

EDITORIAL

Multi-journalism

I'd like to take this opportunity to clarify a couple of important points about your student paper.

The Gateway seems to be misunderstood by many people, not just students. You may not even realize how many people do read your "student voice". The Minister for Advanced Education has a subscription, as does the leader of the NDP. So does the Canadian Press Clipping Service. Even the news desk of the Toronto-based *Globe and Mail* receives *The Gateway*. And they read it. Our parent organization, Canadian University Press *scrutinizes* us while the Edmonton dailies occasionally write about us.

Sun writer John Geiger thinks we've become terribly right wing. Because our Editor-in-Chief seemingly endorsed the PC's, qualifying his opinion with the rationalization that troubled times are inappropriate for experimentation. (Stick with the tried and true?)

But what Geiger overlooked in his article of November the 15th is the lack of homogeneity in both our editorial and our writing staff. We carried two pro-NDP editorials and a Tory-bashing election analysis.

Your student's paper is comprised of Arts and Science students, Catholics and Protestants, blondes and brunettes and redheads, who for the most part, knew little about one another before working together. We cannot be that easily labelled.

And the same goes for CUP. Our fellow CUP paper *The Reflector* of Mount Royal College in Calgary "grudgingly admits to being a member of Canadian University Press (CUP), and adheres to a bunch of its principles." There are *Gateway* staffers with stronger opinions about our national news source.

The *Gateway* is also "home" for the Western Region CUP President. There are one or two on staff who worship the organization. Why should we consent to being pinned down as either CUP lovers or haters?

CUP's national ad boycott policy "presumes" a united front amongst its members. (Definition of united: two thirds membership approval on a CUP conference motion.) Whether certain members of our staff support CUP's boycott policy or denounce their entire ideology, I personally resent the assertion that we must all accept whatever decisions are passed down at the national conference. We are not a political body where majority rules. We are a co-operative. We share services, not ideology.

To label this medium under any one caption would be ludicrous. Sweeping generalities always are. If I can't agree with my fellow news editor about which coming events are of most importance to our readers, how can "the paper" espouse a "representative" opinion on anything?

We are a product of our contributors. Any person who feels abused is welcome to write letters. An honors English student who is dissatisfied with our literary coverage may feel free to bridge that gap. *The Gateway* was approached by Faculte St. Jean students who wanted their own French forum within the paper, so they contribute bi-weekly. Our letter writers don't commit themselves to the organization for life, but provide an integral part of the mechanism.

So be careful where you direct your next rude or endearing comment about the paper you support through your Students' Union fees. There's probably somebody here who agrees with you.

Allison Annesley

Pacifism and intolerance

The distinction that really matters is not between violence and non-violence, but between having and not having the appetite for power. There are people who are convinced of the wickedness both of armies and of police forces, but who are nevertheless much more intolerant and inquisitorial in outlook than the normal person who believes that it is necessary to use violence in certain circumstances. They will not say to someone else, "Do this, that and the other or you will go to prison," but they will, if they can, get inside his brain and dictate his thoughts to him in the minutest particulars.

Credos like pacifism and anarchism, which seem on the surface to imply a complete renunciation of power, rather encourage this habit of mind. For if you have embraced a creed which appears to be free from the ordinary dirtiness of politics — a creed from which you yourself cannot expect to draw any material advantage — surely that proves that you are in the right? And the more you are in the right the more natural that everyone else should be bullied into thinking likewise.

George Orwell, 1947

"Lear, Tolstoy and the Fool"

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Staff this issue:

News flash! Martin Beales and Bill Inglee announce that Kent Blinston, owner of Alberta Blue Video, has been arrested. Panic! Tom Hayward and John Algard phone Guido to cancel further orders. Peter Block lists the tapes and movies. John Roggeveen and Gilbert Bouchard screen a few flicks on the VCR; Aaron Bushkowsky notes the artistic qualities of same. Doug McQueen and Adam Wessel note that one actor resembles a staffer. Heather-Ann Laird and Jack Vermeé suggest a novel method of confirming the observation. Mark Roppel and Nate LaRoi review the situation and recruit Cathy McLaughlin as the judge. She and the unknown staffer disappear behind the green door...Hey, where's Martin Coutts?

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« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

Credit where credit is due

After I completed my 12-month term as Students' Union Vice-President Finance and Administration on March 31, 1982, I never thought that returning to campus as a student, kept apart (thank goodness) from student politics, would be so difficult. Although I am still in touch with the Students' Union Executive and staff, more and more I find myself relying on *Gateway* staff and the *Gateway* itself to learn about the SU. Actually it's not the information source that bothers me so much as the information itself. In the end, I still get to find out about all the wonderful things the SU executive has accomplished this year. Somehow, though, it all sounds so familiar to me that I could swear I've heard and even been involved in something like it before.

So the renovated RATT came this year. Isn't that wonderful? It sounds just like the plan Tom Wright, SU Business Manager, proposed last year to our executive, the implementation of which we proposed postponing until adequate funds became available.

So, they got the mortgage payment postponed half a year. Isn't that wonderful? Yes, it is, and it sounds just like the proposal of last March that we worked on in April.

So, they've finally gotten some kind of agreement worked out with the Universtiade. That's also wonderful, and it sounds just like the proposal our executive authorized the Business Manager to begin negotiations on last year.

Food kiosks to increase revenue are again wonderful, and again just like the proposal for (you guess it) food kiosks that was worked on last year.

Then, from the November 23, 1982 edition of the *Gateway*, I learned that this year's executive has "embarked on a policy of non-expansion and financial consolidation this year." That struck me as a notion so familiar that I had to think twice about it. Not only did our executive have similar plans but so did the executive before us (Nolan Astley, etc.).

I'm not saying that this year's executive hasn't accomplished anything. In fact, I think Roger Merkosky has done very well, as we all like to do within the constraints placed upon us. What I am saying is that the only thing that seems to change from year to year is the faces of those involved. From the article on page three of the same edition, it appears as if even the pettiness of the personal politics doesn't change. *Perhaps* this tells us that the financial success has more to do with the continuing efforts of all involved and not just the efforts of the five (or is it four?) individuals who happen to form the executive one year.

Elise Gaudet
 Commerce IV

Veep eats humble pie

On Wednesday the 17th of Noyember, the Students' Union, in conjunction with the Dept. of Political Science, put on a Forum with Edmund Omaran. This Forum dealt with the Palestinian perspective of the Middle East issue.

It was my responsibility to insure that this event was properly publicized. Unfortunately, I failed to fulfill my responsibility and the event was not sufficiently publicized. I take full and complete responsibility for this failure, and apologize to all students who were interested in the topic but were not informed. I also apologize to the Dept. of Political Science and Edmund Omaran himself.

Ray Conway
 V.P. Internal

Le Messurier lies low

Recognizing the importance of culture in this Province, The Canadian Interest Club decided to hold an Alberta Culture Forum this month. Asked to attend was Keith Ashwell. Mr. Ashwell's outspoken views on the lack of government reaction to the recommendations made in the Usher Report (I won't get into the controversy - that is not the point of this letter) made him a prime speaker for our event. Mr. Ashwell graciously accepted the

invitation. Obtaining a representative from within the Department of Culture was not as easy. After being turned down by Deputy Minister Jack O'Neill (he said he would not comment on actions (or lack thereof) made by his Minister) my energies turned towards the office of Mrs. LeMessurier herself. A day or so following my request I spoke with Mrs. LeMessurier's Executive Assistant who informed me, that while Mrs. LeMessurier would be able to speak to our group (possibly in February or March) on the Usher Report she was not interested in partaking in a debate with Mr. Ashwell, nor would she send any government representative.

In light of the fact that the feelings Mrs. LeMessurier has for Mr. Ashwell may have had some bearing for her decision, I find it extremely inexcusable that she would not obtain a government representative for us for this activity. It certainly is a sorrowful day when citizens are denied the opportunity to hear from their government. This is not to say this rarely occurs; it just makes it the more distasteful.

It would appear from all this that there may, in fact, be legitimacy to Mr. Ashwell's grievances. Why else would Mrs. LeMessurier deny herself or her department the opportunity to debate this issue?

Mrs. LeMessurier would have done well as Minister of Advanced Education. Tsk, tsk, Mary. Once again your slip is showing.

Sincerely,
 Victor Tanti, President
 Canadian Interest Club

P.S. Any interested souls may join our forum this evening in HC-2 at 7:00. I must confess, though, that the "perspectives" presented may be a touch slanted; possibly, rightly so!

Blessed are the meek

Dear Phyllis Schlafly,
 Forgive us Phyllis for we have sinned. We don't understand the evil, radical lesbian forces that have led us to think of ourselves as individuals, rather than "women". In light of this brainwashing how can we hope to fulfill our roles as subservient wives and brow-beaten mothers? Please help us find the strength to teach our daughters to love and honor the supremacy of males; and to aspire to the lofty heights of the bedrooms and kitchens of Doctors, Lawyers and Engineers.

Lead us not into the temptation of careers for we have come to realize the error of our ways. We should cease to pore over texts that teach us nothing more than English Literature or the politics of a nation. What good will such propaganda do us in our quests for husbands? Please Phyllis, tell us where we can buy push-me-up bras and peek-a-boo nighties. Teach us the proper way to greet our husbands at the door with martini and slippers in hand.

Should we drop out of university? No, we're only in Education and Arts, so we should stick around - majoring, of course, in Doctors, Lawyers and Engineers (the finding and keeping of).

You're right Phyllis, feminism and lesbianism are synonymous, and a woman's search for identity means the guaranteed destruction of the nuclear family.

Thanks Phyllis from the bottom of our hearts.

Dallas Millard, Arts I
 Shenda Tanchak, Ed. I

P.S. For penance? We promise to burn all our copies of *The Feminine Mystique* and *The Woman's Room*.

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