

Meeting deadlines is deadly

by Abul Salek

What is the most dreadful word in a student's life? Quick, you've got 10 seconds to answer.

No, it's not "tuition", it's "deadline". Meeting a deadline could be deadly—and if you can't, you are dead!

Well, almost. Forget about those grumpy Math professors who assign straight zero for assignments late by two seconds, even if they gracefully put a 30 point deduction for late submission it means you have

to work extra hard to break even. Some people find it real hard. At least my friend did.

That's why he rushed to me like a storm in the middle of a Saturday night and begged "Please, please, please, help me out. I got a deadline."

"A deadline? Of what, when, why?", was my dismayed reply.

My "why" was legitimate because I always viewed Saturday night as a neutral zone where there should be no pressure of a midterm, or no

threat of a deadline. I suppose I was wrong.

"It's a programming assignment, due 12 midnight, tonight!" he announced. (What is it, a KGB project?)

Computers must have brought about lots of "goodies" for us but I can see at least one ill impact it has on students life. My friend seems to be a potential victim of it. His assignment has to be computer submitted and that darn machine will register the time to the nearest hundredth of a second no matter how much he smiles at it or be nice. And no chance of slipping the assignment under the professor's door and the next day arguing with him that you really submitted on time, he just wasn't there!

Well, what can I do? He has got a deadline and I don't want to be a dead person's friend. We have got exactly 40 minutes left. So hurry, hurry, hurry.

Actually, he did write a program, but it seems to be infested with so many "bugs" that the program refuses to run. Maybe it has to comply with health regulations, too!

"I was gonna use a Superstore bug killer, but I thought I might as well call the Ultimatum," said he. One wierd thing about these gullible engineering students is that they believe the computing science guys know everything. Or, maybe that they pretend to believe it when they need their work done.

Finally, after fixing the program, beating the deadline and shivering through the season's first wet snow, on our way home we met a rowdy crowd.

I said, "Obviously, some people do not have to meet a deadline."

"They are the artsies," he replied.

Playing the field

by Kisa Mortenson

University is a great place to play the field. I don't mean field hockey. I mean dating. Where else can you meet 29,000 people your own age with great personalities and some nice assets.

I've had some great dates while attending the noble U of A with a few of those magic moments and, for some reason, many of them in cars.

A first date can be a nerve wracking experience, just ask Simon—they-call-me-smooth. It was winter, and he picked me up in his car. As we drove, the conversation flowed. He seemed so at ease, so cool.

We arrived at our destination: a movie, a perfect first date. Where else can two people sit in the dark for almost two hours and pretend not to be checking one another out? If you find yourself drooling over your date, he or she won't notice that in the dark either. Better yet, if you find yourself breathing a little heavy, dolby sound will cover that up.

Upon trying to exit the car, on the way to the theatre, Simon was suddenly attacked by his seat belt. He, his scarf, and the seat belt were playing vulcanstricter. The seat belt had wrapped itself around Simon's neck. Self-induced strangulation was beginning to look like a real possibility. This is where pointer number one comes in handy: Avoid strangulation or other injurious acts on your first date. If you're into S and M, save it for later in your relationship when you really know each other.

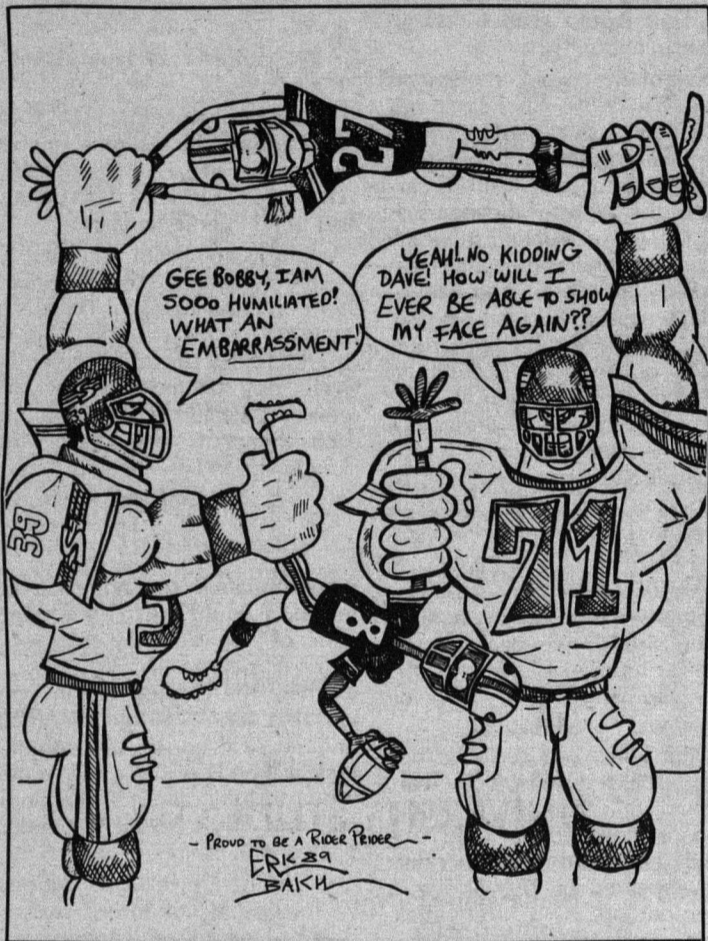
Another magic moment I'll never forget is dating Willie. Willie was a suave kind of guy who knew how to treat a lady right on most occasions. Problem was Willie's sleek yellow car. Willie's engine ran perfectly. However, the words "fuel

economy" and "gas" seemed to have mysteriously disappeared from Willie's vocabulary (then again, maybe they never existed!). Yes, we had run out of gas. If the gas

way this date was going, we had hit a real low. Running out of gas wasn't the bad part. The bad part was we had run out of gas in the middle of Edmonton. Pointer number two: If you plan to run out of gas, at least, make it romantic—a bottle of wine, a blanket, plane tickets to Hawaii—but not within city limits. Running out of gas in the city limits is like a Big Mac without the special sauce: it's lacking in good taste.

In-car kissing is always an experience and a good night kiss can make or break a date. Remember, this is where you and your date discover if you have compatible nose sizes. I almost lost my nose kissing a guy who had a rather large nose. He was kind, good-looking, but the nose... A killer. Take it from me, nose crunching is not fun. Anyhow, Ned Nicenose passed the nose compatibility test. Understanding the etiquette of kissing, Ned realized he had to get rid of his gum. In trying to lose the gum and perhaps impress me with his skills of aim, he decided to spit the gum out of the rolled down window. Being as tall as Ned was, the gum hit the roof of the car, rebounded off the ceiling, and went straight down my shirt. Pointer number three followed: Spitting gum on a date should not be used as a substitute for physical exercise or for practicing your athletic skills. Try shooting baskets or hockey pucks before the date. Leave the gum at home or your might never score.

These are just a few pointers for playing the field. Playing the field can be a great learning experience and, remember, it's more fun to be a player than a spectator. So be careful out there.



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