

Cheesecake dignity genuine

Sex, sex, sex. The rutting season is upon us and across the wide expanse of *Gateway* one hears the bawling and screeching of moralists in heat. All bellowing about sex. Not pleasant aspects of sex like, say, the cute compact blonde in Chem 302, whose mere appearance induces a giddiness mellowed than the graceful swoops of "The Blue Danube." No, the dismal specifics are abortion and "sexism."

Take, for instance, the lather over abortion. On one side are protectors of the unborn like the Rev. John Van Damme howling apocalyptically about the imminent collapse of civilization if abortion is legalized, and uttering staggering metaphors like, "the entire fabric of society is impoverished." On the other side are the defenders of women's rights (including abortion on demand) whooping "Onwards Utopia!" and belaboring the sophistry that a foetus is not a life. Needless to say, each side accuses the other of being neurotic, narrow-minded, inconsiderate, etc.

Well, at least one factual error needs to be corrected. Many countries have tolerated very liberal abortion laws without riding the roller-coaster to hell. The prime example is Japan, whose main birth control method in the late 19th and early 20th century was abortion. As to the moral issues, they are probably insoluble. Hence we are cursed with hearing both sides yapping at each other for a long time yet. After all, the proposition that abortion is killing seems quite reasonable. Unfortunately, so does the reply that the effect of abortion is no different than the effect of the pill or celibacy; that only the technic differs. Faced with such a conundrum it is probably best to simply shut up and mind one's own sex life. I drop the suggestion discreetly and pass on.

Gateway's vice crusade against "sexism", however, deserves nothing less than a barrage of hoots, jeers, rotten tomatoes and dead cats. One must conclude from the paper's curious policies that its journalistic innocents are unaware that the average woman sells herself by stratagems ten times as dishonest as a radio station displaying its logo on a well-stuffed T-shirt. The problem here is not that industry peddles its wares by lascivious suggestion, or that women buttress, drape and fresco themselves and otherwise engage in deceptive packaging practices. The problem is that people invariably fall for this sort of thing and even

demand it. Here we are dealing with an earth force: the irrepressible human urge to embrace caressing illusions. This romantic compulsion is what causes gawky adolescents to believe that listening to all the latest highly-praised rock albums will convert them into tough street-wise badasses. And which causes pious old maids, male and female, to believe that putting a dollar in the collection plate and supervising one's neighbor's morals will get one into heaven. And again, which causes ostensibly sane professors to believe that replacing existing government agencies with soviets of clodhoppers, plumbers and Arts students will alchemically transform politics into a decent and sensible business. And finally, which causes me to believe that the cute blonde ... but enough of ex-

The point is that believers were created for the sole purpose of being rooked, and they guard their birthright jealously. By censoring one of the more charming and innocuous swindles *Gateway* is merely shovelling water upstream. For every con artist suppressed two new ones spring up by popular demand.

But aren't women libelled or demeaned by the daily overdose of cheesecake? I doubt it. No woman of genuine dignity suffers from it any more than a genuinely dignified man suffers from constant comparison to handsome vacuums like John Travolta, Robert Redford or Clint Eastwood. Only theory-infested sociologists and feminist prudes (male and female) fall for such baloney.

Jens Anderson
Science II

Ed for bozos?

I received a six part assignment in a compulsory education course I am taking that I would like to bring to your attention. One of the six "objectives" of this particular assignment is to "mount a magazine tearsheet or equivalent on an 11" x 14" mounting board, using rubber cement as the mounting medium" (i.e. paste a magazine picture on a piece of cardboard). I've isolated this one objective because it is probably one of the more taxing of the six. Evaluation is to be based upon neatness and cleanliness. Simply said, to call this idiocy "mickey mouse" is to pay it undue respect.

In addition I will receive two more of these assignments during the course of the term. In one I will have to operate different audio-visual machines (e.g. thread a film-strip projector). The relevance of this activity to teaching is unquestionable but isn't it really first-day-of-student-teaching sort of stuff? Information to be garnered from the same co-operative teacher who showed you where the staff room was and told you how much money to put in the coffee kitty? It should not even be a footnote to the university education I am paying for.

I believe the third assignment concerns learning how to

trace a source in the library. The foolishness in this is obvious. If an Education student can graduate with a degree and not discover how to use the library during four years of course work then his or her parents are simply loaded or that student's got lips that just won't quit.

Finally, and this is most upsetting, completion of these three workshop assignments counts for not less than 30% of my final mark. Is it any wonder that Education is given negligible respect and has a reputation of being a bozo faculty?

G. Victor Spotowski
Ed. II

LETTERS

Letters to the *Gateway* should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and should include faculty, year and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters must be typed (or very neatly written). We reserve the right to edit for libel and length.

Gold Medal Award

Each spring, the Students' Union awards a student with a Gold Medal for excellence in curricular and non-curricular activities at the University of Alberta during the previous academic year.

Criteria:

- candidates must be in the graduating year of their most recent degree programme
- must have a Grade Point Average of at least 7.5 in courses taken two years previous to the graduating year and in the first term of the graduating year
- extra-curricular involvement in University and/or community activities

Deadline for Applications: 22 February 1980

Contact the Students' Union Executive Offices for application or nomination forms, and/or for more information (259 Students' Union Building, 432-4236).

B'nai B'rith Hillel



Matti Golan speaks on: "Israel and the Changing Middle East Realities"
Wed. Feb. 6 12 noon Rm. 158A SUB

FORUM

Godfrey Ukio

(Tanzanian Economist)

"Making a Living in the World"

Feb. 5, 12:30 - 2 P.M.
Meditation Room SUB

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CHRETIEN**
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Finance Minister

**Mon. Feb. 4,
12 noon - 1:30**

DINWOODIE LOUNGE
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2nd floor

Everyone welcome

Aggie challenge

The Agriculture Club would like to issue the following challenge to the other Faculty Associations at the University. The A.C.T. Telethon is taking place this coming weekend in SUB. The Ag Club is going to donate to this cause on a match basis. The Ag Club will match the total sum of personal donations solicited from within the Faculty. The Ag Club Executive feels that this way support for this cause can be shown both by the individual and the Club. The Ag Club wishes to challenge the other Faculty Associations to participate in some similar fashion.

Dale McKeague
Academic VP
Rod MacMillan
President