



editorial

Social, but not serviceable

Sports not for the masses

When a student pays his or her \$15.00 to the UAB he or she should expect more than just free entrance to home intercollegiate games. We pay as well for the use of recreational facilities.

I hate to see my \$15.00 going toward the support of a handful of athlete's exclusive use of facilities which I feel I could enjoy just as well myself.

Last weekend, little more than a couple of hours was allowed to students to use recreation facilities. After a short warm-up period, students were summarily booted out of the gym in the Phys. Ed. building to allow the Junior Pandas to play. Fine. We'll come back tomorrow. But Sunday was scheduled for an intervarsity volleyball tourney, we found later.

Going back to the dressing room to complain, I found that free time for students use is scheduled between the hours of 1 a.m. and 7 a.m. Saturdays and Su days, if you don't get caught breaking and entering.

On further investigation, I found the reason students can only use their rec facilities illegally is because the scheduling committee of the UAB sets its priorities solely to accomodate intervarsity squads, being firm in the belief that sports are not for the masses to participate in, but to watch.

After all, says the scheduling committee, if you're too fat, too small, or too smart to be a Golden Bear, what right have you to use facilities that have been designed for their use?

Look at the nice plexiglass backboards, do you think your incompetent hands should bounce basketballs off it? Look at the shiny floor, should your adidas mar its excellence, designed specifically for Golden Bears' use? Certainly not, says the scheduling committee, your \$15.00 just barely covers upkeep on these beautiful facilities.

Then why can't we use the West gym or the Education gym for our lesser-than-intercollegiate sports activities? Why don't you go fly a kite, says the scheduling committee.

I guess we'll have to, because there's no way we're to be allowed into the gym except to sit in the bleachers and get slivers in our rears.

And, asking around, I've heard complaints from students in more areas than simple incompetence on the part of the scheduling committee.

I think the major shareholders of the UAB should be allowed to phone in bookings of raquetball and squash courts, just like university staff. We find students lining up at 7 a.m. to wait their turn to play raquetball or squash, when our profs just phone in a reservation and saunter by. Smacks of herring.

As well, I think the students should know where the coffee machines at the arena are. Then we'd be able to find the person who's supposed to be sharpening skates at a buck a go during certain hours of the day, like the sign says. Smacks of false advertising.

The University of Calgary students did away with their UAB because they felt it was geared too highly toward the promotion and edification of intervarsity sports. I can't gauge if there's been much improvement, since, but at least the replacement has been a little more knowledgeable of the hand that feeds it.

Greg Neiman

General Staff Meeting!

7:30 Tuesday Nov. 25. Open for all staff. Come and discuss our general policy, the upcoming party, raise a few beefs, become "refreshed". Important issues need your input. See you there.

(Don't forget, time for regular weekly meetings has been moved to 3:30 Thursdays.)

Premier Peter Lougheed, in his opening address to the present Legislative session, made eloquent allusion to the economic stability, prosperity and comfortable standard of living enjoyed in the residents of this province. Furthermore, the media have recently promulgated various stories which could conceivably lead the listener to suspect the verity of this statement: Several government members were able to prance around Europe at the taxpayer's expense, the Alberta Liquor Control Board's profits have reached \$82 million, new industries have moved in, and Alberta still sees no necessity for a provincial sales tax; all of which bespeaks prosperity, bulging wallets, comfort and health.

Unfortunately, those who reap the profits of this admirable condition are the MLA's (politically), private business (financially) and outside the province beneficiaries (such as poorer provinces). The Government of Alberta has no funds to bestow upon its Social Service employees which will bring them anywhere close to receiving a stipend comparable to similar employees in other Canadian provinces and private agencies. Indeed, many Social Service workers receive a salary which is scarcely more than the dole received by their clientele.

It seems incongruous that persons who have invested considerable time and money into obtaining a post-secondary education and wish to work with

READER COMMENT

people should be considered of secondary importance to those who (devoid of initiative and only marginally literate) choose to spend their hours stapling cartons or sorting mail. Yet this attitude is clearly evidenced by the fact that employees in the latter occupations receive \$800 to \$1000 per month (and continue to demand more) while Social Workers in Alberta start at \$752.

That Social Service employees receive compensating "job satisfaction" is an argument which can no longer be considered viable in the face of inflation and the demands of their jobs. Unlike their industrially employed compatriots, they do not receive shift differential or overtime pay, despite the fact that they are frequently required to own and operate private vehicles on government business. Far from being able to purchase a new car for such use, a person with an income of \$750/month applying for a loan would be an object of considerable mirth to members of the finance industry. Furthermore, although a reasonable mileage rate (18¢ per mile) is paid, the government takes six weeks or more to process such claims, thereby escalating its employees' costs of living still further.

The denouement of this pathetic situation is rapidly

becoming evident: even the most altruistic and dedicated Social Service employees will soon no longer be able to afford to keep their jobs. Their employer is making it impossible for them to perform their duties adequately.

Staff turnover rates in the Social Service agencies are correspondingly increasing. The directors of the Edmonton Youth Development Centre (the staff of which consists of Rehabilitation Counsellors who start at \$617/month) complain of an inordinately high staff turnover rate - a circumstance which must surely have some correlation to the dismal lack of monetary return associated with the job.

Obviously it has not occurred to the government that the annual expenditure for rehiring, training and reorganizing staff would be significantly reduced were the employees' question adequately remunerated for their services. Otherwise, they would have made a reasonable salary offer shortly after the expiry of the previous contract last April 1.

It is high time the government spent less time and money politicking in Europe and elsewhere and invested a few hours and dollars into its own people and agencies here in Alberta. Otherwise, we will end up with a society where the production of a circuit board pre-empts the preservation of life.

Rosaleen Swain
U of A grad '74

letters

Saliva no test

As president of Women's Athletics, and a member of the Panda basketball team I am extremely upset with the article titled "Amazin' Pandas Still Are" that appeared in the *Gateway* on Thursday, November 13.

I am annoyed that when a women's team at this university is successful, the media has to find excuses for their victories. The obvious reason for the Pandas winning is playing the game well. Instead of reporting on the details of playing well, the article seems to take the attitude that there must be something artificial involved in the performance.

The worst part of the article is the insinuation regarding saliva tests and miracle drugs. The reporter responsible for the article is not practicing responsible journalism when he implies that something other than skill was responsible for the victory in the tournament. Statements about saliva tests and miracle drugs should not be included in sports articles unless there is definite evidence to support the allegations.

I am also upset with the phys. ed. administrator (why didn't you publish his name?) who made the comments regarding saliva tests. He or she should seriously consider his or her responsibility to the entire program when making statements. When a women's

team wins they should be given the same treatment as a mens team. I feel that whichever administrator made the comment owes the Panda basketball team an apology.

Please don't get me wrong. I think that it is a credit to Cam Cole that the *Gateway* sports department is reporting on the activities of all U of A teams as much as possible. The coverage has improved tremendously in the four years I have been at this university. All I ask is that the *Gateway* start to give credit where credit is due. When the Pandas win, write it up accurately. If they lose, and play badly, write about that too. Just don't write ridiculous things about miracle drugs and saliva tests, OK?

Deena Mitchell
President
Women's Athletics

I feel I must defend the writer of the story on at least one point. The fact is that simple improvement of skills does not often result in the kind of remarkable reversal of fortunes the Pandas have experienced so far this season. I don't think the Pandas, any more than the writer involved, seriously expected the team to go through this many games undefeated. When the Pandas won their second major tournament in two weekends, I believe Mr. Semenuk used the reference to saliva tests (not his own phrase) in a humorous attempt to emphasize the suddenness of the team's turnabout, neither as a slight to the Pandas nor to women in general, as you seem to suggest.

I hope that an overall defensiveness about femininity of the Pandas didn't cause you to read into the article something that wasn't there.

Cam Cole

Corruption

Je tiens à faire le point de propos de l'article paru dans le *Gateway* d'il y a déjà deux semaines. La qualité du français qui fut présentée était de dernier ordre, à savoir: le titre était emprunté par l'Editeur du *Gateway* et, en aucun cas, je ne me tiens responsable de toutes les fautes commises ou erreurs d'impression dans mon article.

Par contre, il y a des gens qui je dirais même un professeur de l'Université de l'Alberta qui s'est servi de ce texte pour ridiculiser le français du Collège Universitaire Saint-Jean ainsi que la francophonie en général. La qualité du français qui a été imprimée dans le *Gateway* ne reflète en rien la qualité du français existant au Collège.

Je qualifie le geste porté par cet individu comme fastidieux, dédaigneux, dégradant pour les francophones et tout le Collège, en présentant le texte en question à une classe de l'Université dans le but de ridiculiser nos cours de français dans sa qualité. Monsieur le Professeur, avant d'avoir posé un tel geste, vous auriez dû avoir la gentillesse de vouloir informer à la personne concernée, en l'occurrence, moi-même. Il y a un proverbe qui dit "Tourne-toi la langue sept fois avant de parler"...

Et maintenant, un autre professeur, cette fois de l'école "St. Joe's High School", a donné à ses étudiants le texte comme devoir afin de corriger les fautes, soit de grammaire, de frappes, ou soit de style. Je trouve également ce geste répugnant de la part d'un