

Thornside Marsyas

Mike Evans

Thornside/Christian name/ 1. a rather obvious conjunction of "thorn in the side."

Marsyas/surname/ 1. in Greek mythology, a satyr who, believing himself so skilled at lyre playing, challenged Apollo to a contest. Marsyas, of course, lost, and his punishment, not so much for losing the contest as for having the audacity to challenge an Olympian, was to be skinned alive, not unlike an Oscar Meyer weiner.

Conclusion: The purpose of this (hopefully) regular weekly column is to prick little holes in the hides of those quasi-divine personalities that populate this campus. Sometimes. The rest of the time it is simply an opportunity for mindless free expression. I hope you can tell the difference.

"Knowledge and understanding are life's faithful companions who will never prove untrue to you. For knowledge is your crown and understanding your staff; and when they are with you, you can possess no greater treasures."

- Kahlil Gibran, tacked on the wall of Floyd Hodgins' office during his tenure as SU president.

I don't think it would be unreasonable to assume that Gibran's "understanding" and the common definition of wisdom are much the same thing. With that distinction, the first prick begins.

Students who have not been on campus over the past summer may find themselves at a loss when it comes to discussing the latest exploits of Floyd Hodgins. Hodgins served as the Editor-in-Chief of the summer version of *The Grind* and during this time treated the general public to yet more inexplicable, uh, irresponsibility (gotta be careful here, y'know?). Suffice to say that in the pursuit of a sexual harassment story Floyd managed to involve the Students' Union in possible legal action, smear the entire department of Educational Psychology, create a drama of which Martin Short would be proud and come out looking like a fool not of the Shakespeare variety.

There is no doubt that there is some questionable behaviour in the line of sexual harassment, its investigation and prevention, occurring on this campus (demonstrated by coverage of the issue in more reliable media). For his zealous investigative journalism, sorry, courage in printing the story, Hodgins cannot be reprimanded. He caught wind of an important story, the kind that stumbles onto the pages of a student newspaper only rarely. But the method in which he chose to reveal his "findings" to his readership is, frankly, less than absurd.

Headline: WOMAN DEAD!? This followed by five paragraphs of suggestion and innuendo and not one relevant fact. "We at the Grind have volumes of hearsay which we would love to substantiate." For God's sake, substantiate it! The juvenile reportage demonstrated by Hodgins serves only to damage the credibility of *The Grind* and that is unfortunate.

I question whether or not Hodgins could affect his own credibility positively or negatively but *The Grind* has an opportunity to be a real alternative to *The Gateway* and should strive to make itself so. As it stands now, *The Grind* is little more than a bad joke perpetrated on this university. And the man at the helm, at least until Christmas as rumor has it, is none other than Floyd Hodgins.

Floyd, take your own advice. Cultivate a little wisdom. Act responsibly. Produce a quality paper. Astonish me.

...I decided to read a quotation of Wisdom from the West, to prove that there was more to the world than one half, and I read:

"When you wake up in the morning, Pooh," said Piglet at last, "what's the first thing you say to yourself?" "What's for breakfast?" said Pooh.

"What do you say, Piglet?" "I say, I wonder what's going to happen exciting today?" said Piglet. Pooh nodded thoughtfully. "It's the same thing," he said.

"What's that?" the Unbeliever (Pooh) asked.

"Wisdom from a Western Taoist," I said.

"It sounds like something from Winnie-the-Pooh," he said.

"It is," I said.

"That's not about Taoism," he said.

"What do you think it's about?" I said.

"It's about this dumpy little bear that wanders around asking silly questions, making up songs, and going through all kinds of adventures, without ever accumulating any amount of intellectual knowledge or losing his simpleminded sort of happiness. That's what it's about," he said.

"Same thing," I said.

— From the foreword to *The Tao of Pooh* by Benjamin Hoff.

The *Gateway* has an irregular feature called "Second Wind" in which students are encouraged to "editorialize" on whatever subject they choose. If you are interested, please contact me, Mike Evans, in *The Gateway* office, Rm. 282 SUB.

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