

Opinion

Alan Small

Blue Jays blasted



Just when you thought the world was unfolding as it should, some part goes astray and screws up the whole process.

On the back page of the *Edmonton Journal* sports section Wednesday are two stories side by side. One says "Another year for Williams". The other "Thrift dumped in Pirates power play."

Toronto Blue Jay manager Jimmy Williams (whom the first article is about) has had his contract renewed for the 1989 baseball season. In his three years as manager, Williams has turned a club which was one game from the World Series into a withering mass of bad attitudes. What used to be one of the fastest teams in the majors has suddenly turned into one of the slowest.

The million dollar outfield (Lloyd Moseby, Jesse Barfield, and George Bell) will probably have two new faces next year. The Blue Jays will trade away Barfield and Moseby this winter. Dave Stieb also wants to be traded. Bell has publicly blasted Williams' actions, and vice versa. This doesn't provide the team harmony that clubs like the Dodgers and the Tigers have. All it produces is losers.

On the other side of the coin is former Pirate general manager Syd Thrift. He took over a team in '85 that had the worst record, the oldest players, the highest salaries, and the worst attendance in baseball. Toss into that the bad reputation the Pirates got from the drug scandal that fingered more than ten players, and the Pirates would be the last team a new guy would want to take over as GM.

Thrift, in three years, has turned the Pirates into the youngest, lowest-paid team in baseball, which had great attendance and finished ten games over .500. Andy van Slyke, Bobby Bonilla, Jose Lind, and John Smiley have all had good seasons this year with Pittsburgh. They're also young enough to have many more.

Yesterday, in a fit of pique, the Pirate board of directors gave Thrift the boot, claiming Thrift wanted more authority.

"He wanted to be able to do what he thought was right," said board chairman Douglas Danforth. Heaven forbid that Thrift could improve the ball club. We can't have that, now. Pittsburgh teams are supposed to lose.

What is ironic is that Williams does a poor job and keeps it. Thrift will probably earn executive of the year honors in Major League Baseball, yet he won't see the team he built turn into the eventual winner it appears to be.

In real life, Williams either would be demoted or fired. Thrift would receive a raise or a promotion for his efforts. In baseball, however, Toronto will keep losing and Pittsburgh will stop developing. Neither will win a division title in the next five years.

That's no way to run a ball club.

The Gateway

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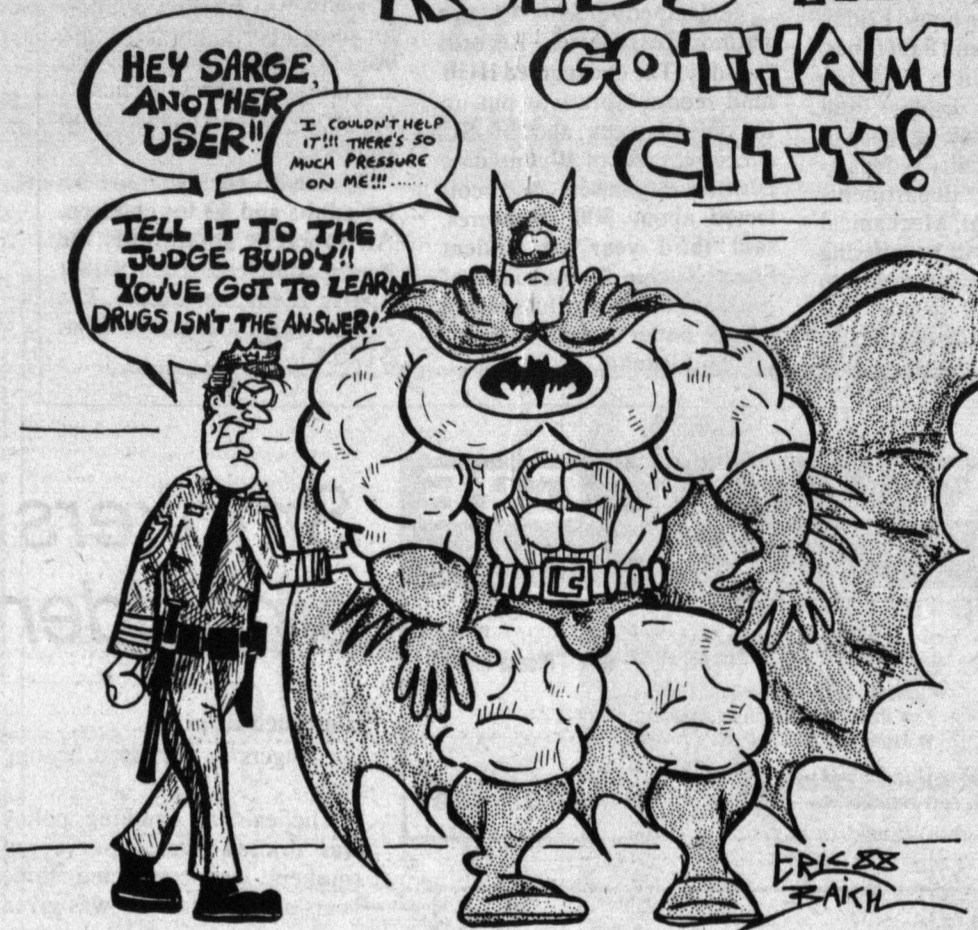
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A CRACK DOWN ON ROIDS IN GOTHAM CITY!



Letters

The Gateway welcomes letters to the editor.

The name, faculty and year of study of the writer must be included for publication. The writer's phone number and University of Alberta I.D. number must also be provided, but will remain confidential.

Letters should be double-spaced, and typed if possible. They must not exceed 300 words.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit for length or clarity. Material of a racist, sexist, homophobic, or libellous nature will not be published.

Please submit letters to Room 282, SUB.

mands much more than to be sacrificed by those who would seriously impair, or outright deny, the availability of its truly remarkable selection to not only the student population, but also to the public at large. For the sake of mere money.

A "Philosophy" was cited in *The Gateway* as the rationale for the sale. Perhaps this "Philosophy" should be re-examined. Perhaps, executives, you could find it in your hearts — sorry, *minds* — to reverse the due process and sacrifice the God of money to the humble plebian of art just this once.

Kerry Winter
Arts III

CDA superior

According to Mike Spindloe and Bob Meyer, there will be no battle between CDA and DAT, but rather "peaceful co-existence". In fact, there will be a battle, but with the release of recordable CDs, CDA will win hands down. Who wants to wait two minutes for their worthless DAT cassette to rewind when they could achieve the same thing in a second with their CD recorder?

Also, I got my CD player (with fourfold oversampling) for \$270, so \$400 sounds a bit unrealistic. The thing to do is to shop at the Future Shop rather than Audio Ark.

This is because Future Shop makes money with low profit margins and high sales volumes. If SU Records had taken this approach, it wouldn't have gone broke. Nobody is going to pay old-fashioned prices (i.e. \$25) for a CD if they can get the same CD at A&A or HMV for \$15. And a few \$1 coupons, distributed sparingly, cannot compete with \$4 coupons from other places. (People are stupid, but not that stupid.)

Peter Englefield
Science II

Commission comment

In response to your September 29 editorial inappropriately entitled "Tupper tested", I would like to clarify one of the numerous factual inaccuracies and misleading suggestions presented by Randal Smathers.

As a member of the Housing and Transport Commission, I can testify to the fact that the decision to appeal to the media for support on the food price increase issue was made only after the Commission felt all other channels had been all but exhausted, and that this decision was not made arbitrarily by Mr. Tupper but by consensus of the members present at that meeting. The minutes of this meeting are available through the Students' Union. Had you been inclined toward investigative journalism, rather than sensationalism, you would easily have discovered this fact.

Wade Deisman
Arts

Letter misinterpreted

Re: Protest hypocritical

Regarding the recent letter by Gary Boon, I would like to make a reply.

Although I found your letter quite amusing and was surprised to see any reaction to my letter, I must inform you that you misinterpreted my letter. You have called me a "hypocrite" for protesting, because I pointed out that Mark Cheunming's comment about hating people who protest was a hypocritical statement. However, case in point, I do not have a problem with people protesting.

I think it is great when people express their opinions or say what they think (as long as it does not offend other people or include violence), just like you did. Thanks.

Kisa Mortenson
Arts III

Mere money motive

The Students' Union is selling our record store. You know, the one place in Alberta where you can find Poulenc's Concerto for Timpani, etc.; the one place in Alberta where you can find the latest from Stan Getz; the one place in Alberta where you can find Talking Head's latest — all within a hundred feet of each other. Moreover, SU Records is also the place to find Getz's *oldest* and the Heads' *oldest*. Of course this is not even mentioning the folkies, the bluespeople, the metallurgists...

Executive types, please recognize the unique concept that is SU Records; recognize it for what it is, namely, an incomparable selection of an art spanning not only the entire range of musical genres but also years, decades and centuries. It deserves much more than to be brushed off by blinkered innocents who perceive the store to be solely an alternative music store. Its collection de-