

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.

Sexism is alive and well and living in your house. I work part time as a lifeguard. Over the weekend I attended an in-service. The keynote speaker was addressing the topic of public relations. He stood up before a predominantly female audience and explained that he was nervous about speaking to a large group of strangers. "They say," he chuckled, "that if you imagine your audience naked they won't intimidate you." He then leered down at three young women in the front row and said, "and I'm really enjoying imagining you three naked." The audience tittered.

Engineering Week is here. Scattered about campus are posters of women, the Engineering princesses. They usually are surrounded by a bevy of able-bodied males. This is the traditional depiction of woman as an object to be coveted and admired by hormonally-ruled males. Men ogle these posters, women shrug their shoulders and walk on by. Others agree to pose for this trash.

My father purchased a gift for the female secretaries in his office. He told us he was going to give it to the "girls" at work. My sister, mother, and I suggested adamantly that he re-label the secretaries as women. He was quizzical. He hadn't said anything bad. No, but he had said something patronizing. Surely the secretaries were all over sixteen and well out of girlhood. He nodded and agreed that women was a far more appropriate title.

Of these scenarios, one is not like the others. Education took place. At the seminar, I should have spoken up immediately and explained to the speaker that his condescending and sexist tone was far from appropriate and appreciated. Perhaps he and the women who tittered at this locker room humour would have realized how far out in left field he was.

The engineers would be hard-pressed to produce their "boytoy" posters if women refused to pose for them. Apparently, the Engineering "princesses" are unaware of the great disservice they do their sisters when they cooperate in creating these posters. As long as there are women naive enough to pose for Engineering Week posters, this degrading and stereotypical image of women will continue to be propagated... to the detriment of all women.

However, my father left our house a better educated man. No longer will he refer to women as girls. You have to start somewhere.

Suzanne Lundrigan



THE LAST PLAYER IN RUSSIAN ROULETTE

Letters



No scholar jocks

To the Editor:

So the U of A student body doesn't support its athletic teams, eh? Well, I can only say, Bravo! to the Apathetic. The athletes and coaches, as well as the Gateway sports writers, seem to be under the impression that there is some reason they deserve our support, or that it is our duty as university students to unthinkingly support "our" team. They fail to notice that this is not the United States where entire universities are built around a successful athletic program, and the poor sod who didn't manage to get one of the famous "get all your tuition paid, but don't actually learn anything" scholarships has to get a degree instead, and make up for his failure by spending every free moment supporting and rooting for the team that rejected him. Up here in Canada, especially Edmonton, we watch sports for a different reason — we like sports! So, with champion-quality teams like the Oilers and the Eskis around, as well as the best N.F.L. and N.B.A. teams only a television's length away, the Bears and Pandas, no matter how well they finish in their own little leagues, just don't cut it.

I think it is time the athletes, coaches, and Gateway sports writers stopped complaining and accepted the fact that they are getting all the support they deserve, and they shouldn't expect any more.

G. Winton
Science III

Thanks!

To The Editor:

I would like to thank the students and faculty for their generosity in supporting the U of A New Democrats' Christmas Fund for the Children of Striking Gainers Workers.

A total of \$190 was collected over the space of a few days at the information tables and at a donation box in St. Joseph's. Student involvement and support for off-campus issues is crucial.

Tim Eckert
Arts II

Apologies to Mr. Skelton. We misspelled his last name.

Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa.

Arafat's lecture...

To the Editor:

Ian Feldman and Jerome Marburg, in their letter to the Gateway entitled "Arafat article unfair", blamed the Gateway for its coverage of Dr. Arafat's lecture and professed their own opinions of the situation of the Palestinians in the Middle East as more accurate than that of the chairman of the Red Crescent Society. I beg to differ!

No, the plight of the Palestinians is not "clearly and indisputably" "on the front burner". Neither are the Palestinians' humanity or need of social and medical care portrayed that often in the Western media. All one needs to do is look in the newspapers. Whenever Israel shells Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, we get a few lines tucked away somewhere within the folds of the *Journal* or the *Globe and Mail*, often in only one of them. Furthermore, newspapers never omit to say that Israel's aim was not refugee camps, but rather "terrorist" P.L.O. headquarters — the P.L.O. must have more headquarters than members. On the other hand, when Palestinians are allegedly to blame, the coverage is exhaustive. Everyone remembers the hijacking of the Italian ship a year ago; it was front page news for weeks. Do you know the number of Palestinian civilians killed by Israeli bombings in the last year?... I rest my case!

Feldman and Marburg's letter continues with more points to demonstrate their extensive knowledge of the Middle East's "internal" problems. It is odd, however, that they did not see fit to come and present their facts and figures to Dr. Arafat himself. If they were so sure of their superior knowledge, why not prove Dr. Arafat wrong in front of his audience, including the Gateway representative? They did not even see fit to display their views at the booth that the Arab Students' Association had in HUB for a whole week. A pity, because had they come to the booth, they might have picked up some of the United Nations' publications, and they would have found out about the discontinued UN health facilities. In fact, they would have learned, if indeed they don't know, many an answer to the points they raised in their celebrated letter.

But perhaps the most outrageous and provocative claims in that letter is that the Israelis provide medical help to the Palestinian refugees across the "good fence." My dear fellows, the only thing that crosses that fence is Israeli war planes causing injury after injury to the Palestinians. Do you know what it is like to lose your house in a bombing, to come back from school to find no home? Lost is all you own: the furniture, the clothes, the savings; lost are the books, the pictures, the memories; and very often, lost are the siblings or the parents. All in one bombing. In the last 375 days, Israel bombed refugee camps 20 times.

No my friends, do not blame the Gateway for their coverage of Dr. Arafat's lecture, they were not biased. After all, they published your letter, all 640 words of it.

Roxanne Kawal
Agriculture III

Take it easy

To The Editor:

RE: Deidre Shene's Letter.

Tim Cooksley is not a "very insecure male". He is not upset. He is just one of the many people who are mildly annoyed by raging feminism, not feminism itself, just the paranoid kind. The only reason he even considers it an issue is because of the extreme reaction of the first letter.

The real clue is the postscript. It shows a sense of humor. (Everyone should have one — they're nice).

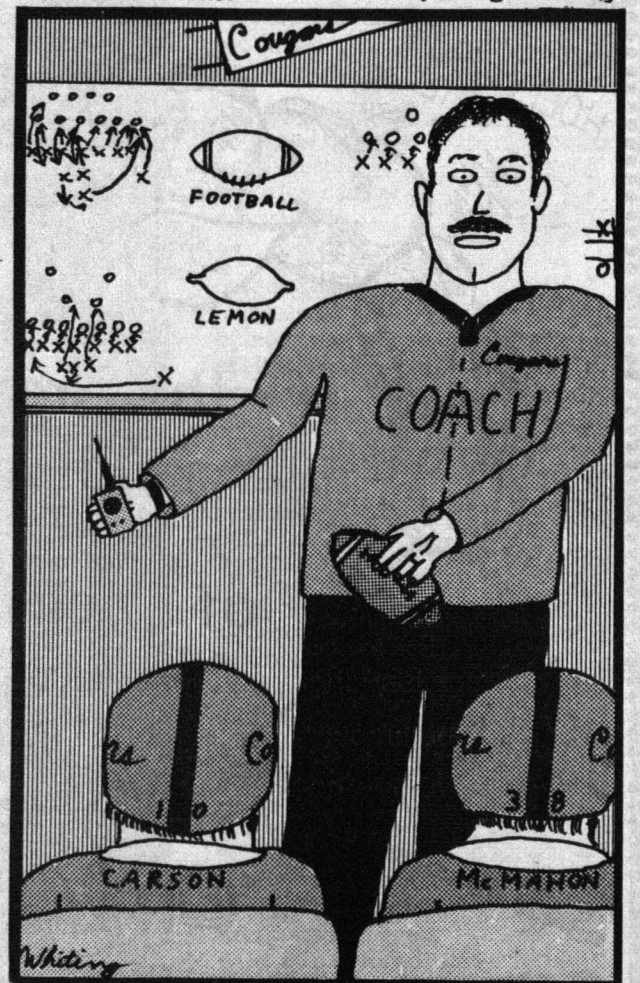
So take it easy boys and girls — or should I say people — there is not need to take offense.

Tanja Oswald
Science II

P.S. No need to attack Mr. Cooksley — he's not the issue. Read the letter again, I think you missed the point.

The Round Corner

By Greg Whiting



I'm gonna put this little radio-control gadget in the ball..."

The Gateway

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