

## It's time we used the 'W' word

ACCORDING TO CANADA'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS and International trade website, "Peacekeeping is an important aspect of Canada's national heritage and a reflection of our fundamental beliefs."

While most Canadians sincerely want to believe this statement, it's time to face the facts: Canada is at war. This is not to say that we're an aggressive, war-mongering nation, but the days of blue-helmeted, Pearson-style peacekeeping—which reached its peak in the mid-1990s and firmly entrenched Canada's reputation in the world as a noble, peace-loving country—have gone the way of cold winters and Liberal governments.

The troops know it, but how long will our country as a whole be in denial? Even Gordon O'Connor, Canada's Minister of Defence, has publicly balked at using the "W" word—war—and at 67, he's old enough to have seen a few of them.

Our military has been in Afghanistan since October 2001, and according to the latest reports, they're going to be there for another five years at least. We have more than 2200 overworked and under-supported soldiers stationed there already, and now NATO is calling on its members for more troops—just as coalition casualties in Afghanistan have hit a five-year high. And since 2002, 37 Canadian soldiers have been killed, including four by suicide bombers yesterday and beginning, ironically, with the "friendly fire" incident caused by our American allies themselves.

But say what you will about the US' belligerent foreign policy: at least they can admit it when they're at war. Indeed, in true Orwellian fashion, the US has been at war or engaged in foreign military intervention with one country or another almost every singly year since 1941. It should also be kept in mind that Canada's war effort in Afghanistan is itself a branch of an American endeavour, the unendurably entitled Operation Enduring Freedom (our military leaders report to American commanders at the end of the day).

Of course, the US military is operating on a much grander scale in the Middle East, with the Afghan theatre a mere side-note next to Iraq. But the majority of American people presumably know what their approximately 21 000 soldiers are doing over there (fightin' the bad guys), and are able to form their opinions on their country's foreign policy accordingly.

We Canadians, on the other hand, like to pretend that our comparatively modest military is engaged in some sort of peacekeeping operation. This despite the fact that peacekeeping by definition entails third-party intervention, whereas the Canadian military in this case is one of the two warring parties (the conveniently faceless "insurgents" being the other at this point).

To be fair, Canada is doing more than shooting turbaned insurgents and dodging suicide bombers: military training, infrastructure redevelopment, demining and hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign aid have all contributed to the rebuilding effort far more than any American carpet bombing ever did. But the fact remains that Canada is at war in Afghanistan, with peacekeeping nowhere in sight—if for no other reason than because there is no peace to keep. The sooner we as a nation realize this, the sooner we can come to terms with our new global identity.

ADAM GAUMONT  
Opinion Editor

## My God is better than your God: Pope

IT'S A TAD IRONIC THAT, AFTER POPE BENEDICT XVI was lambasted by pundits the world over for quoting a medieval passage that called Islam "evil and inhuman," some Muslims promptly responded by burning churches and Papal effigies, as well as allegedly killing a nun. We're so quick to demonize the Pontiff's actions that we don't stop to think about whether there's a seed of truth in the dark dirt of his racism. He's the Pope, for Christ's sake. He's supposed to think his religion is better than everyone else's. Stand up for your right to be intolerant, Benny. The politically correct majority needs your hate and racism.

MATT FREHNER  
Editor-in-Chief

## LETTERS

### Maybe Gateway not so retarded after all

Brad Richert's conclusion in his 14 September letter (re: "Gateway breaks cardinal rule of journalism") that the U of A "is in dire need of a Journalism program" because the Gateway put sports on the cover is ridiculous in nearly every respect.

For one thing, he's clearly never seen any of the papers put out by journalism schools in this country. More importantly, though, of all the many criticisms I've heard (or, for that matter, made) about the Gateway over the years, this is the most ludicrous.

It is any newspaper's job to cover notable events in the community it serves. The Gateway serves the U of A community, and whether Mr Richert likes it or not, Golden Bears and Pandas games are notable events here, certainly enough so to warrant some occasional cover space that would no doubt otherwise feature some member of the Administration waving his hands as he talked.

Frankly, I'm not sure if Mr Richert has ever read another newspaper; he certainly can't have been paying very close attention, anyway. His assertion that "you won't find any sports on the front page" of the *Edmonton Journal* is just plain false. In the last two or three weeks alone, the Oilers and Eskimos have both been on the cover, as has the Women's Rugby World Cup [WRWC] (multiple times) and the retirement of Canadian women's hockey captain Cassie Campbell. Even the *Globe and Mail* and *National Post* have sports on their covers occasionally, albeit less frequently due to their national focus as compared to the more local nature of sports culture.

Besides that, if Mr Richert had ever seen the cover of the *Edmonton Sun*, he'd know that putting sports on the cover couldn't possibly be "the second lowest form of newspaper journalism" next to *Dose*-style cover ads.

The problem with the Gateway cover in question wasn't that it featured a sporting event, but rather that, on a day when a Team Canada laden with U of A connections was preparing for a semifinal at the WRWC, it was the wrong sport. But that aside, it's good to see the Gateway giving prominence to the student-athletes who represent us, and I hope it will forever remember their importance to the campus community.

JAKE TROUGHTON  
Arts VIII (!)

### Maybe Gateway not so recyclable after all

Why is it that this fine institution of ours, this bastion of forward and harmonious thinking in a sea of oil tycoons and environmental disasters, lacks a sufficient number of recycle bins for the nearly 40 000 people who learn, live and work here?

I'm not suggesting that there aren't any to be found, because I can list off quite a few locations where we can find friendly green receptacles to put our pop bottles and cans into. But what about the paper recycling? There are very few that I know of, and none that I can recall seeing along the entire length of HUB Mall. Maybe I'm missing them, but

## The Extremist Muslim's QUICK REFERENCE CARD on MEDIA SLANDER

### Source



POLITICAL CARTOONS



THE VATICAN

### SORRY!



VATICAN (Apology)

### How to Respond



Attack Western print media



Riot violently against Christianity (denominations are irrelevant)



Apologies are meaningless! These infidels must bleed!

**\*\* REMEMBER: The best way to deny allegations that our faith is based on violence is a humble response of severe violence! \*\***

I really can't count the number of times I've read a copy of a newspaper or magazine and could find nowhere to put it when I was finished. Sure, I could have just left it on the bus or on a bench for someone else to read.

But that's not the point. We talk about being environmentally conscious and socially responsible, but when I have to walk to another building to find one paltry paper recycling bin, it doesn't exactly show me the same message. Take a look in the next garbage can you pass, and see how many recyclable paper products have been tossed out (perhaps out of carelessness, but maybe because there was nowhere else to put it).

If more paper recycling bins were put in various places around campus, more people would be inclined to use them, I'm sure—because there aren't that many pop bottles in the garbage cans when there's a recycling bin for bottles right next to it.

LINDSAY STAMHUIS  
Arts IV

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to [letters@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:letters@gateway.ualberta.ca).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program and year of study.

## LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

### University life welcome relief from battlefields of Europe

Your correspondent has invited me to write a short letter to the Gateway, perhaps thinking I may have an axe to grind or some message to convey. I gladly respond.

It is very difficult to express the feeling one has on returning to college after an absence of years on an extended European trip such as the one so many of the boys undertook in the early part of the war.

It certainly is a great pleasure to get back to civilized conditions and cease to live as a brute. There is a great deal of satisfaction in being able to breathe an atmosphere of freedom and stay out until 9:45pm without applying for a pass or having to scale a high fence in order to avoid the somewhat impertinent questions of the Provost Sergeant (of course I never did the latter).

But while we enjoy this freedom we have to comply with the rigid rules of the dining hall and sit sedately at a table with so many knives and forks and spoons around that it is difficult to know the time and place to use these instruments.

The army way is much more simple. One is provided with a minimum number of the aforesaid

instruments and has the option of using them as one wishes.

The changes that have taken place in the college life and personnel are very apparent. The absence of classmates, of the college yell, and the changes in the personnel of the faculty all seem strange to a recent arrival.

However, with the return of the former students who are now overseas and the blending of the new spirit and new ideas which they will bring with those that are here now, we believe that the future success of Alberta College is assured.

In conclusion I would like to express my deep gratitude to all who have made life overseas more pleasant by keeping us informed of the events around college and by sending parcels of "eats" which reminded us of the home-cooking in pre-war days.

I would like to extend my special thanks to Miss Burkholder for all her kindness because I know how much time and labor it has necessitated. I think one of the chief failings of the soldier is that he keeps his appreciations concealed too much and because of this failing he is sometimes considered ungrateful.

Wishing you all a very successful year, I am yours faithfully,

T W MUSTO  
28 February, 1919

From the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance.