

## Editorial

### Deserved fate

I am a sports fan.

I suppose that being a sports fan is part and parcel of being sports editor of a newspaper, but nevertheless I love to watch or play a good game of just about anything.

Similarly, it is my belief that the state of a society's athletics speaks volumes on the ways of its people. Football in Great Britain, for instance, has deteriorated to being the most "fan-violent" sport in the world, perhaps a reflection of the deterioration of the once proud seat of an empire.

What is happening in Calgary? Why has this city failed to support a pro football team? Calgary, more than most Canadian cities, has a strong American influence, and one would imagine a concurrent American mania for football. In Regina, where harvesting ranks higher in importance than breathing, Rider Pride is still a highly contagious fever. Edmontonians have not said "enough of this frigid foolishness" — and Commonwealth Stadium is well-stocked with Eskimo fans.

And let's face it. No matter what the financial statement says, if there were fannies in the seats, there would be no talk of folding the franchise in Cowtown.

A losing record is no excuse for the empty seats in McMahon Stadium.

I remember when the Stampeders were second only to the Eskimos in the Western Conference of the CFL. Their fans would come north for that division final and whoop and holler. A faithful bunch these. Where are they now? It was Calgary that represented the West in the first ever East/West Grey Cup in 1948. The people that were presumably the parents of today's football non-goer changed the face of Grey Cup Week forever, I am told. Where did the tradition go? Did these same ones ditch the family business as soon as it went into the red for a few years?

Every other city in Canada that supports a football team has seen lean years. Calgary is hardly special. The Eskimos no longer enjoy the status they once held in the CFL, yet there are more Edmontonians that have held season's tickets for 30 years than there are season's ticket holders period in Calgary.

I've got an idea. Let's all stay at home and watch the 1988 Winter Olympics on T.V. Then when the stands are empty and the venues uncrowded, the entire world will see how much character the Cowtown sports fan really has. Very little indeed, apparently.

Mark Spector

### Sexy, huh?

In an incredibly tasteless coincidence, *People* magazine declared Mark Harmon the "Sexiest Man Alive (1986)" — just as he's dying of Kaposi's sarcoma after contracting AIDS "through a heterosexual relationship" on *St. Elsewhere*.

Well, it isn't really that Mr. Harmon has AIDS. It's just that his character has been written out of the show.

Still, *People* magazine has a few questions it owes its readership answers to.

First, whatever happened to Mel Gibson, the guy they declared last year was the "Sexiest Man Alive" — and with no parentheses? Is this a backhanded way of implying that Mr. Gibson is dead? Or is the *People* magazine "Sexiest Man Alive" merely an office with a defined term, like the Presidency of the United States, after which those who attain the post either wander around in a post-nuclear wasteland or die of topical ailments?

Second, what happens after Mark Harmon hears his swan song on *St. Elsewhere*? Does *People* magazine then declare a representative for "Sexiest Man Alive (1986)" — February thru December? Or, horror of horrors, does this make Mr. Harmon the "Sexiest Corpse on Earth"?

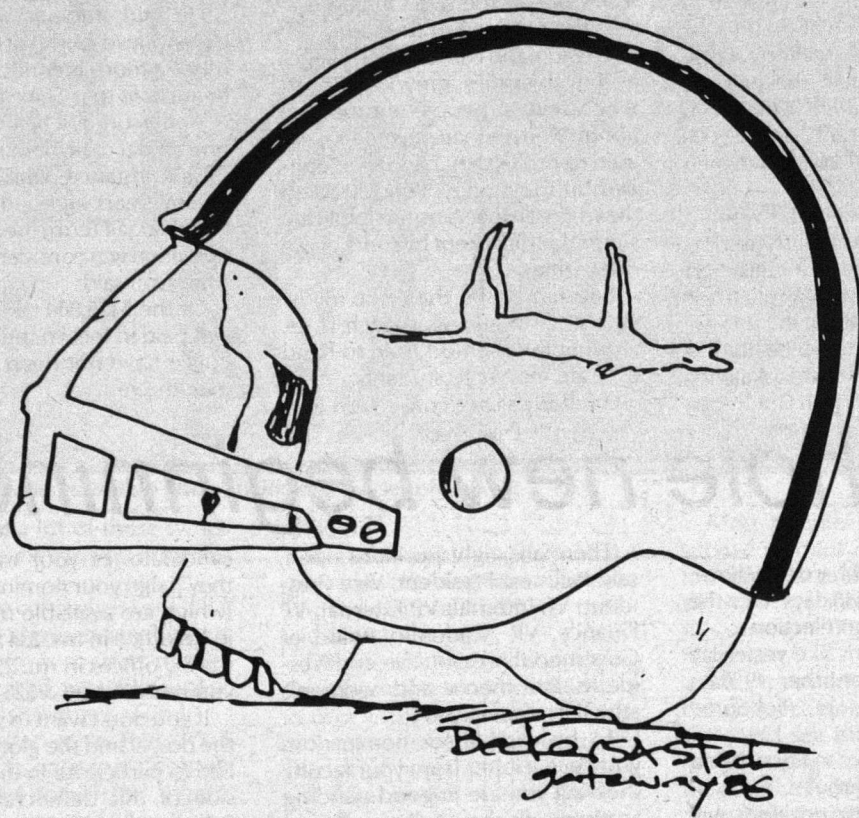
And finally, what of the fate of James Garner, whom the aforementioned publication declared is the "Last Real Man on Earth"? What if the producers of *The Rockford Files* decide to bring back that old, cancelled series and ensures that it stays old and cancelled? Would the world then be populated by Prince clones and second-rate Rob Lowes? Shudder.

Suzette C. Chan

### Correction

The letter under the title "Arts conflict" in the January 16th issue of *The Gateway* was inadvertently published without the author's name. The letter, which was in response to Mike Nickel's and Lance Yuen's letters regarding alleged questionable activities of the Arts Students' Association Executive, was written by Danny Beauchamp. We apologize for any inconvenience or embarrassment this error may have caused.

## HOW 'BOUT THEM STAMPS, EH?



## Letters to the Editor

### Arts lucky

Dear Editor,

I have been moved to action through the recent letters in *The Gateway*. I am referring to the recent fuss concerning the Arts Students' Councillors. Being in the Faculty of Science, where perennially elections must be extended indefinitely, I am envious of the Arts Exec, as I fear our situation will be repeated again this year. Science General Elections are coming up soon (FEB. 20; NOMINATIONS CLOSE FEB. 1). There are about 50 (FIFTY!) positions up for grabs.

I strongly urge all political agitators in the Faculty of Arts who feel that they aren't getting their fair share of attention transfer to Science. We'll be glad to have them. UNLESS, through some miracle, enough science students get up off their duffs and run.

Earl L. Smith

V.P. Academic, Undergraduate Science Society  
P.S. Yes, I know this is a blatant attempt to get free publicity for our Faculty Association.

### Peace appeal

The member groups of the Edmonton Peace Network wish to express their profound concern at the test in Canada on January 21st of another weapon of mass destruction, the air-launched cruise missile.

We believe it is crystal clear there is no need for further weapons development; that "improvements" in weapons capabilities by either side only stimulate further development on the other side; that increases in numbers of weapons or warheads, or in their sophistication or speed of delivery serve only to make the world less safe. We urge the people and Government of Canada to pay heed to the warning in the UNANIMOUS declaration of all nations at the United Nations 1978 disarmament conference that the arms race must be stopped, that the only alternative is disaster for all mankind. And we urge the Government also to recognize the sense of Prime Minister Trudeau's contribution at that time, when he pointed out that it is at the testing stage of weapons development at which the arms race can be suffocated. By not accepting this simple principle, our nation is thus guilty of promoting the arms race, and in particular is helping develop a weapons of an especially destabilizing nature, as commentators have repeatedly pointed out.

We are particularly disappointed that our Government has taken no apparent steps to persuade the United States to follow the Soviet example of a moratorium on weapons testing, which has now been extended unilaterally beyond their initial six-month period.

Actions speak louder than words. We believe that our Government's lack of action, and its repeated uncritical compliance with U.S. military policy not only weakens Canada's struggle for independence, but also helps bring world-wide catastrophe closer. Let Canada work for peace. We cannot do this by promoting the arms race.

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### Rip off

A Letter to Someone...

Recently, a friend of mine was a victim of theft. Her locker was broken into, and a walkman-type stereo and an expensive text were taken. But more than this was taken from her, and that's why I'm writing this.

There is a quality of trust and faith in people that is all too rare these days. It is a simple, accepting trust that gives everyone a chance to prove they deserve that trust. It is a faith in people that presumes that people are basically good. It is a refreshing lack of cynicism — a breath of fresh air in the world where already too many people look at each other with suspicion.

My friend has this precious quality. She has many friends because of it, and it hurts to think that, because of the actions of a thief, this quality will be diluted, eroded and chipped away.

If you do have second thoughts about your actions, return the items.

I have no illusions that someone who would steal from a student would feel any remorse. I just hope that one day, you'll need someone to trust and accept

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## The Gateway

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Ten days after the Gateway hide and seek game, Elaine Ostry found Don Tepsyske and John Charles stuffed in Ray Walker's shoes. "Aww... you found us," they whined. Hans Beckers began to giggle and Gilbert Bouchard and Louise Hill came over to look. Suddenly, Ken Hui jumped out of a desk drawer. Edna Landreville leapt up from under the rug. Pat Maguire, Alex Miller and Kabir Khan crawled from Ashram Mustapha's ears, Rob Schmidt and Ron Daimant climbed out of each other's sleeves, and Diane Hoy emerged from thin air. Papers fluttered, staff was flung asunder as they all grabbed onto K. Graham Bowers. "Oly, oly, oxen free," they sang, oblivious to the fact that no one cared. (This week's eternally grateful award goes to Kevin and life regenerating mojo.)