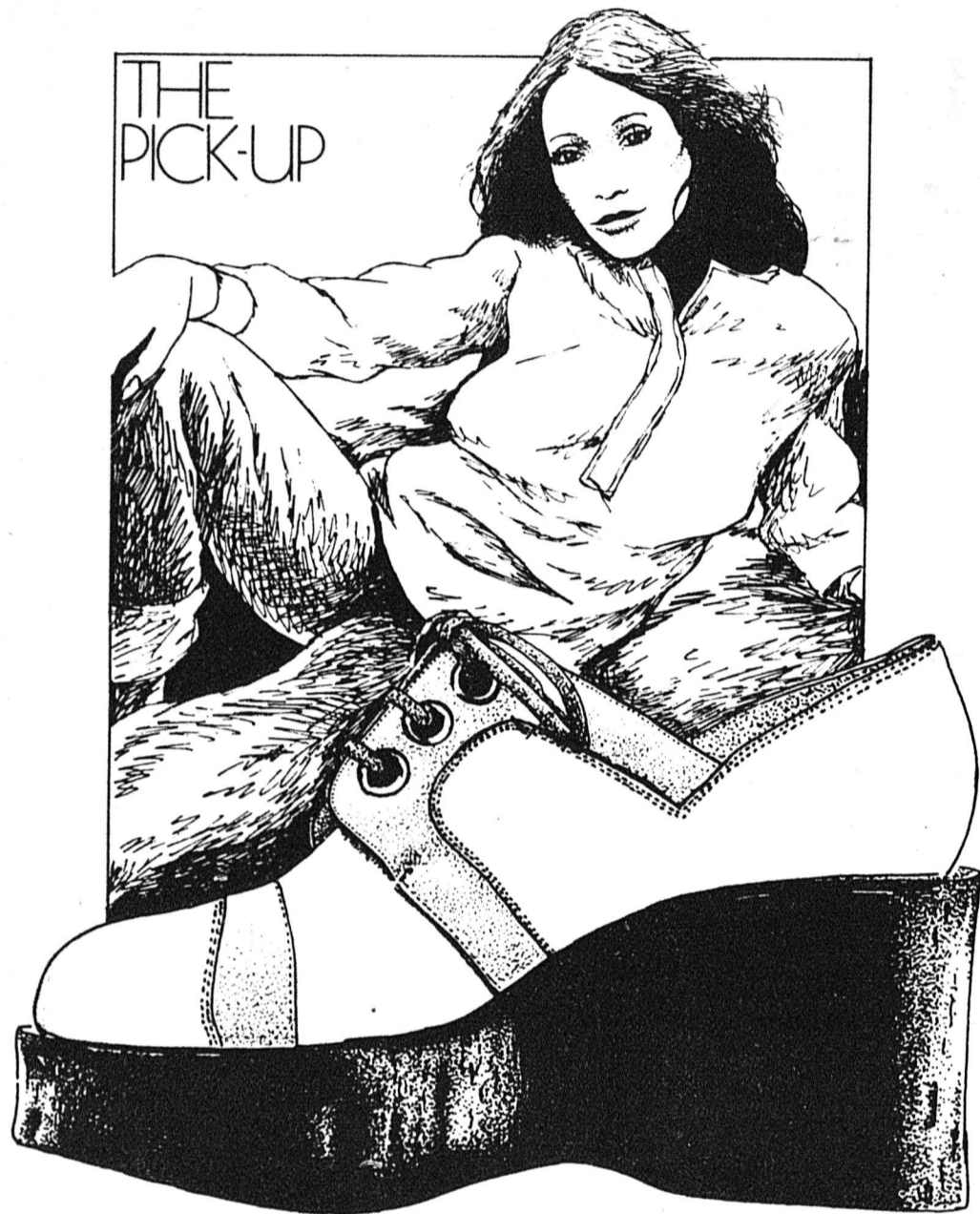


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letters



Anthropology, had been opposed to certain aspects of the Students Union Course Guide. In the Journal article a staff representative from the Course Guide was quoted as saying that those departments which had refused permission to be evaluated "must have something to hide".

In the Course Guide itself the following comment was made:

Note: Due to the fact that the Dept. of Anthropology did not give permission for their courses to be evaluated this year, course descriptions printed below are evaluations from 1970-71.

I would like to emphasize that at no time did the Department of Anthropology refuse permission to have an evaluation made, that being a matter for the individual instructors to decide. So that the matter is perfectly clear, I have attached a copy of a letter that I wrote as Chairman to Mr. Dale McIntosh, Project Director. It was this letter which apparently initiated the "note" in the Course Guide and some of the statements made to the Edmonton Journal.

The Department received no reply from Mr. McIntosh, the only indication that they had in fact received our letter being that instructors in this Department were not sent survey forms for the classes they conducted. To claim that the "Dept. of Anthropology did not give permission for their courses to be evaluated" is a bit far removed from what actually happened.

I personally am very much in favor of student evaluations as one means of evaluating an instructor's abilities, even though "showmanship" gets to be grossly overemphasized. However, I think that there are several badly conceived questions in the U of A Course Guide which have nothing to do with either showmanship or academic excellence.

At the same time, I think that the Course Guide's effectiveness in actually guiding students to take or not take courses is very minimal if the registration figures in my own Department are any indication.

Whereas registrations for the University as a whole were down from last year, the number of enrollments in anthropology courses rose by over 25%, representing a numerical increase of 595 students.

Again, I think that an effective course guide is a good thing; a bad one is a waste of the students' time and money.

Finally, I would still appreciate knowing the Guide's reasons for including the questions regarding instructors' political beliefs. Perhaps the Course Guide has something to hide.

Henry T. Lewis
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology

NOTE: The attached letter said in part:

The departmental vote does not preclude individual instructors from carrying out the survey in their own classes, with or without all or part of the questions on the survey form. This is a matter for each faculty member and GTA to decide for himself. However, the Plenum of this department, which includes faculty, non-academic staff, and graduate students, wish to state that they cannot and do not support the student opinion survey for the 1972 Course Guide.

day care

I would like to bring to the attention of your readers, an error published in the Gateway, September 28, 1972, concerning Day Care subsidization.

It was reported that the Student's Union Day Care Centre would receive an annual subsidy of \$3,000.00 from the Non-Academic Staff.

At no time has the Non-Academic Staff Association pledged or implied that they would support a Student's Union Day Care Centre.

Lynne Van de Voet met with the Executive of N.A.S.A. who informed her they were willing to assist a University Community Day Care Centre. It was carefully explained to the Association Executive that this Day Care Centre would not be controlled or answerable to the Student's Union, it was on this understanding that the Executive were prepared to assist and it was by no means \$3000.00 worth of assistance, nor was it implied that this support would be an on-going annual grant.

Phil Arnold
General Executive Secretary

secret

I wish to take strong exception to the following remark in Dr. M.J. Ball's letter published in the October 3 issue of the Gateway.

"No signature means no release of information which is the reverse of the situation in the registrar's office, where a signature is required to prevent academic information being released."

Students who might be alarmed upon reading such a statement by an officer of the University are invited to peruse the entire section of the calendar dealing with student records (Section 16.8). I believe that it will then be apparent to them that the confidentiality of their academic records is fully protected without their having to sign anything.

I should be happy to discuss the matter with anyone who feels otherwise after having studied the section in question.

Yours sincerely,
A.D. Cairns,
Registrar.

course guide

Last month an article in the Edmonton Journal mentioned the fact that several departments, which included