

This issue:

- Selfish students;
- a letter from Bangladesh;
- knocking the stanine;
- and much much more.

Free phone

Re:use of the free phone in SUB.

In a sense, this letter complains about a very trivial point in this vast pool of experience one calls life. However, in another sense, the incident is at the very basis of most human interactions. It is a small unit of behaviour which, if repeated enough, could have disastrous results. The incident concerns the ability of people to resist sharing.

Many people regard the free phone in SUB as their own private property, little realizing that this particular phone should be at the disposal of thousands of students. While I only waited 10 minutes to phone, one individual had already been waiting 15 minutes. When I politely asked the guilty party to resume his call later, he hung up immediately. Then, the phone was commandeered by another individual who had just arrived. At that moment I foresaw the danger of this repetitive situation and I felt the need to vocalize its danger. Public facilities are the supreme test of our humanity and our acquired civilization because they have to be shared. And sharing, above all, requires a respect for the other individual. Without sharing all that can exist is chaos and a form of madness.

So people, have the patience and wisdom to wait in the interests of sharing. It's an easier way to live.

Normand Brin

Abortion

I'd like to comment on the letter from Peter San Filippo in the September 27 issue of Gateway. He saw the 5000 abortions performed by Dr. Morgentaler as 5000 deaths because he considers the fetus to be a human being. He continued to say that a woman's rights are totally terminated.

I fully respect this opinion (and it is only an opinion) but definitely feel that Peter and so many others are overlooking a very important fact concerning all moral issues including abortion. While everyone has the right to his own opinion, no one should be allowed to force their belief on another human being. By denying others the right to have an abortion, Peter is forcing his view on the rest of society.

I myself, see the fetus as being completely without the power to respond to or have personal relationships with people and therefore I do not consider it a human being. Although my opinion is quite different from that of Peter's, I have no desire to force it on anyone as I am not going to push any woman into having an abortion. Women who do want an abortion are told "no" because some people have ruled it murder. I think there is something drastically wrong with a society which allows itself to be dictated to by a certain group of people and I would like to see a little more democracy in our country!

Anne Ream
Ed. 1

Dollars in the wind

By now many of us have seen it and some of us are wondering what the hell it is. What it used to be was the service road on the east side of the old Arts building. What it is now I'm not sure.

Perhaps it's landscape architecture expanding its "natural" scope. (N.B. Definition--"LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE"--the art of covering as much open space as possible with concrete in order to save the grass on said open space from being trampled to oblivion.) Perhaps it's the liberated expression of a recent graduate from "Creative Design in Urban Planning 526." Or perhaps it's the Alberta Conservatives' answer to creating employment, and boosting the economy.

To the eye it is this--that a number of neatly-measured hexagonal chunks of a newly-laid road have been jack-hammered out so that the resulting holes could be refilled with concrete--employing the "striking" design of the nearby sidewalk connection to HUB. And these splotches are scattered at random along the road. Very catchv. Definitely avoids regimentation. Just reeks of "freedom."

And it also reeks of waste and futility.

Where is the sense in paying for the manpower and materials necessary to "redecorate" a brand new road? Does this university have such an abundance of funds at its disposal that it can toss dollar bills to the wind and designate the spots where they land to be "redecorated" just so the money will not gather dust?

Listen, Planners-- for the sake of my and other people's eyes and minds -- if you have to spend, pay for something aesthetic. Can't you get away from this morbid fascination with concrete? I get pleasure from seeing trees and shrubs and grass around me. I do not get turned on by arty designs in roads. If you have so much spare capital, put it to good use. Keep in mind that you are planning for human beings, for people with thoughts and feelings, and you'll find all sorts of possibilities for action.

For example -- oppose the construction of the Commerce building in the Arts Quad, because it will effectively destroy the only remaining non-ashphalt open space on the east side of the campus and kill any chance for respite from the onslaught to the senses of the veritable jungle of buildings already in that area.

Or you could risk approval from the people for whom you supposedly plan and put all the parking now behind HUB underground and cover that area with trees and grass so that HUB residents and passers-by could enjoy what they see rather than have their minds throw up. (Speaking of HUB -- just why did Diamond and Myers design windows into the units? Most people living there have nothing to look at anyway.)

But if you want to start with something on a bit smaller scale, perhaps you could just cancel any possible future plans to redecorate the roads on campus.

Such ideas are a poor joke.
Anton Kritzinger

Marking

The stanine system to me has its merits in that it ranks students evenly across all faculties with respect to each other. It fails when one compares a stanine to the amount of work one has done in a course; given supposedly by the percentile mark from that course. Theoretically the percentile should tell you and the professor how much you know in that course but with the stanine system it tells no one else. For example a person gets 70% in a course and gets a 5 or 4 which I know has occurred in a course; with the stanine system it tells an employer the person was in the bottom 35% of the class with some knowledge of the material.

If the stanine of 5 was accompanied by a percentile (which the professor has already worked out to compute stanine) the employer or whomever, gets a better idea about your knowledge of the course. A fuller accounting of the amount of work you did in it, and the amount of difficulty people had with the course. It would also give the out of town student a better assay if a mistake occurred in marking.

As all grades are computerized I would think there would be little problems in adding the percentile with the stanine achieved in the course. It would probably require reprogramming the computer but it had to be done originally when the stanine was put in.

Apathetically,
Adriel Larson, Sc.

Letters



Pen pal

Dear Friend,

Take my cordial love. I heard from a reliable source that it is the only organization through which I can correspondence with the students of this university. I am also a student like you of the Engineering College, Rajshahi Bangladesh. It is my hobby from my childhood to make pen friend with the pupil of your country. My information is given below. Name- Md. Toffazzal Hossain Citizenship- Bangali Address- 158, Lt Selim Chatrabash Engineering College P.O. Kajla Dist-Rajshahi Bangladesh Hobby- Stamp Collecting, Travelling, Learning Language, Scientific Affairs, etc. Marital Status Unmarried.

So, I hope that you kindly help me in this regard and publish my name in Student's newspaper. If it is not possible please send my name to your nearest pen-pal club.

Thanking you,
Yours,
Md. Tofazzal Hossain



"IF MAN MUST HAVE AN ENEMY...."

editorial

POPPYCOCK

Don't buy a poppy for Remembrance Day. The Canadian Legion gets the money. The beneficial uses to which the poppy sale thousands are put each year can be counted on the fingers of one clenched fist.

By selling poppies on the corners for wear on outside lapels and with such a concerted propaganda campaign, the poppy has been robbed of all its symbolic meaning. Now one has to buy a poppy to make his early November wardrobe complete. He has to buy one for social approval, even more than he has to go to the football games, play golf and join some hollow back-slapping men's association.

Ideological battles aren't won on the poppy sale corners. They're won in the minds of men. People who don't vote in elections, people who don't live lives of austere morality, free of corruption and vice, should not have the opportunity of prying themselves off the moral hook merely by buying a red artificial poppy.

And just whom are we so blithely "honoring" with our penny poppies - war-mongers, faceless blobs who left their families manless to fight for some cause they didn't understand, who risked their lives for what their cheerleader generals told them was morally just.

The soldiers knew their chances when they stopped earning a civilian living and went to war. They knew what risks they have to take - a martyr's death or a life of near-canonization. Now, forty years later, these "heros" are still reaping their profits, nickels from pensioners, dimes from children, money from the coerced masses.

All the poppy shows when you wear one is that you are faceless bowing to the masses, that with a two-faced silver coin you are buying one week of two-faced, guilt-edged social pseudo-stature.

At best, all the poppy does is recall to everyman's memory the ugly, horrible days when the sane became beasts, when paradoxically, civilization must be suspended to "ensure" its own survival.

Days as these are to be best forgotten. We should learn to solve our international problems by peace, not by war, content with the knowledge that 100 years from now people will fondly recall us, pinning to their malthusian belts with no uncertain degree of smug reverence, one penny poppy.

Support the Community Chest; don't waste on the foolishly dead that money and campaigning time and energy which would be far better spent on the living, or on the dying who have a chance for survival. Keep your lives morally clean for democracy. Vote. But don't buy a poppy as the panaceas for all your conscience ills.

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The Gateway

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