

roses are green,  
violets are orange,  
these letters should be read  
cause kumquats are puce.

## letters

### to a boot

I would like to take advantage of your columns in order to salve the conscience of the poor innocent who inadvertently slipped into my boots and wore them out of the basement of the Tory Building last Thursday morning, in the vicinity of Room B-117.

He probably thinks that the real owner of the boots considers him to be a dull clod because of his mistake. Not so. Lots of times a fellow can get so wound up in a lecture on animal husbandry or Roman sewage systems that he just doesn't know what he's doing when he spins dizzily into the hall, a kind of intellectual gyroscope.

Or perhaps he's worried that he might have something wrong with him upstairs because he didn't even notice that the boots are at least two sizes too big, not even when he went slushing along the corridor toward the exit. Don't worry. Everyone knows that sneakers swell in the heat, especially when you wear two pairs of sweat socks under them, and the basement rooms of Tory can be very hot sometimes.

No, no. You're not a pusillanimous barnacle on the ship of life. After all, our boots were very close together, weren't they? Yours were under your coat and mine were under my coat, with only a very thin brick partition between them. Anyone could have made a mistake and picked the wrong pair.

One final thing. Please take very good care of them. Those boots may not look like much, but they have great sentimental value. Last winter, when I was visiting a friend in a hospital, a dear friend who was slowly dying as his viscera were

decaying into a bilious ooze, the friend looked plaintively at me and then, very suddenly and very violently, vomited into the boots which I had left beside his bed. He died soon after. This was the last human contact anyone had with him.

So I say to you, brave sophomore, wear my boots in good health. May your feet be warm and dry.

Bill Tyson  
grad student

### involved apathy

To hear Mr. Yakimchuk talk, the politics on this campus are pretty lousy. An alienated student body. Sandbox politicians. No one willing to stick out his corrupt little neck.

Yes, everybody should just jump in there and get involved.

Sounds great. But how?

I'd like to pitch in and do something for this campus. I'd like to help make that monolithic student administration a little more personal, something you could approach without fear and trembling that you are just getting in the way of the smoothly running wheels. If it would help, I wouldn't even mind being one of those faceless people behind the featureless black doors of SUB.

There just isn't any way.

Where do I go? Who do I see? Where in the student administration can my particular talents be put to use? Where are all those great-sounding committees that are doing such lovely things with my money?

I don't know where to go looking, or what to ask about should I get there. And I have the uneasy feeling that nobody up there really cares anyway.

This newspaper is the one means of communication between these politicians and myself, and it doesn't help much. It hasn't in living memory published an article that discussed the purposes or activities of any segment of the student administration.

What's wrong with including a column—say every three weeks—that would give us some idea of what is being done?

Oh, sure, I care about what happens on this campus. I'd like to get "involved". But I haven't, and for this I am called apathetic.

Ron Dutton  
arts 2

### waxing eloquent

When looking into the music appreciation room in SUB during the last few weeks, I was struck by the fact that certain records were played with disturbing regularity.

It is safe to say that three out of every four times I have been in the room, on the player or in the waiting list has been a record by Joan Baez, Bob Dylan, the Smothers Brothers, or Peter, Paul and Mary.

I do not criticize the worth of these records as such. I merely bewail the fact that the beautiful classical and jazz collection lies in almost sterile stagnancy.

O Renaissance, thou art past, and the drive to new horizons is no longer in the nature of U of A man. When he wants to relax, U of A man plugs his head into one of five "sound-sensation" channels and lets the twanging string take over his intellect.

In describing this being, one would present spheres of pleasure. One would say: "The U of A student loves beer, sleep, sex, having his itchy back scratched, Joan Baez, the Smothers Brothers, and sauna baths."

Then, one would say (perhaps), "The U of A student loves chivalry, music, reading Spenser, being ravished by the sweet analytics, the thrilling debate of Model Parliament, and the immense feeling of involvement provided by calculus."

O Alma Mater, thou art an ivory tower no longer. Thou art involved with the world and its people. Thou art indeed the world and its people and trade schools need no Bartok.

Andrew K. Campbell-Fowler  
sci 1

### be of good cheer

In reference to rumblings by a number of gentlemen, knowledgeable in all fields of sport, marching bands, and cheerleaders:

Speaking of missing the action, many basketball fans missed two excellent games in Calgary Dec. 8 and 9. I would like to say that both junior and senior basketball teams appreciated having support from a few enthusiastic fans, among whom were the cheerleaders. These keepers not only led the Golden Bear fans present in cheers, but also joined the Calgary cheerleaders in conducting one roof-raising cheer for Alberta which set the atmosphere for lots of spirit and good sportsmanship for the game. Do you still wonder why the cheerleaders went to Calgary?

Rarely do the trips taken by the squad conflict with home games. Surely the U of A fans can generate enough spirit to support our teams at home on the few occasions when the cheerleaders are away. Being of flesh and blood they can only be in one place at one time.

Incidentally, most of the cheerleaders have been to Calgary several times this year. And, besides, the money for the trip came from their own pockets, not from the budget as has been suggested to the student body. It is too bad if the U of A needs the band and cheerleaders present to simulate enough spirit for the entire campus.

Bea Gunn  
nu 5

### a misunderstanding

I seem to be subject to a gross misunderstanding about the students' union building in general and the Room at the Top in particular. I thought this room was for the use of the students and yet every weekend I find it has been prostituted to some band or social group.

As an example, I turned up Saturday along with my girlfriend. We had planned to spend some time looking at the view, talking and relaxing before going to a movie. Looking at the TV screen on the main floor, I found the room was booked for Special Events at 9, but as it was only 7:45, I didn't mind too much. That is, I didn't mind until I found a sign in the elevator saying the UN Club had reserved the room until 8:30.

Surely this sort of event doesn't require the only room with a view on campus. Isn't there other rooms either in SUB or somewhere else on campus that can be used? After all, I'm not paying fees to the students' union so as I'll have to pay club fees to use facilities I'm entitled to as a member of the students' union.

Come on, fellow students, if you feel as I do, let's let The Gateway and the students' union know about it. If nothing else, we might at least get an explanation of some kind.

D. L. Moss  
ed 1

## Viewpoint

# A helping hand for high school students

By GLENN CHERITON

There is a sign in the lobby of the Cameron Library which states, "High school students are NOT allowed in the Cameron Library."

This regulation bothered me last year, when I was a high school student, and it bothers me just as much now. I am told by the chief librarian that this regulation applies to all the university libraries at all times.

Certainly the university has a legal right to keep non-university personnel out of its libraries but I do not think this should be done. Neither do I think any particular section of society should be denied access to the information the university possesses.

I am not suggesting high school students be given free run of the libraries. I am suggesting they be allowed in at restricted times only and perhaps requiring permission of the librarian. As it is, legally, it is impossible for high school students to use the libraries at any time.

The average high school student has no business in a university library but I am not concerned with him. There are a few students who have, at least in one field, requirements beyond the faculties of their school libraries and the public library. If these students are to get the information they need, they must get it from the university.

I realize there are space problems in the libraries. It would be folly to permit high school students to deprive university students of a library seat. It would be equally foolish to turn people away at times when the library is under-used.

High school students wanting to use the libraries for study should be turned away but those seeking information unobtainable elsewhere should not be refused.

Discipline may be a problem but, as the librarians admit, it is not the major problem. The few students who require use of the libraries are not likely to cause much trouble. Discipline could be handled the same as for university students.

Society pays the bills for this university not entirely out of the goodness of their hearts. Frustrating brilliant students and denying them an honest search for knowledge serves neither society nor the academic community.

We don't have to help these students. We don't have to share what knowledge we have.

But wouldn't it be nice if we did?

