

## Apathy reigns

Two weeks ago, an attempt was made to rally students to the cause of the striking postal workers. Posters were distributed throughout campus advertising a party on the picket line. No students showed.

One picketer, when asked what she thought of the lack of interest, said:

"I'm disappointed overall with the behavior of students. I didn't expect a lot from them because of the pattern of apathy that has gone on in the past years."

This sentiment is nothing new. In fact, most students are tired of hearing how apathetic they have become, and they haven't. A U of A student from 17 years ago said:

"There has always been a range of students, from the ones who didn't care to the ones who would rally to the death for a social cause."

Apathy is not new.

The cruise missile was tested on Tuesday - not a whisper of debate was heard on campus. Commonwealth leaders debated Apartheid two weeks ago in Vancouver - U of A students were mute. The Meech Lake Accord and free trade agreement did not seem to incur the ire or the approval of students.

Even closer to home, the Students' Union seems to be virtually ignored on campus. It's safe to say most students could not tell you who various council members are, or what council does for that matter. Perhaps students do not realize that their meagre \$45 gives the SU the largest budget of any Canadian students' union, perhaps they are not aware they are welcome at Council meetings and allowed to scrutinize the actions of Council. It is strange they don't seem to care what the SU does with that much student money.

To make the blanket statement that "students are apathetic" is unfair. No one is completely disinterested, everyone has some concerns. However, the interests seem to be more me-centered at the U of A. Studies, money, jobs and career climbing are of primary importance to U of A students, which is not wrong. But a completely self-oriented approach to living is dangerous. Progress and change are achieved through debate, through vocal and visible protest, through awareness. Of all places university should be the ideal place to achieve this awareness and voice protest, but this campus is sadly lacking any voice.

The fortunes of others may not be a concern to the majority of students at the U of A, but remember, "There but for the grace of God go I."

Sherri Ritchie

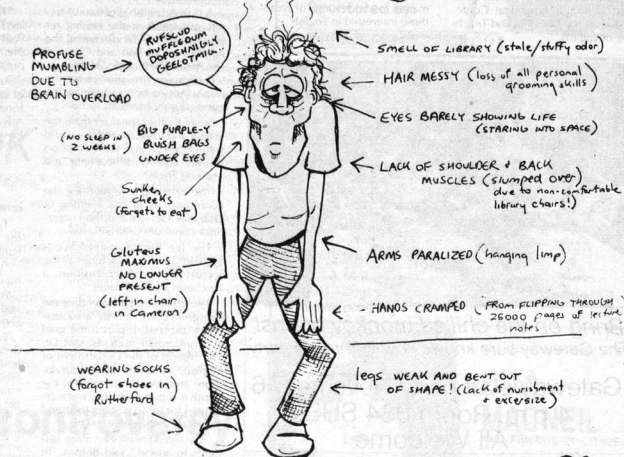


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# HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PERSON?



THEY ARE RAMPANT ON CAMPUS!!  
 (-FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY!!)

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## IRSS policy defined

As the former President and founder of the International Relations and Strategic Studies Society (IRSS), I am probably as qualified as any in responding to questions concerning IRSS policy.

Recently, an important question was raised regarding how the IRSS could conduct contentious political forums while at the same time avoiding the expression of partisan political comments.

Before directly addressing this issue it is important that it be made clear that the Society itself is in no way a partisan political organization. Its function is to facilitate the understanding and interpretation of international and strategic issues. This objective is achieved through conducting forums, maintaining a resource library, and by publishing an annual collection of student writings in the fields. The principle of nonpartisanship is strictly maintained on the part of the Society and is clearly entrenched in its constitution. This is available for all to consult.

In keeping with the objectives, forums are held in order to provide students with insight and expert analysis of crucial issues affecting international relations. Students attend these forums because they want to be informed on the subject from a specialist in the field. However, the guest speaker will elucidate his own interpretation of the issue and, therefore, students are encouraged to direct questions which may challenge this view. IRSS forums are not designed, however, to provide a platform for students wishing to promote their particular cause or political party. If expressing partisan political ideology is more important to the student then they should conduct their own forums with this goal in mind.

This is not to say that the IRSS attempts to censor or exclude differing

opinions of contentious political matters. In fact, most of the forums have included the participation of specialists who have held very different interpretations of the subject. In not allowing individuals to stand up during question period and give long exhortations on their party's policy, the IRSS is ensuring an orderly and productive event. I hope that this letter clears up any ambiguity concerning this matter.

John Putters

## Indecent sales

(Re: sale of indecent material on campus)

I would like to appeal for action against the sale of indecent products on campus, namely the greeting cards in Store Plus More in SUB and the pornographic magazines in Extra Extra in HUB.

I complained to the owner of the store in SUB, and he will not remove the cards. I spoke to the S.U. business manager, and he can do nothing legally because Store Plus More's contract prohibits selling pornographic material, but specifically says nothing about selling indecent material.

Previously, many people have complained to the store owner, but he has not acted. Last year's S.U. Vice-President Internal brought up the issue, but legally, nothing could be done.

These buildings are public areas, even little children can see these products. I had hoped that business owners would realize that even if a product sells, the product is not necessarily good for people. Evidently, businesses need to be publically pressured into responsible sales, and to take these items off the shelf and out of stock.

I appeal to people to boycott these stores, complain to the personnel, and upon buying a cart load of confection-

aries at the counter to say "Oh Not, Look at those cards! I'm not buying anything here."

If you wonder why you should do anything about this issue, ask yourself the question, "Is there life after university?" We are, be it small, an integral part of society. What is done now will affect us and the people around us for the rest of our lives. I ask interest groups on campus to respond to this problem.

Keep in mind the bigger issue, not specifically the boycotting of indecent material sellers on campus, but the pressuring of businesses into responsible sales and conduct in all society.

Don Maxwell

## ESA fulfills needs

The Education Students Association (ESA) executive is trying its best to fulfill the needs of its members both professionally and socially. And from what I see and from what I hear we are doing a damn fine job.

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 any SU information booth.