



Randal Smathers

Small town students supply campus spirit

I had the chance to hop a jet to Medicine Hat with the U Senate last week, and to sit in on their meeting. One of the items brought up was the conception that seems to be forming that we are in fact the University of Northern Alberta, and that the U of C is the University of Southern Alberta. I find that a distressing concept.

Too many of our fellow students are at the U of A not because they want to be here, but because it is their "local" school. Before coming here, they went to Lazerte, or J.P., or wherever, and they just naturally arrived at the doors of Tory as a logical progression.

I realize that for a lot of students, money is the deciding factor in choosing the closest school to home, and that's unfortunate. I can't help but think of something

Neil Armstrong said as analogous. When asked what he was thinking of just before blasting off to the moon, Armstrong replied something to the effect of "I was thinking that this rocket I was sitting on top of was made from a couple million parts, each one made by the lowest bidder."

As long as the U of A, or any Canadian university, is populated by an overabundance of students who are only here because it's the lowest bidder, our schools will lack that desire to be a part of the campus which leads to student apathy.

I think back to my first English class, where the back row was composed of a group of about four or five friends from high school, still clinging tenaciously to the old school ties, as it were. Their allegiance was not to the U of A, but to

their high school. I'd rather be in a room with a bunch of people who had never met before the first class; not that this group were particularly standoffish, but they didn't welcome outsiders as easily as the rest of the class did.

In this way, those students who are at the U of A from Medicine Hat, or Red Deer, or Pouce Coupe, or anywhere that they do not take our school for granted, are especially precious to our campus. (Of course, I'm biased, because I'm here because I want to be, not because it seemed like the thing to do.) The Senate heard that the U of A seemed "unfriendly" to many of the out of town students. Because of that, and because I think they're especially important to our school, I'd like to extend a special welcome to the rest of the "foreigners"... even the ones from Calgary.

HUMOR

The mysterious allure of spending

by Kisa Mortenson

Like most students you start to accumulate that summer wealth. That well-thought out student loan... Those hard-earned summer bucks...

You feel the money in your pockets. Cash! Big bucks! And that bank machine always seems to be calling your name.

A student has to remember the essentials — like food — but what about that toy, that trip to any where, that \$300 outfit you have to have?

I had the buying bug. Forget the food... Forget the coffee... Forget those little things like toothpaste... I knew what I wanted: a mountain bike.

I didn't want a no-name bike. I wanted the best my money could buy. My bank machine, my chequing account, my charge card, and my summer cash agreed. We needed quality. We had to have a hot looking bike.

I began to search for the ever elusive luxury-2-tire-all-terrain wonder. My search ended at Cycle Logic. In the corner stood the bike, silver and gleaming with bright splashes of color. And in my price range... I had to have that bike.

My friend, Ken, I-can-sell-you-anything, flashed a dazzling smile at me and sent me out for a test

drive. Yes, I owned the road. It was just me, the road, the air rushing through my hair, and the bike. I took the bike back to the shop and knew, there and then, this was my bike.

I made it to school and locked my bike up, remembering to take my water bottle. Water bottles weren't that cheap, and I really didn't want it stolen. The day passed and I, as any concerned parent or proud bike owner would, decided to check on my baby.

Gone? Gone? My bike was gone!

Stolen! My luxury-2-tire-all-terrain-wonder was gone! My two expensive cable locks had been useless. Around me, a sea of U-locked bikes stood. What had I done?

Minus one mountain bike but still equipped with my expensive water bottle, I headed back to my friend at Cycle Logic. Ken, I-can-sell-you-anything, worked his magic and once again I was ready to take on the trails.

Big bucks — a student's greatest downfall... But, also, a student's biggest friend...

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