



**Ron
Kuipers**

It's in your own backyard

Plugs, plugs, plugs and more plugs. That's all I get asked to do around here. But seriously, I'm pretty happy to plug things sometimes. Someday, I'd like to get out of Edmonton and move to a centre with a decidedly more active music scene. But, as long as I'm here, I'm glad to see the local music scene pick up, and I'm more than content doing my small part to help out.

What Edmonton has right now is a lot of interesting, intelligent people with many good ideas. This is the fundamental ingredient for any underground music scene recipe.

The number and quality of bands in Edmonton right now is pleasantly surprising. Jr. Gone Wild are still kicking around. Longtime sceners Killing Time and Big House keep going. We haven't heard much from Wickerman lately, but word has it they are still together. Idyl Tea hope to have something out before Christmas, and Dusty Chaps are contributing two entries for a compilation album to be put out by

Nervous Records in Britain. Rex Morgan B.C. continue garaging or freaking or rocking or rolling or whatever it is they do.

Add to that the newer faces like Nowhere Blossoms, Pop Crisis, and Foes of Resperation. I've had the pleasure of seeing all these bands in the past few weeks, and have come away quite encouraged. They're all serious, they all have drive, and they all exhibit a good degree of skill in original song-writing. Add to this group people like Shawn Pinchbeck, who has been active for quite some time in the electronic music scene.

And yes, the rumour mills are still churning. Babysugarbag are starting to get some things together, and will play the Yardbird on December 13 with the She-Devils on Wheels and others. Says Sugarbager Drex, "Someone has to eventually come along and fill the psycho-rock vein." Edmonton's Mudhoney? We can only hope.

There are many others active in the scene who are no doubt of-

fended by their lack of mention in this space. I apologize to these people, but the point remains that the lack of energy and enthusiasm is not coming from the artists. Part of the current problem is the lack of a supporting structure (i.e. places to play) and an apathetic public.

Many people bemoan the demise of Spartans Men's Hall, but few are doing anything to make a new Spartans. With the exceptions of Crackerjacks and perhaps The Ambassador (and to an even smaller degree The Bronx), there is no regular place for local performers to channel their energies.

No one is willing to risk undertaking such ventures because Edmonton has shown themselves incapable in the past of making such ventures profitable. Here's the pitch: Support original, local music. Let it flourish. Go to gigs. You'll find that you will get more than your moneys worth. Most of these gigs cost less than a movie. Good music doesn't just exist in other cities. It's in your own backyard.

Canada actually based on conquest

Re: Darren George's letter (Gateway, Thursday, Nov. 16):

Mr. George states that Canada is based on multi-culturalism: it is supposed to be a great cultural mosaic.

In fact, Canada (the "village" of the Hurons) is based, if anything, on conquest: first, then one involving the often brutal imposition of white culture on the indigenous peoples, and then that by the British or the French following 1760 and the Plains of Abraham. Since then, English Canada has more or less successfully imposed its language and culture on all minorities through education.

Official multi-culturalism dates only from 1971, when Trudeau referred to it in a speech to Parliament.

As Mr. George points out, it is a way in which we are (officially) different from the U.S., and as such, so the argument goes, multi-culturalism is something to be protected and defended.

Mr. George asks whether we

fear compromise. I don't think so. According to at least one contemporary writer, English Canada has, in large part, sat back and watched the efforts Quebec has made to try to have fair treatment within Confederation (Le Defi Quebecois, Christian Dufour). In some regards, the situation resembles that of Ireland under British domination. An irony noted by Mr. Dufour is that many of the legislative losses Quebec has suffered since the Conquest have been at the hands of federal politicians from Quebec.

Mulroney's imminent failure with Meech Lake demonstrates only too well that what Canada needs is not "compromise," but leadership. Leadership to me means courage, faith, and truthfulness, as well as intelligence. While Mr. Mulroney is intelligent, he is not a great leader.

Official multiculturalism, bilingualism and the Meech accord are the lies we use to tolerate the difficulty of trying to be "friends" with someone we have conquered. Quebec was brought into Canada

by force. Now she needs to make her own way, and we need to stop pretending it's a love affair.

Canada is a marriage of convenience, which is hindering all our real selves. True freedom, Mr. George, not compromise, is what we fear.

Michael Cenknier
Faculte St-Jean
Education III

Health Services hassle

Editor's Note: the following is a letter from a student to a doctor at University Health Services. The letter was carbon copied to The Gateway.

I am writing this letter in regards to my appointment with you this morning. As you may recall I was evaluated as being "sick" and you prescribed penicillin for my throat infection. After this, I asked you for a note, because I was unable to complete a math assignment due

Still more Bridge

I would like to comment on the 2 articles in the November 21 issue of *The Gateway* entitled "Responsibility must Transcend 'theft'" and "Troubled Bridge in Hot Water".

I would like to tell Mr. Kuipers to get his facts straight before he writes articles for any paper — the first rule in journalism is facts.

As far as I know, the engineers do not send subliminal messages to anyone which make people read *The Bridge*, so if you don't like what's printed in it, why read it? Is this done for fun? Of course that can't be the reason — you don't think it's funny. Does this mean that if *Playboy* or *Penthouse* was free, you would read it just to complain about it?

One of the two complainants stated that "it is neither satire nor exclusively for the use of engineers — the paper is set out in buildings accessible to anyone." Satire, according to the Webster dictionary, is "any literary production in which persons, manners, or actions are attacked with irony, sarcasm or similar weapons. So, by definition, satire is not necessarily humorous, thus if you don't find it funny, it doesn't mean it's not satirical. As far as I'm concerned, *The Bridge* is a perfect example of satire. As for *The Bridge* not being entirely for engineers, I object. *The Bridge* is locked in the ESS office and taken

Re: *The Bridge*

I am a second year Engineering student and I (horror of all horrors) read *The Bridge*. I have read the past issue. Although it was a bit rude, it was not all that bad.

If the jokes and cartoons had been verbalized by any comedian, such as Eddie Murphy or Robin Williams, most people would have found them funny. But because they appeared in *The Bridge*, a paper put out by a mostly-male faculty, some feminists (male or female) have decided that it was prejudice and that Engineering students are all prejudiced men.

In regards to the fact that "scatological humour is out of place and

to the different clubs by the club columnists. Just because one is left on the table doesn't mean it's yours. If someone leaves their keys on the table it sounds like many of you would take and keep the keys, even collect them.

Maybe the University and even the country has but one option; to do away with all those laws and replace them with one big umbrella law which states it is illegal to offend anyone or hurt anyone's feelings in any way. (The last paragraph is satire. Even if you didn't laugh.)

Donna Dunne
Education III

Re: *Bridge* just a few laughs, Nov. 23

Take a reality break. You say that entertainment "in fact must not be responsible." What is that supposed to mean? Should snuff flicks be the next trend in entertainment?

While I agree with you that, if people are offended by *The Bridge*, they don't have to read it, I find that the way you view entertainment is very disturbing. I mean, if everybody viewed entertainment the way you seem to, what's next? Shooting each other on the freeways for fun, like they do in Los Angeles?

David Robinson
Engineering I

inappropriate in an academic institution," I would like to refer to the issue of *The Gateway* that your letter appeared in. When you examine the comics section, you will find serious dismemberment and physical abuse. In addition, look at "Poo Poo". We can also not forget to think about Three Lines Free and all the sexual innuendos that go with them.

While the University of Alberta via *The Bridge* "condones... sexism, ... lack of maturity and good taste," "The University of Alberta's Student Newspaper" can print similar items which do not cause any problems.

David Dubois
Engineering II

of the due date, but I do not and nor does anyone I know.

I found your attitude towards me to be unprofessional for the reasons which I have given. I will leave the matter with my professor to do as his better judgement tells.

I will always have a feeling of mistrust between students and doctors at Health Services due to this mishap. I hope next time someone comes sick to you, that you will be more understanding.

Lyne Eaker

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