

Humour

by Eric Anderson

It was the second morning of the first semester of my studies at the University of Alberta. The early morning sky was decorated a heavenly blue and on the trees many leaves were beginning to shed their lively green colors just a twinge. It was a somewhat crisp morn when one's eyes could behold a thin layer of moist dew upon blades of grass and it was also a time where one could observe the expulsion of oxygen from one's lungs in the form of a steamy mist which evaporated within seconds into nothingness.

This scene of blissful tranquility blanketed my thoughts as I climbed one of those neverending staircases which seem to be all over the place at HUB Mall Even the tortured ordeal of huffing and puffing up the stairs and cursing the miserable reality of these structures, which have been one of the many banes of my campus experience, could not deter my unusually come-what-may humor.

I walked through the mall which was crowded with the usual 2 million people per square metre. Being crunched in a crowd is indeed a pet peeve which holds a place of honor on my pet peeve list. The wonderful mood began to sour somewhat as I received an unintentional elbow to my nose. I was about to turn around to call the culprit a male offspring of a female dog when I noticed he was about 6 inches taller and 100 pounds heavier than myself. For detente's sake, I decided that I had better keep any comments to an absolute

minimum, as he looked like Hulk Hogan's spitting image and might not take too kindly to having his character degraded.

I had to purchase some textbooks from the SUB Bookstore. My nose felt as if it had been massaged by a steamroller as I walked briskly to SUB. I'm afraid that yours truly has not mastered the art of people-dodging as of yet because at least three times I bumped, collided, or sideswiped another unfortunate soul. Comments such as "klutz" or "watch where you're walking, bucketbrains", were elicited in response to the genuine gawkiness which I've become a genius at.

Waiting in a lineup has to be the primary bane of my university experience. I was not prepared for the mammoth mobs of undergraduate and graduate students in the bookstore. My eyes looked here, there and everywhere for some sort of shortcut through this insanity, but my luck hit rock bottom when I thought the "cash only" line was the answer to my prayers for salvation. The lineup was as long as from here to Mandalay and was as fast as a blue whale trying to jog on land. In short, I waited at least an hour to buy textbooks that weighed 10 tons and cost more than Wayne Gretzky's brand new contract in L.A.

My solution to first week blues is to purchase a beanie with a helicopter rotor system to chauffeur me over and around crowds and lineups. Now if only I could invent it, I'd be a zillionaire.



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