

What *should* have appeared, is the following: The Cruise missile testing comes *only* as a result of the continuing deployment of Soviet SS-20 nuclear missiles in European Russia, at a rate of approximately 2 missiles per week. These SS-20 missiles, aimed at West European cities, carry three independently-targeted nuclear warheads, and have the high velocity that's required for a first-strike attack on Western Europe. On the other hand, the Cruise missiles are subsonic and therefore do *not* have the speed required for a first-strike attack.

As you can see, the omission of that phrase stated a fact that is completely wrong, and would give many readers the impression that I have no perception of what I'm talking about. It is *no wonder* why Jens Andersen said I was a "dimbulb," and my argument displayed "irrationalities." Based on the "Gateway's version", I would have to agree with Andersen.

Although the damage done can't be reversed, would the Gateway please read their letters over 2, 3, 5, or 10 times over until they are copied correctly! When the Gateway articles provide just one side of the "Cruise" and "disarmament" issue, the least it can do is print the letters portraying the other side correctly.

Thank you.
Ken Shipka, Business II

Don't expel Oscar

It has come to my attention disciplinary action is being taken against Oscar Ammar for his part in the disruption of the Hillel Forum. In the context of this letter I will investigate the possible reasons for the Hillel group pressing charges (both with the U of A and the provincial courts) against Mr. Ammar. I will also state reasons why Oscar Ammar should not be dealt with in a harsh manner by the Disciplinary Board of the U of A and the Alberta courts.

Why is the Hillel group pressing formal charges against Mr. Ammar for his part in the disruption of their forum? Obviously, members of the Hillel group state the reason they are taking action is to protect their right to free expression of their beliefs on the U of A campus and in Canada. By punishing Ammar, it will prevent him from hindering their right to free expression in the future. There is one serious flaw in this reason, however. If the purpose of their action is to protect their right to free speech, why did they charge only Oscar Ammar and not the other individuals involved in the disruption of their forum? Was it because they do not know the names of the other members of the demonstration? This is highly doubtful. Was it because Mr. Ammar was the dominant force behind the demonstration? Also doubtful because followers in some circumstances act as leaders in others. Thus if the goal of the action against Mr. Ammar is to protect the Hillel group's right to free speech they would prosecute all the members of the demonstration (all of whom can become leaders of future demonstrations) rather than only Mr. Ammar. Instead, it appears the Hillel group is trying to destroy opposition to their cause. Oscar is the most important voice for the PLO cause on campus. He has been totally responsible for bringing PLO speakers to the U of A in the past two years and is also responsible, along with the ASA (Arab Student Association), for the dissemination of pro-PLO literature on campus. Ironically, if Oscar Ammar is expelled from the U of A, the Hillel group will be successful in hindering the free expression of pro-PLO thought on the U of A campus.

Besides hindering the free expression of pro-PLO thought on the U of A campus, there are two reasons the Disciplinary Board of the U of A (and the courts of Alberta) should not deal with Oscar Ammar in a harsh manner. The first reason Oscar Ammar should not be dealt with in a harsh manner is his actions did not occur in a vacuum. Rather the ASA's freedom of expression had been interfered with prior to the Hillel Forum by members of the University Jewish population. In particular, ASA posters had been defaced and ASA literature displays had been disrupted prior to the Hillel Forum demonstration. Thus Ammar and the ASA had been provoked by members of the University Jewish population, and Ammar's actions were in retaliation to their actions. Retaliation to provocation does not absolve Mr. Ammar from responsibility for his actions. However the Disciplinary Board should take into account the events which brought about Mr. Ammar's and his cohorts' demonstration at the Hillel Forum when passing judgement on him.

The second reason Oscar Ammar should not be dealt with in a harsh manner is that the action does not warrant as serious a punishment as suspension or expulsion. The disruption of a political forum cannot be condoned but fortunately it does not cause permanent damage if the demonstrations are discontinued. However, expulsion or suspension can seriously harm the future of a student. In this case, it could harm Oscar Ammar's future. It could even keep him from attaining a university degree. In addition, this is a time of high unemployment in Canada and it is highly unlikely an unskilled individual such as Mr. Ammar could find employment. Thus is it not better to give a man a second chance than to throw him to the unemployment lines?

V. Lauerman, Arts III
H. Lauerman, Arts II

Background to ballyhoo

In regard to recent barrage of letters in the Gateway concerning on-campus Middle East affairs, I on behalf of the Arab Student Organization (ASA) would like to clear up a few misconceptions.

The first one concerns the illegal shut-down of our information booth. In his letter to the Gateway V.P. Internal Ray Conway stated that he had shut down the booth to avoid a fight. Also he said that I, as

president of the ASA had agreed to this.

His first statement is an exaggeration, the second however is an outright lie. How can I agree to the shutdown of my own booth? The legend has it that I cheerfully agreed to the shutdown simply because I'm an all around swell guy and like to please people. What he failed to mention however, is that ten minutes earlier he threatened to have the security guards remove us from the building.

But what most people are not aware of is that the focal point of the problem was not the actual shutdown, but the fact that the Student Union wanted to "review" our material before we could set up another booth. The ASA stood firm against what was essentially a blatant censorship and denial of basic rights. After all, there was no formal charge made against us, yet we were asked to supply evidence that could somehow be used against us. The situation began to take on the characteristics of an inquisition.

At this point the Students' Union realized their mistake and issued two letters of apology. The letters, one of them from Ray Conway, were well-written and sincere.

I would also like to address myself to the recent disruption of the Hillel Forum. It is unfortunate that at an institute of higher learning, this type of thing can happen. We have many forums of our own and would not appreciate the same thing happening to us. However, I would like to ask those (Zionists) who reacted so strongly to the disruption of the Hillel forum, where were they when our function and displays were being disrupted? I didn't hear any self-righteous rhetoric from these same students when our display was shut down. Where were they when our posters were (and are) being defaced? Where were they last year when any attempt by the ASA to set up information displays resulted in harassment and threats? Apparently they were either perpetrating it or ignoring it. But when the Hillel forum was disrupted local Zionists suddenly declared an on-campus holy war.

After the unsuccessful Hillel forum letters in the Gateway ranged from genuine concern to outright hypocrisy.

One particularly ugly letter was from Prof. Berkowitz, Mineral Eng., a man of apparently invincible ignorance. A colleague of Prof. Berkowitz said in an *Edmonton Journal* article that the trouble started when Yehuda Levi (speaker at the forum) tried to justify the massacre of Palestinians at Chattila and Sabra.

Berkowitz in his letter, took it upon himself to accuse his colleague of being a liar. After running to see his name in print Berkowitz no doubt realized what a fool he had made out of himself. Just two pages back was an article by Gateway reporter Cathy McLaughlin in which the last four paragraphs were devoted to say exactly what Berkowitz's colleague had said earlier to the *Edmonton Journal*. Are the Gateway reporters liars as well? Berkowitz, the stampede wrestler of academia, would probably think so. In his seemingly infinite capacity to reject the facts, Berkowitz succeeded in embarrassing himself in front of many readers of the Gateway.

In the future I would hope that Berkowitz would have the professional integrity to leave his remarks and inter-staff conflicts out of a student newspaper.

Edward Shihadeh, President
Arab Students' Association

More fulsome adulation

So how the hell are you?
After a short absence from this university it is reassuring to discover that some things never change. Of course I am referring to this bogus pseudo-intellectual rag we laughingly call a newspaper.

The Gateway has lost sight of its function. Judging from this January 5 issue; SPORTS, THE ARTS and FOOTNOTES are legitimate and readable. The rest would make an excellent substitute for the low-grade toilet paper in the Students' Union Building.

Sure one must salute an editorial policy that would dare to criticize (sic) Prime Minister Trudeau in Alberta. It is awfully brave to print long dry letters which have nothing to do with this university. I'm surprised that the racoon on the front page allowed his picture to be taken!

What about the great lunches at the Power Plant? (With the exception (sic) of the french fries.) What about the Students' Union going broke? What about the World University Games? What about student suicides, fraternities, graduating into a depression, student apathy, the cost of books, our lost curling rink, those bloody turnstiles (sic) etc., etc., etc.

Please don't misunderstand me. I'm not knocking the importance of the racoon. At least that half of the front page was news.

It is easy for someone like myself to sit and bitch. Aside from two other letters a few years ago I have contributed nothing to the difficult process of putting this paper together. I do believe however that my criticisms are valid and my convictions sincere.

Cheers guys! Have a nice day.

David Paterson, B.A. Ed-A.D. I

...and even more praise

I must congratulate you on the wonderful paper you diligently mastered on Wed., Dec. 15. Bravo! You all have the knack for clearing the air with your sense of humor.

But — one thing (oh, oh) — "All About Pooh" was a bit too gross for me!

A student needing a break.

P.S. I truly believe your staff does snort coke — this paper proved it!

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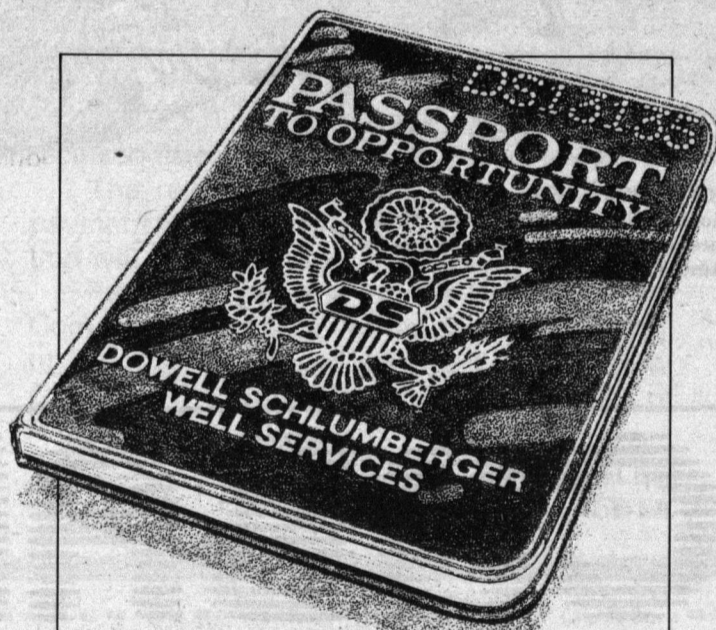
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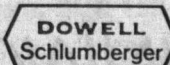
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