

Editorial

Plagiarism? Guilty!

'Innocent until proven guilty' is the underlying premise of the entire legal system of this country. And surely most everyone of us wants the courts to continue to operate that way. It is, by conventional thought, far more agreeable that a guilty individual be set free for lack of evidence, than to have an innocent person punished for the same reason. Unfortunately, the administration of the U of A sees things differently.

The most recent changes incorporated into *The Code of Student Behaviour*, (the rules which define acceptable and unacceptable conduct for students at the U of A) force students to prove their innocence in matters dealing with plagiarism and cheating. The new section is a succinct, simple, and dangerous passage.

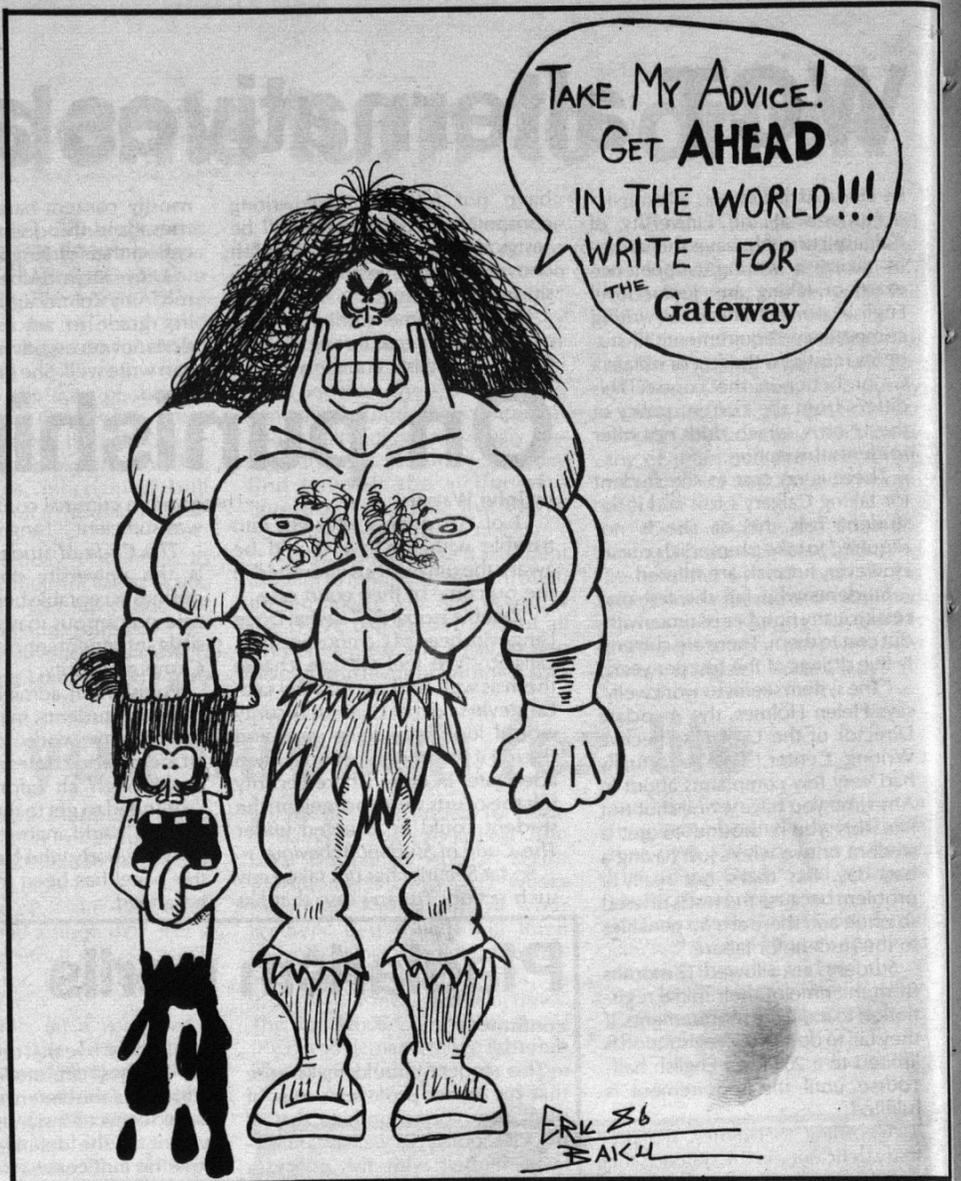
The significant change from the old section is that the phrase 'with intent to deceive' has been removed; students who represent someone else's words as their own are now automatically guilty of plagiarism. It is inconsequential whether or not a reason or an explanation is offered. We must recognize the problems of such a system.

"For practical purposes a student is guilty and must prove his innocence," said undergraduate Board of Governors representative Jim Shinkaruk. As Shinkaruk points out, errors of omission can occur. It is possible, by some oversight, to neglect to identify a statement made by someone else.

William Golding, author of *Lord of the Flies*, related the following in an essay. He had composed a sentence of which he was very pleased; later, while reading James Joyce, he was concerned to find that that author too had been pleased by the very same sentence. A while later again, he was amused to find that a third scribe (I believe it was Robert Browning) was also proud of the same sentence.

Mistakes can and do happen. A student found guilty of plagiarism or cheating faces severe punishment, including possible expulsion. Under the old code, fighting a charge with a defense of 'I forgot' was difficult enough (as it should be). The changes to the code make it not a defense, but an admission of guilt.

John Watson



Letters

Family defense

Dear Editor:

I am writing in reply to your editorial regarding the family. I believe that you are "throwing out the baby with the bathwater" when you imply that the institution of the family should be cast aside because of its abuse by some. Despite the problems faced in family environments, the family is still an important and worthwhile feature of human society. There is no denying the fact that many families are not pleasant to be a part of. As a summer worker in a forensic clinic (an outpatient clinic for criminal offenders), I've reviewed many cases of severely damaged family relationships. But to emphasize the instances of family dysfunction is to ignore the many more cases of healthily functioning families. Let's not forget the nine in ten Canadian women who are not abused by their husbands or live-in mates.

The best statistic I can relate is my own family situation. I can't say that it has been perfect, but I can say that I owe a great deal of my well-being as a person to the loving care that I received from my parents. We've had our share of problems and conflicts but we've had, as Christians, the benefit of "traditional values" such as forgiveness and putting others' interests before our own from time to time. A better remedy to the problem of abusive families would not be the destruction of the family as a social unit, but a return to these values.

Peter Dyck
Arts III

Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words long. They must be signed and include faculty, year of program, phone number, and I.D. number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, double-spaced, or very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

Humour

by Greg Whiting

Some television shows just aren't as good as they could have been. There are exceptions, of course. How could *The Bob Newhart Show* have been filmed without Bob Newhart? And *You Again?* is certainly a good title for yet another program with Jack Klugman, who has already starred in two successful shows (*The Odd Couple* and *Quincy*).

However, it is barely possible that other programs might have been quite good with different stars or premises. Just imagine...

— *Check It Out!*: Sylvester Stallone stars as a Philadelphia librarian who forces patrons to take books home with them.

— *Who's The Boss?*: An advertising executive hires a male housekeeper to find out who controls a prohibition-era Chicago gang.

— *Three's Company*: Brian Mulroney, John Turner, and Ed Broadbent share an apartment when the government cuts back on elected officials' housing allotments.

— *M*A*S*H**: A Julia Child special on the preparation of potatoes.

— *Charlie's Angels*: A motorcycle gang led by a punk named Charlie travels the highways in search of free beer.

— *The Six Million Dollar Man*: A star quarterback signs a new contract.

— *All In The Family*: Mike Wallace and son Chris expose nepotism in government positions.

— *Cheers*: Howard Cosell explains "The Wave", pom-pom girls, and the different chants used by sports fans across North America.

— *The People's Court*: A mini-series about Fidel Castro's decision to allow "the common man" to play tennis at his club.

— *Silver Spoons*: A knifemaker decides to expand his product line.

— *The Dukes of Hazzard*: Two members of the British aristocracy give up their positions to race stock cars in the southern U.S.

— *Hogan's Heroes*: Golfer Ben Hogan talks about Sam Snead, Arnold Palmer, Lee Trevino, and Jack Nicklaus.

— *Bizarre*: Boy George hosts a half-hour weekly documentary about himself.

— *Dallas*: Larry Hagman stars in this nighttime soap based on the life of George Dallas, a U.S. vice-president for whom a city in Texas was named.

...cont'd

— *The Price Is Right*: Bob Barker's mother searches for bargains at a flea market.

— *Benson*: A butler runs for governor. (What? You mean I didn't make this one up?)

— *The Beachcombers*: Two hairstylists open a salon on the B.C. coast.

— *The Young and the Restless*: A talk show for new parents who have to cope with three a.m. feedings.

— *20-20*: Geraldo Rivera plays an ophthalmologist.

— *Fantasy Island*: The federal government moves its headquarters to P.E.I.

— *Star Trek*: Hollywood actors accompany a Boy Scout hike.

— *Wild Kingdom*: A young European monarch encourages his subjects to throw big parties.

— *Golden Girls*: A documentary on the hood ornaments of expensive pre-World War II cars.

— *\$25,000 Pyramid*: Dick Clark hosts a documentary on the construction of a cheap Egyptian tomb.

— *Spiderman*: A college student fights evil along with his trained tarantulas.

— *General Hospital*: A comedy about an army officer with an unusual last name.

Sure, some of these concepts might not have worked — but Hollywood has been successful with stranger ones before.

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BE VERY AFRAID.



The Gateway

The Gateway is the newspaper of the University of Alberta students. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. All opinions are signed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway. News copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm 282 (ph. 432-5168). Advertising: Rm 256D (ph. 432-4241). Students' Union Building, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2G7. Readership is 25,000. The Gateway is a member of Canadian University Press.

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