



Rajan Bhardwaj

SU endorsing alcoholism?

"Hey, guys, it's finally Friday afternoon, whatcha got planned?"

"Well, we thought we'd go out to Dewey's for a few drinks, then maybe up to RATT after we catch the Bears game."

"Are you kidding, you'll never get a table at Dewey's now, it's

almost 4:00. Why don't you come over to my place? My roommate's out of town this weekend, and there's three flats of beer in the fridge."

"Yeah, sounds good to me!"

"Alright, let's drink 'till we drop!"

This conversation doesn't sound too strange to anybody, does it? Actually, a conversation of this type happens somewhere on campus practically every weekend. It seems

to me that a whole lot of people think that you really need alcohol to have a really good time.

Right now we're in the middle of Alcohol Awareness Week on campus, and I think it came just in time. How many times have you, personally, gotten drunk this year? How about last year? Think back now... Sometime during Week of Welcome? At Bear Country? Halloween? After the first set of midterms?

Sure, lots of people have had too much to drink once or twice, but what's the big deal, it's normal, right?

Normal. Filling your body (your one and only) up with a drug that affects your judgement, warps your perceptions, and kills your brain cells is normal.

Alcohol use and abuse is a problem on campus, and part of the problem may be the Students' Union. The SU runs three licensed establishments on campus: Dewey's, RATT, and Dinwoodie. All three seem to support the idea that to really enjoy yourself, alcohol is a necessity. Is this a responsible position for the Students' Union to take?

Instead of living life in the "Blue Zone," maybe the SU should take a closer look at some of its policies regarding the use of alcohol on campus. Why haven't the Designated Driver programs that have been set up in Dewey's and RATT been advertised? Maybe that's just the "way they play". What about serving more drinks to people that have

obviously had way too much to drink already?

Instead of giving away litres of free, highly alcoholic, eggnog at Christmas and promoting several "Cheers for Beer" through the year, why doesn't the Students' Union use some of that money to give students more than a simple "drink it or drink nothing" choice when it comes to special events? Maybe our SU really does believe that you need alcohol to have a good time, be it at a hockey game or just at a party.

I agree that everybody needs to kick back and relax, let off some steam after exams or a busy week, but why does alcohol necessarily become a part of that? Why do we make it a part of that? Have the beer companies become so good at selling the lifestyle of the "Bud man" or the image of people enjoying themselves that when we think "fun" we also automatically think "beer"?

During Alcohol Awareness Week, stop and think about it. It really is what's inside that counts.

LETTERS continued

LAUGHS

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Furthermore, Mr. Kuipers is hopeful that "the contents of the *Bridge* does not reflect the opinions of the entire engineering student body." Well, at ease Mr. Kuipers, it doesn't reflect the opinions of any of the engineering student body. It

does provide us with a few laughs though. You know, entertainment.

I agree that the article in the *Bridge* about our Mayor was in bad taste. I think the ESS has taken all the correct steps in rectifying the situation. In spite of this article I'm proud of the *Bridge* and the freedoms for which it stands. The *Bridge*

will recover and must continue to provide us engineers with the type of entertainment we enjoy.

If you don't like the *Bridge*, or are offended by it, stop stealing it. Or at least don't read it.

Henry Doornberg
Engineering IV

Gateway as offensive as Bridge

Re: Nov. 21 issue of *The Gateway*

Let's see now: two unnamed arts students lodge a formal complaint concerning the last issue of *The Bridge*. All havoc breaks loose on campus. Let's ban *The Bridge*! Let's disband the Engineering Students' Society!

Let's all take a reality pill!

If one really wanted to, one could pick apart any publication and find it offensive. For instance in the last issue of *The Gateway* (Nov. 21, 1989), we found the editorial cartoon offensive to nursing mothers. We also found the use of the "F" word in the comics offensive. We found the front page picture of

a bull obviously being degraded offensive. We found the comments about *The Bridge* editors by Ron Kuipers offensive. We found it offensive that *The Gateway* staff did not include any comments from Engineering students or the ESS executive in the front page article concerning *The Bridge*.

Gee, maybe we should lodge a formal complaint since *The Gateway* is the official newspaper of the U of A and it is available to everyone in public bins.

Seriously though, as three named women in engineering, we can safely say that the Faculty of Engineering is not sexist. It is, in

fact, a wonderful place to study with excellent career possibilities for women and men.

Nancy Davies
Marcella Fiorillos,
Laura Holte
all in Engineering IV

Editor's note: The ESS and engineering club offices have not made any comments further to those contained in the statement issued Friday by the ESS.

The Gateway apologizes for not including this information in the last issue.

Editor-in-Chief losing credibility

Re: Sexist allegations going out of control, Nov. 21 *Gateway*.

Mr. Smathers, as an editor, you are quickly losing your credibility. You are defending an Engineering publication containing sexist and derogatory remarks directed towards women based on the fact that at least they get involved.

I am sure that many of the students in other faculties are impressed with the organized activities produced by the "predominantly male" Agriculture and Engineering Faculties, but this does not excuse the publication of "jokes" and "articles" which offend and stereotype women, nor do I think that these activities rely on the ability to

publish the offensive articles. What may possibly be considered a harmless attempt at humour verbally, takes on a more sinister quality when printed. (As an editor you should know this, Mr. Smathers). Whether or not the writers of *The Bridge* believe the message that their paper conveys about women, the fact that these jokes appear in print may lead some readers to believe that the writers are advocating these misconceptions, disclaimer or no disclaimer.

No one is attempting to "legislate the thought patterns of twenty-year olds" by complaining about *The Bridge*. I do not think, in an institution of higher learning, it is

too much to ask our fellow students to respect each other regardless of gender. That is what the issue is here, respect, and that is what is missing from *The Bridge*.

As a final note, while I admit that I have not read the "UAYS News", based on what you have written, I cannot see the sexual stereotyping. *The Bridge* contains derogatory jokes and articles throughout the paper and conveys the stereotype of engineers as "stereotypical macho thinkers." I do not think the inclusion of a single recipe in WISEST's newsletter has the same effect.

Pat Yuzwenko
Law I

Yogi is going to



swim for Delta U.

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Info: 492-2048

The U of A Students' Union has arranged for 400 of the best seats at the Edmonton Convention Centre's 1990 New Year's Eve Live Party. \$2.00 OFF for S.U. members (limit of two) for *The Pursuit of Happiness*, *Ray Lyell* and *The Storm*, and *Jr. Gone Wild* at HUB/SUB/CAB Infos.

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