Molesting unfunny

Re: Next time the joke should be about the molestation of children (*Gateway*, October 26, 1989)

It is always easiest to laugh when we are not the brunt of a joke. I find it extremely disheartening to know that so-called intelligent minds are lowered to this level of humor, if it can be so rightly called. This of course is not at your expense, but at the expense of those who are the victims. To the ignorant mind, it seems harmless and inoffensive; to an individual, who has known the experience, or to the parent whose child has been the victim of a molester, it is hardly so. Having the knowledge that your four year old daughter or son has been sexually molested by someone, then picking up a paper and reading a joke about such an incident, gives no occasion to laughter. A person would be justified in being offended by the insensitivity and ignorance displayed by the writer of such garbage.

Some people are too easily humored by other peoples' anguish. Where has our humanity gone when we can laugh only when others have suffered?

Constance Davidson
Education

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Stress & the University Student
Thursday November 9, 1989
7-9 p.m.
Cost: $25.00 (Limited Enrollment)
please contact:
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8625 - 112 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
433-6811

Summer format stinks

Re: Three Week courses discontinued

Ending three week Spring and Summer session courses and replacing them with 6 week courses is a travesty. Students will be punished in trying to secure an education, because courses that are 6 weeks in duration will reduce the possibility of gaining employment and produce other work and economic problems for students.

Perhaps before GFC decides what is best for students, they should ask the students themselves. The next S.U. election should include a question asking students whether they want 3 week or 6 week Spring and Summer courses. If education is a student's "choice", let us as students decide.

Kisa Mortenson
Arts IV

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RCMP turban controversy continues

Re: Shaun Danbrook's comments re: turbans in RCMP

Let me impress upon you the difference between the kilt, which as you state, "is very much a part of your heritage," and the turban, which is an integral component of the Sikh *culture*.

I am quite sure that the kilt, while being a traditional costume of symbol of your ancestry, is not something that you wear at all times and forms an integral part of your lifestyle and identity. The turban, however fulfills this role in the Sikh culture. It is wrong for any group to expect or force another group to deny any part of its culture.

Canada does pride itself as a multicultural society. Your views, however, that a police force needs to be "homogenous" and "uniform" are flawed and ethnocentric as they exclude portions of our society.

Why then should Sikhs wearing turbans be permitted in the RCMP? For the simple reason that a society needs to have its institutions of authority reflect that society. In this case, that means representation by all cultural and ethnic groups.

Perhaps we should examine our priorities. Should we be more concerned with superficial elements of the traditional dress of the RCMP or with maintaining and promoting cultural harmony in a society with a wide range of diversity?

Andrea Wilson
Arts IV

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First, we would like to thank Mr. Halinda for correcting our use of the term "racist". We concede that its use is not appropriate in this case. It was used for its impact and we will from now on use the term "religious intolerance".

Next, we would like to thank you, Shawn Danbrook, for your appreciation of our writing style which you so liberally copied. Imitation is surely the sincerest form of flattery.

To answer Mr. Danbrook's question of why Sikhs should be allowed to wear turbans in the RCMP, we will restate our initial argument for his benefit. The turban is an *essential* part of the Sikh *religion* and as such is protected by the Canadian Charter or Rights and Freedoms. Any dress code which hinders the guaranteed freedom of religion is systematic discrimination and therefore unlawful.

Ron Samra, Science III
Marvin Toy, Business III

• • •

Re: "Turbans in R.C.M.P. not a problem"

Canadian heritage is an identification of elements in our Canadian society that can be truly called Canadian. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police is a perfect example of this. I am quite certain that the Sikh turban is not uniquely Canadian. The uniform of this force was based on that of the Royal Armed Forces, but has been changed several times in order to create a uniquely Canadian uniform, not changed with indifference to Canadian identity, as Samra and Toy have inferred.

The presence of the turban in the R.C.M.P. review order of dress uniform or any other of the R.C.M.P. uniforms would undermine what the uniform represents to Canada and the rest of the world. With so few precious Canadian symbols remaining it would be a sacrifice that we as Canadians should not and cannot accept.

L. Conway
Arts IV

Dr. Marino spekes out on erroneous behavior

DEER Editor:

There is students who edits newspapers, and who sent reporters to innerview English perfessers, and who get they're grammer wrong and make them get imbarrassed in front of they're colleegs.

Just wanted to let you no that I sure hope my own students in my Introduction to the English Language class arent imbarrassed to.

I also used to edit my student newspaper, I injoyed it a lot, I no how mistakes can and often have been seen to occur. Oncet when General Matthew Ridgway became the new chief of the Mellon Institute he gave a exclusive innerview to my paper and I almost let it run under the banner: New Mellon Head Talks to *The News*". So as you can see, I unnerstan how mistakes happen.

Incerely,
James A.G. Marino
Perfesser of English

FM88 radio sports guys make good

We, the FM88 hockey broadcast crew of Bob Stauffer and John Sexsmith have, in the past made comments perhaps questioning the ability of female athletes on the U of A campus. As a result of this, we now feel obliged to prove our own athletic prowess.

We therefore challenge the top-ranked women's team over the past few seasons, the Panda gymnastics squad, to a game of ice hockey. The game will be played between periods of this Friday's Bear-Dinos matchup at Varsity Arena.

The fortunate spectators of this mighty sporting contest will also have a chance to win season's passes to all future Golden Bear and Panda events this season, with a donation to FM88's Fundrive and the Cross Cancer Institute, courtesy of U of A Athletics.

Come out and watch us kick some serious Panda butt. We're the best.

The Ever-Modest Robert Stauffer
& The Dashing John Sexsmith,
FM88 Sports Broadcast Crew.

The campus cyclist menace

satire by
Dean Mayo

Imagine this for me: you're taking a leisurely walk one sunny afternoon, on your way through Quad from, let's say, SUB to CAB (I love university acronyms). Things seem pretty cool, except maybe for a trio of Aggies outside V-Wing with 12-gauge shotguns just WAITING for the cute little squirrels to emerge from their hiding places, so they can blast them into Chip and Dale burgers. These the Aggies will probably take home and barbecue and wash down with a few hundred gallons of Kokanee (Squirrels, as you know, are excellent sources of protein and Vitamin C, even if they do taste a little gamey.).

Anyway, you're halfway from SUB to CAB when from behind you comes an ominous whirr of gears (not engineers, dipshit; they spell it differently). You know you've heard that sound before, but being a (relatively) normal student, you figure that if you ignore it and step to one side, whatever is making that squeaky, chattering noise that seems to be rapidly approaching your backside will go away. Right???

WRONG!!!

You abruptly whirl around to face your assailant and realize you've made a BIG mistake: you've stepped to the wrong side, and 9 million tonnes of human and steel are rapidly bearing down on you. In a flash, you are lying on your butt, with no clues as to the identity of your attacker but a neat set of tire treads running right up the middle of your torso. Pain engulfs you; you feel like you have been run over by a speeding locomotive, which, by the looks of it, you have. Slowly, your haul yourself to your feet and pick up your textbooks (which at this stage are good for nothing but recycling) and catch the first real glimpse of your assailant.

At this point, of course, the cyclist turns to you and yells, "Hey, asshole, why don't you watch where you're going!" and pedals away faster than shit from a goose.

You want to leap to your feet and run after the manually-powered Grim Reaper; you at least want to shout, "It wasn't my fault!" If you were me, you would probably want to borrow one of the Aggies' shotguns and plug the bastard.

Sound familiar? It should; incidents like these occur every day on campus, or so a couple of statisticians, who asked not to be identified, tell me.

What the average pedestrian doesn't know is that something can be done. Students, I believe that we should STAND UP FOR OUR PEDESTRIAN RIGHTS! Cyclists are vermin of the same breed as those who invented pro wrestling, motorcycles, and Post Grape Nuts. (I think I insulted a few people there.) I believe I have a handful of ideas about how to deal with the problem of cyclists. These simple procedures have been fully field-tested, and can be quite fun.

1) THE CLOTHESLINE: You and a friend stand on opposite sides of a sidewalk holding a strong piece of rope. (Bring your own rope, so you do not have to look for one already there). When a cyclist is withing striking distance, pull on the rope so it is at chest level, hold tight, pray your victim isn't a midget, and watch the fun. Then run like hell. (Piano wire also works well with this trick, although it has slightly more permanent effects.)

2) THE STICK: This idea embodies the true spirit of Teddy Roosevelt's immortal quote, "Walk softly and carry a big stick." Simply take a large piece of wood (hockey sticks work exceptionally well for this) and, at the right moment, shove it into the cyclist's front wheel, and watch the cyclist sail headfirst over the handlebars, on a one-way ticket to oblivion. Then run like hell.

3) CYCLE PATROL: This one is by far the easiest, as well as the most effective. All you need is a group of friends and an ample number of loaded firearms. Walk around the campus and if you spot a cyclist, simply draw your weapons, aim, and grease him. If he can still stand after this, watch him run like hell. However, take care, as this method is also an easy way to spend the rest of your life in a small grey room with a metal door.

I wonder if the Aggies will go in for the last idea? After all, it's right up their alley.