

Opinion

Editorial

*Dragos
Ruiz*



Students coming back to the campus this year will note a few changes. Besides the silly dots all over Quad, the most noticeable difference on this campus is the closure of the food outlets on the second floor of the Students' Union Building.

The University bureaucracy, in its infinite wisdom, has decided to turn the largest kitchen on campus, along with the Saucy Noodle, Subway, and Greenfield's, into office space. The explanation given for this closure is that the University is desperately short of office space.

The fact that the University is going to take a two million dollar bath on turning the second floor of the Students' Union Building into office space shows that someone should really have thought twice before making this decision. The plumbing, the walk-in fridges, the soup-pots the size of desks, the fifty foot dishwasher—they're all going to be scrapped for cents on the dollar so that office furniture can be put in.

To top it all off, Housing and Food is announcing a four percent increase in food prices on the average. Pay more for less service; yes, that's the way to run things. Four percent doesn't sound that bad, but unfortunately H & F Services hires accountants from the fourth dimension to figure out their percentages. Things like pies and desserts will still be available to you at those low, low prices; but all that dietary fluff that no-one really wants to eat anyway like salads, bread, and fruit, have gone up.

Combined with the 'interesting' price increase by Housing and Food Services and increased enrollment, the closure gives us the potential for a lot of fun with food. Seating and eating spaces around this campus are going to be at a premium. It's time to buy a folding chair and a good supply of brown paper bags.

The students this really hurts are the Lister Hall residents. I remember while I lived in Rez, when we couldn't handle the Turkey Tetrachloride (or was that Tetrazini) or the dreaded who-knows-what Pot Pie, we could go over to the Saucy Noodle and ther other S.U.B. restaurants and get some real food while still using the funny money that we were forced to buy.

Housing and Food still advertises that you can use your meal-cards in S.U.B. in their pamphlets. Where pray tell?

Somewhere down the line, inter-departmental politics is to blame. Someone is screaming that he needs more office space and some administrator, caught between a rock and a hard place, found a good way to get out of it at the expense of the students. The students are easy to pick on; they are just an incoherent crowd without much of a voice.

Just who needs students anyhow? Who cares if they have to pay exorbitant prices for mediocre, unavailable food? Who cares if students have to stay on campus for long hours and there is no food service available? It just makes me wish I had an Earl's franchise.

The Gateway

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The Gateway welcomes letters to the editor.

If you have a comment which would be of interest to the students of the University, please do not hesitate to send it in. Letters may be dropped off, or mailed to our office (Room 282 SUB), or may be dropped off at the SUB or HUB info booths. The writer's name, faculty and year of study must be included. Addresses and phone numbers are required, but will not be printed.

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REMEMBER THIS NEXT ELECTION COULD BE WON BY A NOSE!

Letters

Math in chaos

Re: Classes in Chaos

When I read the headline I thought, great! The math department is finally offering the class in "chaos" that I've been inquiring about for the last two years. But it was not to be. It was Registration in Chaos.

Chaos is a branch of mathematics that deals with the behavior of complex systems. For example — the weather, the stock market, growth of populations in Biology, etc.

If you are interested in "chaos" there is an excellent introductory book called *Chaos - Making a New Science* by James Gleick. It is very readable.

Thanks for the reporting of chaos in action.

Steven Shumborski
General Sciences

Godiva offensive

There was a party crasher at last week's festivities in quad. The Engineering students once again forced a half-naked Lady Godiva onto the rest of campus. Although this offensive practice is a time-honored engineering tradition, it needs to be put into perspective.

Lady Godiva rode naked through Chester England in the first century to protest her husband's unreasonable taxation of citizens. For years since, there have been festivals in England celebrating the courage and selflessness she displayed in standing up to her husband for the sake of others.

Call me crazy, but when the engineers parade that bare-breasted beauty through quad, I don't think they are celebrating the courage of a woman who stood up to her husband 900 years ago.

The president of the Engineering Students' Society said the ESS has nothing to do with the Godiva ride. He did, however, explain that it's a tradition that individual engineers choose to maintain. He said engineers traditionally have a reputation as rowdy troublemakers. To soften that reputation and fight the segregation they feel from the rest of campus,

they have this tradition to share with all of campus. Why Lady Godiva? What does she represent to engineers that they want to share her with us? No engineer I asked could provide an answer.

Few people know the true story of Lady Godiva. They see a half-naked woman bouncing through campus on a horse and the "female body as an object" attitude is displayed and reinforced. I have no problem with nudity of either gender, but I do have a problem with the naked body being leered at. And the Lady Godiva ride has no other purpose than providing cheap titillation for males on campus.

Sherri Ritchie
Arts III

Motorcycle minority

I am writing this letter to express a personal concern that has slowly been rising in me during the past two years of my attendance at the University of Alberta. At this point I have no knowledge as to why certain activities have taken place on campus and I would like an explanation as to why the University continues to pursue them. I am referring to the slowly dwindling availability of motorcycle parking on campus.

Last year I saw the removal of the parking designated for motorcycles on the east side of the Dentistry/Pharmacy Center across the street from the Rutherford South Library. The Rutherford parking was well used and when removed caused further congestion in the parking area located adjacent to the Electrical Engineering building. On a warm day I could count at least 30 motorcycles in the Electrical Engineering building parking area.

To my understanding the Rutherford parking space was replaced due to the need of a loading and unloading zone for students being shuttled to and from the Faculte Saint-Jean. I can accept that but only with some caution. Why this particular place? I am well aware that there are many other areas in the immediate vicinity that would provide the same convenience and not cost the individuals who

ride motorcycles a loss in parking space. If I may suggest, there is room in the Dentistry/Pharmacy building courtyard and space free just south of the remaining motorcycle parking near the Rutherford South Library, just to name a few.

Before the dislodging of the Dentistry/Pharmacy parking I also noted the elimination of the motorcycle parking by the Mechanical Engineering building and parking by the Students' Union building (across from) the Van Vliet Physical Education building entrance). This year I return to find that the largest parking area for motorcycles on campus has been removed, and in its place are only a few new signs clearly showing that motorcycles are no longer permitted there. The University has not even utilized this space for a practical purpose.

This space is, as you guessed, that terribly congested area south of the Electrical Engineering building. Why it has been removed I have no idea. Again, I am a student, and like most students my time is too tight to run all over campus to find answers to questions unless it's an assignment question. Maybe it was thought the area was too congested and was therefore a problem. Well, it probably would not be quite so bad had the students been given back the other parking areas.

Now I do realize that the motorcyclists on campus are a minority and we do in fact get this parking free from the University; however, the promotion of using motorcycles to travel to and from the University by allowing for ample parking in areas not easily reached by cars would allow more room for cars in our already crowded parking lots. Just last year the shift was made to eliminate the tennis courts on top of the Windsor parking lot and expand the parking lot to make more room for cars. I note that four motorcycles use the same space as one car, so why make more room for cars and less for motorcycles? Is the University going to eventually remove all motorcycle parking on campus? I hope not.

Richard T. Hay
Electrical Engineering III