

editorial

Those Old Parking Blues

Cliff's Towing is making a lot of money these days at the university. I can almost hear the hardworking truckers laughing; those rich people.

The university's parking office is making a lot of money off the bus strike too. I can almost hear them laughing, up to their ears in returned parking ticket revenues.

Today Dan Strathern, a 4th year university student stalked into the Gateway office incensed over the 17 dollar ticket he had recently recieved from the university for parking in the fire lane that runs between the Engineering and Administration Buildings.

The ticket read "Obstruction of Fire Lane", but in reality, his car was parked over twenty yards away from the fire lane, almost in front of the newly erected (and now-heated despite the strike which has kept it empty since before Christmas, and the discovery of an energy shortage) bus stop.

On the other side of the fire lane was parked a car, only five yards from the fire lane, but that car was not decorated with a yellow ticket.

The reason for this is that the fire lane sign about 28 yards from the fire lane outlet towards the east, whereas a sign was set up only about 5 yards from the fire lane outlet to the west, on 87th Ave.

Strathern told me that last night, when 87th Ave. was packed with cars during the Tommy Banks Show not one car was towed away from that zone, nor was any ticket given to any car parked there.

The reason for this is that those cars parked there last night belong to the general public, not university students. The general public does not have any marks to wait for or have withheld, so there is not the same incentive, or club to wield that would force the payment of these tickets.

During the period of this day, I personally saw 4 cars with yellow parking tickets in that small area alone. Each was worth 10 dollars and there are most probably many more of these tickets given out each day in that same area.

On other days, I saw one of Cliff's Towtrucks hooking up to cars in that area every time I walked past it coming to and from classes.

Being poor, and unable to afford the luxury of a car, it seems to be a hell of a lot of money to pay (or to make) with regards to parking ticket revenues from that one small area alone.

In the last issue of Gateway an article was run saying that university students were going to be hired to place tickets on their colleagues' cars.

Both Strathern and myself would like to find out what criteria are used to determine who would get such a job; students with paid reserved parking, or those who have never had a ticket issued against them, or those who like many students on campus must hunt and search to locate a parking spot as best they can.

Tonight is another Tommy Banks Show in SUB, I wonder, will the cars that will most likely be "illegally parked" over twenty yards from the fire lane be given tickets or not? I suggest not. After all, if you're not a student, you're a taxpayer.

Strathern will be out watching, to see for sure how many tickets are given, or whether or not Cliff's will be working double time, in this area, as they have in the daytime on students' cars.

During the month of December, about 400 parking tickets were paid. This number, because of the bus strike, and because of the Christmas break, was only about one third of the number of tickets that are paid monthly by students at this campus.

Most of them are of the 10 dollar variety, and add up to one whopping sum.

I suggest that the rules regarding the issuing of the parking tickets 20 yards away from a fire lane on one side, and only five yards away from the fire lane on the other, are unfair.

I would like to see the sign moved from its present post on the bus stop sign to a place closer to the fire lane, and more visible to traffic.

This request, I am sure is well warranted, and I feel that if I was given half the money that was paid out in tickets in that area alone, I wouldn't be hitchhiking during the bus strike.

Greg Neiman

Hero?

Please, please, out of whatever love you have for man, print this for your readers, please, because, some of them too may have love for man:

Despite the influence of principles to the contrary in today's stagnating intellectual mainstream, an article has appeared in the evening Journal of January 7th on page 32, asking this of men:

"Know of someone who has made an important contribution to society or to his particular field and should be rewarded?"

"If so, the honorary degrees committee of the University of Alberta Senate would like to hear from you."

Well, fellow men, there it is: they are asking for it. Imagine: we, who are struggling - struggling, with a dead load on our shoulders, hand-cuffs around our wrists, shackles around our ankles, and a leash around our necks - struggling to raise man a height closer to his home, are being asked to hold up a hero for tribute. Are they serious!?

Who cares? Let us give only a passing amusement to the irony, assume their ignorance of their action's significance, and give a serious thought to their request.

For some of us, the reply would be instantaneous; for some of the others: well, they may have long since been made to forget what a hero is. To the latter, I ask to summon the best within them and wonder:

Who, soaring high above today's stifling mediocrity, is holding up the radiant image of man for all to see, battling those seeking to smear it, ignoring those seeking to evade it, and possibly, possibly aching with sadness that what should be and could be is not yet so?

Who, out of a wasteland leached by centuries of mystics has discovered a glittering road - a road sparkling here and there under layers of wreckage - a road that she knew she had to clear for herself, for man, because it is man's road home?

Who, has her road be

philosophy, which, in her words, "in essence, is the concept of man as a heroic being, with his own happiness as the moral purpose of his life, with productive achievement as his noblest activity, and reason as his absolute?"

Who?
Ayn Rand.
Look her up, and salute.
Mon-Art Pon

Rip-off

On November 5th a student unknowingly became the object of a rip-off by a certain bank, on this date a man came into this particular branch of this bank and wrote a cheque and withdrew \$450 from the account. Sounds like a normal procedure doesn't it? However, there is a catch to the situation. The cheque bounced and the account did not belong to the person who withdrew the money. Somebody walked out of the bank \$450 richer and left a student \$450 poorer. Now the student asks what can he do? Obviously it is not the fault of the student who was merely keeping the money in the bank supposedly a safe place. The student went to the bank manager who advised him that he should get a lawyer. At the same time they withdrew his charge privileges and froze his account which still contained some money.

Now the student has gone to see a lawyer and signed statements to the effect that he did not write the cheque. This procedure cost him \$25. The bank remains silent on the situation.

The student is now having to suffer for a mistake on the bank's part. He has no money and he has to pay to correct the bank's mistake? This situation says very little for the bank's procedures on cashing cheques. Is not identification of some sort required and especially for a cheque of this size?

The student has also approached the police. They took his name and address and said they would investigate. So

far he has not heard anything. What avenues are left to the student? He has approached the normal avenues of help and received nothing in return. Perhaps he might have been better off keeping the money in a sock or in his mattress.
Ronald Chiu

Hub

The Students Union executive has gone ahead and loaned the SUB expansion reserves to HUB despite last year's referendum which told them to leave the reserves alone.

A referendum was held last year asking students if the Students Union could release the SUB expansion reserves. The students showed their lack of confidence in the council by voting a definite NO!

Yet this year, we find the funds have been loaned to HUB and the payments on the loan are being deferred.

I clearly understand that HUB has been a problem of the Students Union financing for quite a few years, but this does not justify going directly against the majority opinion of the students.

The executive is certainly showing their lack of responsibility towards the people who pay their salaries.

It seems that if they are willing to spend money without the consent of the students many students are going to be reluctant to pay their student union fees next year!

The attitude displayed by some students councillors by allowing such a situation to exist is characteristic of the general attitude that has been plaguing our Students Union for a few years now.

The so called student apathy has become a slogan and excuse for unwarranted actions by some members of the executive.

This attitude must stop. The Students' Council must remember who they are representing!!

Jim Tanner
G.F.C. Rep
Arts 3



It looks as though U of A students must use giant shoehorns as parking aids, if this picture can be believed. This is 87th Avenue, in front of the Engineering building.

