

Too busy for apathy

Welcome back once again to the editorial page of our illustrious paper. Today's topic is on apathy! Now right there with that word most people are probably thinking, "Oh great, another lecture on how apathetic the students on this campus are." Well that's not exactly true. This idea came to me from a talk I had with a friend last night. He stated to me that if you really look at how much students really have to take in, it's no wonder some events are not very well-attended. I thought about this for a while and I said to myself, that's right. We as students are quite busy with university, class, exams, papers, etc. It is amazing we even have time for coffee sometimes. But even with all these restrictions on students' time, we still are able to partake in many extra activities. Why, even tonight I am going to a forum on the Lubicon Indian problems and I am told that I should be there after about twenty minutes before the start if I want a seat. When John Turner came to the University, they were standing in the aisles to hear what he had to say.

Overall, I think we as students have been given a bad name when we are called apathetic. Maybe we aren't at every Student Union Forum or every hockey game, yet the turnout to the last Dinosaurs - Bears game was great. But when it comes to the real important issues like our federal government or cultural land claims we as a student body are there to listen and voice our concerns. And in my mind these last issues are the most important. Most of us will leave this university in four years, but cultural problems, the federal government, and other concerns are issues that will affect us for the rest of our lives. So I would just like to say to all those people who scream apathy at the U of A stand up and look at the real issues on campus. I think you might be surprised to find out how many students are looking at the same issues.

Bruce Gardave

The Gateway

Editor-in-Chief: RHODERICK (ROD) J. CAMPBELL

Managing Editor: GAIL McULLOCH

News Editors: ROBERTA FRANCHUK, KEN BOSMAN

Entertainment Editor: ELAINE OSTRY

Sports Editor: ALAN SMALL

Photo Editor: BRUCE GARDAVE

Production Editor: JUANITA SPEARS

Circulation Manager: CURTIS BERGER-ORD

Media Supervisor: MARGRIET TILROE-WEST

Advertising: TOM WRIGHT

Contributors: Terri Mann, Monika Kornhauer, Rob Galbraith, Paul Menzies, Kristian McLeod, Dana Nevezski, Laniee Hayes, Dragan Ruka, Matthew Hays, Randall Smathers, Nolan Berg, Eric Jarne, Pat Stanfield, Doug Johnson, Donald D. Walker, Tom Wharton, Michael Tolboom, Kevin Law, Tracy Rowan, Jane Laglerne, Grant Winston, Lloyd Robertson, Gord Stech, Eric Blain, Clive

Letters to the Editor are encouraged and always welcome.

If you have a comment which would be of interest to the students of the University, please do not hesitate to send it in. All we require is your name, address, and phone number, and student ID if you are a student. We will not print letters missing any of these.

Letters should be no longer than three hundred words. Mail or deliver your letters to Room 282 SUB, or drop them at NY information booth.

The Gateway is the newspaper of the University of Alberta students. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. All opinions are signed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway. Copy deadlines are 11 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm. 282 (ph. 432-5168). All photographs printed in the Gateway are for sale. Call the photodirector at 432-5168 or come to room 236 SUB. Advertising: Rm. 256D (ph. 432-4241). Students' Union Building, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7. Readership is 25,000.

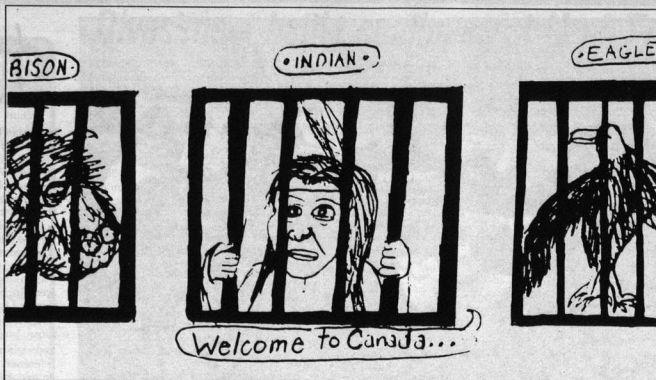
Abortion: Free for who?

RE: In reply to the letter written by H. Sharkawi

I am sympathetic to the treatment you received over the phone. Undoubtedly, this is unfortunate as the person with whom you spoke either misunderstood the goals of the convention and the forum that took place or he was simply and inexcusably rude and this tainted your opportunity to attend a most extraordinary forum. Despite the phone call I would like to defend the forum that you referred to because to some your letter may give the misleading impression that the forum was unfair or prejudiced in some way. Far from the belief that "Palestinians and Arabs need not apply" as mentioned in your letter, there were many Palestinians and Arabs at the forum. Far from them not "needing apply," they were more than welcome and far from not being allowed to "ask questions" most of the evening's questions were asked by said Palestinians and Arabs. All in all the forum was a huge success and after the program many Palestinians and Jews alike became engaged in "civil," truly educational conversation.

The treatment you received on the phone was indeed unfortunate and unforgivable; however, I urge you to concentrate your attentions on the sincere efforts by the Jewish student organizers to put on a fair, unracist and educational forum.

I. Krygier



LETTERS

Greeks not bigots

Re: "Soccer brawl sickening," letters, and "Soccer game ends in fistcuff." page three, February 2, 1988, Gateway
Fraternities are not the last bastion of mysogynistic, white Aryan, fascist supremacy on campus, which might have been extrapolated from your claims of racism. The Greek community at the U of A is comprised of whites, Orientals, blacks, Pakistanis, Arabs, Jews, Protestants, Catholics, Muslims, meatheads, hipsters, trendoids, intellectuals, jocks and weiners — just like the MULTICULTURAL Canadian society you have championed. Our diversity is our strength. The one thing fraternities have in common that some amorphous collectives do not is an underlying principle that encourages dignity, respect, solidarity, and brotherhood. We are proud to be Canadians, red, black, white or yellow, and equally proud to be Kappa Sigmas, privileged to call our friends, brothers, and our brothers, friends.

Kappa Sigma was exonerated following investigations by the Intramural Council and I believe we have every reason to expect a favourable judgement from Campus Security and the Interfraternity Council in this matter. I believe that the Los Carajos team as a whole is not responsible, but if certain members of Los Carajos had better been able to control their tempers in a losing cause, there need not have been any incident to incite comment.

I think that I may safely speak on behalf of all Kappa Sigmas when I say that though we deeply regret the incident of January 25, we do not believe we have behaved in a manner deserving of apology. My personal hope is that should Los Carajos and Kappa Sigma meet in intramural events in future years, that both teams will have the decency and character to let bygones be bygones.

Mike Evans
Kappa Sigma

Pro-apartheid article

I would like to respond to an article by Daniel Aarons, entitled "An Uncensored View of South Africa" Part II (Gateway, Feb. 5/88)

He wrote about a well-kept white suburb and the ragged houses of a colored township as if it were the choice of the colored people to stay in not-well-kept suburbs. This suffering is as a result of deliberate action by racial bigots.

Aarons wants to present white South Africans as clean and civilized, and the black people as the opposite of that. Steve Biko wrote, "no race possesses the monopoly of beauty, intelligence or force."

The smell that he claims was sickening is probably not worse than that in white

ramshackles in London and elsewhere.

Aarons is putting his words into the mouth of the Indian he claims is running a store that sells baboon carcasses and rodent carcasses. What he said about that Indian is typical of the propaganda which is always mouthed by racist South African officials who are trying but failing to sow seeds of discord amongst the three oppressed groups in South Africa.

The Indians in South Africa are not identifying with the whites. This is Aarons' wishful thinking. No Indian has said blacks are uncivilized. This is Aarons' uttering. Ninety-nine point nine per cent of the Indians in South Africa consider themselves black.

Aarons also said he met an AWB member but does not explain fully what this AWB is. He just said it is an extreme right wing party. In fact, the AWB is a white-supremist group in South Africa and is headed by Eugene Terreblanche. Having had an association with AWB and having written propped about it, Aarons casts a lot of doubts about himself in the minds of people who have read his article and know what the AWB stands for. Moreover, the negative terms with which he described black people no doubt leaves a clear impression of the type of person he is. What he wrote is similar to the doctrines of the AWB.

Sam Ditshego
Some Trungu
Coalition Against Apartheid/African Students

Open Forum after all

Abortion: an issue of freedom, My question is: "Whose freedom is the issue?" Is abortion another victory for modern woman? The media claims it is. Or is it a victory for the capitalist abortionists? At approximately \$100 each for over sixty thousand abortions performed each year in Canada, there is quite a profit to be made. But is it enough for someone to try to corner the market on it? Perhaps apply for a patent?

Instead of trying to upgrade or expand abortion facilities already present in hospitals, Morgentaler wants to open a chain of abortion clinics. These "retail outlets" will allow Canadian women the freedom to abort their unborn children. And they will allow Morgentaler the freedom to accept over six million dollars per year for his contribution in the liberation of women's rights.

The latest development on the issue is government funding. I fail to comprehend Morgentaler's concern for women who cannot afford abortions. The rights of an entire class of human beings: the unborn. I wonder what he'll get out of the deal?

Patrick Henry's statement, "Give me

liberty or give me death" seems very ironic when applied to the abortion issue. With abortion, liberty and death go hand in hand. The abortionists are liberated, granted a license for the murder of the unborn.

With the incoming legislation, Canadians have another option for birth control — and this one is free. Presently, 30% of American pregnancies are terminated by abortion. Perhaps the Canadian government should consider subsidizing birth control as a less expensive preventative solution to the problem of unwanted pregnancies. But then again, who will support such a proposal when there is no money in it?

Michele McLaughlin

Insensitive Fly

Re: J. Dylan (Gateway, Feb. 9/88)

Two points:
● Girls over 18 years of age are called WOMEN

● When someone is causing you a problem it is your responsibility to bring it to their attention.

I feel that your insensitivity to the GIRLS/WOMEN issue is a far greater crime than two people visiting in a congested area.

Steven Shumbarski

Be His Valentine

The other day I noticed a package by the back door, a suspicious looking package, the kind that definitely requires investigating. (I'm sure you know the type). So, being a typical university student, full of natural curiosity, I re-opened the package and found three Valentine cards — one for Mom, one for my sister, and one for me. Only Dad would buy Valentine cards, and, while unexciting the groceries from the cart, leave them at the back door and forget them there. As I read my card (which he still doesn't know that I found) I realized how much I really love my Dad and how much he loves me. It was so special, that he would love me enough to think of buying me a card. Then, I started to think of another Father who gave an even more costly gift to show His love. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have life eternal." Our Heavenly Father loved us so much that He gave the gift of His son, Jesus, to die in our place so that, if we accept Him as our Savior, we can become children of God. That is love — real love. This Valentine's Day, as you give and get Valentines from those who are close to you, remember the greatest love gift of all which has been freely given to us all if we will accept Him, Jesus Christ. Happy Valentine's Day!!!
Galyne Howard