



Mitch Panciuk

Environment Week just isn't enough

Isn't it nice that the students at the University of Alberta are so concerned about their environment that they have designated a whole week in order to raise student awareness about the future of our planet? Wow, that's great. We're so gracious that we can take one whole week out of our busy lives to think about the environment. At least this generation is going to do something about saving this planet.

What I want to know is what's going to happen next week, and the week after that, and then the year after that? Are we still going to be conscious about what we are doing to our environment and what the effects upon it are? Or are we just going to go on about our lives and let others worry about what's going on? If that's the case, then we will be just as responsible for the mess that this world is in as are the people who gave it to us in this condition.

It's nice to have a week to express our outrage and concern and feel like we're standing up against something we know is wrong. It's nice to feel like we're making a difference in the problems of the world. Personally, I found that it was very nice to be able to sign a get-well card to the environment in HUB Mall. What a great idea Environment Awareness Week is; maybe we should do it again next year?

That's precisely the problem with these one-week awareness campaigns. We sit around and get all bent out of shape about how the environment is slowly dying, and then next week we go on about

our busy lives. A lot of people don't stop and consider the ramifications of what the actions of today will have on the people of tomorrow. Maybe we should shut down the proposed pulp mills in Northern Alberta, and maybe we should stop super-tanker transportation of crude oil down the West Coast. But after the TV cameras leave, we turn to our next subject of moral outrage. We then leave the community affected to pick up the pieces and don't give them a second thought. When is the last time anyone around here has thought of Prince William Sound?

It's easy for us here in Edmonton to say that "those pulp mills should be shut down." Do we stop and consider what effects that decision will have on the families who will lose the employment that those mills will provide? Are we prepared to pay the higher taxes that it will take so that we can make up the lost revenue? If we are, then great—but why is it that, when a government tries to raise taxes, we all get bent out of shape? It's nice to say that this is wrong and that we should do something else, but it is much more difficult to propose viable alternatives than just to criticize.

We have got to make sure that we don't get caught up in the fervor of environmentalism and make the mistakes that will hurt us much more in the future. The type of mistake that I don't want to make again is the same one that "saved the seals." About 15 years ago Greenpeace inspired consumer groups to rally against the killing of seals in Atlantic Canada by fishermen during the winter. Green-

peace-like groups publicized the events and eliminated the seal-fur industry. Fifteen years later, the seal population in Atlantic Canada is out of control, and fishermen who had previously supplemented their income during the off-season by hunting seals have to compete against these seals for fish.

The fishermen are losing this battle. Just this summer fish factories closed in Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, putting thousands of people out of work and onto unemployment. In our fervor to "save the seals" we are killing the Atlantic Canadian fishermen who make their living off the fish. But hey, it's no skin off our backs. We have to put those cute little seals ahead of humans lives.

It's easy to get into the habit of remembering a certain weekly cause, and then forgetting about it for the next year. The markings of a generation which genuinely cares about the future, is that it is willing to sacrifice and provide the strong leadership that it takes to work through the problems created by new policies. It's easy for us to sit back here in Edmonton and say that the pulp mill in Athabasca shouldn't go ahead, but it's a whole lot harder for us to say that "yes, will help supplement that family's income with my own because they will now no longer have a job." Only then can we say that ours is a generation which has a genuine concern for the future of our planet.

If we don't make Environment Awareness Week a year long activity, then we haven't, and we won't ever, accomplish anything.

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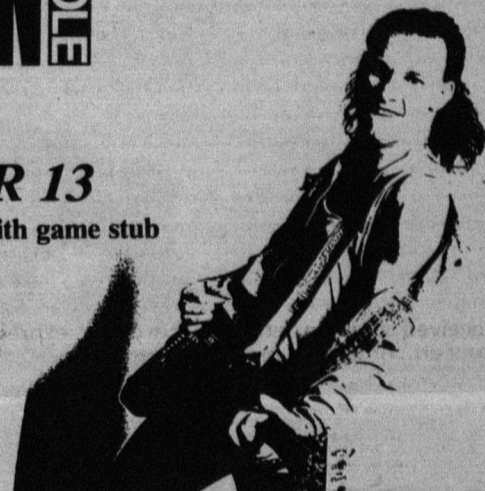
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UPCOMING DINWOODIE CABARETS:

Doug and the Slugs - October 27
The Hoodoo Gurus - November 2
Kelita - November 3
Paul Hyde - November 4

HUMOUR

Those University parking woes

by Kisa Mortenson

This was no day to ride a bike. It looked like the time to hop on Noah's arc. Instead, I boarded my little blue Honda and headed to the university.

Amazing as it may sound, I found a FREE parking spot on a side street. I sleepily checked out the area for the ever elusive "no parking" sign with restrictions... The police weren't going to nab me for some stupid parking restriction. I was safe... or

so I thought.

The day passed and I began to think about my little blue Honda... How awake was I when I parked? I walked the 300 km to check on my car... I was safe. I returned to campus.

I talked to a friend later that day, and he said I could park in back of his house which was only a mere 100 km from campus. I went back to my all terrain, I-can-find-a-parking-spot-anywhere-on-campus-vehicle to move it closer to campus.

That's when I decided to take that left turn. Terminator III, police officer and robber of poor students, stood in the middle of the road. He pointed a leathery finger at me, signaling me over. I had been nabbed — an illegal left hand turn at 4 in the afternoon. A \$50 ticket was my penance.

If campus parking doesn't kill you, those left turns will.



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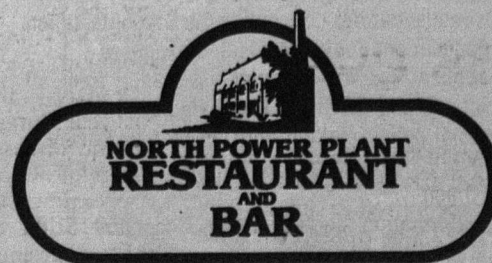
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