

Do what you want, but don't take my bar away

In response to Brad A. Ristle "Close RATT for good": You lead your life the way you want to, and I'll do the same with mine. What gives you the right to call the patrons of RATT "drunken slob" who are "encouraged to drown their brains in booze"? I don't call phys ed students who visit the gym a bunch of muscle-bound, pea brained bastards.

Where did you get the idea that the Students' Union encourages the students to drink? Even if they did, what difference does it make? I was always under the impression that once a person reached 18 years of age, they were responsible for their own actions.

Who says that the "students are supposed to be cramming their heads with knowledge"? I'm here to learn and have fun. Some people are smart enough to do two

things at once. Some people aren't.

Any further correspondence will be held any Friday in RATT at 3:00.

Gordon Stamp
Science I

LETTERS

Letters to the *Gateway* should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters must be typed, though we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Gateway*.

From class to trash

The *Gateway* of January 8 certainly started off the new year with an illustration of the great contrast in the quality of columnists writing in our paper.

In *Aspidistra*, Alison Thomson hit the nail on the head with her argument supporting open-mindedness and a good educational background in all fields of human knowledge. A quick survey of the letters page or opinion columns in any newspaper will reveal numerous examples of people who can communicate effectively, but who have nothing relevant to say because they have no knowledge of the principles involved in the argument. Of especially low quality are most contributions regarding nuclear power exploitation and environmental issues. If people bothered to obtain a grounding in the basic scientific or political ideas behind an issue, they could make meaningful comments on it.

The article on the eulogization of John Lennon by Gordon Turtle was, in contrast, junk. He spent the entire article criticizing the "slick journalism and... irrelevant nostalgia" which he claims characterized the writings of *Time*, *Macleans*, etc. He ignored the fact that those who wrote the pieces were, by and large, not the same people who dumped on the Beatles in the 1960s. Perhaps those writing now did rush out to buy all of the Beatles albums, and did appreciate their political and moral statements. There are signs of some evolution of ideas at these magazines which is doubtlessly promoted by this younger staff.

At any rate, at least they made an attempt to inform us, which is more than Turtle did. When you cut through his criticisms and nasty personal remarks, there is nothing left but a couple of lyrical passages. Why did you bother to write, Gordon? We could have just listened to records and saved a page of newsprint.

Brad Hayes
Grad Studies(Geology)

Slobs only a minority

I would like to respond to Brad Ristle's letter "Close RATT for good" printed in the January 8 *Gateway*.

Mr. Ristle does not comprehend the true nature of the problem of alcohol abuse. The problem is not that we have the privilege of on-campus pubs. Rather, the problem is that, as with any privilege, there are those who will abuse it. However, those "drunken slob" that call themselves students, as Ristle refers to them, represent but a small minority of students. What of the vast majority of students who can go to RATT or Fridays without going on a drunken rampage? These people not only have the good sense and character to avoid drunken violence, but also pass their courses; proving that alcohol and students can indeed mix.

Ristle's comments on "temptation" display an astounding lack of touch with reality. Open your eyes, Ristle. "Temptation" of one sort or another is everywhere and

Must censure article

Mr. Nolan Astley
President, Students' Union
University of Alberta

Dear Mr. Astley:

As members of the Students' Union, we would like to express our outrage at the printing of the by now infamous "article," "Pediophilology", which appeared in the engineers' *Godiva*. We say "as" members of the Students' Union" because it has been brought to our attention that our money funded the publication of this thoroughly tasteless attempt at humor.

We feel this is sufficient justification for advocating the following: (1) that the Students' Union cut back funding to the Engineering Students' Society in the upcoming year, and (2) that all students involved in the publication of the piece in question be asked to identify themselves and apologize to the community for their actions, and consideration be given to requesting their appearance before a disciplinary committee.

Some would say that any such action smacks of censorship. But it is not really censorship, but censure. We do not propose that specific guidelines be drawn up for what can or cannot be published with student funds, an action that could result in a kind of editorial "tyranny of the majority." But when a completely offensive piece, devoid also of any socially redeeming artistic or intellectual value, appears, the students who

pay for its publication have every right to express their outrage through disciplinary action.

This time, some of the engineers have gone too far: "Pediophilology" goes way beyond the simply irritating, puerile sexism which has always run rampant though much of Engineering Week. Most disturbing of all is the fact that its publishers attend a university, and are consequently supposedly a part of society's cultural vanguard. This is downright scary: that support for murder, rape, and the general subjugation and dehumanization of women in society could be the wave of the future.

Please consider the above recommendations. The students of this university must take collective punitive actions, thus stating clearly to the people

behind "Pediophilology" that we desire no part in their warped journey backwards through time.

P. Kimmitt
P.C. Englemann
Rita Rixon
and 11 others

Not all are pro-sexist

There is at least one woman engineer who finds the Queen-kickline aspect of engineering week sexist. Had I been included in the engineering "girls" poll, the approval would have been less than unanimous.

Christie Ryan
Grad Studies
Mech. Eng.

SUELECTION

NEED SOME EXTRA CASH?

The Students' Union requires staff for the General Election on Friday, February 6th. Help us out and earn \$4.00/hour at the same time. For further information, please contact the SU Returning Office (Room 271, SUB) or the Receptionist, SU Executive Offices (Room 259, SUB).



M.Z. Wasarab
Commerce III

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Interviews to be held on campus February 10 and 11

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.....
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