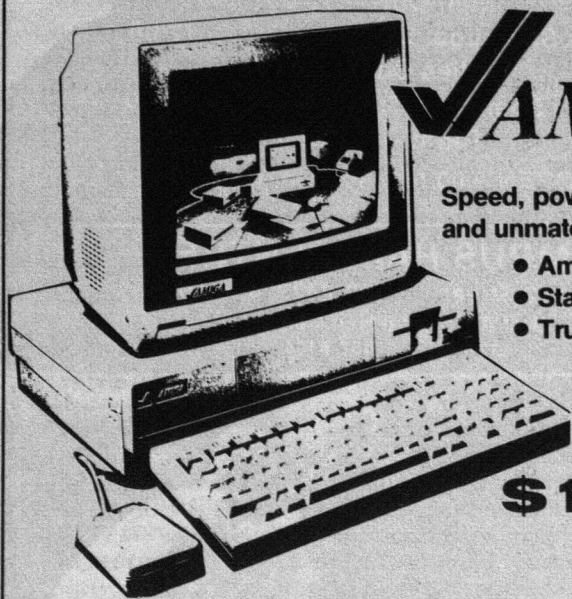


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The Gateway apologizes for any misunderstanding which may have arisen due to a typographical error in the advertisement for the Academic Affairs Board meeting to discuss the Writing Competence Test.

Point #6 should read:

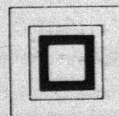
**"We commend the University for working towards changes in the English 30 Departmental exam in order to make it an alternative to the W.C.T. but ask that much more work be done quickly towards this end."**



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## Letters cont. Prof professes

Dear Editor:

Ms. Beechinor's article about me was fairly accurate in what it actually reported, if not in its interpretations. (The main exception being that the intent of my remarks about violence being natural was distorted.) But it is still apt to be highly misleading, since newsy (i.e., sensational) items are the ones most likely to be misunderstood when not presented at great length and depth. So I urge all those who are honestly interested in the evidence on these issues to read my essay before jumping to conclusions. (It's available in the UA bookstore, at the end of the tradebook section's Sociology counter.)

Moreover, a couple of possible misunderstandings need to be addressed right now. First, my attitude toward violence in the media (or toward real child sex-abuse) is anything but "casual." But only by talking frankly about it can one combat such charges and insinuations as that pornography is particularly high in violence, that the violence is uniquely or especially directed at women, and that it is motivated by hatred of women or meant to send the message that women like being victimized. All these claims are grossly false, yet all are widely believed — precisely because so few are willing to risk a wrathful response by discussing them honestly. Firebombings and a host of other evils are being condoned and applauded because of these and similar distortions.

Secondly, I have not said, as some might read it, that all the feminists I oppose over pornography are "hatemongers." The ones I do think deserve that epithet have deceived large numbers of otherwise fairly reasonable people. (Many of the latter are hardly blameless, however, for they have deliberately listened to only one biased source, then gone about pretending knowledge they don't have.) But is this still a harsh word to apply even to the former? You tell me: what would it be called, in Canada, if Andrea Dworkin had said "Jews especially love murder," in a general diatribe against the Jewish people? Or if Susan Brownmiller and her numerous tribe were saying that all blacks are rapists in their hearts? You know what it would be called. Ironically, Dworkin has managed to influence certain U.S. city governments to pass laws banning pornography as hate propaganda. (Certain persons are trying to do something similar here.) The general level of hypocrisy on the issue of "hate" is chilling.

Finally, since the reporter didn't explain my basic motivation, let me do so here. Aversion towards sexual explicitness is to me only a symptom of a much larger problem, a deep-laid negative attitude toward sexuality in this culture. For one example (though there is indeed a seeming biological tendency toward a double standard), I think that the extreme and hurtful "whore/madonna" mentality one finds in some men is largely produced by negative sexual socialization. But it is the kinds of sexual feelings most characteristic of males that are most condemned. I recently learned that the teenage son of a childhood friend of mine had committed suicide, from self-hatred over his perfectly normal sexual feelings. Too late did his father realize the pain that can be caused by being told part of one's nature is degrading and exploitive, evil and animalistic. Sometimes the self-hatred is turned against other people — and the resulting violence is then blamed on pornography or sexual permissiveness! Such cases are rare, but in lesser ways everyone is hurt by sex-negative attitudes.

When I agreed to the interview, I received the impression it was merely to clarify the ideas of my pamphlet, for the review of it which had been agreed to. I did not expect a personality profile (a sophomoric one, at that); and knowing how easily *ad hominem* thinking can override reasoning and evidence, I would not have wanted one in these circumstances. But since one who stands up alone for an unpopular cause cannot avoid being personally spotlighted, let me make my commitment clear: if I can help reduce the ignorance, superstition and injustice surrounding these matters, it will be worth the personal sacrifice.

Dr. F. Christensen  
Philosophy

## Letterman?

In response to Greg Salter:

Concerning your letter printed in *The Gateway* October 30 and points made therein:

- i) I don't recall making a comment about "everything" and therefore your assumption that Arts II students feel they have "become an internationally recognized expert in everything" is in error.
- ii) Yes, I have a sense of humour - I think you are hilarious!
- iii) your comments concerning *The Grind* providing much needed humour in this University leads me to believe that it is you, not I, who must lead a

depressing life. Gutter language and jokes don't turn my crank - but whatever it takes to lift you above your level of existence I suppose would be amusing to you.

- iv) Who is David Letterman?
- v) I love rock and roll.
- vi) The Oilers are great and they are going to win again this year!
- vii) I worked too hard to get where I am in this University to pack up and leave. I am as entitled to wish to stay out of the gutter as you are to wallow in it. If you want to invite people in there with you in your support of *The Grind*, I am as entitled to support those who do not wish to be there.

By the way, personal attacks on me doesn't make *The Grind* a better paper. I don't have to be perfect before *The Grind* can be called garbage.

J. Pearce  
Arts II

## Big Sister appeal

Dear Friends,

The Annual Bowl for Big Sisters Fundraising Campaign will run December 7 to December 14, 1985.

Public bowling known as "Team Challenge Day" will occur on December 7 and December 14, 1985, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bonnie Doon Bowling Lanes.

Funds raised through this campaign will enable the Society to assist over 500 children in 1986. Your help will ensure that all Little Sisters are able to receive guidance, support and friendship needed by them in their formative years.

Enter as many teams as you can, each team should have 5 members on it. There are fantastic prizes to be won and fun prizes will be awarded throughout the day.

Challenge another colleague, a client, place of business or a friend; last year over 1500 people bowled on Team Challenge Day and this year our goal is 2500 people.

Please call us at 424-8181 for pledge forms, posters and team numbers. Let us know what time you would like to bowl on December 7th or December 14th and come out and support Little Sisters by Bowling for Big Sisters.

Your support will make this major event a great success.

Thank you  
Sincerely,  
EDMONTON BIG SISTER SOCIETY

## Bike Boobs II

Dear Gateway:

In response to Wayne Lavold's letter on "Bicycle Boobs" (nice title) Yes, there are an increasing number of cyclists on the road. This is simply a fact he will have to accept. And apparently, the quote in the same October 29th/85 edition of the Gateway, "ya put a person in Arts II and they become an internationally recognized expert on everything," applies here.

Wayne seems to project a lot of negative attitudes of himself onto cyclists. First, he must be offended by lummoxes either because he is one or he fears he may become one. Secondly Wayne stereotypes us cyclists as having "asinine mentality" but in writing his letter he reflects his boorish social standing. Thirdly, Wayne refers to the activities of cyclists as "anti-social" which is simply a projection of his own socially-inept behavior. Fourthly, I think within the title "Bicycle Boobs" Wayne's choice of words mirrors Mr. Lavold's sexual hang-ups or fetishes. Bicycling is not pornography.

Waynes should direct his overt energies towards organizing races and increasing the number of bike paths. If not, he can stick to his linguistics and philosophy courses, thus keeping his nose out of an area which he knows nothing.

Concerned Cyclists;  
Robert Sears  
Don Bobey

