

Algard displays a misunderstanding of provincial labour laws in his editorial. There is no law in Alberta which would have the effect of requiring teachers in one school district to be paid the same as those in other districts. The only equal pay provision which currently exists is in Section 6 of the Individual's Rights Protection Act which specifies that no employer shall employ a female for any work at a rate of pay less than a male employee for similar or substantially similar work "in the same establishment."

If the teachers wanted to have uniform salaries it could be accomplished quite easily by simply carrying out province-wide bargaining. However, the Alberta Teachers' Association has passed a resolution opposing province-wide bargaining.

I hope this response has the effect of clarifying some of the misconceptions that may have arisen as a result of John Algard's editorial.

Stewart Devine  
Executive Assistant to the Minister of Labour

## No absolutes

On Wednesday, Jan. 16, I watched the pro-lifers march in front of the Law building in anticipation of their adversary, Dr. Henry Morgentaler. They were a very concerned lot, carrying signs, expounding on their views if provoked; one person even brought his child into the act, or so I assumed when I saw a sign leaning against the wall, which read, "I'm sure glad mommy didn't decide to have an abortion." Of course, a precocious child might have made the sign. He or she might have carefully deliberated over the definition of life, and over quality vs. quantity of life, and over the legal precedents defining murder, then decided, once and for all, to become a pro-lifer. Or perhaps the sign belonged to a big person who thought the label "mommy" would better invoke a sentimental response—mommies don't kill babies, mommies love babies. Nobody could question such a sentiment.

But before one begins to question the morality of baby killing one must ask whether a fetus is a human being, and whether it is a living being, and whether one life should be allowed to inflict itself on another, and so on. There are no absolutely right answers to such questions; there are only personal ones. For this reason I sneer when I see sign-waving pro-lifers, just as I sneer when I see religious fanatics. Both try to force people to live as they do and make the choices that they have. In short, they try to rob you of your freedom.

Daniel Funichello  
Arts III

## Stamp (in)action

I am writing in reaction to a letter by Gordon Stamp to the Gateway Jan. 15 regarding affirmative action. Not only was I appalled at Stamp's dogmatic approach to the issue but also at the lack of insight and the selfishness reflected in his letter.

I am led to wonder why some people bother to pursue a higher education if they are not willing to consider the value of progressive solutions to social problems.

Affirmative action is a positive plan designed to increase the number or proportion of women, ethnic minorities and other disadvantaged groups in the membership of various social institutions including business firms and government agencies. Affirmative action programmes often entail more than a simple quota system. i.e., the criterion of ability is also employed in determining who is best suited for a position. If women and men of equal ability applied for several positions an affirmative action programme would ensure that a certain number of women received those jobs. Gordon Stamp, however, claims that this is reverse discrimination and he further contends that it is "WRONG".

If one looks beyond Stamp's idle gibberish, it is apparent that he has overlooked a most important point viz., discrimination of all those not in the "young, healthy, white male" category is "WRONG". Woe to the five "young, healthy, white male" engineers! Mr. Stamp, "young, healthy, white males" have never experienced too much difficulty securing high paying positions vis a vis other disadvantaged groups. "Young healthy, white males" still dominate the top echelons of professional positions while the

low-paying, meaningless jobs are left for women, ethnic minorities etc. Stamp's solutions reflect the attitude of a "young healthy, white male" who fears competition in a traditionally secure section of the job market. The opportunity for disadvantaged groups to educate themselves has not proven to be an effective bulwark against discriminatory hiring practices. Although the government might fire the person who, to quote Stamp, "has done the discrimination"; proving discriminatory practices is no easy task.

Faced with the possibility of inaction or affirmative action I firmly support the latter. I offer one final admonition to Mr. Stamp: open your eyes!

Monika Talaga  
Arts IV

## Abortion? No!

Since the appearance of Dr. Morgentaler at the U of A and all the publicity he received, I am compelled to write this brief letter. I am against abortion on demand. Some people are under the impression that all anti-abortionists must be quasi-fascist, totalitarian, anti-democratic, fanatical frenzied loonies that are anti-women, anti-sex, and belong to either an out-spoken Pro-Life group or the Catholic church. I do not fit into any of these categories yet I held my candle outside the SUB last Thursday evening to add my support to the majority of Albertans who oppose abortion on demand.

Twenty-four years ago my mother was urged by her doctor to have an abortion because of the difficulty of her pregnancy. Being unable to involve me in the decision-making process, my mother took a chance and refused the abortion. I am very thankful for the life I enjoy as a result of that decision and feel that everyone deserves that right, no matter how young or how old.

Jonathan's Swift's "A Modest Proposal" was written as satire but our society is choosing to ignore the satire and is beginning to accept the proposal as reality. May God prevent us from blindly succumbing to these lethargic attitudes.

Murray Arnold  
Education II

## Leadership

My recent contribution to *The Gateway* has caused a number of people to ask what I mean by Responsiveness, Representation, and good, Strong Leadership

Responsiveness. Is the Students' Union responsive? For the many students who signed a poorly organized Impeachment petition the answer is NO. Responsiveness implies communication. Communication is a two way flow of ideas. While being relatively accessible, the SU has failed to understand the basis of apathy restricting student communication. Most students have a helpless feeling towards influencing the SU: Low political efficacy. Societal norms toward authority (respect) cause a restriction of communication as the apathetic student may fear ridicule, or feel intimidated by authority. My proposition is that we install a question/answer board guaranteeing anonymity to the contributors. This idea has worked well in Rutherford Library (*The Sounding Board*) and at times has been quite entertaining. Also, I feel the media must inform the students through its watchdog function. Without information, how can the student influence the SU? Furthermore, I feel Paul Alpern must be stopped in his Goose-Stepping tracks. SU employees are not second rate citizens and they deserve their constitutional right to freedom of expression. Leaks are an integral part of the influence process.

Representation. The center of this point is the failure on the part of the leaders to perform their advocacy function. The importance of a strong lobbying effort should be a concern of every member of the executive. Unless we capture public opinion in terms of the worthiness of the University, how do we convince the politicians there is support for our concern in the taxpaying, voting public? Leaders must enhance the public image of the student. Many councillors have hurt our public image through poorly thought out statements. Since these foolish leaders are a reflection of their followers, what do they make us

continued on page 6

## Having problems with . . .

- STUDY SKILLS?
- WRITING SKILLS/ ESSAY WRITING?
- TIME MANAGEMENT?

If you need help with any of the above, and you are a mature student, attend one or both of the following seminars:

**STUDY SKILLS & TIME MANAGEMENT**  
Thursday, January 24, 7:00-10:00 pm

**WRITING ESSAYS & FORMATTING**  
Tuesday, January 22, 7:00-10:00 pm

BOTH WILL TAKE PLACE IN ROOM 2-05,  
FACULTY OF BUSINESS BUILDING

Phone 432-4145 to sign up.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CENTER NEWS

The International Student Centre is extending its hours evening and weekends.

**NEW HOURS:** MON. 9:00 am - 10:00 pm;  
TUES. 9:00 am - 4:30 pm; WED. 9:00 am - 10:00 pm;  
THURS. 9:00 am - 4:30 pm; FRI. 9:00 am - 10:00 pm;  
SAT. 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

**MEMBERSHIP AT THE ISC** Costs nothing yet entitles you to:

- Voting privileges for election of ISC Advisory Board
- Bi-monthly newsletter
- Space in the newsletter for you & your group
- Reduced admission/charge for ISC events

## MAKE STUDY AN ADVENTURE . . .

Take a degree in Australia, learn Spanish in Mexico, study art in Italy — so many possibilities to put some excitement into your academic life. Discover the options in study abroad, as well as work, travel and volunteer overseas, from the resource room at the ISC.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CENTRE

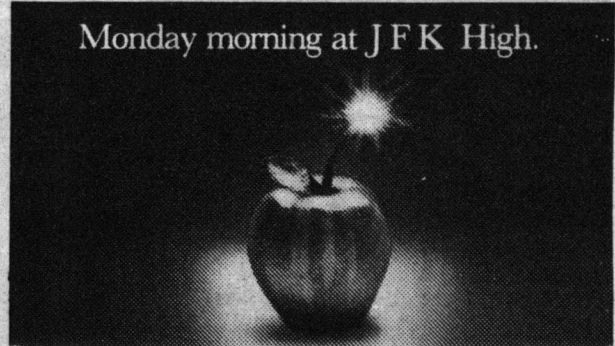
11023-90 Avenue, Phone 432-5950.

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REGULAR ADMISSION — \$3.50, \$1.00 for full-time U of A students  
DOUBLE FEATURES: \$4.50, \$2.00 for full-time U of A students  
Second Feature only for regular admission price

## Bear Country

by Shane Berg

