

Letters cont'd. from pg. 4

Applications for club office space are presented to the Building Services Board who decide AS A COMMITTEE if and where to place the clubs. No one makes a unilateral decision, and no individual can overrule a decision of the Building Services Board.

The issue of the African Students' Association not getting office space is easily explained. Last year in early October they were allocated an office by the Building Services Board. Two days later they were sent a letter indicating their successful application and requesting them to report to the Students' Union offices as soon as possible to receive their office keys. Although receipt of the letter was acknowledged in October (1985), the president of the club failed to appear to collect his office keys UNTIL THE FIRST WEEK IN APRIL —the same month that club use of office space expires. Although they were allocated an office it was not used, therefore space another club would have appreciated was wasted.

It is unfortunate that the Students' Union has such limited space to allocate to clubs. With over 160 registered Students' Union Clubs and only 25 offices available — and shared at that! — I'm sure you can appreciate the inevitability that some clubs must be denied space. Although it is difficult to decide which clubs are successful in their office space applications and which clubs are not, the Building Services Board does the best it can with the information it has.

It is my hope that anyone having further concerns on this subject will come and address them to me in person rather than pose a surprise attack through the Gateway Letters column as Mr. Hui has done. It might have been much less embarrassing for Mr. Hui to simply have walked down the hall to check out the facts before he publicized his intention to pass sentence on me in Council.

Barb Higgin
VP Internal
Students' Union

Impress me!

To the Editor:

Congratulations to President Myer Horowitz for standing up for the rights of all Med. school applicants; (re: article, page 1, Oct. 30th). It is admirable that the President of any university take a stand against obvious violations of Canadian Charter of Rights. Myer Horowitz was quoted as saying, "I think it is a good principle that we should ask for information that we need and nothing beyond it." Bravo!

But how about processing the information we do have with some portion of intelligence. Would it be too much to correlate a G.P.A. to the course of study? Apparently it is. The present method of academic rating for med. school applicants in their third and fourth year is hopelessly inadequate and unfair.

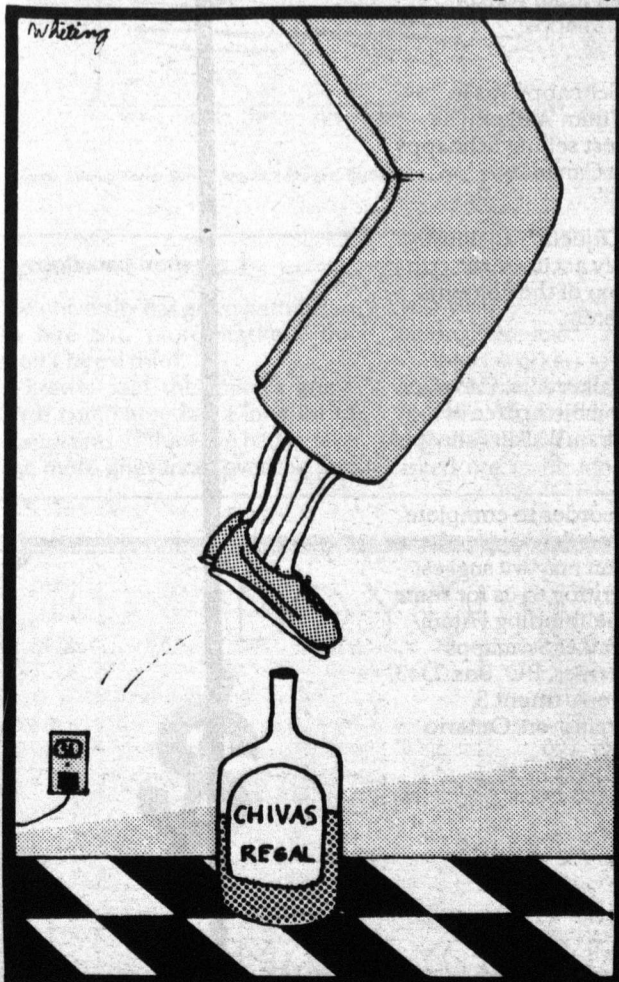
Because the course of study is not taken into account the medical faculty is inadvertently promoting general degrees while the far more difficult and useful specialization and honours programs are being discriminated against. Is it any wonder that so many science graduates are unemployed?

If our University "Brass" really wanted to impress me they would not simply make stands on "trendy" issues but rather make stands on issues that really effect its' students well being.

Scott Richardson
Science II

The Round Corner

By Greg Whiting



Hopscotch.

Tobacco taboo?

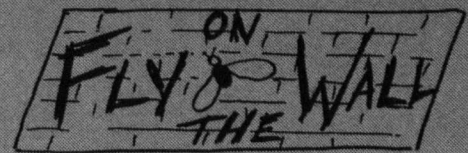
To the Editor:

RE: "Smokers' last gasp is in the works."

Congratulations are due to Mr. Bowers for his timely and well researched article regarding smoking on campus. However, some of his information is a bit out of date. Many federal, provincial, municipal and private sector buildings and workplaces already prohibit smoking except in designated smoking-permitted areas. Some organizations are already moving towards more comprehensive protection from the ill effects of tobacco smoke. For example, effective January 1, 1987 a new no smoking policy will effectively make the Alberta Blue Cross Building in Edmonton a "no smoking" building. Also, with respect to corporate interests the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia has already banned smoking in all its corporate buildings and workplaces.

The "winds of change" Mr. Bowers refers to are blowing from the community and finally being noticed on campus! Incidentally, when will the Gateway be reconsidering its policy of accepting a considerable amount of advertising for tobacco products?

Ron Meleshko
Chairperson
Edmonton Interagency Council
on Smoking and Health

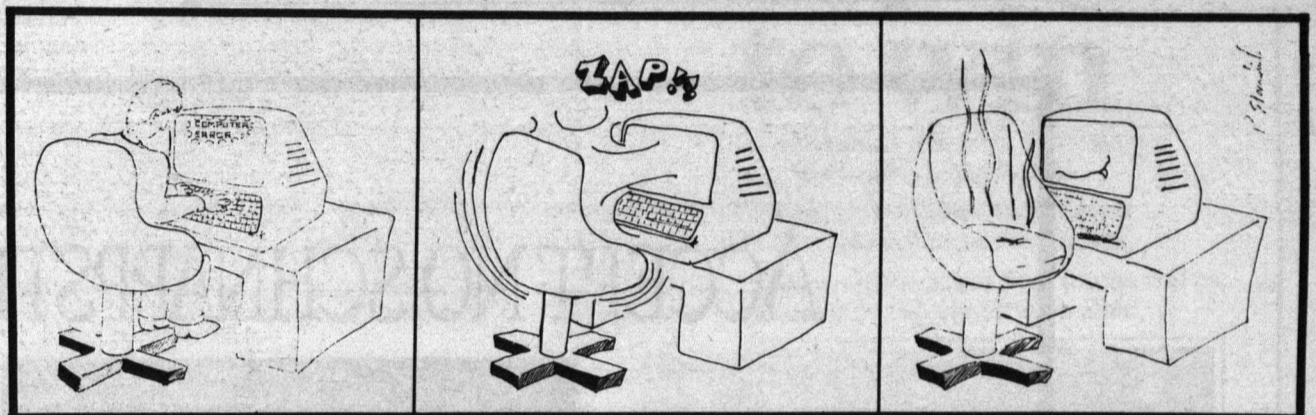


The library isn't always the best place to study, so the other day I went up to the fourteenth floor in Tory. There were a few people sitting on the couches — studying or sleeping — and six women sitting and gabbing around one of the tables. I pulled out a chair from one of the other tables and sat down, and took a text book and my notebook from my book bag, and started to study. Let me tell you what I learned.

I learned that one of the women sitting at the table once had a man tell her to wait for him after a dance, and another one if the woman knows a man who left his wife for his wife's secretary, and another one knows of three couples whose husbands switched wives with one another, and another couple who split up because the man ran off with another woman after his wife had put him through university. I also learned that having kids can be a pain in the neck, and in-laws can be a pain in the neck, and getting married can be a pain in the neck. That's not all. One of the women said that she is never going to get married, another woman disagreed and said she would, but the first woman insisted that she wasn't going to, but she added that if she did, she definitely wasn't going to have any children.

I learned all of this in a little more than one hour.

J. Dylan



Humour



"Why does English have so many words?" you ask. Linguistic larceny. If you see a word you like in another language, take it home and Anglicize it. The English language is a lexical kleptomaniac. (Both "lexical" and "kleptomaniac" have been pinched from Greek.) Probably about half of the English vocabulary today is borrowed. And sometimes we even borrow words so cleverly that the original languages borrow them back and then have the audacity to complain that they have too many English elements in their vocabularies. But that's another point on the moose antlers.

Here then is a second installment of choice lexical novelties, both domestic and imported, amassed during a transient state of ataraxia between midterms.

Bacchanal: A bacchanal is a gathering given over to carousing, drunken revelry and other forms of worship of Bacchus, the Roman god of wine and other fine intoxicants. If you're still not quite sure what a bacchanal is, go up to R.A.T.T. on a Friday afternoon.

Baff: Baff is classified as obsolete meaning that some dictionary editor pegged it as a has been. But "baff" isn't dead yet. If something is baff it's worthless. Baff isn't baff. Chances are "baff" will be the only one of these words you will remember. Have a nice day, say "baff".

bailiwick: Your bailiwick is your principal area of authority or interest. Maybe we could get the university to instigate bailiwicks and sub-bailiwicks instead of majors and minors. Wouldn't life be more interesting if someone at a party said to you, "Hi! I have a French bailiwick."?

bathetic: Bathetic refers to excessive sentimentality, among other things. Some people are pathetically bathetic.

beer: Don't worry, "beer" is what you think it is. But you probably didn't know that a meadophile is someone who studies beer bottle labels.

beprose: Beprose means to change from verse to prose. Beprose is what first year students do to understand Shakespeare.

bibliognost: Biblioplists do not like bibliokleptomaniacs as they steal books. The biblioplist might have to resort to bibliotaphy, hiding or locking up his books, so the bibliokleptomaniacs can't get them.

blowball: The white fluffy bit of a dandelion gone to seed.

brandophile: If you think that a brandophile is someone hung up on Marlon Brando, you don't get full points. A brandophile collects cigar bands. Close, but no stogie.

brogging: Eel fishing. "Hey, let's broggle up a few snigs this weekend!"

buss: Bussing is the same as osculation. (Look that up if your mother didn't tell you.) Neither has anything to do with public transportation.

Phobias of the week. Names for your neuroses.

ballistophobia: Fear of missiles.

bathmophobia: Fear of walking.

bogyphobia: Fear of the bogymen and other demons (or the fear of Bogart movie reruns).

bromidrosiphobia: Fear of B.O. and that's no secret.

Sandra Petersson

Opinion



On Monday morning, I was listening to the radio news when I heard some frightening Gallup Poll statistics. Almost two thirds of Canadians supported drug testing of public employees such as politicians and teachers, and fifty per cent thought that any employer should be allowed to use drug testing. As a future teacher, the thought of having to be tested scared me. I was not bothered by being tested as such because I do not use drugs, however, I was bothered by the principle involved. I did not like the idea of being tested without probable cause, just in case I have broken the law.

I could not believe that there are people out there who would actually support such an absurd infringement of freedom. I thought that we were supposed to be free from being searched without probable cause. I thought that we did not have to undergo searches, or be spied upon just in case we were breaking the law. What happened to this freedom that our ancestors fought so hard to get?!

I can't say that it was a complete surprise though. Just consider radar traps and check stops. In a radar trap, everyone is clocked, not just those who appear to be speeding, or those that show cause to believe that they are speeding. Everyone is clocked just in case they are speeding. Check stops are the same. They don't merely stop those who are driving as though they are impaired, or give some other indication that they may be impaired, rather they stop everyone just in case they are impaired. Don't get me wrong. I had no major concerns about either of these practices, thinking that the invasions upon our freedoms were minor, and the ends would justify the means by making our roads safer. I was, however, fearful that the old cliché, "give them an inch and they'll take it a mile," would hold true. It would appear that my fear has now been realized.

The fear that I have now is how far this infringement of our freedom will go. Maybe the police should search everyone's home just in case they are breaking the law. Better yet, we could install cameras and microphones in all public places and private homes so we could monitor everyone just in case they break the law. We could even arrest people just in case they have broken the law, and we won't even have to waste money on a trial. If this seems impossible or funny to you, I suggest you bear in mind that much of it has been done before. That is why we have a constitution to protect our freedoms. If you read some of the history, I think you will quit laughing.

S. Balascak

"Human History becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe."

H.G. Wells