

Defense for UAB image

To whom it may concern, or Dear Mr. T. Gateway,

As a concerned student, intercollegiate athlete, and intramural participant, I find it very frustrating to read "the Gateway", looking for truth and honesty in reporting and not being able to find it. I am responding to the editorial and articles of Nov. 16 '81 concerning the UAB's proposed fee increase of a maximum of 15% per year.

The image I (and anyone else who read the Nov. 16 issue) found was expounded in those articles and editorial, is the image of the increase going to only intercollegiate athletes (mostly male) for them to "act as heroes and idols by performing to win, at all costs, for a majority of idle spectators." As well, I (and numerous others) have been led to believe that the UAB is out to "promote the role of the average student as a spectator rather than a participant" and "further the idea that men are more active than women." Why do you, the editors, make such foolish suppositions without even attempting to properly define the role of the UAB and its philosophy towards elite athletics, intramurals, and recreation?

As an intercollegiate athlete, I do not consider myself a "hero" or "idol", nor do I think any intercollegiate athlete thinks that he/she is such an outdated, medieval personification. We are

not "high profile athletes" on "professional teams", we are students, like you. But we have an interest in doing much more than just passing courses.

I, for one, feel I can represent our university on a forum where I may excel. This forum is intercollegiate athletics.

Intercollegiate athletics is (at the moment) the only place where universities across the country can come together and share in a common interest. I am not saying that this is the only place that intercollegiate interests may be shared, music, drama, debating are all areas that could be developed for this purpose.

Do not let "the Gateway" lead you by the nose, (Believe it or not, sometimes what the editors say is very wrong!).

As for intramurals, it is not the UAB's fault that only 30% of their budget goes to intramurals. It is your fault (the student) for not participating in perhaps the best run intramural program in North America!

In the article "UAB has lost strength: Wood" (Nov. 16, 1981), an important fact is stated: In the budget, intramurals are given priority. Anybody, and that means anybody can get a few friends together and (I guarantee you 100%) participate in various intramural sports.

Why is a larger percentage of the UAB's budget not spent on intramurals? Because, at the U of A, "Participation" has not exactly

reached mammoth proportions yet. The budgets for intercollegiate teams are being reduced (relatively, through inflation and cutbacks) every year, intramurals will never be reduced in budget.

If you want to see where your money is going, come out and participate, and spend a little of it for your own benefit.

This letter was written for 3 reasons: to open the minds of the editors so they may be more just in their reporting; to open the eyes of the average student who may have been misled a touch; to present some insight into one athletes philosophy as an intercollegiate athlete.

Sincerely,
Dale McNeely
P. Ed. 3

Golden Bear Gymnastics
Golden Bear Soccer

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, although we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

Abortion undignified

Why is it that some people never learn? Why is it that those who search for knowledge seem to lose touch with the basic truths of right and wrong? Julie Wheelright, in her article Holocaust, gives us real insight into an intellectual attempt to smooth a ruffled conscience.

There is no right to have an abortion. An issue of this magnitude cannot be transcended by mere legal or emotional pleas! And it is definitely not an issue that can be dealt with in dollars and cents or statistical data. This is an issue that stems back to the time that Cane (sic) stood above Able (sic) and saw the earth turn crimson beneath him.

The prevalent attitude of today's society can be summed up in one word — ME. This is a time of self-absorption, self-contained (sic), self-defence, self-determination, self-preservation and most important selfishness. We preoccupy ourselves with the pursuit (sic) of fulfillment of our own needs. This doesn't leave much room for too many others in our lives, only those that we want and need. Those that simply don't fit in are brushed aside and this is where part of the issue begins.

What does one do with an unwanted pregnancy? In our society there are several options that are open to us; 1) Abortion, 2) Adoption, 3) Carrying the pregnancy full term and either keeping the child yourself or getting assistance in raising him

or her. Of these options only one is destructive, the others while not all that pleasant do offer hope for both the child and the mother.

"I'm going to try and make sure there aren't back street abortionists. They do two things: they destroy the baby and the mother."

The solution of course is a legal abortion which only destroys the baby and frees the mother to again follow her own path (sic). What we are told therefore is that it is wrong to put the mother's life in danger yet perfectly alright to take the child's life.

What Miss Wheelright and the others do not seem to see is that the very needs that cry out for this kind of solution will soon enough propel it into macabre proportions that will in turn make them potential victims of a phenomena (sic) that we will no longer be able to control.

It is at this point in our history that we must be able to distinguish from right and wrong. It is now that we must see that in order to survive and mend our troubled society we must learn to recognize the problems that are within us and to solve them in a constructive manner. If we don't learn to appreciate human dignity in its many and varied forms from that of the crippled to that of the fetus then surely we are all doomed.

James Albers
Ed 3

Change of Irish views

Sir,

In reply to Mr. Cohen, (letters, Nov. 10). Apparently you will not accept any guilt for a crime you admit took place, but are quite prepared to enjoy the fruits of that crime. Are you serious?

You appear to condone terrorism as means which justify the end since you do not condemn it. Indeed, you even suggest that terrorism is democratic: "The prominence of the IRA is merely a sign that the more democratic solutions for liberation have failed" (my emphasis). Again, are you serious? I can only conclude that you are not, since you would appear to be an embryo terrorist yourself.

The closest analogy to the Irish question is certainly not Zimbabwe as you suggest, since the white 5 percent were distributed across the country in the main. But right here in Canada, any province or region voted 2-1 for independence or even Union with the US, would you let it go? Your answers cannot be taken seriously Mr. Cohen, but you will find that most people would decide that however much it might be distasteful, they couldn't condone the use of force to keep a region in confederation. If they can, let them put a rifle to their shoulder and be prepared to kill.

But wonders, I can agree with you Mr. Cohen, if only in part. I hope you were being serious this time. Indeed, "we should work for a better future," but as for "inducing guilt feelings," if the guy sitting on top of the dung heap throws muck at me, I feel quite justified in throwing that muck back if I choose too.

If you feel guilt, by induction or otherwise, then there is hope that you might act on it. Unfortunately some people feel it more comfortable to duck (sic) the responsibility, perhaps because they feel the past isn't to be taken all that seriously.

Sincerely,
N. M. McCulloch
Grad Studies

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