

On entertainment

by Ron Kuipers

If you are an avid reader of *The Gateway* and you have been attending the University of Alberta for the past several years, you may have noticed some changes. Each year brings in a new crop of editors who all have ideas and visions for their respective sections. In my section specifically, perhaps the biggest change has been in the title that I give it. Gone from the break page flag is the word 'art.' The *Globe and Mail* calls their parallel section 'The Arts.' More than finding this a tad pretentious, I find it rather presumptuous.

People have told me that I have one of the most straightforward entertainment sections in recent *Gateway* history. We try to say it like it is and not take everything so seriously. And while I have strived for this straightforwardness, that in itself has nothing to do with why I've dropped the word 'art' from the title of my section.

'Art' is a very heavy word. It has weight. Vincent Van Gogh once said "I must experience life at its depth." The latest silly froth to come out of Hollywood is not art. It is not an expression of an experience of "life at its depth." I don't think many people realize the weight of a word like 'art.' That's why I call my section 'entertainment,' not 'art,' not even 'arts and entertainment.'

But no, I can't let myself off the hook that easily. Entertainment is a word used to describe things people do during their leisure time. But is our leisure time just time off? Is it just time to turn our minds off in a certain mood of apathy and 'be entertained'? Is it Bear Country?

No.

Leisure time is the only chance we mere mortals have to reflect and realize "life at its depth." It's the only time we have to get away from the hustle and bustle of our busyness to actually contemplate life. If that time is wasted, that is tragic.

That's where I see entertainment writing as departing from mere frivolity and actually serving some useful purpose. Film, music, theatre, literature, and dance all have the potential to offer us some insight. They should make us ask questions. They should enrich life by making us examine it, better understand it, and realize it at the same moment we are living it.

That's a tall order. There's too many Barney Bentalls out there getting people off on cheap entertainment. As well, there are too many people in the audience who don't demand enough of their leisure time, people who squander it. I hope that the community of entertainment scribes serve as a buffer against this apathy. I hope we always remain on the 'Barney Bentall Patrol.' Oscar Wilde was wrong. All art isn't quite useless. Unfortunately, however, much entertainment is.



LETTERS

Poet sensitive to native issues

Re: Literary Page, *Gateway* October 12

Ky Perrau is a powerful and moving poet who approached the delicate (and rather horrid) issue of native life in Edmonton with sensitivity, candor, and unexpected compassion.

Now, does anyone have an answer to the questions Perrau raised?

Peter McClure
Technical Services

HUB it is a changin'

Anyone who was on campus last year is well aware of HUB's transformation, which, to date, remains incomplete. Perhaps comparisons with the Palace of Versailles would be stretching the point, but I think some of the changes provide cause for concern. HUB's character is being sacrificed in order to have only those merchants who will pay greatly increased rents to remain in the building.

I signed petitions some time ago in an attempt to avert the loss of HUB Mall amenities like the Living Earth, but they were unsuccessful. Recently I became aware of the next most probable victim: Incredible Edibles. While, admittedly, this letter will probably be equally if not more ineffective in trying to rally support over the same issue, it sure is a shame that yet another small business is being forced to vacate.

On its present course, HUB appears destined to become just another mall, replete with fast food outlets which one could find at any other shopping complex in the city. Surely this cannot be the desired goal! Unlike sculptors who take ordinary slabs of marble and make them into unique pieces of

art, HUB Mall administrators seem intent on taking something unique and turning it into something remarkably ordinary.

Nevertheless, the blame should not fall entirely upon the administrators of HUB; for there are countless numbers of students who patronize these "new" food outlets (A&W, Edo Japan, Louie's Submarine, George's Cookies, etc.) in HUB. These students must also be considered somewhat responsible for the unnatural metamorphosis of the Mall by the legitimization of these establishments through their patronage.

Paul Adams
Arts IV

Pirate strip not humorous

To the author of Ray-5 comic strip:

Your recent comic strip suggests the pirating of someone else's girlfriend as a humorous means of revenge is both disgusting and degrading to both men and women.

Pirating can be defined as taking something by force, without permission or compensation; a euphemism for rape/sexual assault.

If in this day and age you still think a remark like yours is harmless and humorous

Armchair critic gets last word

Re: *Neil the Nerd* — "Armchair Critic"

It seems that some cartoonists are even more sensitive than fraternity members. Although your characterization of me in Tuesday's "Neil the Nerd" was truly life-like, your dimwitted (and un-funny) snipe at someone who's just expressing his opinion

then it is time to wake up to reality. People are violated every day and it is not funny. Next time will you joke about the molestation of children?

Laura Brown
Foods and Nutrition IV

only proves how bad at least one of the *Gateway's* cartoonists can be.

Anyway, I'm sorry. Tell you what: just to make you feel better, I won't even read "Neil the Nerd" anymore, okay?

Michael Chevalier
Arts III

The Gateway

The University of Alberta Students' Newspaper Since 1952

Editor-in-Chief
Managing Editor
News Editors

Entertainment Editor
Sports Editor
Photo Editor
Production Editor
Circulation Manager
Advertising

RANDAL SMATHERS 492-5168
PHILIP PREVILLE 492-5178
LISA HALL 492-1483
DAWN LEROHL 492-1483
RONALD KUIPERS 492-5178
AJAY BHARDWAJ 492-5068
RON SEARS 492-1482
WINSTON PEI 492-1483
JIM KNUITSEN 492-5168
TOM WRIGHT 492-4241

CONTRIBUTORS:

Doug Smith, Shey Engil, Jason Bodnar, Doug Johnson, Jim Gibbon, David Dudar, Mark Meer, Winson Lai, Andrew Lummis, Darren Kelly, Oscar Strelkov, Sandra Tober, Michael Tolboom, Cindy Erickson, Karin Cruickshank, Kim Taylor, George Sheppard, Gary Wong, Chris Helmers, Mike Spindloe, Mike Evans, Jay O'Neill, Todd Saelhof, Carol Kassian, Mitch Panciuk, Juergen Peters, Dragos Ruiu, Joel Finnestad, Fiona Cameron, Howard Gibbons, Nick Beaumont, Ben Kosman, Pat Kiernan, Ray LeBlanc, Stephen Samuels, Greg Parkins, Jason Darrah, David Moll.

All materials appearing in *The Gateway* are copyright and may not be used without written permission of *The Gateway*.

Contents of *The Gateway* are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. All opinions that are signed by the writer do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Gateway*. Copy deadlines are 12 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. General office: Room 282 SUB. Advertising: Room 276 SUB. Photos printed in *The Gateway* may be for sale. Photodirectorate: Room 236 SUB. Mailing address: Room 259 SUB, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2J7. Readership is 30,000.