

Letters cont'd.

To the Editor:

Thank you for the informative article "Alcoholism: demon in a bottle" (*The Gateway*, 23 October 1986). It was an excellent introduction to the number one drug problem in North America today.

Unfortunately, however, two important sources for help were not mentioned. The Alberta Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC) operates a centre in downtown Edmonton where expert counsellors are available to help people who feel they have alcohol or other drug problems, either on an outpatient basis or through referral to Henwood Rehabilitation Centre. Alcoholics Anonymous is a worldwide fellowship of over one million recovering alcoholics, men and women who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other to solve their common problem and to help others to recover from alcoholism. Both are as close as the local telephone book.

A Grateful Member of
Alcoholics Anonymous

To the Editor:

Re: Muslim students denied office space

I am writing in response to the two letters from the Muslim Students' Association (MSA) in the Oct. 21 and Oct. 23 issues of the *Gateway*. While I appreciate that the MSA is upset at having lost their office, the accusations which have been made by this club are without foundation. To this end, I am writing in defense of the Building Services Board (BSB) of which the Clubs Commissioner is a part.

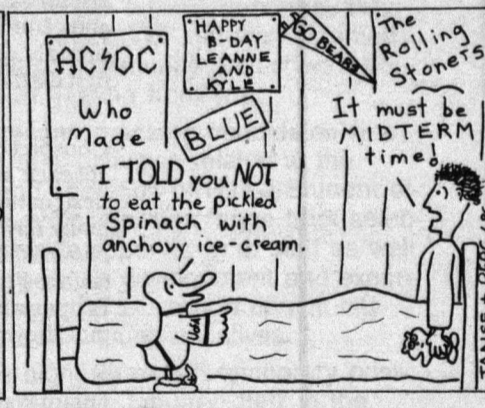
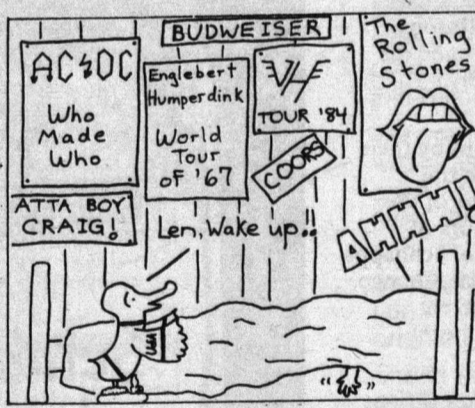
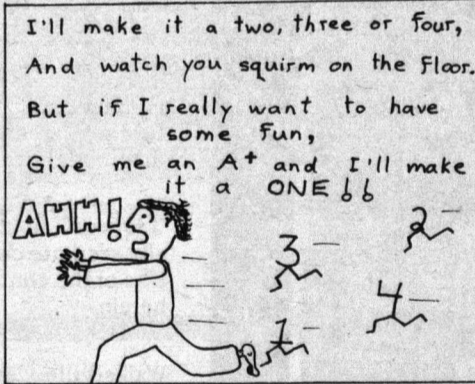
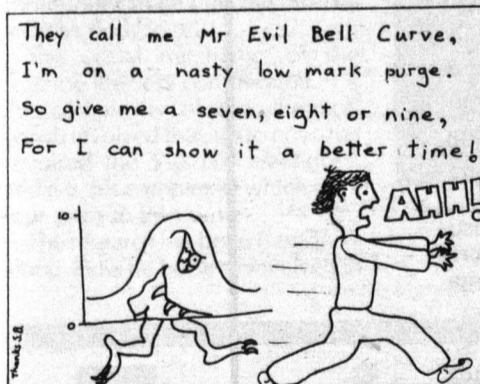
Let me first establish that office space allocated by the BSB is not a right. It is a privilege. As such, it is allocated to those clubs demonstrating that they are capable of working sufficiently within the Students' Union club registration guidelines, as well as to those clubs able to justify the need for office space.

As a member of the BSB for the past two years, I have firsthand knowledge that the problems with the MSA have been ongoing and persistent. Over the past several years, the reluctance of the MSA to share office space has been well-documented — as have the difficulties with getting this club to reserve meeting rooms (for prayer) through the normal procedure. Further, this club has consistently had problems complying with the club registration specifications, notably the stipulation that at least half of the club members are also Students' Union members (ie. students who pay full Students' Union fees).

For the past several years, the BSB has provided a block booking in the SUB meditation room for the MSA to pray. This was done so the office could be used for administrative duties. Prayer has not been denied, rather provisions have been made to accommodate the special needs of this group. This block booking still exists, therefore the accusation that the MSA has been totally turfed out of SUB is erroneous. As Abdelilah Bennani stated in his letter, the office was used for prayer at lunch time and was free "at all other times," therefore it was deemed that the office was not necessary for the administrative duties and, thus, taken away.

I might add that all the complaints I have received about this club from Students' Union staff and other clubs have, indeed, been expressed to executive members of the MSA. However, it would appear that the membership of the MSA executive has been in a rather constant state of flux for the

The Worse the Better



...cont'd
past two years and that the breakdown in communication that apparently exists within the club is not surprising. In closing, the Students' Union and BSB have been very reasonable — even a bit lenient — in their efforts to accommodate the requests of this club, both past and present. If the club is willing to "hold up their end of the bargain", future consideration for office space is likely.

Barb Higgin
VP Internal
Students' Union

Humour



English is a scary language. It's big — over 400 000 words and not even Scrabble players know most of them. You think French is a difficult language? Kids' stuff, only 150 000 words. Does that mean that English is three times better? Yup. More words, more variety, more preciseness and you don't have to inflect adjectives.

So what does the existence of 400 000 words in English mean? Probably that there's a word for everything. This results in a lot of useful words, some peculiar ones and others that are just plain stupid. But when you have the biggest vocabulary in the world you can afford to be a little frivolous. Here's a few of the many you might want to casually use to impress the unsuspecting.

abracadabrim: Abracadabrim refers to a dependence upon incantations and charms for warding off calamity. This explains the strange noises often heard during exams. Abracadabra, by the way, was a Syrian deity.

Adumbration: This word means a vague outline. Sort of what you have about the weekend on Tuesday.

Afflatus: Contrary to what you might be thinking, this word has nothing to do with eating beans. It means "inspiration" but as not many people know that it's a good word for raising eyebrows.

aleuromancy: This is the telling of the future by looking at flour. Great fun as a party game.

amok (amuck): Amok really means "in a frenzy to kill" and refers to the behavior of some natives in Malay once upon a time. Try to use this word in its true sense as in "John was amok when Fido ate his essay."

ampersand: An ampersand is that little doo-hicky that means and. This thing, &.

anomy: If you have anomy you don't have identity or a purpose. You're a second year student.

antimacassar: An antimacassar is one of those little things that your grandmother crochets so you don't get the arms or backs of her armchairs dirty. Macassar was a type of hair oil, hence the need and name.

arctophilist: Someone who collects teddybears. 'Nuff said.

ataraxia: Ataraxia is a calmness of mind, freedom of anxiety and emotional disturbance, tranquility. We could probably experience this if classes were cancelled for three weeks.

automysophobia: This word refers to an extreme fear of being dirty. If armchairs were automysophobic they'd make their own antimacassars.

avuncular: Avuncular means anything pertaining to an uncle. If you can't stand your cousins just think of them as avuncular offspring and you'll hardly feel related.

Sandra Petersson

More Humor...

Hey... HEY! Sorry about that. It's just that I was up all last night writing this thing and I thought you were going to skim right over it. If I were you, I'd read my column. It's for your own good. I poured my heart and soul into these words, and we are both going to be richer, more complete human beings as a result of this magical literary experience.

So, who am I? Who cares! I don't go poking about in your business, do I? In time we'll get to know each other. Sure we might have our disagreements, and even a major falling out or two, but I feel confident that by the end of this page we will have shared a lifetime worth of laughter, tears and quiet brooding moments in the bathroom.

All you need to know for now is that I'm here to help you. Actually I'm at home right now punishing my "John Henry" but that doesn't matter. Anyway, since it's your first year at the U of A I'm going to lay down some crucial facts for you. It took me, and everyone else here years to learn what I'm about to tell you. Some of the "elders" may come down on me for this (which is sick and perverted) but I like you and I don't want to see you make the same mistakes and fause pas that ruined mine and everyone else's first year at this fine institution.

First: there are more washrooms than you think. Second: the V Wing sucks. And third: according to Brother Theodore, people hear with their hind legs.

These concepts may be difficult for you to grasp for they were not meant for the young mind. Just memorize them. You will understand my gifts of knowledge in due time my child, in due time. Heh heh heh... Now get the hell out of here!

R.C.

psychology today
2.36

THE FIVE MOST STRESSFUL OCCUPATIONS:

- air traffic controller
- coal miner
- policeman
- brain surgeon
- Olympic javelin catcher

S. Freud.

Kennedy Kabaret

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