

gateway

VOL. LXXIII, NO. 4

EDITORIAL

Scapegoat time

Sometimes I really feel sorry for the United States. They truly are a nation that cannot win at the game of world politics.

To cite the most recent example we now know of the hundreds of murdered bodies in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Chatila in Beirut. These atrocities have been credited to the right wing Lebanese Christian Militiamen. Yet, I have not heard any mention of the word blame in the same breath. The blame has been split between the Israeli government (perhaps rightly so, but more on that later) and the United States government.

How in the world can the United States be blamed for the massacres at Sabra and Chatila?

The United States waited a hell of a long time for Israel to get out of Beirut. I think it was far too hot a potato for them to go charging into anyway but they showed some semblance of restraint in dealing with a rather stubborn Menachem Begin. But when the Palestinians agreed to leave West Beirut and a peace keeping force was brought together the U.S. was chastised for sending in the marines. No U.S. should have been used seemed to be the catch phrase. Because of this I firmly maintain that the Marines hastened their exit from Lebanon.

Now I read in the papers and hear on radio and t.v. that the U.S. is having to shoulder the blame for the atrocities with Israel because they pulled the marines out too early. The thinking of the blamers that be is that a contingent of Marines could have stopped such an act of violence, thus, because they weren't there the U.S. must shoulder some of the blame and responsibility.

The United States are in a situation where they're damned if they do and damned if they don't. I really don't believe that the U.S. should be held even partly to blame for what happened in Beirut.

I do feel, however, that the Israeli government should be made accountable to the entire world and should have to shoulder most of the responsibility.

It seems to me a touch strange that the Israeli army reported seeing nothing and hearing nothing when many, many civilians have been reported as hearing the shooting. It also appears a bit strange that the Israeli government apparently sanctioned the entry of the militiamen into the camps and then denied having any prior knowledge of the murders. The reputation of the militiamen should have put the Israeli cabinet on guard.

But let's suppose for the moment that the Israeli cabinet had no prior knowledge of what was to take place last Thursday evening. I think for an act such as this the benefit of the doubt should be given. Even considering this I still feel that the Israeli government should be made accountable for the fact that their army was in close proximity to the camps and yet reported nothing. Perhaps I am being too hard on Menachem Begin and his ministers but I think that suspicious word be an appropriate word to use. Suspicious of a highly efficient and skilled army that apparently did not realize that right next door hundreds of people were being lined up and systematically butchered. Frankly the entire episode seems so bizarre to comprehend.

The people of Israel are extremely outraged with their government and rightly so. If it does come known that the inner cabinet of the Israeli government did know what was going to happen in Sabra and Chatila then the resignations of Begin, Sharon and a few others should be handed in immediately. But even more important, the entire world should examine the incident and wonder how in this day, hundreds of people can be butchered in this way. This incident smacks far too close to the atrocities committed on the Jewish people by the Nazis before and during World War II.

I thought we had learned a little from that mistake, I may have been wrong.

Andrew Watts

P.S. There are a lot of really dumb people right here at this university. Yesterday a fire alarm was sounded in SUB and well before the alarm had been turned off people were sauntering back into the building. For a supposedly educated population, stupidity still seems to be the prevalent characteristic in people.

A.W.

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The Gateway is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta, published Tuesdays and Thursdays during the Winter Session, except during holiday weeks. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-In-Chief; editorials are written by the staff(s) undesignated. All other opinions are also signed. News copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays, News Room, Rm. 282; Advertising Dept., Rm. 256D, Student's Union Bldg., University of Alberta, Edmonton, T6G 2J7; Newsroom: ph. 432-5168 (5178); Advertising: 432-4241, Ext. 28. The Gateway is a member of Canadian University Press. Gateway readership is 25,000.



« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

The brotherhood of woman

We are responding to your little note entitled "Sexism" in reference to recruitment posters for women's fraternities. We would like to inform you that fraternity is derived from the Greek word *phratra* or *phratraia*, meaning groups of people with similar interests and backgrounds (not necessarily blood ties).

Thus, in using the Greek form rather than the Latin *frater*, meaning brothers, the emphasis is on similarity of ideas and ideals rather than on similarity of sex. We suggest that for your future public comments you do some research before writing.

Kathy Yetzer
Commerce IV
Barb Crooks
Arts IV
Proud Members of a
Women's Fraternity

Managing Editor's Note:
Webster's Collegiate Dictionary

and the *Shorter Oxford Dictionary* both trace "fraternity" to the Latin *frater*, and neither mentions *phratra* or *phratraia*. One cannot "use" the Greek form in preference to the Latin, any more than one can "use" Bismarck in one's family tree rather than the less distinguished people who are one's actual ancestors. Either a word evolved from another word, or it didn't. I see no evidence that "fraternity" evolved from *phratra* or *phratraia*.

An interesting side-light was thrown on the issue of women's fraternities by our resident historiographer and rumor-monger Kent Blinston, who has heard somewhere that about twenty years ago sororities were banned, and that women's fraternities were a semantic device to get around the ruling.

Phone calls to the SU

researcher Stuart McKay and the University Archives drew a blank, which left only sifting through old *Gateways* to determine the truth.

This process is rather laborious, especially since our files are still depleted in the aftermath of researchers putting together a 75th anniversary booklet of old *Gateway* letters (coming out soon, incidentally).

I did find, however (*Gateway*, Oct. 13, 1961) a reference to "three sickening sororities" holding a powder-puff football game; and (*Gateway*, Oct. 23, 1964) an article by Myrna Kostash on "the feminine mystique" which mentions "one girl, pinned and active in a fraternity..."; which would seem to lend credence to Blinston's story.

Time permitting, research on this angle will continue.

Gateway should clean up act

A few of the things *Gateway* has printed recently disturb me very much.

Your "ears" on the front page say, "Never imprison your friends...for somebody they could pour acid on your heart." No doubt such things happen but why stress them? The climate of violence it inspires seems unhealthy to me. Perhaps it is only a literary simile or something like that but it seems a bit dangerous.

Also, I think your "Outside sources" tends to promote marijuana use too much and needs some balance. There are many things still not known about this possibly dangerous drug and LSD and other drugs and great caution is advisable.

I am very happy to see your articles on help for students though, and I think your new

layout style is a great improvement,

Also, couldn't *Gateway* avoid all that profane language? I know I believe in freedom of speech just

as much as you or anybody else, but I am sure many people are really turned off by it.

Darryl Dypstuk
Education II

Outside Sources

Karl Marx was not above achieving a spurious air of precision (with unjustifiably exact numbers). In figuring the "rate of surplus-value" in a mill he began with a splendid collection of assumptions, guesses, and round numbers: "We assume the waste to be 6%, the raw material...costs in round numbers £342. The 10,000 spindles...cost, we will assume, £1 per spindle...the wear and tear we put at 10%...The rent of the building we suppose to be £300..."

He says, "The above data, which may be relied upon, were given me by a Manchester spinner."

From these approximations Marx calculates that: "The rate of surplus-value is therefore 80/52 = 153 11/13%." For a ten-hour day this gives him "necessary labor = 3 31/33 hours and surplus-labor = 6 2/33."

There is a nice feeling of exactness to that two thirty-thirds of an hour, but it's all bluff.

Darrell Huff, 1954
How to Lie With Statistics

Trouble arose when Kent Blinston noticed that John Algard's poetic licence had disappeared. Robert Cook took notes, while Martin Beales and Bill Ingles photographed the crime scene. Mary-Ruth Olson and Igor Gawanski sketched in the details. Robert Woodbury and Heather Ann Laird were prime suspects. Valerie Gjesdson had an Alibi, she was with Stacey Berries when the licence disappeared. That leaves just Brian Bechtel and Renee....