

Editorial



Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words in length. They must include your signature, faculty, year of program, I.D. number, and phone number. Requests for anonymity are at the discretion of the Managing Editor, but the above information is required regardless. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

Don't smoke? Don't care!

So it's Weedless Wednesday tomorrow. It seems to me that it's Weedless Wednesday about every four months. I don't really know why, but these sort of things get so monotonous. A bunch of non-smokers self-righteously proclaim that it is better not to smoke, and then go ahead and lay on the guilt trip in the form of one of these meaningless "Days".

It reminds one of the Europeans many years ago who, claiming that Christianity was the only religion worth following, went to Africa to educate the pagan tribes on what worship was really about. Sure the African's religious practices were many years older than the whites', but they would burn in hell if they didn't learn the right way.

Weedless Wednesday is the same thing. Why do you get the idea that such a day was not originally proposed by a smoker?

Non-smokers have every right to fight against smoking, or to choose to avoid areas where smoking is allowed. But the line should be drawn when they feel they have the right to pressure the office smoker into quitting in order to be "clean and healthy". Then there is the subsequent guilt trip when the smoker lights up after a few days of abstinence.

It's not just an opinion that smoking is hazardous to everyone's health in our society—it's a fact. Also, when you go out at night, perhaps to a bar, you seldom return home without traces of cigarette smoke on your clothing.

There is but one solution to the problem. Stay inside of your smokeless home, I say, where you are safe from injurious fumes. But don't try to change the smoker by shoving these "perfect opportunities to quit" in his face.

If they want to stop, they will. The feeling that they are somehow inferior by lighting up is going to get you only one thing: a smelly cloud of cigarette smoke right in the face.



"SIR, I REALLY NEED ANOTHER PIECE OF I.D."

Letters



Bigger bucks? — No problem!

To The Editor:

I am dismayed by the current outcry against proposed education budget cuts. It is time people realize that the government treasury is not a bottomless pit, and that they and their children are going to have to pay back the debt. It is irresponsible and shortsighted to expect the money to flow as it did during better economic times.

Tuition fees currently comprise approximately 15 percent of the universities income. Nearly all the rest comes from the government. An increase in tuition fees is in our best interest in order to preserve the quality of our education. We will continue to receive a quality education only if we are willing to pay for it.

Bruce Beingessner
Business II

"...behind closed doors..."?!

To the Editor:

Last Tuesday's meeting of the Students' Council was the most heated and controversial meeting I have attended in the last seven months, but one would never suspect it based on *The Gateway's* candy-flossed version of events ("Cutting the Cuts," *The Gateway*, 15 Jan. 1987).

Permit me, therefore, to fill in some of the more important details of the meeting which were omitted from the article:

- 1) While *The Gateway* rather matter-of-factly reported that the S.U. Executive had introduced a motion "recognizing the need to increase (tuition) fees," it failed to disclose that the motion in fact proposed a 30% increase in tuition over three years!
- 2) The article omitted to point out that this proposal represents a repudiation of the S.U.'s existing policy of working against any further increases in tuition fees—a fact that was acknowledged by the Executive.
- 3) The article made no mention whatsoever of the Executive's attempt to hold debate on its tuition proposal behind closed doors.

In short, last week's meeting presented the astonishing

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spectacle of an S.U. Executive proposing to concede to a whopping great increase in tuition fees in the midst of a costly S.U.-sponsored campaign against government cut-backs to education. Dave Russell must be scratching his head in wonder at the S.U.'s apparent willingness to accept the announced cuts in provincial funding by agreeing to a series of hikes in tuition fees.

This is completely unacceptable. Council has no mandate to agree to any increase in tuition fees—in public or in private discussions with the government or the Board of Governors—until so authorized by the students through a referendum.

Stephen Phillips
Law II

Happy smoking

To the Editor:

Yes, it's true. There is now a well-accepted theory in the medical profession that smoking is good for you. The reasoning behind it is, in layman's terms, that the habitually lazy person who does not have the benefit of exercise to increase and improve blood circulation can achieve these benefits through smoking. The nicotine in the cigarette increases the heart rate for a sustained period of time, much like an aerobic workout. This improves blood circulation and strengthens the heart. The more often you light up, the more often you increase the heart rate. Another benefit is said to be in the act of voluntary breathing. Voluntary, or controlled breathing, is generally deeper than involuntary breathing. Thus, those deep drags of your cigarette increase lung capacity and provide the extra oxygen required for the simulated exercise of the nicotine-induced faster heart rate. These facts have been brought to light to the medical community by Professor Fether and Dr. Tarr.

Clay D. Jenson
Business IV

(Editor's note: Yuk-yuk!)

Racist engineers

To the Editor:

It is sad to see that ignorance and racism is still alive and well at the University of Alberta. I am referring to the poster hung inside the Engineering Building by the mineral engineers during Engineering Week. Only bigots would associate a safari with cannibalism. The poster, depicting two

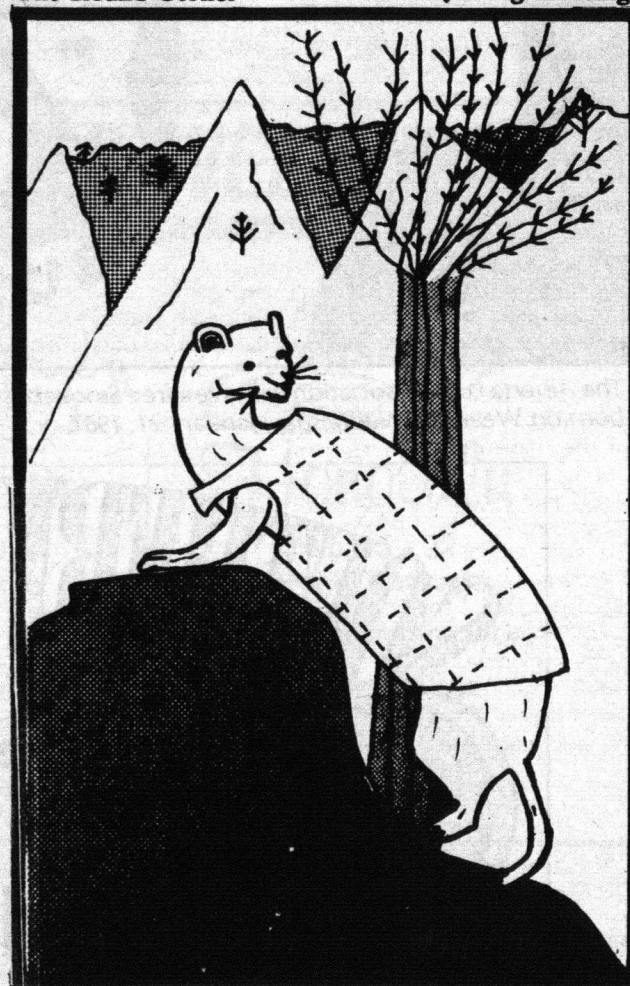
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black figures, a pot, and the head of a white figure in the pot, could have only been produced by racists who believe that Africans live in trees and eat humans for lunch. However, it is not surprising that this attitude still exists at a university which does not offer courses that may enlighten its students as to the rich and diverse cultures of the Africans among them.

Marid Smith
Arts III

The Round Corner

By Greg Whiting



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The Gateway

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