

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.

Well, it's September now and once more the NHL season is upon us. I say, who cares? It's very hard to get excited about pro hockey when it seems like only a month ago Steve Smith moved in behind Grant Fuhr and fired the shot which effectively ended the season for everybody north of Red Deer.

This is not a rant on how long the season is but on how the NHL Board of Governors continue to test the already strained allegiances of hockey fans. They've extended the playoffs again, making all series best of seven affairs.

Their move is meant to counter an alarming playoff trend as the NHL approaches some semblance of parity.

Some background: to make up for lack of revenue (due to no national TV contract) the NHL has allowed an excessively large number of teams to participate in the post-season pursuit of their grail. This allows the owners of lower echelon teams to recoup some of their financial losses with one or two home playoff dates. For a playoff game the team can charge higher ticket prices and when you holler playoff game, the fans — even American fans — will usually come running and fill up your building. This quest for quickie revenue led the owners to increase the opening round from three to five games.

As mentioned earlier, parity has now entered the league and this has thrown a monkey wrench into the works. The unwritten policy of the past meant that it was okay if the dregs made the playoffs so long as they took their two home dates and bugged off. Now they're challenging and even beating the contenders. Last year the Flyers, Nordiques, Capitals, Black Hawks, and Oilers were all knocked out in the second round or less. Now that teams are closer to one another in terms of performance, it is not so much a matter of who has more talent but of who wants the game more. In this scenario, the underdogs have an advantage because they have nothing to lose.

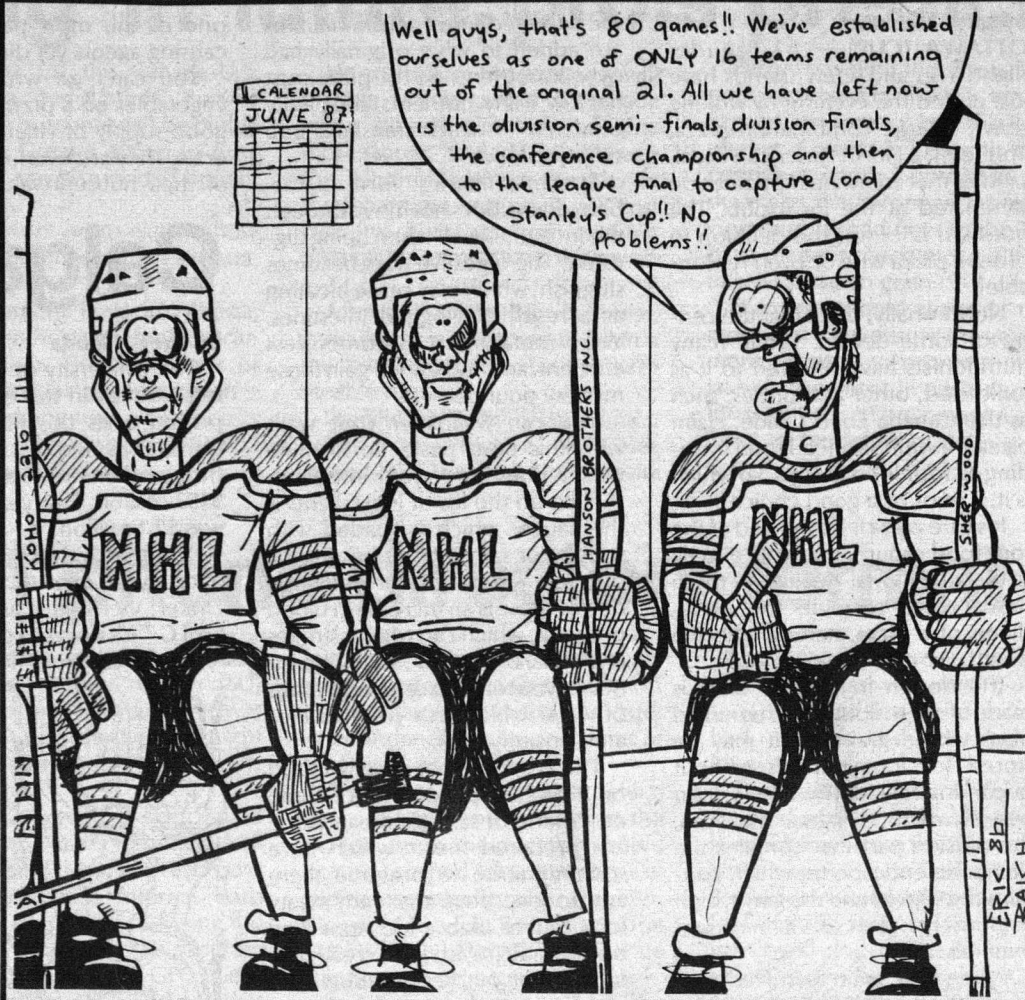
This, I believe, is why the seven game opening round was developed. It becomes much tougher for an underdog to knock out a frontrunner in the first round and, as a bonus, it gives the owners one more home date.

This plan, of course, is not infallible. If the Leafs can knock out the Hawks in a five game series, who says they can't do it in seven?

If last year's trend continues, can a nine-game playoff series be far behind?

The real losers in this scheme are again, the fans. We must sit through a month of exhibition games before the real exhibition season starts. Then we have to wait another six months for the meaningful games to begin. Now we have to wait even longer for the playoffs to end. Hockey in July? Well, the Kings would do better; they'd be used to the weather.

Dean Bennett



Letters

Bully for Council

To the Editor:

The Students' Council thinks they should not meddle in international politics. Suzanne Lundrigan thinks they should. I say bully for the council. Sorry Suzanne.

Contrary to what her editorial says, the Students' Union is not the representative political body for the students of this campus. Our Legislature and Parliament are for that. As Canadians, we, the students, should be appealing directly to our MP's and MLA's for action on South Africa. The Students' Council does not have a mandate to pass resolutions on international affairs. As far as I know, none of the members of council ran on a foreign policy platform. The Students' Council is here to provide effective, responsible government pertaining to matters directly affecting the school and its population. Passing a resolution just because they can do so with "little fear of political backlash" is not particularly responsible.

The desire to peacefully abolish apartheid might seem to be a safe enough topic to publish a resolution on. Certainly there would be few to support apartheid's continuance. On the other hand, you may rest assured that one such motion's passage would lead to the proposal and debate of many similar and equally valid motions. For instance, many believe the Soviet government should be dealt with every bit as harshly as the South African one. The Soviets have occupied and committed genocide in Afghanistan for years. They keep the citizens of eastern Europe prisoners behind the Iron Curtain. They systematically exile, confine, and torture their own citizens as prisoners of conscience. Should not our council officially deplore such authoritarians as well?

Others can and will argue more eloquently than I against the Contras or the Sandinistas, the Khmer Rouge or countless other governments and movements. What do you tell these people? Do you tell them that you're sorry, but you can only debate trendy issues and they should get their own Little Steven to do a rock video and then come back? Do you debate all the external questions and find that you only have room for a part of the internal work? Who needed to examine the university budget anyway?

The only clear course is to entirely avoid the field of international politics. We, the students of the University of Alberta, should indeed, as Ms. Lundrigan puts it, "be discussing the profound issues of the day." Amongst ourselves, with family and friends, with our MP's and MLS's. We should not wait for our Students' Council to make some lofty and meaningless statement lamenting the sad state of world affairs. If this happens, despite what any editorial says, there will be a political backlash felt in student's elections for years to come.

Randal Smathers
Arts I

Why promote smoke? !*?! Parking Services!

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the members of the Students' Union for their outstanding efforts in publishing this year's "Student Handbook." The handbook is an excellent source of information which will probably assist many students throughout 1986-87 term. Now that the Students' Union members have received their just praises, I think it is also appropriate to point out the error of their ways.

Upon leafing through the Student Handbook, I found that the Students' Union have sold their souls for the love of money. This theory only became obvious when I viewed the coloured advertisement on the back cover. I found it hard to believe that on the very grounds where students are being trained to combat diseases, tobacco companies are being allowed to promote their cancerous substance. One can only wonder how much money the Students' Union received when they sold this cover space to the Imperial Tobacco Company.

There comes a time when responsible advertisement should be enforced. I realize that the Imperial Tobacco Company is doing nothing illegal, but I do not think this type of advertising is in the best interest of the university. The governing body of this university could set a good example by banning this type of advertising in any of their publications. After all, scientists have not found any cultural or intellectual benefits to smoking, so then why is it being promoted at an institution of higher learning?

Craig Churchill
Arts IV

To the Editor:

RE: Parking at the University.

I cannot believe the regulations that parkers must abide by! I work at the university and it's not often that I take my car. Needless to say, I was quite surprised when I came to work one day in July to find that the parking price had been increased to \$3.50. Then, on "The Fateful Friday" (Sept. 19) I arrived at zone U & N at 7:30 a.m. to see the "Visitor Parking Full" sign flashing. This seemed quite a contradiction since approximately 1/3 of the lot was full. I questioned the person on duty and he replied, "No permits sold until after 1:00 p.m." Well, this is certainly convenient for students, staff or visitors who need parking before this time.

I proceeded to the Fine Arts Carpark where, again, the Parking Full sign was displayed. After a brief discussion with the attendant, it came to light that Parking Services has passed a new regulation that allows only permit holders to be admitted to the lots. The attendant urged me to go to Parking Services and discuss it with them. He's probably had other irate persons who aren't happy with this situation.

Fran Blake
SU & Comm. Daycare

P.S. I thank the gentleman who allowed me to park on September 19 when I was late for work.

Iona deserved better

To the Editor:

Although Mr. Levenson's article was fairly accurate, there were some glaring inaccuracies that ruined an otherwise fine reporting job.

Mr. Levenson gives the impression that Iona Campagnolo avoided direct criticism of the Progressive Conservatives, i.e. "restrained". Since Iona Campagnolo and myself both agree that there is nothing "Progressive" in the Conservative policies, I shall refer to them as "Tories" as did Iona Campagnolo.

Iona Campagnolo clearly pointed out the distinct differences between Tory and Liberal policy in social reform and social justice, ethnic and women's concerns and distribution of wealth. She successfully pointed out the Tory policy of shifting the burden of financing social reforms to those in society who can least afford it. She referred to the de-indexing fiasco and other attempts by the Tories to remove the blanket of security put in place for the less fortunate of our society by the Liberals.

It also seemed clear that Iona Campagnolo agrees with many Canadians that there is a strange similarity between NDP and Tory policy. They both want to tax everything away with one giving a little back to the enlightened while the other gives a lot back to the already rich. Iona Campagnolo clearly distinguished between Liberal social and economic justice which is the envy of the entire world and the views of

Christian rock O.K.

To the Editor:

Well, I'm impressed. Scott Gordon, take a bow. Your recent review of Petra's new album, "Captured in Time and Space," was excellent. The reason I feel your review was so admirable is not so much because of what you actually said about the album, but rather that you took it upon yourself to review a band that plays only Christian Rock, and you did it from an unbiased and impartial point of view.

Usually everything associated with Christianity is knocked down and unjustifiably abused in our "liberal minded" society. Even our campus, supposedly a community of advanced political, social, and religious thinkers is known for being unfair and harsh in issues dealing with Christianity.

I find an article like yours a refreshing change, for the first time, at least in my university career, an attempt is being made to present both sides of an issue dealing with Christianity; and to have it presented so well is an added bonus.

Congratulations. Keep up the good work.

David Schramm
#137505

Gateway

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Louise Hill chuckled demonically, "Yes, I'm leaving you all to your own devices... it's time for another dirty weekend." Dean swallowed hard and looked to Juanita for support. "But Louise, you can't leave us. Emma will run roughshod over all of us and last night I walked in on Rob... he was polishing his boots." Teo Zanetti, not to be called Teo, smiled from behind his shades. "Not to worry my darlings, I will take care of you." Suzie Swift disappeared permanently, while Stephen Pandke grabbed Jerome Ryckborst and Randal Smathers in a wild bid to make it to the Turkish border before the plane landed. "Frankly kids, I could care less," yawned the ever calm birthday boy, Glenn St-Germain. Melinda Vester looked up from the punch and invited Christof Leybold to join her and Emma in a game of bridge. "Three spades," cried Alex Shetsen. Ken Hui doubled and neither Dragos or Roberta made the rubber. Randy McCoy asked for a show of cards, but Sherri Ritchie refused screaming, "But you haven't met Bill St. John... he is such a cruel and heartless player." Walter Yee and Bruce Gardave donned their lab coats, picked up Eric Baich, and headed off to the Silver Slipper with Danny Schnick and Greg Whiting. "Gosh," enthused Marc Simao and Larry Mann, "those two are bound to make loads of money." "Hmmp," muttered Suzanne, "either that or end up in jail. Roger Jorgenson didn't say a word and James Young simply added a period."