

Editorial

Returning to my office last night, I was accosted by one of those second floor fixtures... a political hack.

Dismay clouding his eyes, he flung his arms over his head and groaned, "They're talking about South Africa in Council....aaaauuuuuggggghhhhhh."

I say bully for the Students' Union.

They spend altogether too much time navel-gazing and precious little time considering the world about them.

Granted their first concern should be the smooth and economic functioning of our glorious alma mater.

Nevertheless, the Students' Union should also be prepared to lift their collective weary heads from financial and policy statements to examine what is going on in the real world.

Too often this year have I seen motions which call for the Students' Union to send a letter of protest to some offending group or nation defeated in Council.

Said behaviour is defended with the cry of "It is not our mandate. What will our comments change?"

Enough already.

This is a university, purportedly a place of higher learning. Here, of all places, we should be discussing the profound issues of the day... thinking about them at the very least.

Currently our Students' Union is ducking this responsibility.

Perhaps they fail to recognize the unique and enviable position which they enjoy.

As a political body representing approximately 28,000 people, they do wield clout. A letter from the University of Alberta Students' Union is indeed a thing to be considered.

Further, they can exercise this influence with little fear of political backlash.

For example, if the Students' Union were to issue a letter of protest to the government of South Africa... how exactly would the South African government retaliate... boycott handbooks perhaps?

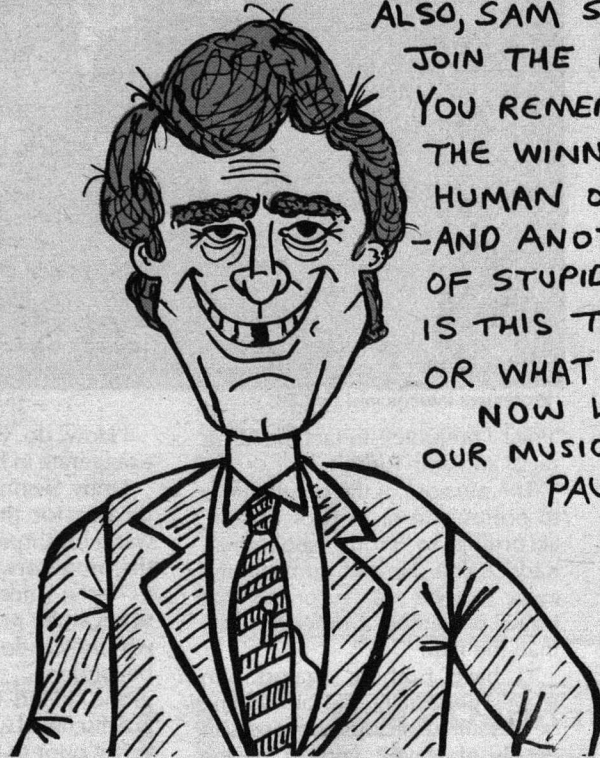
The Students' Union is in the unique position of being able to exercise influence without suffering the political backlash which larger entities must always contend with. Recall that the Vietnam protest movement started on university campuses. Such are the heights to which the U of A's Students' Union should be striving.

They should start putting their influence to use.

Then again... revolutions always seem to start among the masses... and we shouldn't hold our breaths.

Suzanne Lundrigan

GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!
MY NAME IS DAVID LETTERMAN.
WE HAVE A FINE FINE PROGRAM
FOR YOU FOLKS TONIGHT!!!
MY GUESTS THIS EVENING ARE
ALFRED ZOGANORSKI, WHO DID
ALL THE SPECIAL EFFECTS IN
THOSE DENTYNE GUM COMMERCIALS.
ALSO, SAM SWIZZLESTICK WILL
JOIN THE FESTIVITIES. AS
YOU REMEMBER, SAM WAS
THE WINNER OF THE UGLIEST
HUMAN ON EARTH CONTEST.
-AND ANOTHER SEGMENT
OF STUPID PET TRICKS. NOW
IS THIS TOP NOTCH COMEDY
OR WHAT!!!
NOW LET'S SAY HELLO TO
OUR MUSICAL DIRECTOR
PAUL SHAFFER.....



Letters

Frats promote inequality

To the Editor:

As so often happens in the realm of everyday existence, one is prompted to proceed along a certain train of thought because of comments one hears in passing. This was the case last week.

As I was riding my usual bus home, my reading was interrupted by a conversation that was occurring behind me, namely, a fraternity pledge was discussing with a female companion the trials and tribulations of the rise to manhood in the fraternity system. I did not manage to catch the full extent of the conversation, but a few salient points did reach my ear. Among the comments made by the pledge were, "Oh, we have to wash the dishes every night, get cigarettes for the actives, get beer for the actives, answer the door; you know, those sort of things."

This alarmed and frightened me. In a world where we strive towards equality and where the status and benefits of a class should be attainable by all *without* subservience to an elite group, the fraternity system as it is now structured finds no place. Being a former fraternity member, I speak from experience. I am all too familiar with the pledgship process. Most of the fraternities on this campus (I say most, because not all have similar policies) would be well advised to abandon their present system of recruitment. Pledges deserve the right to be accorded the same benefits as active- and should not be subject to harassment (for that is precisely

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what it is: physical and subtly psychological) in order to achieve equal status. There is no doubt that these comments will be snickered at by some current actives, but only those who are devoid of any moralistic and humanistic inclinations. Please do not misread the intent of this letter. A fraternity is an excellent way for a person to grow, not only socially, but emotionally and intellectually as well, and I am glad that I was a part of it. However, if it is going to continue to succeed, major changes are in order. Tread carefully, first-year students.

Guy C. Germain
Arts III

SU: thanks, but no thanks

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the Students' Union for sponsoring Introduction Week. The Beer Gardens were appreciated by many. I must, however, question their judgement in selling Coors beer. The Tuesday, September 9 Gateway, *Gays Demand Coors Boycott* explained that although brewed in Canada by Molsons, the profits from all Coors products are forwarded to the US based company which practices a policy of discrimination on the grounds of religion, race, sexual orientation and political viewpoint. When money is tight, as it usually is, one should take into consideration the prices which the different companies charge for their beer. Principles, however, should be one's priority. I believe that the Students' Union should not promote Coors products at future activities.

Shauna McHarg
Ed. II

Humour

by Greg Whiting

In general, dogs have simpler things to worry about than train accidents, rising interest rates, and the basketball playoffs. Dogs are asleep during "The National/Journal", so we'll focus in on a dog watching the American news...

"Good evening, and welcome to the CBS Evening News."
Hm, Dan Rather again. Wish they'd watch NBC. Tom Brokaw looks like he'd be more fun to bite on the leg.

"Tonight's top story: Heavy rains drenched the southern U.S. for the fifth straight day. The Mississippi River has come over its banks in many places and the evacuation of the city of New Orleans continues..."

I'll bet it's gonna smell like wet dogs around there for weeks. Hold it! I've got some cousins there! Hope they've been practicin' their doggie paddles...

"There was fighting on both sides of the 'green line' in Beirut, today..."

Oh no, not again! Look at that! If they keep bombing one another like that, there isn't going to be a single tree left standing in the entire city! I've gotta remember to give my humans a good snarl if they ever think of going there for a vacation.

"...will return in a minute."

"Don't treat your puppy like a dog, dog, dog! Give him Puppy Chow!"

Yeah, sure. Why don't they give us full-grown dogs Puppy Chow now and then? It tastes twice as good as the slop they feed me now. I mean, I have to beg at the table for something to make that stuff go down. How demeaning!

"...but Cascade leaves your dishes virtually spotless."

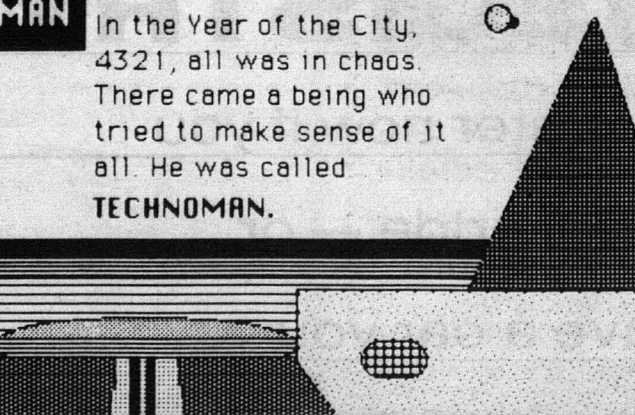
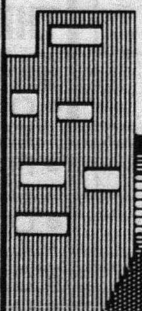
Hey, my humans use that stuff! So why don't they give me dinner on real plates instead of in that stupid dog dish? If their plates can really be cleaned that well, I'd be willin' to

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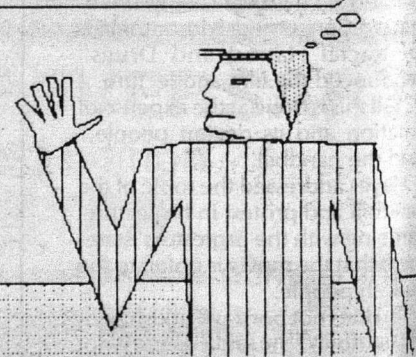
Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words long. They must be signed and include faculty, year of program, phone number, and I.D. number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, double-spaced, or very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

TECHNOMAN

In the Year of the City, 4321, all was in chaos. There came a being who tried to make sense of it all. He was called TECHNOMAN.



What am I doing here?



The Gateway

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In the distance the sound of jackboots echoed. Big Daddy-o Dean grinned and Rob looked lovingly at his boots. "No way," shouted Martin Levenson. "You'll never take me alive." Scott Gordon smiled nihilistically and Linda Atchison muttered something about Elaine Ostry and her mysterious past. "But I've never done anything of the sort," screamed Greg Whiting as Cam McCulloch made his point of view perfectly clear. "Look out," cried Rod Campbell, "I think Moreen Murray has seen the light... the wrong light." Everyone looked to see Moreen goosestepping down the hall. Dragos an after her, lilies in hand, while Glenn St-Germain called out, "Mais, Mlle, c'est trop tard." Ken Hui got downright irate and grabbed Emma Sadgrove's frying pan. "It is time for dinner, Blaine." Blaine just looked up and groaned, "I think my ribs are broken." Alan Small sniffed, "Ribs, ribs." Teo Zanetic smiled knowingly and invited Melinda Vester to join him in homage of all those with black shiny boots. Rob jumped up with glee. Jerome, with blue hair, noted that the boots were a tad avant garde and suggested that Roberta head over to the recruitment table. Stephen Pandk€ grinned wildly, grabbed Alex Miller and Keith Zukowski, and marched smartly out of the room. S.W. Yee leaned out the window to wave at the departing paddy wagon and Bambi was absolutely nowhere to be found.