

Editorial

Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words in length. They must include your signature, faculty, year of program, I.D. number, and phone number. Requests for anonymity are at the discretion of the Managing Editor, but the above information is required regardless. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

Barefoot and pregnant in the production room...

Some of you may recall that about six weeks ago I was giving serious consideration to starting a regular column in *The Gateway* for students who are parents or prospective parents.

I wanted it to be a resource column where students could turn for information concerning the special needs of student/parents as well as the needs of our children. I was going to gather information based on my own experience as an expectant parent and I wanted to use information from some of the many letters I received from parents all over campus. Sounds great, huh?

Well, the first bit of information that I have to pass on about expecting a child is that a pregnant person should never, ever take on a new project (ie. a regular column) at a time like this.

I knew that pregnancy would be both emotionally and physically taxing, but I had no idea to what extent. Now halfway through my sixth month, I've finally reached a truce with my body. The morning sickness has passed, I no longer doze off in editorial meetings, and the hormones have lightened up enough so that my mood swings aren't quite as radical as they were two months ago. Whew. (Sighs of relief from *The Gateway* staff can be heard all over campus.) In return for peace with my physical being, I get plenty of rest and I do not allow myself to get stressed out. It's a fair deal and I take comfort in knowing that it can only benefit the little wiggler.

When I asked for feedback on the idea of a column, I did not expect such a huge and positive response from the student body. I was touched by the many letters which included notes of congrats and best wishes. (Shucks...) The trouble is that I no longer have the time nor the energy to write it.

If there is someone out there who would be interested in compiling the stacks of info on my desk (stuff on daycare in the area, new government safety regulations for cribs, local support groups, etc.) into "The Stork Report", I'd sure love to meet you. Give me a holler at 432-5178 or drop by the office in SUB, room 282.

I still think a regular column for parents is a great idea — I know I'd love to read one — if I had time.

Kathleen Beechinor & Co.



Letters

Why, why, why?

To the Editor:

Why, why, why? Why do they do it? In the halls, on the stairwells, in front of doors — wherever I go I literally "run in" to this problem all over campus.

I'm referring to people who stand in groups conversing while effectively blocking pedestrian traffic. This situation is very perplexing, especially considering these people seem so oblivious to the disruption they're causing. Are they truly unaware, or is this an elaborately conceived plot designed to spite us?

The problem seems at its worst in HUB Mall. The Mall is narrow enough without the added obstructions caused by people standing in the middle of the aisles. Perhaps the most "outstanding" example is the line-up at the Royal Bank money machine. Is there a reason for the line to form in front of the doors to the Business building pedway? Why not line up along the wall? I have seldom seen enough people there to obstruct the nearest storefront entrance.

So what's the solution to this problem? How about this: hire more Campus Security people expressly for the purpose of handing out pedestrian "tickets" for "illegal parking". In order to prevent the recipients of said tickets from taking this solution too lightly, Campus Administration could withhold marks and other sundry items from non-payers, just as is done now with campus-administered parking tickets for cars.

All joking aside, a smooth flow of traffic is essential for those people trying to get from one class to another in the allotted ten minutes. The real solution, then, is for people to be courteous and step aside, at least until class change is over. And with that said, I sincerely hope I haven't "stepped on" too many toes.

Kevin Lan
Arts II

Rights fought for

To The Editor:

RE: Student Council avoids argument. "A motion to urge Housing and Food Services to stop buying Gainers meat products" was rejected 2 for 28 against. Such a lack of intestinal fortitude on the part of student council is shameful. We live in a wealthy society where we can afford to pay people a fair wage for a full days work, especially when it is

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difficult work carried out under unpleasant conditions, like the work done by Gainers workers at our local plant. We would not be able to pursue our self-indulgent academic careers were it not for the work of these people. Ultimately they kill and process pigs so that we don't have to worry about it, and they deserve to get properly paid for this.

As students, and as members of an institute of higher learning we have a responsibility to our fellow human beings, and to their fair treatment, particularly when they are right here in our city. These people are not being treated fairly; their pensions have been taken away; a court injunction has restricted their picketing activity; and, worst of all, replacement workers were hired as soon as they went on strike, thereby making a farce of the free bargaining system. This is important to anyone who ever plans to get a job or who has brothers, sisters, parents or children with jobs. Many people in North America have fought long and hard for the freedoms and rights we enjoy, our complacency and apathy are a great threat to these freedoms.

If Student Council won't touch international issues they should at least show some leadership in local issues.

M. Eymann
Grad. Studies

Don't want 'em

To The Editor:

I would like to make an observation about the Gainers controversy. It appears that both the students and staff who want Food Services to stop purchasing Gainer's products are not being objective. The basis of their argument is that Food Services should remain neutral in this dispute. By not changing their purchasing habits, this is exactly what Food Services is doing. If they were to "Boycott Gainers", they would then be supporting the union's position. Since this dispute is between the union and management, other people should mind their own business.

My past experience with the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees has shown me that the control is in a small group of people. Union negotiators make the appearance that it is their membership which has a say in policy, when in actuality they persuade or influence the way the members vote by invoking feelings of brotherhood. Thus the union member believes he has a voice in negotiations when in fact he is influenced in his actions by a small group of people. The Gainer's strike has gone on for six months; even if the union wins, how long will it take for the workers to make up for the lost wages?

One final point to ponder: In this time of calls for tougher sentences for criminals, how can any citizen justify supporting a mob which will beat strike breakers, willfully damage

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vehicles and attack police officers? There will be no more union jobs for me. I don't want them.

John Baker
Mec. Eng IV

Taxi service?

To The Editor:

Late last Thursday night (11 p.m.) I requested the service of campus security to escort me to my car which was located on the 5th floor of education car park. I was impressed that the security officer arrived so quickly considering the weather. However, the escorting officer asked me if I was using campus security as a "taxi service". Whether the officer was joking or not, I didn't find the comment in good taste and I seriously question the attitude of campus security towards its escort service.

Perhaps some abuse the service you are providing, but there are many other women who do appreciate it.

Cheryl Gibson
Rehab. Med. IV

Power paws!

To The Editor:

RE: Jerome Ryckborst's column "What U Wear" in Gateway, Nov. 12.

Women did not and do not modify the "male uniform" in order to "aspire to power" (which Ryckborst apparently sees as exclusively a male sphere). Clothes are made of fabric not of gender. Only the narrow, conditioned-by-mass-media-mind would adhere to an idea of a clothing for male; a clothing for female. As a feminist I do not aspire to power by imitating men in dress. I do aspire to exercising my right of personal choice.

The early part of the contemporary Women's Movement (Sixties and Seventies) illustrates the birth of a movement. When change is desired, radical gestures will often be employed initially to effect change; to evoke social awareness quickly. Burning bras, wearing work boots and overalls illustrates a primary step in the process of the Women's Movement — to be seen and heard, to evoke controversy, to open up the masses to the change that is desired. What Ryckborst is so naive in pointing out is that because what he would categorize as "male" clothing has been dropped from the closets of women and feminists this is proof posi-

Letters cont'd. on page 5

The Gateway

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