

editorial

Dental gripes

If you're the type of person that reads any of the posters pasted all over this campus you are no doubt aware that this is dental health week. We are asked if your sulcus is clean. The very thought of possibly having a dirty sulcus is enough to induce severe paranoia. That's because we all know dirty teeth means a visit to the dentist and that means a great deal of inconvenience and in impossibly high bill.

Let's face it - today a dentistry degree is akin to a license to print money. Dentists are like undertakers; you've got to go to them sooner or later and they know it. I'm very down on dentists these days when I think of all those fifty dollar dental bills sitting in my mouth waiting to mature. Dentists have it very soft once they conquer the idea of spending a good part of their life with their fingers in someone else's mouth.

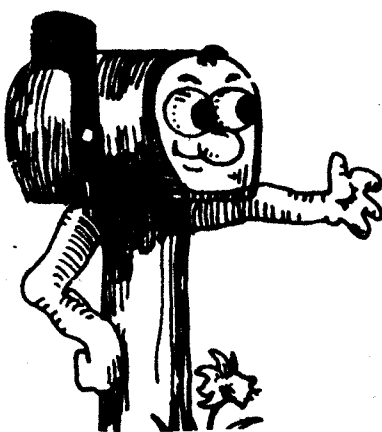
Have you had a toothache lately? Tried to get an emergency appointment? Fat chance. Your jaw could fall off before they'll see you these days. Emergency treatment? They might be able to squeeze you in at the end of the week if you'll cut a few classes or miss half a day's work and take a chance on someone cancelling their appointment. Mind you, those holes aren't going to get any smaller in the meantime and you might go crazy with the pain but office hours are office hours.

Tried to get a cost estimate from a receptionist? Even an approximation within fifty dollars? They're not allowed to discuss. Talk to the dentist. You finally get to the inner sanctum and meet the man in white, you can't close your mouth because the pain is too great, then you can talk money. What're you going to do, suffer for another week until you reach another inner sanctum and get a cost estimate? By this time your sulcus is not only dirty, its rotted away.

Dentists work entirely at their own convenience. They're safe from socialized dentistry and thus from any responsibility to the public. I treasure the memory of one dentist who agreed to look at my abscessed tooth if I would come to see him as soon as I could. Before that sixteen dentists offered only an appointment four weeks to three months distant. Seems this one dentist had worked in a tough town where a logger with a sore tooth would rather push your head in than go back to the woods for a month with an abscessed tooth.

I don't know if my sulcus is clean, but I do know its going to cost me a lot of time and money to find a dentist who'll tell me. I hope their conscience is clean. I couldn't sleep at night perpetrating the kind of fat cat rip-offs that permeate their profession. I'll bet they're shaking in their boots about socialized dentistry because its got to come and clean up their act and our sulcus at the same time.

Max Billingsly



Yukon

As an ex-Yukoner, I was very interested in the article on the Yukon Children's Village that appeared in the Save the World issue. It is a project that others tried (in varied form) about three years ago, and that another group succeeded with before Whitehorse became a city (in 1950). Looks like all you have to do to get anything going anywhere involves persistence.

Ray Friedman
Ed 4

Christ

I received a telephone call from a young lady involved in the Student Christian Movement on campus a couple of days ago. Upon answering the telephone I proceeded to listen to the following:

"Hello, my name is and I'm with the Student Christian Movement on campus. We are doing a survey regarding religious attitudes of first year students. The survey comes in three parts, which are.... The whole thing takes about 20 minutes and I was wondering when I could meet you."

To this memorized, impersonal format I very nicely responded by saying that I was sorry but I wasn't interested. I must have caught the poor girl off guard because there was a moments hesitation which was followed by a very glib thank you and the click of the telephone receiver.

It puzzles me as to why this dear lady thought that I would naturally want to talk to her and why she thus assumed that all there was left to do was to

arrange a convenient time for me to meet her. She never mentioned anything about the purpose of this survey nor why first year students were being picked to be the "lucky" participants. There was therefore some suspicion in my mind as to how genuine this girl really was in having me complete her survey. I have a suspicion that publicity for her group was of more importance to her than the survey. If this be the case I would suggest that there are other methods of publicity which would probably elicit a more favourable response.

Secondly, it puzzles me to know how one could convey personal religious or irreligious attitudes in a total of 20 minutes. If the method used by the Student Christian Movement is a point-blank yes or no answer type question I guess it could be done but in that case I would say that such a method used for surveying religious attitudes is bizarre. If a person has religious viewpoints and is serious about them he will use them as basic guidelines for his life - these cannot be spilled out in a matter of 20 minutes. In fact, many men have spent a life time explaining and thinking out beliefs that they adhere to!

Sorry Pam, but you certainly didn't score very favourable with me!

Karen Bonney
Arts 1

Apology

I write this as a public apology to the campus policeman that was making use of Cliff's Towing Sunday night. I labelled him with a profanity which was descriptive of the role he was playing. He was performing his duty to the letter of the law.

Still, I sympathize with the victim. I have experienced that sinking feeling accompanied by "Where the hell is my car?"

I do not question the action of the campus policeman but rather the motive. The situation may have called for a warning or possibly a ticket but hardly the cost of a towing.

The situation was that it was seven o'clock on a Sunday night and the car was parked in a "University Loading Zone." Granted it was posted and granted there is a warning that it is a tow away zone, however, discretion was called for. We all know discretion occurs in law and intent is also a property of law. The campus policeman passed the rule of law but flunked miserably on discretion and intent.

The intent of the law is to prevent cars from disrupting the loading or unloading of university vehicles in the HUB parking area. The letter of the law says all other vehicles will be towed away. The discretion of the law is whether or not to tow a vehicle when it is virtually impossible for University loading or unloading to be taking place.

A distinguished jurist, a la Oliver Wendall Holmes, would award damages to the car owner (I might here reiterate that it was NOT my car) on the grounds that the rule of law violated the intent of the law.

Indeed, the perpetrator (the campus policeman) of such unjust action would be subject to a verbal lashing uncomplimentary to his intelligence save his parentage.

I am in ready agreement with parking laws. True, I do complain when I'm tagged but then I do pay - eventually. There is a need for parking control.

The point here is that a 10-20 dollar towing fee is an unjust burden to a student especially under Sunday night's circumstances. It is clear that the campus security force is intent on aggravating students rather than protecting their interests. The motive of the officer was to intimidate not to understand nor to perpetuate good will.

I trust this letter will serve to induce some understanding of thy purpose of the security force as opposed to their actions. Regrading the stated case I am hard pressed to remember seeing a University vehicle in operation on a weekend let alone after supper.

Yours truly
B. Gabriel

Life

Have you often wondered what life is all about? Do you have questions...probably more questions than answers?

We are from Varsity Christian Fellowship on Campus, and would like to introduce you to a correspondence course. This course has no strings attached and involves no financial obligations on your part.

The correspondence course, "What the Bible Teaches," attempts to introduce you to fundamental questions and answers concerning MAN and GOD. With this course of study you will be sent, free, a New Testament (Good News for Modern Man) to aid you in the course. To sum it up, the course is non-denominational and is designed for the average person.

All you need do is address a request note to the V.C.F., Box 67, U of A, Edmonton, and in turn the course will be sent to you.

Sincerely,
the V.C.F.

Elves

Observers of the recent British election seem to have ignored one vital result of the vote - a result which will, if correct, have far more importance on the affairs of humanity than any action which has ever before come out of England - including Monty Python, Gilbert O'Sullivan and J.R.R. Tolkien. This seminal action is nothing less than the election of two Welsh Nationalists to the British House of Commons.

To one unacquainted with some of the more vital secrets of history, this election will have little meaning. Wales, after all, is a backward country composed almost equally of coal mines, mountains and ruined castles, a

