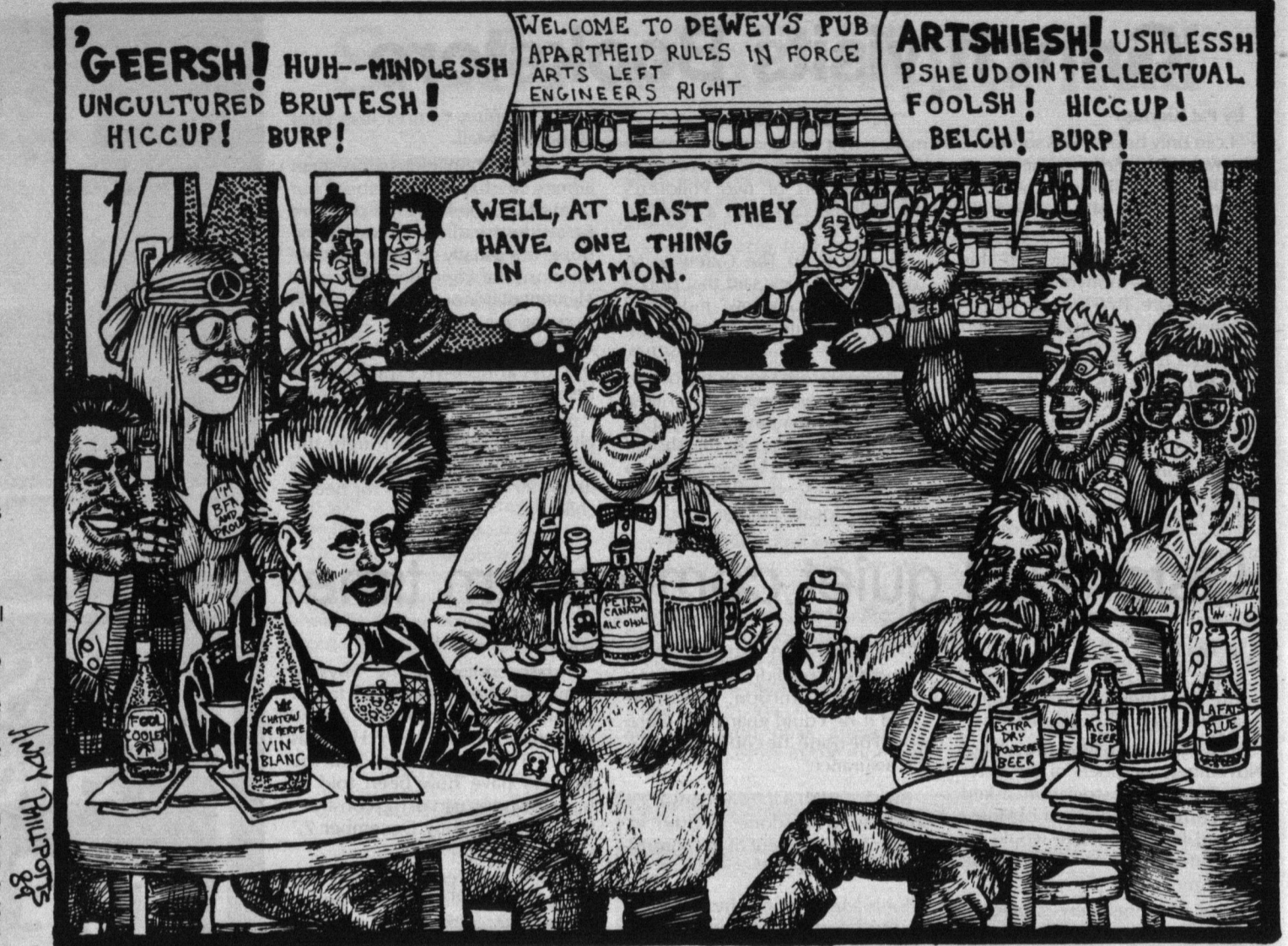


Santa's scene stresses seasonal store staff

by Lisa Hall

Silver Bells, silver bells.
It's Christmas time in the city.
Ring-a-ling. Hear them ring.
Soon it will be Christmas day.
Strings of streetlights, even stoplights,
Blink a bright red and green.
As the shoppers rush home with their treasures.
Here the snow crunch, see the kids bunch,
This is Santa's big scene.
And above all this bustle you hear...
"But Mom, I need that Batman beach towel for Christmas!"
"Why the heck are the fitting rooms so busy?"
"You didn't give me the right change back!"
"This store is a mess! and the line-ups are too long!"
"Where's the manager?"
Although the lyrics to *Silver Bells* paint a beautiful Christmas picture, they can be very unrealistic. If you happen to be employed in a store, in particular a department store, the latter quotes tend to be a more fitting description of the Christmas time experience.
Many people complain of the inefficiency of stores during the Christmas season—understaffed, disorganized, out of stock, overpriced. But one thing some don't realize—when they become frustrated and outraged in a store—is that they can leave, but the employees can't.



Employees have to straighten, bag, wrap, ring in, listen to screaming kids, take shit, and smile, all while standing on their feet, for eight hours straight.
If you have ever worked in a store during 'Santa's big scene', you probably have a lot of

respect for those who must face yet another day of shoppers rushing to get their treasures.
For those who have never had the opportunity to experience the thrill of looking up from a cash register to see a queue that trails all the way back to the toy department, try a

little empathy.
When you finally reach the checkout, after standing in line for three-quarters of an hour to get there, put yourself in the cashier's shoes. You'll probably find that his feet hurt a lot worse than yours do.

LETTERS

Please keep letters brief. All letters must include name, faculty, year, phone number and ID number (ID and phone will not be printed).

Schizophrenia specialist speaks

It was wonderful to see the centre-fold article about schizophrenia in *The Gateway* (Nov. 16/89). Thank you, Rosa Jackson, Jeff Shyluk, Joanne Elliott, Karin Cruickshank, and other responsible staff, from the bottom of my heart.

I have been working on my B.A., majoring in psychology, for too many years! While some mature students must contend with small children, I have been the caregiver, community support specialist, and advocate, for an adult son with schizophrenia. The drain on income and my time has cancelled my graduating within the limited time-frame in which my University education would allow me to obtain employment in my chosen field. My dream of becoming a psychologist required revising. I had to choose another path so my education would not be wasted.

The knowledge I gained in abnormal psychology and in English courses assists me to produce a monthly newsletter for the Alberta

Friends of Schizophrenics, plus the writing of a few articles which might further the care and understanding of persons with this devastating crippling disorder. I do not get paid — but what the heck! I have a valuable worthy avocation.

I would like to see other University students rally around this cause. A Walk the World for Schizophrenia is one suggestion. One hundred and twenty-five thousand pounds was raised by this means in the United Kingdom in 1988. Fifty thousand pounds was subsequently donated to Dr. Hugh Gurling's genetic research into identifying precisely, in terms of DNA sequence and exact localization, the gene on chromosome 5. Which proves... a little walk is good for health!

Eleanor Smith
Arts III

Cultural value in free ads

In 1983 Susan Seidelman created *Desperately Seeking Susan* — a movie based entirely on a woman's fascination with a character from the personal ads. As this movie indicates, personal columns like "Three Lines Free" (TLF) have become a dominant part of contemporary culture. Numerous people like myself faithfully read the personals each time they appear. Yes, I'll admit it — I look forward to reading TLF every Tuesday and Thursday. I enjoy hearing about what goes on in people's minds when they are being casually crea-

ative. Like a short story, TLF is a relaxing escape that takes up a few of the valuable moments in a hectic day.

To remove this enjoyable feature because of the mistakes of a few people who do abuse the system would be unfair to the majority of us who use it properly. Furthermore, eliminating TLF and keeping only your standard Personals section would mean that only financially stable students may send public messages.

Indeed, discontinuing TLF is comparable to closing down CAB Cafeteria because of a few inconsiderate visitors who break the rules. Please think of the large number of students who enjoy TLF. Please keep it a part of *The Gateway*.

Shirley Lai
Arts IV

Law posters setback sex

Recently, to promote a social function, posters were placed around the Law Building which portrayed women in degrading and graphically violent situations.

When I first heard of these posters, I felt disbelief, embarrassment and humiliation. Disbelief in the fact that a quality institution in pursuit of a higher education can house such barbaric thinking. Embarrassment that I am a member of this institution and will unfortunately be indirectly associated with this thinking. Humiliation as a woman who has worked hard to obtain respect for my sex.

The Law faculty houses our future makers, judges and public defenders. How can we expect these people to defend our rights when they do not understand the rights that they are offending?

I have also been told that these posters are to be considered a "joke", but I see no humor in portraying women in a demeaning and harmful manner. It is such complacent attitudes which contributes to the continued devaluation of women in our society.

Jill Saive
Science III

Santa's stuff sadly stolen

Dear Editor,
I'm not even sure where to start this letter because I am so outraged at the apparent callousness of some individual on this campus.

Sad, pathetic, and low are some of the more polite words that can be published in *The Gateway* to describe this individual—I cannot

dignify it with the term person or human being.

To the individual that took the first donation in the Santa's Anonymous bin in the Bookstore, I hope you find valid use for the two children's shirts, the toys and the coloring book, although I doubt that your intelligence level will

enable you to read this.

Don't worry though, I have replaced my donation, maybe this time it will get to the rightful destination.

Oh! By the way, Merry Christmas.

Bill Quick
U of A Bookstore



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