

Editorial



Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words long. They must be signed and include faculty, year of program, phone number, and I.D. number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, double-spaced, or very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

Strippergate

One of the most disquieting aspects of this "Strippergate" affair is the inability of anyone in the SU to tell us what the \$130 cheque made out to Scott Richardson was for. This excludes those who have told us it went to pay Bambi for her services, but even they admit they don't know for sure.

All the evidence the SU has to prove Richardson took out any money is a copy of the cheque made out to Richardson for \$130. On this copy is listed the reason for the cheque: party expenses re Changeover. Before a cheque is authorized to somebody, they must fill out a cheque requisition form. The requisition for Richardson's cheque has unfortunately gone missing from SU files.

What party expenses was Richardson referring to? All the food and beer came from L'Express and RATT and was accounted for in an internal transfer of SU funds.

Former SU President Mike Nickel was one of the two people who authorized the cheque, but he can't remember what it was for. He suggested we try the VP Finance.

Former VP Finance Rob Splane said the cheque never crossed his desk at all and wouldn't necessarily have to do so if another exec member signed it.

Finance manager Ryan Beebe doesn't question cheque authorizations because, "If the authorization is signed by an exec member, I don't have any choice," he said.

What's obviously lacking here is a system of checks and balances. Whether the money went to Bambi or not is an issue in itself. One thing we do know for sure is the SU gave out \$130 of your money and now can't tell you exactly what it was for.

This lack of financial accountability casts a dubious shadow on the administration of Mike Nickel. Another thing we find very irritating is that this entire incident was connected to an event that took place two days before the Nickel administration finished its term. What does this translate into: be responsible and accountable to your constituency unless, of course, you happen to be quitting tomorrow; then, to hell with them.

Dean Bennett
John Watson

Shame on us

If Albertans think the recent removal by Ottawa of the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax (PGRT) will effect great changes to the province's well-being, they are woefully misinformed. I hope most of us realize that we live in one of the most prosperous provinces in Canada. Maybe the extreme climate we endure has stressed a few skulls to the point of ignorance. Sure, we're ignored by Ottawa. Yes, our fountains of petroleum wealth are running a little dry these days. Sure, we have problems like unemployment and people going hungry. So why did the Getty clan kick and scream and channel valuable energy into fighting the PGRT — a small thorn in the side of the fat megabuck oil companies who generally stomp around at will in this province? Even Getty knows that relieving the oil industry of a couple of hundred million dollars in taxes won't cancel the crippling effect of current low oil prices. Anyone who thinks the scrapped PGRT will lead to the re-hiring of laid-off oil workers by the oil companies should think again. The companies are more concerned with how much money they've got than with how many workers they can keep on. Whoever thinks that federal income taxes will probably increase next year is being realistic. The PGRT supplied Ottawa with over \$2 billion in revenue per year. What will Mulroney use to replace this source of income in his urgent need to reduce the federal deficit? Your money and mine. In this give-and-take play, it is big business who will take, and the little guy (you and me) who will give.

In the midst of the Alberta government's whining something was said about the return of separatist thoughts in western Canada. No doubt Don Getty regrets having said such nonsense to the media. As poor forgotten Albertans, we take a few things for granted. Things like good highways, no sales tax, beautiful mountain parks, cheap gasoline, and one of the lowest costs of living in Canada. Those among us who still feel unfortunate should look around to B.C., the Maritimes, the other prairie provinces. While they scramble to preserve decaying economic foundations, we sit on the sidelines and wait for the next boom to come along. Shame on us. If we spent more time exploiting our potential to further diversify this province's industries, maybe we could dig up some real complaints for Ottawa to listen to.

Greg Halinda

Letters



Back in the saddle

To the Editor,

Re: The "Lady Godiva" incident.
Sigh.

I guess boys will be boys, the Engineers will be the Engineers and the Engineers will be boys.

John R. Manuel
Graduate Studies

Editor's Note: The "Godiva Incident" to which the writer refers is the Engineer's annual display of questionable taste in which a nude female rides a horse across campus.

Motion support

To the Editor:

Re: V.P. External Michael Hunter's motion Tuesday night that Students' Council endorse and support those students' organisations which work toward the peaceful abolition of apartheid.

Objection to the above motion is no surprise and may be based on the rationale that Students' Council is obliged to focus its efforts on issues which directly affect students. One stipulation is to avoid unnecessary controversy which might provoke animosity and paralysis in the Council.

With regards to the objections to Hunter's motion, I beg to differ and I offer the following points for consideration in this debate:

It is my understanding that Hunter made the above motion in response to requests from interested students of African origin. In light of the prevailing concept of 'selective' propriety, I recall what George Orwell wrote "all animals are equal but some are more equal than others." The apparent absurdity is that the principle of equality extends to all with the exception of certain minorities whose interests are thought to be expendable due to their political invisibility in the rarified circles in which student politicians engage themselves. If the deprived minorities are manipulated within the ideology of a pluralistic 'majority' democracy, the genuine intent of the Students' Council should be called into question.

Last year, there were various activities organised on campus to arouse students' awareness of the South Africa apartheid issue. A student from Africa was sponsored by the VP (Ext.) and U of A Chaplain's office on September 23, 85 in SLUB to relate his experience of the South Africa massacre at the Kassinga refugee camp in Angola. Gabriel Uahengo testified in the September 24 issue of the Gateway about how South Africa imposed the apartheid system in its occupied area of Namibia with an escalation of violence. A

motion to endorse a candle light vigil in support of South African prisoners was passed at a Council meeting last year. Lastly, the Public Affairs Study & Awareness Group (PASAG) and Citizens Against Racism & Apartheid (CARA) co-sponsored a three day South Africa apartheid awareness program 'Whites Only!' In response to all these efforts, I believe that Canadian students definitely have an interest in the South Africa apartheid issue.

As an international student myself, I have reservations about the mandate of apartheid. It was Lester Pearson in 1960 whose efforts in the Commonwealth meeting eventually led to the withdrawal of South Africa. Again it is our prime minister who strived to act as a mediator in accomplishing sanctions against S.A. in the last Commonwealth meeting. I will be dismayed if Students' Council is not brave enough to take a stand against apartheid by supporting Michael Hunter's motion on Tuesday night.

Ken Hui
Sc. III

Rez rap trashed

To the Editor:

While browsing through the latest issue of Gateway (Sept. 11), I was confronted by two articles by one K. Graham Bowers on the subject of life in residence.

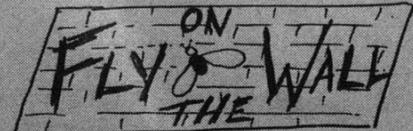
I wasn't bothered by the author's choice of subject, but rather by the immature and offensive manner in which he approached what should have been an easy subject. What caught my eye, was a paragraph describing the para-familial structure of the typical residence, which Bowers laughingly (I hope!) calls "...a family with incest!". Does he mean that relationships at Lister are as unhealthy and ugly as the word implies? Do only abusers and victims have intimate encounters at Lister, and if so, why aren't the police called in?

Bowers' view of those who come to university to study and learn also seems rather childish. He makes reference to "keepers", and devotes an unbalanced amount of attention to the festive aspects of living in residence. While that view is perhaps common among those who flunk out in their first year, it says little for the writer's prospects in any educational institution.

The crowning touch, though, was a concluding paragraph wherein Bowers implies that an unnamed floor coordinator is overtly generous with her sexual favours. Had the writer had the foolishness to mention her name, the Gateway would be wide open for a libel suit, and Bowers for a well-deserved punch in the nose.

I won't go into the other questionable aspects of either of the two articles. Suffice to say that the Gateway should perhaps spend a touch more time on reading material submitted. It would seem that, from the fact that the stories mentioned were published, there are no adults on the paper's editorial staff, certainly no feminists, and probably too few editors.

Peter McClure
Business



Across from me sits a young man, older than me, eating his lunch. By the manner in which he is attacking his sandwich, I get the feeling it may be his last. I cannot see what is in his sandwich. Nothing is crunching though, so there is no lettuce. The bread is whole wheat, which would certainly please my mother-in-law, but that is about all I can identify.

Behind him, at another table, is an older, heavier woman. She, too, is eating her lunch. At present, she is in the process of inserting her last bite, and three of her fingers, into her mouth. Her fingers re-appear, wet, but whole. She wipes them on her coat, then uses them to pick up her apple.

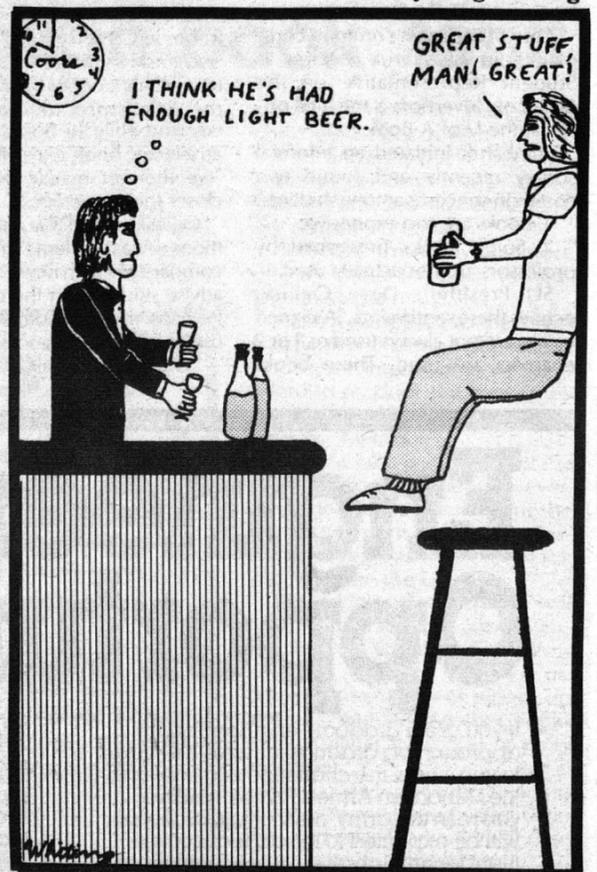
Speaking of apples, the young man has just finished off his plump red McIntosh, in four bites. Each bite crackled in the air, like a short-wave radio seconds before contact. It is funny how good an apple sounds when someone else is eating it, but how ordinary it usually tastes.

This is interesting stuff, watching people eat.

J. Dylan

The Round Corner

By Greg Whiting



The Gateway

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With a lick of her lips and a flick of the hips, Bambi headed to Dean's table. Randal Smathers told J. Dylan to leave for the men's room, but Martin Levensen spoke to Jerome Ryckboort in hushed whispers. "What will Scott Gordon do with those pasties?" queried Emma, as she smiled knowingly at Alex Miller. Paul Menzies stood up to do the honourable thing, but Peter J. Cole restrained him. "Please refrain from hitting Sherri Ritchie... she is new here," grunted Glenn St. Germain. Michelle Kirsch chuckled merrily and bid James MacDonald a fond farewell. "So long, tools," said Ken Bosman to Roberta Franck. "Say hi to my mom," called Stephen Pandke. Matt Hays smiled enigmatically, "Come here little boys and girls... I'll tell you the most amazing little story." Cam McCulloch turned out the light and bid one and all a very good night. Dragous just yawned. Click went Bruce.