

EDITORIAL

Faulty design

Is the University of Alberta considering the future of its students? In a recent move to cut back expenses, the Department of Art and Design dropped one quarter of the courses in the Industrial Design Program.

This move to economize has seriously affected the quality of the program. It should be noted that the U of A is the only university in Western Canada to offer a program in Industrial Design. Hence, a significant number of students have been lured to universities in Eastern Canada or the United States that provide complete programs in Industrial Design.

Historically the Art and Design Department has not produced a lot of employable graduates. Except for art teachers and professors, fewer than five per cent of the graduates are professional artists. Ironically, the Industrial Design program (the latest addition to the department) is an exception: it is a program designed to produce working artists. A good many of the graduates have found employment with large companies while others have started their own businesses designing consumer goods and producing them locally. These individuals are not only using their talents to earn income but are also creating jobs for others.

The Provincial Government has set policies to attract major industries to Alberta. There is a real need for skilled industrial designers in these industries.

Though the cost of the Industrial Design Program is high, the potential for future industry and the productivity it would create far out weigh the cost of education. When one considers the employability of a sculptor or an abstract painter one can not help but wonder what the Department of Art and Design is considering for its graduates.

In a move to save money, the Department of Art and Design has fallen back to the status quo and reverted to producing unemployable artists. The department should seriously consider expanding the Industrial Design Program and cutting back on some of the painting, printmaking or sculpture courses that may very well enhance our quality of life but do not pay off student loans.

B.S.

Butti, eh?

Alderman Olivia Butti wants to sit down with the province and nearby municipalities to find ways "of making the river more hospitable for recreation" (Edmonton Sun, October 2).

Well, she doesn't have to sit down with them, we'll tell her. But first we'll have to investigate those catchy words, hospitable and recreation.

Hospitable - given to generous and cordial reception of guests (Merriam-Webster)

Recreation - a means of refreshment (Merriam-Webster)

We can't think of anything more refreshing, or more cordial to certain guests than a therapeutic dunking in our salubrious freshet at the point where it passes below the western Edmonton storm drains, e.g. for politicians who conduct too many studies.

Other uses:
A new feedstock for synthetic polymers (why haven't the oil companies thought of this?)

Birth control. There's enough mercury and organic residue in the water to induce abortions and sterility in the best of genetic lines.

Scavenger hunts. Every spring, the citizenry can run amuck (literally) on the river bank, searching for the perfect submerged automobile, the most artistic array of discarded tires on a sandbar, most pools of diesel fuel in shallow channels, most heart-rending dead bird, and the best dead animal weighing more than 50 kilograms.

An inspiration for existential poetry and art. Self-explanatory.

Bottled Peter Water. All water taken from below the Legislature can be bottled as it has been passed and approved by the Emperor himself. Guaranteed cold and thirst-quenching (it'll knock out your hypothalamus for sure.)

West Edmonton Skating Experience. When the river turns to ice, sell the access rights to the Ghermezians and declare the North Saskatchewan River a major tourist attraction. Longer than the Rideau Canal! Better slopes than Marmot Basin! Free rafting during the spring and fall season! Tourists, of course are gullible.

Drain the silly thing. Premier Pete and the boys want to keep the south full of water, so let's sell it to Calgary and Medicine Hat for a reasonable fee. Then we can pay off the Genessee project, and build more curling rinks.

Aversion therapy. Since riverbanks are free, this will mean lower overhead costs for psychiatrists. Even with licensing of choice river spots, it would be cheaper than a high-rise office. This stuff will make you averse to anything.

If these suggestions are not satisfactory, then, in all seriousness, clean up the river before you expose the rest of us to it...

John Algard and Co.



LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Ego worship

Michael Horner's three day stint at S.U.B. heralds a long-needed regenerating trend in the spiritual life of our culture. Citing lucid arguments from philosophy and science, he discredited the atheistic lifestyle as, ultimately, absurd and untenable. However, the belief in an intelligent creative "God" does not necessitate participation in the particular cultural tradition known as Christianity; such logic is a common egotistical presumption at the lower levels of all religions.

It will be appreciated when the Michael Horners of the world take the inevitable next step, dispel the pompous notion of Christian moral supremacy, and accept the validity of all religious and spiritual traditions.

Renn Butler
CJSR

should wait until March (the end of our current fiscal year)."

What I did say was that, "...I DON'T think we should wait until March" to make a decision as to whether or not we can reduce Students' Union fees next year.

I would like to see Students' Union fees reduced next year by five, even ten, dollars. But I will not make any decision on the matter until I know how such a reduction would affect next year's service operations. It would be irresponsible of me to cut fees because of short-term political expediency and then force next year's Executive to close down services because of a lack of funds.

We will be better able to predict business revenues and forecast needed fee income for next year after the final budget for this year is prepared. We will not, however, have to wait until the end of the current fiscal period (31 March 1985) to make such projections and to make a decision on this matter.

Paul Alpern
Vice-President External

Correction

In your September 27 article, "Students' Union Surplus Expected", you incorrectly quoted me as saying (regarding a possible Students' Union fee cut next year), "I can't make a decision now, but I think we

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

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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.

Brenda Waddle and Anny Krisher head for Thanksgiving dinner at Cert and Fern's. Kent Cochrane, Greg Owens, and Ross Gordon baste turkey Don Teplyske, while John Charles, Barry Hanley, and Chris Dallin stuff the Horn-of-Plenty (with Anna Borowiecki). Janine McDade, Linda Derksen, and Shane Berg make pie out of Our Lil' Punkin Gerry Magill. Hans Becker and Jennifer Strain throw cranberries, while Jens Andersen and Peter Cole chase Cupid through the snow. Whoops, wrong holiday!