

# Cowboys have balls for brains

# letters

## READER COMMENT

All those cowboy dudes on campus who think rodeos are a real gay affair for the animals have got brown eyes and balls for brains. In the Bar None Dispatch it was written that animals never had it so good in a rodeo. It was further stated that these animals are well treated, well fed, and pampered all year. The article was written to discount any rumours of cruelty to animals at rodeos. People will just about believe anything they read. This is what the Bar None Dispatch is doing by telling people half truths in order that the rodeo participants can relieve their guilty feelings from the cruelty imposed on animals at rodeos.

I have on several occasions met some cowboys who use foam rubber in their pants to alleviate the pain which occurs during rodeo times. What chance does the animal have in these situations? It was stated that "sometimes a cattle prod is used to urge the animal out of the chutes and that this action would be the same as "if you've rubbed your feet across a rug and touched a metal object." I fail to see the comparison. I wonder who this N.A.S.P.C.A.A. representative is trying to snow over. Cattle prods are used quite frequently. They are used in the genital region or stuck up the animal's rectum and it does not feel like you've been rubbing your feet across a rug and touched a metal object. Rather, they feel like a high voltage electrical shock. Any electrical shock, especially when applied to sensitive areas, would prod anything that walks on four feet or two feet. One would really move, and jump. Believe you me. If an animal could talk it would ask the person with the prod, how high do you want me to jump? But we all know animals don't talk.

In the Bar None Dispatch it was stated that "the flank strap merely tickles the flank area and

makes the animal buck, the same way as people wiggle when someone tickles them." My hoof! Sure the flank area is the most ticklish part of the horse but did you greenhorns know the fact that the flank strap also covers the genital area. I would like to see one of those he-man type cowboys cinched up between the legs as tight as it goes, till he can hardly breathe, and see the dance he would do. It would be something more than just bucking. To top that off flank straps sometimes contain an extra material such as barb wire. This makes it more painful and is guaranteed to make the horse buck harder and more furiously.

Some cowboy tales include breeding horses for their bucking abilities. This is very hard to believe because any horse, even Secretariate, would do quite the bucking act if cinched up with flank straps. I believe the tale of breeding horses for their bucking abilities like I believe the doctrine of Aryan Superiority. Flank straps are not the innocent looking things they are make up to be. It astounds me the coverup story of the real purpose of the flank strap.

Another cruelty imposed on animals at rodeos is the numbing trick of grabbing the horse's head and chewing the horse's ear. This stops the horse dead in its tracks as the ears are very sensitive spots. This cruel act is premeditated to control the horse as the cowboy puts on the flank straps for the wild horse race. This is a form of sadistic control over the horse and is used because there are not chutes restricting the horse out in the open arena.

Calf roping is another injustice and shows man's cruelty to animals. Imagine yourself

running full tilt, you're frightened, thousands of people are staring and yelling at you. You are terrified, you begin to start running the hundred yard dash in a record time, when all of a sudden, zap, you're floored onto the ground with a sudden jerk to the neck with a rope around you. Talk about a ring around the collar. This is how the calf feels when it is prodded out of the chute into the arena where it is physically assaulted and tied up in a record time. And to make it worse, before the chutes open, the tail of the calf is bent upwards and back. It hurts. Do that to any dog and you wouldn't have any hands to speak of. But a calf, well ....

Oh yes, have any of you dudes looked backstage of the rodeo and seen the number of calves with broken necks after this spectacular event?

The rodeo is really nothing more than a theatrical performance of sadism imposed upon sweet innocent loving quiet animals. The cruelties are justified by making the rodeo cowboy, a modern day gladiator doing his thing in the arena.

When you watch the rodeo this Friday, look a little bit closer at what is happening behind the scenes. Look backstage at the calves with broken necks and horses with broken backs. Watch how the animals are inhumanely treated for their entry to the stage. Look at the horses whose pride has been destroyed in order that they will perform better in the calf roping and steer wrestling contests. These horses have been trained by a beating process to insure that they perform better.

Anyone who gets their jollies from tormenting an animal or watching an animal being tormented is not an animal, but a human. Only humans could do this to animals.

We'll be watching for you at the rodeo.

## Threat

The Students' Union has survived the threat of non-liquidity over the HUB problem. The financial viability has been restored. Now, we can also restore some of the services that were curtailed or postponed because of our financial situation.

Now, Students' Council representations to other bodies inside and outside of the university will not be weakened by our well known financial trouble.

We must ensure that our future activities maintain the economic integrity demonstrated last year. This next council must provide a continuing example of financially sound projects.

The area of academic services could be increased considerably. This could be done with minimal expense yet provide students with a most valuable tool.

This new council will have to consider proposals for the most effective and financially viable services. Thanks.

Jim Tanner

students in turn may go days without sleep, develop convenient illnesses, or merely coast, playing frisby instead of studying.

The University of Alberta seems to exert pressure throughout the year. Professors, teaching assistants, and students all show signs of anxiety, but there is also that element of fatigue. As one colleague commented, "It's getting towards the end, but the end isn't all that near." The response also seems different than the other campus. I have seen students who swear profusely, stare out into space and giggle, or break down and cry.

It may be of little consolation, but for those who think the whole world is against them (and they're probably right), "we're all in the same boat."

John Cherwonogrodzky  
Graduate Studies

## No guts

It is nonsmokers like Walker (Gateway, March 18), who are hindering the Fight for Clean air. You are one of those types who (like most nonsmokers) sit there and suffer silently in a smoke filled room as you breathe in the wretched fumes, saying nothing but smiling stupidly and blandly because you don't have the guts to speak up.

You said you "believe that there should be restraints against smoking in confined public areas." You will eventually find out that believing is not enough and that one must be insistent and demanding for the rights of clean air and healthy bodies.

Walker, you are out to lunch because you are too stupid to speak up against smoking. You are too apathetic. The most many nonsmokers do, is just sit

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## Easterner

Being an "Easterner" from Toronto, I have stereotyped as an outsider, belonging to that group from Moscow, Delhi, and Baghdad. Although this evaluation may be faulty, I have noticed that the two universities do differ in their behaviour at this time of year.

The University of Toronto exerts far more pressure, but only through short stretches of time - i.e. at the end of term. Although final exams are usually 40-60%, a 100% three hour exam is not unheard of. The

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