



nb

a new year, but old letters. these words of wisdom, and a few more, are left over from last year. radio, monies, super-people, theatre, education, gateway, and sports inspired students, profs, etc. to write in the old year—the same things will likely be debated again in this one. so keep up the good work letter-writers.

# letters

## don't fight it

How right Mr. Saidman is in saying that the rock music of today has a "rhythm that appeals purely to the animal drives." That is precisely why it appeals to those of us who are alive!

It is evidently going to be a great shock to Mr. Saidman to learn that these "animal drives" are absolutely fundamental to all life. Without them, much as it might be regretted by him, there would be no one around to appreciate all that higher learning and progressive art.

Go with life, Mr. Saidman, do not fight it—it always wins in the end. Now, if you will excuse me, I am going to listen to CHED. What will I do if Bob McCord forgets to play "Incense and Peppermints" by The Strawberry Alarm Clock! I shall, shall we say, "go off my stick!" That's "a darb."

John Miletich  
arts 1

## thanz

The Committee for International Affairs (formerly UN Club) of The University of Alberta campus is very pleased to announce to all students and faculty who supported the UNICEF Christmas Card Drive, that our sales topped \$1,000. This was double last year's sales. The entire profit from these sales go to UNICEF and provide medical services and food to the starving and needy children of the world. We thank you and express our pride in the great response we received from the faculty and students of this university.

Janice Zaharko  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Committee for International  
Affairs

## superthings

It has been discovered in the last month or so that The University of Alberta is being attended by a number of very unusual students. They seem to possess the amazing ability to make use of certain non-existent items.

Suspicion that some students possessed some supernatural faculty divinely derived the standard mortal was first aroused when these people began speaking of something called a "Room at the Top", whatever that might be.

A study of these supernatural beings was undertaken to determine precisely what this privileged few has that the average student has not. The conclusion was: card-playing, singing and certain other equally insane activities serving to develop and expand the powers of the mind to an abnormally high degree, thereby enabling one to disappear at will to this SUB-Olympus, the Seventh Floor. Indeed, these superhumans were proven conclusively to vanish completely, for a thorough investigation of all six

floors of the SUB was made, failing to find these persons.

These people who have developed such an extraordinary capacity have banded together in groups which have only recently been uncovered. They obviously want to keep their powers secret, by fronting their organizations with names such as "The Bridge Club", "Jubilaires", or, more generally, "Special Events".

For reason still unknown these beings do not appreciate the powers they hold over the human race. Surely any normal student would be extremely desirous of the ability to expand his horizons in such a way as to enjoy more fully university life.

Unfortunately there is nothing that can be done until these creatures recognize the existence of a human population on campus. Until they do (if they do), we must be content to live with what we have.

Thompson  
eng 1

## quality control

In this commercial world of today, what we spend our money on and the value we get for our money is of great importance to us and to a large extent determines which product, when there is a choice of products, we invest our money in.

If we are buying a product which is costing us several hundred or thousand dollars we naturally tend to expect the best value for our money and the service we receive and guarantee on our product determines the satisfaction we gain from our product.

Should we happen to hire a person or persons to do a specialized job using our best equipment, we naturally expect the best workmanship and value for our expenditure.

Investors in a company or establishment expect full satisfaction for their investment and should this not be up to standard, then the shareholders are able to exert pressure on company policy in order to gain the maximum return from their investment. If this is not received, then it is natural to expect a large number of investors to withdraw their investment and place it in a more profitable project.

In any system producing a finished product, the quality of the machinery and operators to a large extent determine the quality of the product and ultimately the quality and reputation of the establishment.

We, as students, are part of this world. We (a) are buying a product—education in the form of a degree, (b) hiring what we expect to be the best instructors in order to obtain our degree, (c) investing our money in education in order to gain a greater return when we enter the professional world, and (d) expecting the best quality of instruction from a reputable establishment.

We are paying between \$300 and \$500 a year over periods of three to seven years as students. A large portion of our taxes as taxpayers for the rest of our working lives will

also be spent on education of generations to follow us through this hallowed establishment. This adds up to a very large investment—for what?

Think carefully on the past few weeks and consider the standard of your instruction. To whom have you complained? Most probably to your lunch partners or fellow classmates. There are probably many hundred similar complaints being expressed in various corners of our campus, all on the same topic. A random sample heard last week complained of badly-prepared lectures, third rate instruction methods, officious TA's behaving like third rate junior high school teachers.

Why, then, are you sitting back and taking less than first class instruction from less than first class instructors? Is the student body content to receive less than the maximum benefit from their investment or are they only prepared to complain about trivial matters such as the Golden Bear Band finances in The Gateway with any conviction?

Could it be that in our affluent society, we are only concerned with the little things in life and that our investment after all means little to us so long as we receive the product regardless of the quality?

T. Williams  
ed 3

## on us

I would like to comment on your publication. You print a collection of facts in a manner very similar to a city newspaper. You have received a large number of awards for this type of publication. I feel, however, that this type of newspaper has very little value or significance for the people on this campus.

As these people, through a students' council grant, allow you to print this paper, I feel that you should create a paper more in line with their needs and wishes.

The majority of your features and opinion pieces are meaningless. They seem to be a continuance of the term-paper expansiveness needed to fill those "last 500 words". The articles are greatly damaged by constant hammering upon the supposed student apathy. This seems to me to be a rationalization on the writer's part. Because he feels the students to be a hopeless mass of mindless fact recorders, he does not present interesting and thought-provoking ideas.

I believe The Gateway should publish articles about the university situation, the universities' role in society and the students' role with this university. Other topics which your writers should attack are participation in activities and communication and expression of ideas within the university community.

It's time for the publication of well-thought-out "quality" articles. This responsibility lies with you. If The Gateway doesn't become more expressive of the people's opinions and ideas, the students' council should drastically cut their budget.

I repeat the responsibility lies upon your shoulders. Can you present dynamic, thought-provoking expressions? Are you capable of acting as both an instigator of new propositions and as a forum for the resolution of these propositions?

Cal McDougall  
arts 3

## puerile stuff

Reading Elaine Verbicky's puerile stuff is beginning to get me down. Her homilies on apathy, the system, insincerity, materialism, triteness, etc. have, I suppose, a therapeutic purpose. This is at least not wholly deplorable. But, I find it comic that Miss Verbicky's fulminations are themselves invariably trite, boring, pompous and affected—vaguely righteous sentiment couched in remarkably hackneyed prose.

What's bugging me right now is her most recent effort, a stirring attack on red licorice and all that it stands for, in which Miss Verbicky—who has evidently shed her illusions and moved far, far beyond the games students play—attempts to impart the revelation that youth can be pretty callow.

Well, okay. Is she the first to lay bare the immaturity of remarks like "Yeah, all I want is a nice pad, soft job, good car"? Is the juxtaposition of "Society and the university structure is alienating us from each other/The U.S. should get out of Vietnam because imperialism is wrong/Grass is the way to heaven" and "I am spell believe—i before e except after c" very insightful, true-to-life, original or hilarious?

If that's humor, it's awfully heavy-handed and holier-than-thou—and full of pretty dubious assumptions. (Though it's a little hard to tell what they are: does unthinking mouthing of anti-African slogans cause smoking marijuana or vice-versa?)

I could expand the above remarks considerably, and I could cite a lot of other examples (Miss Verbicky's avuncular I've-seen-through-this-whole-system advice to frosh particularly sticks out in my mind) if I rummaged through old Gateways. But that would require work which I don't think her writing merits. (And, parenthetically: I must mention in connection with Miss Verbicky's prose style her wearying penchant for one-sentence, jolt'em paragraphs—five, count 'em, five out of a possible seven in the above-mentioned essay).

I'm content just to express what I think is a Gateway-reader view, so fare unvoiced on account of—apathy?

Perhaps this hack-up of what after all is probably hurriedly-written copy seems gratuitous and/or unkind; but I think it's even less kind of The Gateway to inflict this sort of piece on its readers.

Brad Willis  
arts 3

## whither tradition?

The current sports editor takes the part of his predecessor and I, having no flunkie to fight my battles for me, must speak again.

Steve Rybak is most dissatisfied. He is dissatisfied that, although we had 1,400 fans at the hockey game, we did not reach the "quorum" of band members. Next time he should get his promise in writing. He deplores the fact that the cheerleaders went to support the basketball team in "hostile" territory. He doesn't tell that they are needed on foreign courts, or perhaps he thinks that the game was a lost cause, so moral support would be a waste? Next I expect he'll think it useless to send the basketball team itself off the home courts.

Perhaps your unhappiness, Mr. Rybak, stems from your inability to grasp the facts. One one account, I remind you that you were witness,

and a heckling one at that, to the marching band in full uniform plus cheerleaders at a hockey game Friday, Nov. 30, of this year. This was not a football game, although I imagine you object to the presentation made between periods. Secondly, it has been pointed out to you that the cheerleaders are now operating out of pocket since the budget was exhausted on the Toronto trip. (Speaking of Toronto, sorry your luck was bad, perhaps we could have fixed you up!) And yes, cheerleaders will grace the hockey train.

But these are petty details. A larger problem exists than the difference between sports writers and "joe student." It has often been said that U of A suffers from a lack of "tradition." What I see is not a want of tradition but a warped one. There are customs here, there are things that happen year after year, there is tradition. We have a tradition of a misinformed, caustic and criticizing sports editor. We have a custom of a cynical newspaper that cuts campus activities to shreds. We have a recurrent rift between the student body and the students' council. We have many small things that the U of A student learns to be part of university—the gripes, small percentage of voters, apathy and (worse) anti-apathy agitators.

Tradition like this we can do without. Let us wipe out this heritage of denunciation and carping. We can broaden our experiences and minds to include fresh affairs and to renew old activities. With the new year why not look around U of A for more pleasant traditions, and if you're lucky, Rybak, you'll even find fresh beefs.

Kathy Govier  
arts 2

## just the facts

In the November 23rd issue of The Gateway you ran an article headed "More stringent regulations advised for SUB Theatre" which has, due to its use of my statements out of their proper context, embarrassed the officials of Civic Music Theatre and our own management.

I was approached at a rather inopportune time by your reporter but tried to explain theatre policies and enforcement as clearly and quickly as possible. Furthermore I stated that any problems that should arise as a result of the use of the theatre by outside groups are not necessarily the business of The Gateway for the purpose of communicating to the student body. It seemed to me at the time of my discussion with your reporter that Civic Music Theatre was being blamed for some problems caused by student union groups and I attempted to point this out. The coffee stains on the carpet and ashes in the theatre were not put there by the off-campus group but by a registered student union club. In fact, most of our problems are caused by student union groups as I indicated to your reporter who quoted me out of context. The Civic Music Theatre executive, cast and crew were most co-operative and sympathetic to our problems. Those problems which did arise were largely due to technical operation of our rather complex equipment by inexperienced personnel and it then appears that my judgment has been faulty in believing that the opportunity for those interested in gaining experience in all phases of theatre operation should be provided here. Unfortunately because of some misuse of technical equipment by student groups and off-campus personnel we will now have to insist that our own crew will direct all technical aspects of theatre.

It is my wish that this letter or an extract thereof be printed as an apology to Civic Music Theatre for this misunderstanding. May I suggest that in the future your reporter respect the wishes of those interviewed or at least get the facts straight.

Cecil H. Pretty  
Theatre Supervisor