

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

Recombinant chicken soup

Chicken soup does not cause cancer.

It is among eleven things the American Cancer Society after a 20-year long study proclaimed uncarcinogenic. Included are fresh air (a rare commodity), chicken, vegetables, sitting in cool shade, popcorn, and having a "good laugh".

To put this all in perspective, however, consider the following interesting, little known facts:

- At Johns Hopkins University, well-meaning researchers found if you ate nothing but yogurt for an extended period — yogurt by the metric ton, in flavors including strawberry, mandarin orange, Dutch apple, whortleberry, onion, Camembert, chocolate, and fish, among others — you would develop cataracts. That is, as long as you were a laboratory rat, which in itself would be cause for worry.

- If you smoke pot daily for three or four months, say the Canadian and American Medical Associations, you will suffer 'a-motivational syndrome'. Def'n: "It is especially sad with teenagers. It becomes evident in a variety of ways in long-term pot smokers from getting great ideas but being unable to follow through on them, to becoming lethargic and losing any desire to get up and do things, to burning out, no longer functioning and no longer able to take responsibility for their lives."

Following the release of indoor air quality guidelines as determined by government and the subsequent revelation that urea formaldehyde insulation was carcinogenic, the civil enforcers are assaulting one of colonial Canada's most cherished remembrances: the wood stove.

It seems that burning wood indoors increases indoor benzopyrene concentrations eighteen times. (Eighteen times!) The danger for plains-dwelling Saskatchewanites is particularly alarming especially now that the government has cancelled another stalwart of Canadian colonialism, the super continental railroad. Prairie railroad ties treated with PCP's (pentachlorophenols) when burned in the plains family hearth emit health-hazardous dioxins, though not in the most lethal tetradioxin form. There are rumors that indoor washrooms will be assaulted next for air quality tests. If levels are found to be noxious (by all objective standards), the government may impose regulations that each indoor washroom be fitted with clean air filtering systems, or fans.

- The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons concluded in September that men's sex drive may well lead to premature heart failure.

Dr. Bryan Hudson from Melbourne University in Australia found castrated cats live longer than toms and castrated men in mental institutions tended to live longer than their "intact" counterparts. The earlier they had been castrated, the longer the men lived. No information was provided telling how long the men had been mad.

This is just a primer of the pervasive problems facing humankind today. We may take comfort, however, that in paying tuition to the university — an institution of higher, albeit well-meaning, research, we are contributing to the cure of all human ills.

The thought processes which have allowed humans to progress to our present state via the university are well illustrated by the following anonymous anecdote:

"In the Middle Ages, an innocent-looking 16 year old girl who had killed people at random would have been considered possessed by Satan and duly exorcised, or, failing that, burned at the stake. A hundred years ago, she would have been seen as a victim of economic exploitation. Quite recently, social alienation, psychotic puberty, or improper relations with her father would have been the proper explanation."

Now that all our human abnormalities have been reduced to problematic scientific phenomena, well meaning researchers have endeavored to discover 'cures' for all ills.

Last September the first potential cure-all was tested: for the first time genes were transferred successfully from one animal to another. The operations were performed on mice and rabbits, fortunately with no adverse side-effects such as mice with long teeth or rabbits with long hairy tails. And it followed, just as sure as yogurt-eating mice developed cataracts, that molecular geneticists predicted "the process could be extended to higher forms of life, including humans."

"We've generated more questions than can be answered in a lifetime of work," commented one geneticist at the momentous moment. One is given to wishing these well meaning scientists would be rather less curious, though, and just eat their chicken soup before they find out it's bad for you.

Peter Michalyszyn

UAB constitution... cleans house.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Grievance board for tenants

The Housing and Transport Commission of the Student's Union is concerned that two housing associations, HUB and North Garneau, have dissolved this year. This affects both those individuals living in University Housing who are not being represented, and Housing Associations generally, as they have been weakened as a group.

It is essential that all University Housing have tenant representation.

The major role of Housing Associations is to monitor university housing service. There must be input from students on the quality and standard of the housing provided. If housing is not monitored by the student tenants, there is the strong possibility that administrative councils will operate without due regard to, and consideration of student needs and concerns.

To correct this problem, concerned associations and individuals are invited to contact the Students' Union office. The SU has the resources available to ensure representation and recourse with respect to both organizational difficulties and prevalent issues.

The SU is aware that Housing Associations concerns itself with issues such as Health and Safety Standards, Maintenance, and University Administrative policy. These policies are also concerns common to several groups. However, while lobbying by individual associations is necessary, a group effort is often more effective in resolving these issues.

This approach can be achieved by continually advising and informing the SU of relevant complaints, concerns, and issues. The SU office can then cooperate with the various associations to present a unified and therefore stronger position.

Take the first step!
- at the earliest convenience, prepare a list of complaints and issues relevant to your particular association.
- prioritize your concerns.
- present your concerns to the

SU office, and discuss procedures and areas of support for achieving your ends.

You are not alone! 13 percent of students live in University Housing. Contact:

Lisa Walter, v.p. external
432-4236

John Jacobs, Housing and Transportation Commissioner
439-3013 Arts
Brian Achtem
Business
Vivan Blochert
Law

Sunsets and duckies

Concerning 'Peace Bashwell's' interpretation of *Voices in Alberta*, I suggest the reviewer might have received a slightly different message, had he/she not been under the influence of vodka and dogma. Such are the distortions that twist events viewed through the bottom of a glass or a Berlin Wall of pre-conceived notions.

"The expressive develop-

ment of, an essential concept through a controlled medium of rhythm and images," is an undeniably noble ideology.

That P.B. has the ability to memorize such rhetorical definitions of the poetic process is indeed admirable.

One should not, however, be unmindful of the many existing essential concepts unorbital of sunsets and ducks.

There are, for example, human realities, such as sex, love, death, to name the more flippant. These trivialities (often in conjunction with admittedly un-romantic urban landscapes) seem to demand more from the modern poet than mere pastoral odes.

If nothing more, P.B. may recognize the limited merits of bottled wisdom at an early age. Failing this, hopefully in future he/she will stick to cartwheels.

Seren Dipity
Arts

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, although we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

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Staff this issue: Ah, November. Falling Leaves, falling flakes, and falling marks. The Gateway office was a hive of activity with staffers bustling about trying to salvage their academic careers. Ben Yee, Peter West, Cindy Oxley, and Beth Jacob busily forged Doctor's signatures on notes explaining that class absences were due to fractured hips. Bob Kilgannon, Les Parsons, Elizabeth H., and Jordan Peterson plotted ways to sabotage the registrar's computer. Vic Marchiel, Tom Freeland, Ken Tsai and Brent Jeffery efficiently manufactured various imaginative blackmail pics of Deans on campus. And Peter Hammond and Michael Skeet pondered the virtues of a university system without grades.