

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—As the drops gathered on the windows and the drips gathered in the office, another eight pages flooded forth. Those whose bodies were found washed up in the morning: Miselaineous Verbicki, Fraser (valley) Collinson, Dorothy Constable, Pat Kostyal (laying out for the second time), commercial-minded Janice Macphail, Cathy Morris (who is being shown how to do it by Ron Dutton), Dale Rogers, Ann Hookings, Janny Stafford-Meyers, Judy Samoil (news-ly retired), Kathy Young, Ron Ternoway, and Bill Pasnak (who brought the curse of the Coast with him). Also Beth Nilsen, Donna Brown and an unidentified dropin in burgundy tights—I wish someone would—lend me a pair.
—Luv, Harvey G.

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PAGE FOUR

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1969

Editorials

Get off those butts

There have been three meetings this week which attempted to tell students they had a chance for a voice on this campus and that they had better do something about it.

They were held to organize students in the philosophy department to sit on that department's tenure committee and to get political science majors thinking about representation on their department committees.

This is how the voting would have gone if the organizers had attempted any decisions: perhaps 20 for, 10 against, with 2,000 absten-

tions.

That unfortunately says something significant about the students concerned and most students here.

Here we have those 2,000 who never even bothered to show up, and yet those same 2,000 will probably be the first to condemn the organizers of elitism, etc., the whole unconscious bag.

But then, none of these "typical" students have probably ever been forced to take part in anything and now would rather be spoon-fed and governed than make decisions and help govern.

Gouge the gougers

We put people in prison in this society for a lot of reasons.

One thing we don't seem to put them behind bars for is gouging undue profits from those who can ill afford to feed the profiteers' gaping purses.

One thing about those purses: the fuller they get the more ravenous they become.

The students' union is considering compiling a blacklist of those landlords who feed their obese wallets by starving the already meagre pocketbooks of students.

Other "criminals" in this society have their names published in the

daily press.

Perhaps they have committed a truly heinous crime, and perhaps they have been caught smoking a marijuana cigarette. Whatever the case, their names appear, constantly.

The same should apply to those such as gouging landlords. If the students' union sees fit to compile a list of such persons, then it should publish it and there will be a place in the columns of this newspaper for just such a list.

Let's see how the other side reacts to having their name in that type of print.

Be fair, dissenters

Let this be fair warning to all those great crusaders who have complaints about news stories in The Gateway.

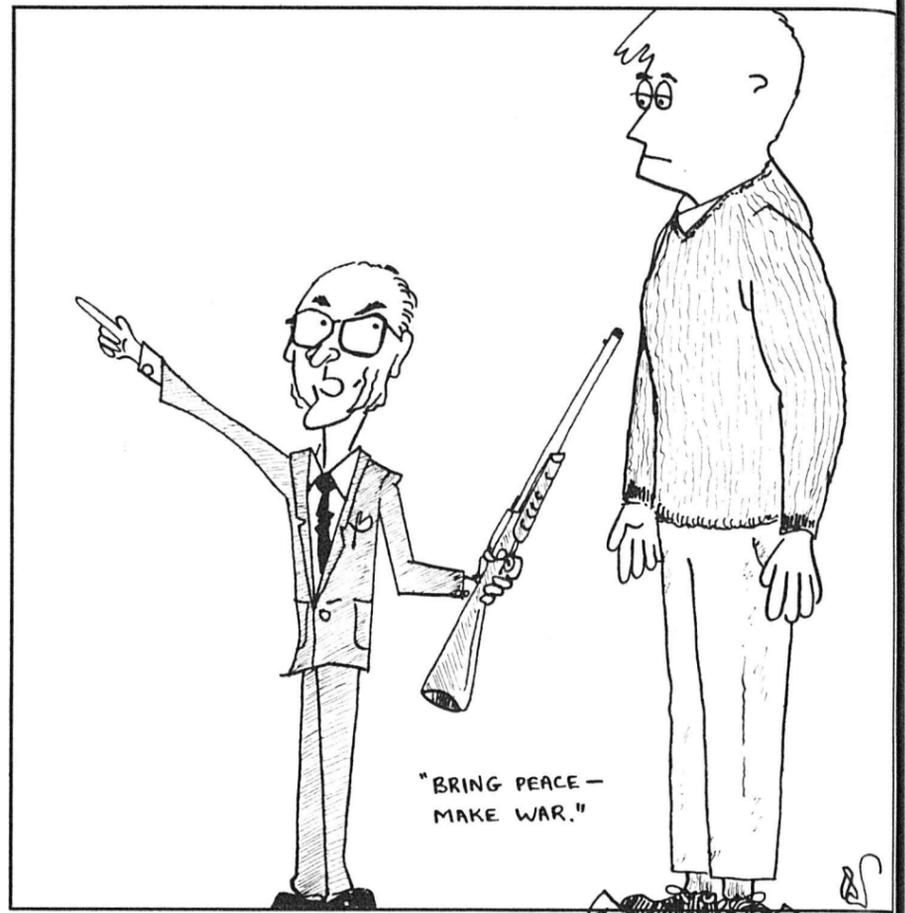
We receive our share of complaints, which is good.

We always suggest when the person complaining says our treatment of a subject has been unfair that he write a letter to the paper explaining the other side or clarifying the situation.

They very rarely do. We publish this paper in good faith and we make the suggestion in good faith. No matter how angry the dissenters are, we cannot help but question their sincerity when those letters never appear in the office.

The least they can do is take the same chance in publishing their opinion that we do in printing the news and our point of view.

Or aren't their complaints worth it?



The people in power are a threat to survival

by Winston Gereluk

An invaluable by-product of social crises are the 'truths' that they reveal about humanity, specific societies and even individuals. Consider what the U.S. test of an atomic bomb, and the connected protests, have revealed, for instance.

It reminds us that the world really is a very small place—a global village. The fact that threats to the lives of people in one part of the world are threats to people all over, means that no nation can act as if it were completely separated from the rest.

It also returns to our attention the grim fact that technological abuse has reached the proportions where it threatens the very existence of the human race. The strong statements of a multitude of scientists to this effect cannot be ignored.

What do these points reveal about those of us who feel that it is the university student's right to spend his years here as a non-political, uncommitted person? (What can be said about those professors who also feel this way?)

It may be that we have not sufficient faith in what the scientists have been saying, and therefore don't really believe that we are threatened.

The other alternative is that we have succeeded in detaching ourselves from the present-day world, and from humanity. Thus, when we remain silent and inactive in the face of possible extinction, we are saying, in effect, that there are things which we consider to be more important than staying alive.

We will attend to these things first, and then perhaps return to the problems of survival later.

This seems to be the only way to explain our apparent refusal to concern ourselves with very obvious threats: atom bomb tests and the stockpiling of

nuclear arms, the population explosion, increasing water, air, and land pollution, the perfecting of agents of germ and chemical warfare, etc.

It is not that the things which we are very busy as such as sports, good marks, wardrobes, and jobs are completely irrelevant. Rather, the consideration is what importance can these things hold for us when we are confronted with the very real possibility of personal destruction.

What makes the problem even more tenuous is the number of social obstacles that stand in the way of people who would act on their concern. For example, David Leadbeater was yielding to an obstacle when he felt it necessary to qualify his support of the strike action by quickly adding that he could not speak for the students' union.

In modern society, very few of us are not part of some organization or other. All of us can plead obligation as an excuse for not speaking out in the strongest of terms IF WE WANTED TO.

The frightful thing is that there is no hope for us if we allow our 'obligation' to an institution to dull our response to very important issues.

We are already half dead if we fail to react in the strongest, most radical way to things which endanger our lives.

The fact that the bomb test was carried out only underscores the need for prompt and decisive action on our parts. That it was completed in the face of stiff opposition from Canadian students, the Canadian government, many scientists, and (my gawd) the U.S. Congress, can only be taken as evidence that the people responsible are no longer concerned with the welfare of the people. As such, they constitute another great threat to our survival, and must be reacted to accordingly.