

**Give education input**

The time for Education Week has rolled up once again, but this time there's a difference. This year's theme seems to be that of improving student-faculty relations through better communication.

What better way to improve these relations than through holding open forums? They give both parties a chance to get together and exchange ideas and give one another feedback. Now there's a concept!

We'd like you to be aware that the ESA is sponsoring a practicum forum on Thursday, Feb. 9th at 5 p.m. in Ed. N. 2-115. It will give you, the students, a chance to share your concerns and ideas about the current practicum program. In turn, it will allow faculty members to share their views and inform you of new projects currently being developed. Marcia and I plan on making a brief presentation at this forum of our proposals and of the petition we've been circulating. We'd love to talk to you and hear how you feel. If you've been reading the *Gateway* letters these last few weeks, you'll realize how much we want to hear from the rest of the Education student population. Give us your input and help us bring about program changes. The benefits are countless!

Marcia Penner, Education III  
Lisa Hart, Education III

**SUB smoke smothering**

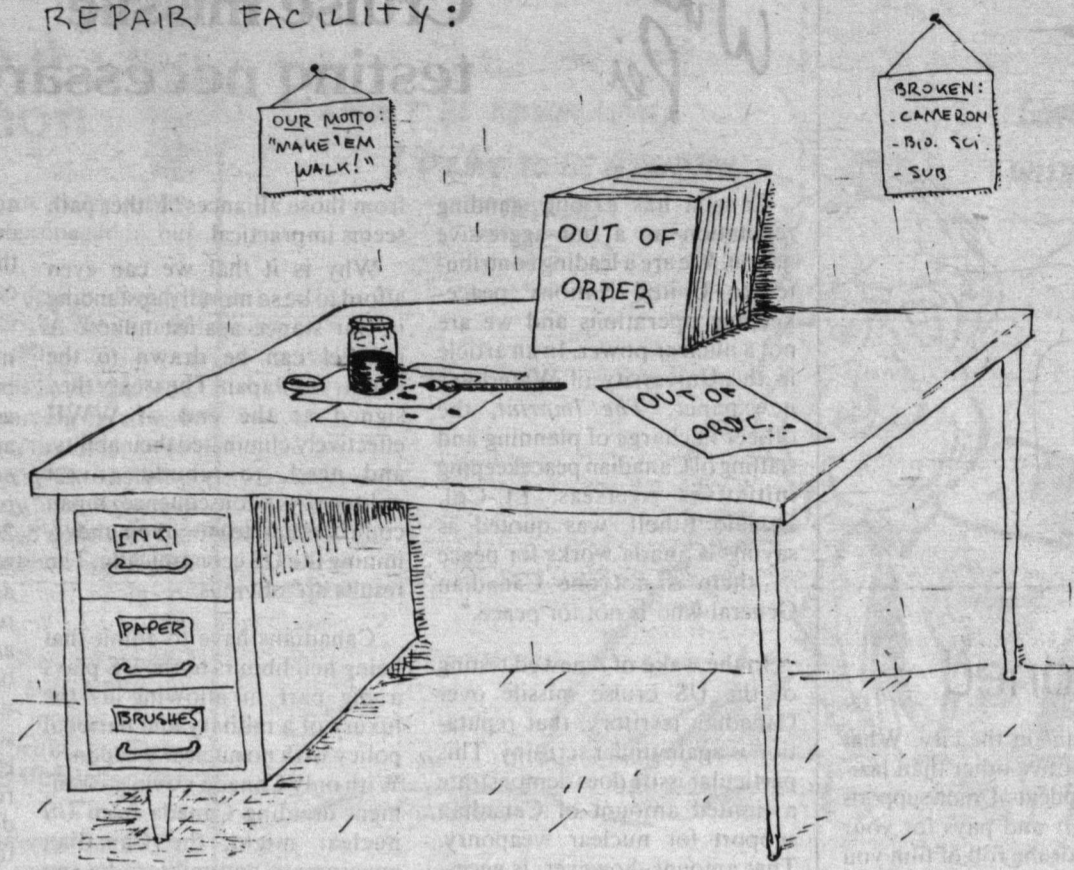
"All persons on the University's campus... have the right to breathe clean indoor air, particularly in places of common use such as auditoriums, washrooms, passages, workplaces and classrooms."

-University of Alberta Smoking Policy

I would like to take this opportunity to slam the decision to establish the area outside of the bookstore in SUB as a designated smoking area.

I made the unfortunate mistake of going to the bookstore at about 10:10 this morning, which is about the time that everyone who works in the building takes their little

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA ELEVATOR REPAIR FACILITY:



"smoke break." That's fine, everyone is entitled to their own vices. The problem was that they all crowded into the smoking area that just happens to be in the middle of SUB. Needless to say there was a "little bit" of a haze in the air. Anyone with any semblance of knowledge knows that, when allowed to, cigarette smoke will drift so as to cover as wide an area as possible, thus polluting (a harsh but very appropriate term) as much clean air as possible.

Now, thanks to the person who manages the policy in SUB, the whole of the main sitting area and corridor is polluted with cigarette smoke. I for one find the smell of said smoke to be extremely nauseating, and I'm sure that a great many people feel the same way. Why is it then that we are forced to put up with this infringement of our rights? Could you not find a more suitable place for a smoking area; i.e. where the smoke will not permeate the rest of the building.

This problem is not only evident at "coffee time," but at almost

any time of the day: lunch time, during breaks in classes, afternoons. In fact, any time there are more than a few smokers in the designated area, you can usually tell when you enter the doors into SUB. It seems to me that a new

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place should be found for the smoking minority (no offence) to indulge so that the rest of us do not have to put up with the annoyances and health hazards that go with this addiction. Either that or install a pressure sealed bubble around the existing smoking area. Think about it...

Scott Gamble  
Engineering II

**US freedom preferable**

Re: "Gentle George" (Jan. 26)

Firstly Mr. Smathers, if you aren't from the "US of Ammunition," may I suggest you study it more before you speak. You may even try living there for a year or so. But before that please don't try to say that it's "one of the great oppressive imperialist powers in history." Wake up, Mr. Smathers, it's a superpower — same as that other "paradise" that seems to always escape *The Gateway's* condemnation — the Soviet Union. Remember it? It seems the US is always the easy and popular target to hit with criticism. If you check your history — British, French, Russian — you'll find no joyful empire or country overflowing with human rights and freedoms. (Oh, by the way, regarding the US spreading its "imperialism at gunpoint" — remember the Falklands/ Malvinas war? Who's the imperialist in that situation?)

I'm an American, Mr. Smathers. I'm critical of my country at times. Sometimes I'm even a-

shamed... ashamed of actions which you probably aren't aware of but would add to your "imperialist" label nonetheless: the displacement of the Bikini Atoll residents, pressure on the Palau Islanders, Chile, the backing of the Junta in El Salvador and the Samozas (although the Sandinistas aren't any better), and more. Vietnam was a noble cause that was botched mainly by military in-bickering. If you argue that it wasn't worthy, then you are faced with the thousands who have fled Vietnam since its fall, fleeing which would have started more than twenty years ago. You are also faced with the thousands — 1/3 of the population — of Cambodians exterminated by the Khmer Rouge. And as for "Reagan the Terrible" — I'm not so proud of everything he did — but I'm not ashamed of it all either.

It seems so easy to condemn, so easy to point out bad policy such as Lebanon, goofs like Grenada, and as you may believe it to be an attempt at "democratic dictatorship," Vietnam. But try to think real hard and wake that other side up. Try to remember: the Peace Corp; Vista; the Arab-Israeli Peace Treaty; the Namibia Agreement; the Marshall Plan. These among other agreements and programs have sought to bring peace, to rebuild a war-torn world. But you'll probably argue that it's just an imperial power trying to gain more power. As they say, there is none so blind as he who will not see.

Take it from my brother-in-law, Mr. Smathers, and be thankful you live in Canada, protected by the United States (I hate to sound arrogant, but them's basically the facts!). He came from Czechoslovakia. Freedom, even near the "imperialistic" US, is a whole lot better than "freedom" in a Soviet dominated country.

By the way, it's somewhat ironic that after dumping on the US, you conclude by stating you'd hate to cover "The US-Nicaragua War for *Time* when (you) graduate." Interesting — it sounds like you'd like to work for *Time* — a U.S. owned magazine. Then you could do more than bite the hand that protects you; you could bite the hand that feeds you, too.

Bill Graham  
Arts III

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Simply PRINT your message on the form below and slip it into *The Gateway* letterbox, outside Room 282 SUB. Use one space for every letter, number, or punctuation mark.

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- If you want to ensure that your message appears, you should still use our regular Classifieds section.
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