

Credit dangers

Christmas is rolling around, and no doubt most of us will be feeling pangs of conscience about all those people we should buy gifts for. For most students (including those of us who didn't spend all of our student loans by Christmas) credit seems like an easy way to get those Christmas obligations out of the way. Credit card companies, banks and department stores are all making cards easier than ever to get. Well my advice is this — don't do it!

Two years ago I had six credit cards, all while being a student, and in no time they were all up to the limit. Now, while sweating to pay them all back, I've had lots of time to think about credit. Frankly, if you can't live within your means, under most circumstances, you're spending too much. Now, I know that might sound harsh to students barely squeaking by on meagre student loans, but there's a lot to be said for ingenuity in finding ways to save money. Irresponsible use of credit will only result in headaches later. In fact, I'd even say it's immoral.

Tony Morris
Unclassified

Olympics elitist

Sports buffs and even ordinary citizens all across the country are going around, after the Olympics, with gritted teeth and forced smiles. How much gold did the athletes bring home? Enough for a large, rich, developed country, one that sent a huge team to Seoul?

No. Not enough gold. We lost the Olympics...

Not at all. The paradox is that in losing, we won.

Why is that? Well, ask yourself what it takes to win Olympic medals. First of all, it takes large amounts of tax money to support the athletic programs and athletes. Second, it takes years out of a young athlete's life, as he or she trains eight to twelve hours a day, six days a week, during those precious teen years.

Canada should congratulate itself that it is resisting this kind of pernicious nonsense. Resisting, but not entirely winning this particular contest for common sense.

The situation is bad enough in

Canada. There is a problem here. A few major sports receive all the attention — hockey, football, basketball. And the universities subsidize the training and production of professional athletes. Tax dollars support a curious kind of elitism, the creation of a few national heroes, while the rest of the nation looks on through the tube.

What is the solution to this mess? Well, here is one.

First of all, we might rethink what it is we are doing in sports. A sound principle is *mens sana in corpore sano*.

Second, abolish all sports competition above the local level. That includes the Olympics and professional sports. Instead of supporting subsidized, elite programs designed to send a few people to the "games" (it is a ludicrous delusion to call them games), put the money into local sports facilities all across the country. Each one might not be as elaborate as the U of A gym or the Kinsmen complex. But everyone would have a chance.

Our own university seems at times to be moving in the wrong direction, threatening to stop activities like track and gymnastics, while keeping up the major pro sports. But there are people here who see sports as something for everyone to do, not watch.

Of course, a healthy attitude towards sports will take a revolution in our thinking about the subject. But it is worth it. Canada could lead the world in such a salutary movement — before it wastes more money and people in search of Olympic medals.

Finally, that will be the heart and soul of the matter. Figuring out what sports should be.

M. Mote
Political Science Department

Tradition unites

Re: Godiva

It seems that at this time of the year there is a sudden flux of letters that get published in support of or dejecting the Lady Godiva riding. The key to this is the phrase "several years" — this event is a tradition.

Tradition is one way of sharing our unity among all engineers such as Lady Godiva and Queen Week. In no other faculty is there such unity. Not in science, business, arts, or education. There is

no unity in our university by just looking at the attendance figures for sporting events.

Engineers are celebrating their 75th Anniversary in Alberta and we're proud of it! That's 75 years of unity.

True, many view this matter as a sexist exploitation of the female body. However, engineers see it as fun and tradition, nothing else. In fact, this event has been changed to suit those who take offense, as Godiva now only bares her breasts. Perhaps with the increase of ladies into engineering we will one day see a man in a G-string leading the horse which Godiva rides.

Mike Hein
Engineering IV

Nude horse shocking

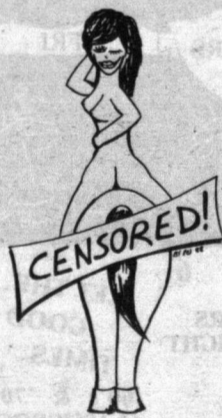
Re: The Godiva Letter Debate

Now, I wasn't there to view the fuss-causing event, but if I'm not mistaken, it seems there was a horse involved. A COMPLETELY UNCLOTHED NUDE HORSE! I'm shocked that the Godless communist NDP metalhead porno-fiend pervert satanic engineer types would practically whip our little eyes to death with such a gratuitous display of indecent rawhide horse flesh. Providing such cheap titillation for other horses and the zoosexual humans on campus can only lead to an increase in the already rampant student bestiality problem.

Have these people no respect for horse dignity? Fun is fun, but sweaty, naked undulating horse skin will only send us all to hell.

By the way, warm weather seems to bring out hordes of shirtless males — it's disgusting — DISGUSTING I tell you!

Ron Lalonde
Science IV



Grads glad

Re: Power Plant Friday 3-5 p.m. Undergrad Ban

As a grad student who by Friday is tired of figuring out new ways to make my research project yield statistically significant results, I was glad to hear of the new policy at the Power Plant. As anyone who frequents the Power Plant at these peak hours knows, getting a table at this time is slightly short of a miracle.

I fully sympathize with the disgruntled hordes of undergraduates who oppose this God-sent policy, but the ban only lasts two hours which certainly isn't asking too much, especially in light of the fact that other fine facilities for imbibing exist on campus. I hope the Power Plant maintains this policy and that the undergrads realize this is not a personal affront to their support. All we want is a decent chance for a pint and a table on Fridays but unfortunately had to disappoint the undergrads in the process.

C. Grace Petrikowski, D.D.S.
Faculty of Grad Studies

Thank God!

In the calendar on my desk, there is a day in October which has been circled with red ink. There are two reasons for the stars and happy faces which mark this day as special. First, this day is the reason for a holiday, and right now I desperately need a holiday! (Can you relate to that?) Second, it's Thanksgiving.

We have so much to be thankful for, so much that we take for granted. When I stop to reflect on my own life, I am amazed at all the things I have to thank God for. This holiday weekend, I encourage you to stop and count your blessings — blessings of good parents, of a free and peaceful country, of the opportunity for a good education, of course good friends and good times — the blessings of life. As I think of these things, I'm reminded that "every good and perfect gift is

from above" (James 1:17) and the Bible tells us to "give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." (Psalm 107:1)

I realize that there will be people reading this who will say, "You don't know what I've gone through in my life. I have nothing to be thankful for." No matter how hard life has been to us, there is one thing which we can all be thankful for, and that is the love of God which He desires to freely give to each of us. Jesus loved us so much that He died for us and, if we ask Him to forgive us for the wrong we've done and come into our hearts as Savior and friend, He will change our lives for the better.

This Thanksgiving, above all else, I am thankful that Jesus is my Savior and my Best Friend, and He wants to be the same for you. On your day off, take the time to think about your blessings, and take the time to thank God.

Galyne Howard
Education II

Protest hypocritical

Re: Protest

A letter was written by Kisa Mortenson regarding hypocritical letters. In her letter, she pointed out that another person, in another recent letter, was protesting a protest in yet another person's recent letter. She found that protest to be rather hypocritical. By the same token, Kisa is also a hypocrite, since she is protesting a protest.

This would seem to imply that my letter is hypocritical also, since I am protesting Kisa's protest, who is protesting another person's protest, who is... But does anybody really care?

Hypocrites of the world, unite! Soon, a new era will dawn upon our great bastion of hypocrisy! The Young Hypocrites of Alberta, led by Kisa, myself and another person, are on a recruiting drive. The membership fee is one hypocritical letter to *The Gateway*, payable next week.

Gary Boon
Science III

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