bible is not a popular subject nowadays and it is not my intention to "Bible-thump" on homosexuality. If one prefers that type of relationship, that's their prerogative.

I apologize for not making my intention clear: if one wants to produce an argument that is to be given any weight, one must do so with credible evidence. Glenn Kowalsky did not do so in his first letter, nor did he do so in his subsequent reply. Nevertheless, I do take my hat off to him for coming back for Round #2. With the indulgence of editor Keith Krause, I wish to shred Mr. Kowalsky's pseudo-arguments systematically in a two-part letter and then I will be quiet.

Let's begin. You were correct that Genesis 19 speaks of Sodom. However, that's where your correct assessment ends. A fundamental element of rape is lack of consent. There is no evidence anywhere in Genesis 19 to indicate that there was a lack of consent on the part of those concerned.

If homosexuality is acceptable to God, as you would have us believe, then how can we infer that they would not have consented to the act? We cannot. The logical deduction, then, is that homosexual conduct is wrong, not simply homosexual rape. Let's call this one Blunder #2.

You were correct in implying that heterosexual rape is wrong. To answer your question posed at the end of that paragraph: We have not concluded that heterosexuality within the marriage bond is wrong because it

is expressly permitted in the Bible (Genesis 1:28, 1 Corinthians 7:2,3). That permission does not extend to homosexuality.

Now let's look at Leviticus 19. You blew it again here, Glenn. Intercourse with a menstruating woman is not "equally condemned" with homosexuality because of the absence of the clause "it is a detestable thing" in verse 19. I'm surprised you didn't pick that one up. That's Blunder #3. Besides, you begged the question here. The

existence of verse 19 does not make homosexuality all right.

That's all that the *Gateway* will let me say for now, Glenn. However, don't run away because The Shredding, Volume 2, is prepared and will appear as soon as it can be fit in (subject to the wishes of the *Gateway*). Don't worry, it gets better because your blunders get worse, all five more to be exposed. Hopefully we can conclude this in the next edition.

Grant Fedorak
Law 1

Eviction not justified

The North Garneau Tenants' Association has been formed to represent the long and short term interests of the North Garneau community. It is our aim to work with the university in maintaining all North Garneau homes while recognizing the need for additional student housing, for both the World Student Games and, most importantly, for the thousands of university students who will be making North Garneau their home in the future.

The N.G.T.A. addresses two issues:

1) We cannot justify the wanton eviction of students from their homes, midway through an academic year, especially when it is not in accordance with any existing university policy.

Housing and Food Services have been aware for many years of the condition of the houses. It is the duty of the university as a landlord to make any necessary improvements and renovations. Shallow and unsubstantiated arguments cannot be used to force students out of their homes.

2) Secondly, we wish to address the proposed changes in the area. We see the university as

having a major opportunity to establish a desirable student housing area. This can only be accomplished through the incorporation of the existing qualities of North Garneau residents of the area. We want to see the retention of the existing structures accompanied by a new housing plan which preserves the historical and esthetically pleasing community of North Garneau.

Don Archibald
North Garneau Tenants'
Association

LETTERS

Letters to the *Gateway* should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters must be typed, though 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*.

READER COMMENT

by Stephen Phillips

The election of Barry Goldwater's most fervent admirer as U.S. president could set American foreign policy back by decades. Ronald Reagan's view of the world and of the U.S.'s role in it is as hopelessly out of date as the movies he appeared in. But while we can laugh at *Bedtime for Bonzo*, a rekindling of the Cold War is no laughing matter.

On the basis of Reagan's campaign pronouncements, it appears that the Truman Doctrine is to be strongly reaffirmed. The rationale of that policy, launched by Harry Truman in 1947, is crudely simple: that the U.S. should unconditionally support pro-America right-wing regimes and should regard all revolutionary movements as contrary to American interests, if not out and out communist.

Such an attitude is patently unrealistic because it fails to take into account the circumstances that give rise to revolutionary unrest in a given country. It would have been disastrous, for example, for the U.S. to have sent troops to Iran in 1978 to support the Shah. Although the Shah may have been kept in power a little longer, he had so alienated himself from the people that his downfall was inevitable. U.S. military intervention would only have made a bad situation worse. At the very least, it would have antagonized other Arab countries and possibly have triggered another full-scale oil embargo.

Another "friend" of the U.S. who Reagan claims was let down was the Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza. To Reagan, Somoza was a trustworthy puppet

who was favourable to U.S. corporate interests and thus should have been supported to the hilt. Instead of regarding the Sandanista guerillas who overthrew him as an indigenous, broadly based movement which was seeking to rid the country of a corrupt and hated family dynasty, Reagan sees them as dangerous communists.

Such an assumption by Reagan is unfortunate since the new Nicaraguan government has not allied itself with either of the superpowers. However, Reagan can guarantee that it turns to Moscow if as president he seeks to undermine it as the U.S. sought to undermine Cuba. When Castro came to power in 1959, he had no ties whatsoever with the Soviet Union. In effect, the U.S. forced Cuba into the arms of the Kremlin by imposing an economic embargo on the country and then orchestrating an abortive invasion.

If Reagan has any sense, he will have learned from that experience and will seek to establish friendly relations with Nicaragua. It is high time that the U.S. did something positive and constructive to build up some credibility in the eyes of the underdeveloped countries.

Reagan's most radical and disturbing statement on foreign policy is his pledge to restore the U.S.'s military superiority. He ignores the fact that ever since the Cuban Missile Crisis, and certainly since the SALT talks began in 1969, the U.S. and the Soviet Union have agreed that a balance in nuclear capacity is necessary to

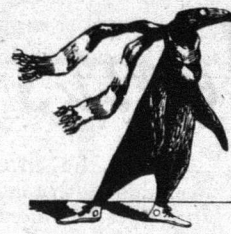
minimize the chances of nuclear war.

Now Reagan, with his jingoistic rhetoric, is advocating massive increases in military spending to make the U.S. so strong that "no country will dare to challenge it." That attitude, coupled with his rejection of SALT II, opens the door to a terrifying resumption of the arms race. The Kremlin has already said that it is not prepared to simply roll over and play dead, and it is naive of Reagan to suppose that it would.

Reagan's naivete again shows itself in his ill-conceived "Two Chinas" policy. Though for more than two decades the U.S. tried its best to make the case that the government of Taiwan, representing less than 20 million people, took precedence over that of mainland China, representing nearly 1 billion, even Richard Nixon finally saw the absurdity of continuing the charade. Reagan, however, seems to be caught in a time warp. He still cannot accept that Chiang Kai-shek lost the war.

It remains to be seen whether Reagan will indeed try to turn back the clock and return the U.S. to its role as guardian of the free world. Once his head has had a chance to cool down from the intensity of the campaign, he may, well pursue a saner and more realistic foreign policy.

It is noteworthy that like Joe Clark he has promised to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. We can only hope that unlike Joe Clark he has the sense to quietly shelve it along with his other ill-considered proposals.



Aspidistra

by Alison Thomson

Michael Foot has a road fraught with peril ahead of him. As newly elected leader of the British Labour Party, he has to reconcile his own relatively left wing beliefs with the political reality of a much more moderate group of MPs from whom his shadow cabinet will be made up.

He also has to deal with a Labour Party rife with strife over several issues, among which the method of selection of the leader is prominent.

The left, and in particular spokesman Tony Benn, has advocated a selection procedure in which the rank and file of the party would have a good deal of influence. Former leader Jim Callaghan and the party establishment have staunchly defended the present method, in which only the MPs select the leader.

This argument is incomprehensible to Canadians since in all three major Canadian parties the leader is democratically elected by delegates selected by constituency associations. This has never been the tradition in the Labour Party; the attempts of Benn and his supporters to democratize the proceedings have come under a good deal of criticism, both within the party and in the press.

Of course, it is more complicated than that. Tony Benn is a leadership candidate in everyone's mind. He has no hope of being elected by the MPs, most of whom disagree both with his philosophy and with a good many of the policies he espouses. He is much more the baby of the left wing constituency associations, who under a more democratic system would have the deciding say in selecting the leader.

Nonetheless, he is a socialist, and a very clever man. He is a leader. He is in every way preferable to Denis Healey, Callaghan's choice as successor.

Healey was commonly thought to be the heir apparent, but when Foot entered the race, things changed. Had Healey been elected by the MPs now, he would undoubtedly have been challenged by Benn upon the introduction of new, more democratic procedures in January. The results of this would be to solidify already hardening divisions in the party, to the very great detriment of the electoral chances of the party.

Foot is a compromise candidate. He is not perceived as a hard line left winger, as Benn is. But the labour Left will be much happier with him as leader than with Healey, who really would be right at home in the Tory stables.

Foot's shadow cabinet will be centre or right of centre, since that is what he has to choose from. His hands will therefore be tied as far as moving the party as a whole to the left. But he will be able to do a great deal to heal the rifts within the party, which Healey certainly could not have done.

The self-proclaimed pundits who are declaring that Labour has written off its chances of beating Thatcher by naming Foot as leader are perhaps indulging in a spot of wishful thinking. Foot is an inspiring speaker and a clever man. He has solid backing in the Party and in the trade unions. Furthermore, the Labour Party usually does best at the polls when it unabashedly proclaims its socialism.

Although Benn is preferable both as party leader and as prime minister in 1984, Foot will do well. Under his leadership, the Labour Party will again be able to provide a real political option to Britons and not have to rely on the crisis of capitalism precipitated by the Tories.



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