

editorial

Old assistance sham

Ah yes, the old rental assistance association game. It's an infestation in this province that isn't likely to be removed easily.

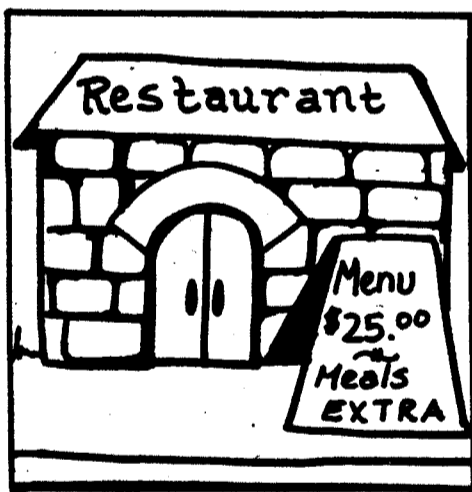
I think most of the people reading this column know how it works. A person out of housing reads the classifieds in a local rag, finds a cherry of a deal on a beautiful house at a fantastic rent and wants to live there. Where is it? Aha, the "assistance" association will tell you - for twenty five bucks. A two minute phone call tells the person the place has already been rented, or will only accept married couples, or will force him/her to part with his/her pet goldfish. The poor sucker is now both out of housing and out of twenty five bucks. It's an old game.

One friend of mine who worked on a student newspaper in Victoria went that route out here. Having been burned she went to the Better Business Bureau for answers.

What she received for her effort was a poignant "this girl is a liar" underlined twice in bold print. The matter is still before the BBB; but I suspect little more can be wrested from them.

My advice is keep away from these jackals. The BBB can do little to help anyone burned by their system. Granted, they have the housing market by the balls again after the SU's Housing Registry closes down, and little accomodation can be found without their "help".

But before you sign anything or pay for anything make sure the place you're looking for is not rented out from under you, or is the kind of place you want. If you can't be satisfied with their answers, don't pay for the address, eight chances out of ten you'll be paying for a bummer.



Greg Neiman

DESIGN THIS PAGE!

- *Interested in the aesthetics of newspaper production?
- *Do untapped creative juices flow within you?
- *Wanna mess around with scalpels and hot wax?

Then you'll be sure to want to attend the **Seminar on Production** (An intro to the arts of Paste-Up and Layout).

TONIGHT
7:00 PM
Rm 238 SUB (Media Productions)

PS. All Editors are urged to attend. New staff, especially those wishing to work on Gateway's production this season, are invited.

READER COMMENT

Support the run

What is mental retardation? What causes mental retardation?

What is being done about those young persons who are mentally retarded?

These are questions that do not usually concern university students. The median Intelligence Quotient for the whole population is 100. It follows that all those who score above 100 on the I.Q. tests, which includes all university students, are above average intelligence. Conversely, those that score below 100 on these tests are below average intelligence. It is a mathematical inevitability that if there are to be geniuses at one end of the scale...there must be those of comparable low mental activity at the other end of the curve. Looking at it this way the non-existence of cases of mental retardation would be an unusual break away from the law of averages. In consequence, unless we are to call the geniuses 'not normal', we ought call the retardate 'not normal'. After all he is part of our society and we *must* live with his existence.

It is the fact of the mental retardate's existence that this personal plea goes out to you.

As an intelligent audience I am confident in the knowledge that your knowledge of the causes of mental retardation is greater than my limited acquaintance with the subject. We all realize that mental retardation can be traced to many often avoidable conditions. Pre-natal and post-natal malnutrition, the disturbance of the chemical balance of the human system by drug use, the exposure of the very young to excessive trauma. Other causes are congenital, that is, the child is born with weaknesses, and it is in those conditions that there is almost no control. Chief among these are chromosomal abnormalities.

It is not the purpose of this article to provide a history of mental retardation. Suffice to note that an I.Q. of 70 and below is regarded, by many, as mentally retarded. It is believed that approximately 3% of the population is labelled as mental retardates.

The fact that such a large number of persons in our society is so labelled does not preclude them from participation as members of this our, and their society. As human beings this label does not prohibit these individuals from the emotions, frustrations, and needs of a "normal" person.

The principal of Winnifred Stewart School in a presentation to the Phi Gamma Delta brothers emphasized this very fact. The students, he related, were found by the staff to exhibit individual personalities as varied as one would find in any social setting, one for each individual. We must remember that the students of Winnifred Stewart School are not mentally ill, though they can, as indeed it is possible for all of us to become mentally ill. These students only "appear" to be mentally deficient because of their low functioning. They can become mentally ill just as other persons can, and would, if they were placed in a situation where they are badgered, made fun of, ridiculed, or downgraded. They can learn to distrust others if they meet too many who cannot be trusted; they can learn all the poor social habits and questionable behavior of nor-

mal persons if they are so taught." Do they sound to be all that abnormal in these personality traits than we above-average persons? (A salient point to remember is that in appearance the mental retardate is usually no different from the normal person, look around you!)

The Winnifred Stewart School is an educational facility. It is geared to its clients as the University of Alberta is ideally geared to its clients. The School's challenge to society is have society refute the popular notion that the mentally retarded are not normal, that the mentally retarded do not have a legitimate right to participate in contemporary society.

A primary, fundamental aim of the school is to help the children feel secure and happy in the family, school, and in the society. This is not an easy task. Social and emotional needs of the children then, as one would expect, hold extremely high priorities in the educational tasks of the school and its staff. A full compliment of trained and experienced professionals with supportive staffs.

Winnifred Stewart School and the Western Industrial Research and Training Centre provide excellent opportunities for the mental retardate children to practice and learn skills. These skills are not merely technical or crafts but also

social and intellectual. In this way the children and "graduates" can become happy and functional. But perhaps the most important aspect of the whole experience, and that which I wish to impress upon those readers that have kept with me through this piece, instead of bemoaning their own condition they are able to feel, as they should, that they are in a society that accepts them as they are. If this does not happen it will be a burden that should rest heavily upon our minds.

This is the challenge that has been thrown down to us.

I wish to note that on September 27th, 1975, the brothers, pledges and rushees of the Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta are staging the first charity run from Red Deer to Edmonton. The beneficiary this year is Winnifred Stewart School. We are asking only that the students of U. of A. provide them with some support in this undertaking. Should you desire to assist in any manner whatsoever feel free to telephone 439-7955 or drop in at the house (there is always somebody at home) 11003-90 Ave, or STOP at our booth in SUB between Friday 19th and Friday 26th.

We thank you for your assistance and support.

Mike Owen
Run Committee

letters

Be a pen pal

We beg to inform you that our club, which is one of the many clubs in Chulalongkorn University, the biggest university in Thailand, has the main purpose to establish relationship between students here and foreign peoples by means of pen-friends. In this way, we can exchange opinions about each other's culture, way of living etc. You can learn more about our country as well.

Please inform those students in your university who want to contact Thai students that they may send us their names and addressed together with some brief information, so that we can arrange pen-friends for them.

Your kind cooperation in this matter will be highly appreciated.

Miss Jenchitt Korveerakiti
Chief of The Pen Friend
Department
The Student Union of
Chulalongkorn University
Foreign Relations Club
Phya Thai Road
Bangkok, Thailand

Teacher boycott

We the Education Students' Association representing the Education students on campus wish to state at this time that we

feel that a serious problem has arisen concerning the Extended Practicum Program. The problem is that students can not fulfill their student teaching requirements for degrees and teaching certifications.

At the present time a number of students involved in Extended Practicum are being

seriously affected. The Extended Practicum Program will increase the amount of time that

student teachers spend in the classroom thus greatly enhancing the teacher qualifications.

We feel that any move to upgrade teacher training will in the long run have positive affects

on the quality of education in Alberta.

If this problem is not alleviated in short order, the programs of a large number of educational students will be in

jeopardy. It is therefore the position of the Education Students' Association that the

problems concerning the Extended Practicum Program be alleviated at the earliest possible

time so that serious ramifications do not arise. We urge all parties concerned to

keep in mind the time factor and the impact on the individual students. Whether the solution

is temporary or final, we feel that immediate action is of the essence.

Richard Magee
President
Lorne Goshko
Vice President
Rita Zetsen
Secretary Treasurer
Jim Ryan
Extended Practicum