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MAIN
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SUB

No pity for peeved puffers

In response to the article on angry smokers in the October sixth edition of *The Gateway*:

Tough! I am tired of listening to the incessant whinings of this bleeding heart minority known as smokers. Since the institution of smoking was born, smokers have had the free reign of virtually every conceivable square foot of real estate in which they could pursue their divine right to smoke.

Eventually, a pattern began to develop: the more we knew of the dangers involved, the more we tried to cut back the cause of the danger. Which brings us to today's society, which is filled to overflowing with such unspeakable evils such as bylaws, designated smoking areas, and anti smoking propaganda.

There is irreversible evidence stacked high against the institution

of smoking. Smoking is carcinogenic, unaesthetic, physiologically and monetarily detrimental, and (this is my opinion, not necessarily fact), olfactorily repulsive. There is not one positive factor that can be derived from smoking. Some (most) smokers will declare that they enjoy smoking. I feel that the threats posed to one's health effectively negate the minor euphoria that smoking may induce. The Surgeon General has printed on the side of the packages that contain smokers' time bombs stern warnings of its contents. Nonetheless, smokers continue to smoke. Everybody is acutely aware of the implications of this habit, yet smokers doggedly continue, and ridiculously rationalize their behavior with such gems as "Well, I'm going to die anyways," or the ever popular "I'm here for a good time, not a long time."

Even when a scholarly retreat such as a library, which is essential to the academic well being of any serious student, becomes a bylaw victim, are the smokers unable to stop.

I am led to believe that it is very difficult to quit this habit, and nicotine has been proven to be more addictive than heroin. Still, I feel no sympathy for the smoker, because all smokers, have been painfully aware of both the physiological and sociological perils confronting them ever since they started. Nobody can honestly say "Gee, I didn't know it wasn't good for me," or "I didn't know that society would place restrictions on this habit. Gosh, I wish somebody had told me." So I say to you, Sir or Madam smoker, too damn bad.

L.W. Stafford
Arts II

A turkey of a day

by Kisa Mortenson

"Shopping," the note said. "8 a.m. — be there."

I came home Friday night — at two in the morning to be exact — and was confronted with a friendly little reminder.

Living at home, I felt some obligation to help out around the house. But shopping? For Thanksgiving?

I looked at the beaming red digital glow of my clock radio and set my alarm.

I woke early to the sound of "A

Grocery Kind of Love" and knew things were not going well. Either Phil Collins or I was going crazy. I shocked myself and listened. Phil was still groovy.

Smiling weakly at my mom, I climbed into the front seat, and she drove us to the mega food store.

What a sight! The mega food store... What a wonderful invention for starving students who can only afford bulk pasta and no-name products and for people who like all their items to colour coordinate.

Mom drove the cart. I didn't feel capable of driving anything with four wheels at that hour....

Everything went well until I was supposed to rendezvous in the "spices" aisle and instead went to the "seasonal" aisle. I found

myself surrounded by a sea of Hallowe'en candy and masks. Where was the paprika? The pepper?

I located mom in the toothpaste aisle hunting down the elusive party toothpicks for hors d'oeuvres and was happy to discover we could leave....

Check out... Not so fast... Ever wonder why check out is called "check out"? This is when mom decides to pay by cheque, has no other means by which to pay, and realizes she doesn't have any cheques to pay with... So what does she decide to do? Check out! Yes, she leaves me hostage with the groceries while she goes home to get some cheques, promising to return for both me and the groceries.

Eventually, I was rescued from the grocery store and have since decided it's no wonder that the traditional Thanksgiving bird is a turkey. Thanksgiving shopping — what a turkey of a day!

It only hurts when you
Laugh!

"After the smash success of 'Big,' Tom Hanks tops himself in 'Punchline.'"

—NEWSWEEK

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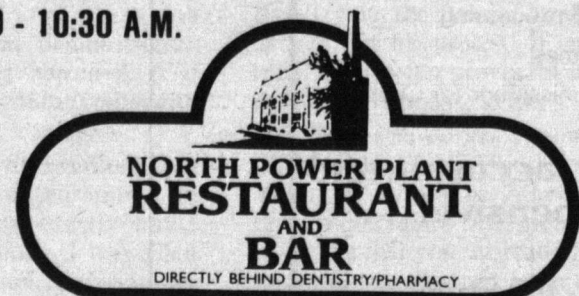
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