

Editorial

Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words in length. They must include your signature, faculty, year of program, I.D. number, and phone number. Requests for anonymity are at the discretion of the Managing Editor, but the above information is required regardless. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

Planning problem

There has been a lot of paper flying by my desk over the campus New Democrat Club's Gainers petition.

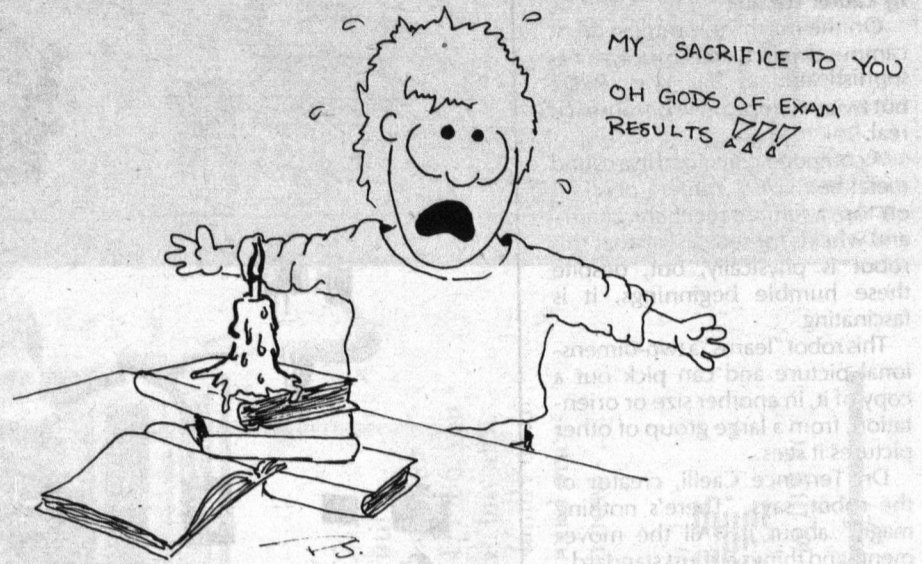
To refresh your memory, last Wednesday saw fifteen people bring a petition to President Myer Horowitz's office. This petition demanded the U of A stop buying Gainers meat products.

The protestors were upset because they had asked Horowitz or another university official to come to meet them to receive the petition but none showed up. This prompted an *Edmonton Journal* article that quoted ND Campus Club President Andrew Rodomar as saying Horowitz did not receive the petition because he feels he is "... above a community of 500 students, faculty, and staff."

Horowitz was not pleased with this remark because he felt he was not treated fairly by the ND club. He notified Rodomar he could not make the meeting because of a previous engagement, made ten weeks earlier. Rodomar was also upset because no university officials showed up.

It seems a confusing issue about who meant what but the root of the problem seems clear. Horowitz was sent a letter asking him to meet the protestors only *one day* before the presentation was to take place. This problem could have been rectified with a little more planning on the part of the ND club. When asking the University President, or any university official for an appointment, more than twenty four hours notice is not a courtesy, it is a practical necessity.

Dean Bennett



Letters

Not a boycott!

To The Editor:

The U of A New Democrats do not find it surprising that the majority of students have 'no opinion' or little awareness of any campaign to boycott Housing and Food Services outlets for carrying Gainers products as reported by John Watson in the *Gateway* (Nov. 27). To our knowledge neither we nor any other group has attempted to arrange such a boycott. For Mr. Watson to invent a boycott on our behalf and then declare it a failure adds new meaning to the notion of 'creative journalism'.

Although we have had to enlighten the *Gateway* more than once on the goals of our petition campaign to get Gainers off campus, in recognition of the not-yet-fully blossomed journalistic capabilities of some *Gateway* reporters we'll go through it once again.

Because the Gainers dispute is one of the most serious labour-management conflicts in Alberta's history, and because University Housing & Food Services enjoys a virtual monopoly on sectors of the student population (making the observance of a boycott impossible), we have petitioned that the university cease carrying Gainers products until the strike has been settled.

Andrew Rodomar
U of A New Democrats

Rambling...

To The Editor:

RE: Jerry F., Science I

In your 518 word rambling in the November 25 *Gateway* you mention my name a total of 18 times. Obviously we both don't understand English as I never said I was going to be objective. I said I was going to make a "comment". Maybe try making your point more concisely. Also, if you think a union job is so great, then why don't you quit University and go find one?

John Baker
Mec. E. IV

Tasteless poor

To The Editor:

I continue to be amazed at the furor over the Varscona. Meanwhile, Studio 82 (my favourite building) looks like it has been renovated by Liberace; without a whisper of dissent. Clearly, political clout in Strathcona depends upon which side of the tracks you come from. The east side, where I live, is largely low income. The message that I'm getting from the architects and the other Strathcona warlords is that poor people have no taste. Thanks a lot.

Isabelle Foord
BA, MA

Medina vs. Richler?

To The Editor:

I attended both lectures by Ann Medina and Daniel Richler which was put on by Sub Theatre. The two lectures can and can not be compared. Both were very interesting, intelligent, informative and extremely well done. Where they rely can not be compared is the fact that the topics are totally different. What surprised me completely is that Ann Medina's lecture was close to sold out whereas Daniel Richler's was not.

This surprises me for various reasons. I am not surprised that Medina's lecture was so well attended by so many different people. People from all walks of life and all age groups were there. That is good. The more that people know about our media the better. Especially at this point in time with international politics playing such a large part in what we see or hear everyday. Her lecture certainly was well-received and deservedly so. She opened people's minds to new thoughts — about the media in the U.S.A. and overseas and especially in Canada. She related her experiences in the news and challenged us to question reporters occasionally on the objectivity of their news.

I am surprised that Daniel Richler was not as well attended. Perhaps people thought that since he was talking about rock music it would not be good. I must admit I was a bit sceptical as well but I decided to risk it after looking at his credits (MuchMusic, New Music, Morningside, and CBC's *Journal*). I was pleasantly surprised.

I think the most important points of the lecture were the facts that people have to start standing up for their beliefs and that people should be more informed. Most of the people in his clips on the Senate hearings in the States had not even read the lyrics of the songs they were trying to ban. Another important point Richler had mentioned is that to be well informed people must read.

As for Dragos Ruiu's article in the *Gateway* it was not too bad. But I think that he may have missed the main point of the lecture — he did skim on it but unintentionally I think. "Instead of appealing to the anger, he tried to engage intelligence". This was stated after Mr. Ruiu said that Richler did not want people to fight. Of course, Richler wants people to fight for this — that is why he is giving these lectures. But important merits should be given to his approach. Barely anything gets accomplished through anger — that is why he is appealing to intelligence. This way the arguments can be shaped cohesively, intelligently and will hopefully stay.

The people that missed this lecture really missed a treat. I hope that the ones who were there have thought about this and realize that rock music is not just screaming guitars and noise and mindlessness. Creative intelligence has found its voice in this medium of the arts as well. Think of John Lennon's "Imagine", or Sting's "Russians" or The Beatles "Yesterday" ... the list is endless. It is up to us to effectively think and question for ourselves.

Heather Moore
Arts I

Oops...

To The Editor:

I have been in student council for the past three months and have yet to meet the Mr. Semak that Mr. Levenson talks about in his letter in your November 25th edition.

Gary Samek
Science IV

Small flippancy

To The Editor:

RE: "Neither the time nor the place," Alan Small, Nov. 25

Did you ever wonder what the best job on a newspaper might be? It would have to be the position of the editorialist. With this position one can say anything one wants without having to do a bit of investigative journalism, or much thinking for that matter.

Mr. Small's editorial described an initiation rite that the Panda's volleyball team took part in after a loss to the U of C Dinnies. Maybe Mr. Small, being the "dedicated" competitor that he is, thought it to be inappropriate. Perhaps if they had stormed off the court, kicked a few chairs, and shouted a few choice words, then Mr. Small would have felt that he'd received his money's worth.

His opinion of how a team should react after a loss is not the problem though. What disturbed me was his questioning of the *desire* of this team. Not even our hockey Bears, and surely not our football Bears, train as hard as these athletes do. Not many of our varsity teams train 3 plus hours a day, 6 days a week, on top of individual practice, weights, cycling, etc. They are expected to keep their marks up and put an honest effort into practice. They know they've got an excellent coach who expects the best they can give. They don't say how hard they're working, it's obvious to those around the Phys. Ed. buildings that they *do* work hard. *Is not dedication a result of desire?*

So, Mr. Small, before inferring a flippant attitude on the part of any athlete, maybe you should walk a mile in their sneakers. Maybe then you could show you *desire* to be a better journalist and your words would be *worth* reading.

William J. Witzke
Physical Education II

Who's in control?

To The Thermostat Operator:

RE: 2nd Floor Cameron Library

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the library is on the warm side, warm referring to the temperature at which water boils. On the positive side you have solved the problem of insects in the library for they have died off due to dehydration. The only thing that can live in the library is a cactus and I strongly believe that the thermostat operators are in reality cacti. Plus, you are not allowed to bring drinks in the library, this is also disruptive, for all the wheezing of the students makes me lose concentration. Maybe we could get a snowman to control the thermostat?

Frosty
Science I

Media bias

To The Editor:

When people peacefully protested against Glen Babb (a collaborator of the murderous South African government which has no regard for basic human rights, let alone freedom of speech) speaking in Edmonton, the *Edmonton Journal* editors were quick to write an editorial (July 4, '86) defending Babb's right to speak (under any other circumstance we would want such a collaborator on the defence stand of a criminal court of serving a jail sentence or on the

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The Gateway

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