

## Discriminatory hiring

Do you have a degree in history, political science or economics? Need a job? If you answered yes to both these questions you might consider checking out *The Alberta Report*. They need three students with a background in humanities, for on-the-job training as magazine journalists. Sounds like an ideal opportunity to begin a career in journalism. However, there's a catch.

Every business screens job applicants in order to select those best suited for the work advertised. *The Alberta Report* not only screens potential employees for their qualifications, but they also test each applicant for their political beliefs. If your views do not coincide with the right wing opinions conveyed by those who control the publication, then you are out of luck. "If (the applicant) sort of understands the (conservative) arguments and seems to be eager to deliver them, that's kind of what we're looking for," said the magazine's publisher, Link Byfield, recently to *The Edmonton Journal*.

According to the law, there is nothing discriminatory about rejecting job applicants on the basis of their political views. Provincial human rights legislation only prohibits employers from discriminating according to religious beliefs. Byfield is aware of the law. However, he feels that if he believes test did violate human rights, the tests would continue anyway.

The beliefs test run by *The Alberta Report* is clearly discriminatory; it does not treat everyone on an equal basis. Candidates are not selected for their intellectual or social abilities, but rather on a select set of beliefs held sacred by the owners. Such parochialism closes minds and doors, allowing intolerance to ferment in ignorance.

Last year *The Alberta Report* suffered serious financial problems, which were eased somewhat by a substantial loan from the provincial government. Your tax dollars were used to maintain Link Byfield's biases. This province's past is tainted with intolerance. It appears we have learned little from history; we keep repeating our mistakes.

Rod Campbell

## The Gateway

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Letters to the Editor are encouraged and welcome. If you have a comment which would be of interest to the students of the University, please do not hesitate to send it in. All we require is your name, address, and phone number, and student ID if you are a student. We will not print letters missing any of these.

Letters should be no longer than three hundred words. Mail or deliver your letters to Room 282 S.U.B., or drop them at any S.U. information booth.

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Return to South Africa  
 Thursday in Gateway.



## LETTERS

### Nurses need sympathy

The system is a madness machine. According to Darwin's theory of evolution, living creatures are the evolutionary end product of unconscious competition among individuals in the past. In the current health care system, it can be argued that chronic illness and death-denial have become functions of better health care. What this implies is that instead of survival of the fittest we have moved ahead to what could be called prolongation of the unfittest. Technology dominates over nature.

This is one issue that is not being covered by the media in regard to the present nursing strike. I would like to address specifically the situation of "waiting placements" within the hospital system. Our elderly are often being sustained by heroic medical efforts with the false hope of obtaining an auxiliary nursing home placement, without consideration for some very important aspects of their human condition, i.e. that they must ultimately die. Death is the price we pay for our right to reproduce.

The author's 76 year old grandfather, while undergoing repeated chemotherapy for an occult cancer, eventually died after having suffered cardiotoxic side effects which ultimately resulted in brain ischemia. His last months consisted of a regression to an infant-like state of incontinence and no apparently meaningful interaction with his social environment. The notion of quality of life needs to be dealt with in this and many other cases. Life at all costs is too high a price. What needs to be explained is a cost-benefit analysis of resource distribution, between long-term care, benefit of life quality, and options such as funding for health promotion and disease prevention programs in the community.

It has been said that the western world has been a death-denying culture. Dying occurs behind the sterile, impersonal walls of our hospitals, and it is the nursing staff that bares the brunt of this caretaking task. I need not expand upon the frustration often experienced by nurses in this circumstance.

The reasons for this problem are complex. The philosophical dichotomy between the care versus cure orientations of the nursing and medical professions is one aspect that is responsible for this situation. The medical staff need to increase their amount of qualitative analysis regarding health and healing. The public at large needs to be educated so that they can become more responsible in this decision-making process. Also, measures should be taken to include family and friends in an active, task-oriented fashion with the care of their dying and hopelessly

ill. This is no easy duty but it nonetheless must be dealt with. As it rests now, the nursing staff is caught as the scapegoat for the medical staff's scientism and society's death ignorance.

Just as in the Victorian Age, when Freud endeavored to debunk sexuality, there is a need to debunk death-denial in our current culture. This issue is just one of many that have contributed to the present nursing strike. As a nursing student, I would invite a revolutionary personality to try and work towards reconciling our instinct of thanatos, i.e. the right to die, given our existing health care system.

Anne Yakimishyn

### Soccer brawl sickening

I was lucky enough to have seen an entertaining and aggressive game of intramural soccer on Tues. Jan. 25/88 between a Kappa Sigma team and Los Carajos, a team composed primarily of Latin Americans. It was not until after the game however, that I witnessed the true aggressive and racist nature of a group of drunk Kappa Sigma brothers who had dropped by to support their team. Only seconds after the game had finished, a completely unwarranted brawl broke out. Several punches and countless distasteful insults were exchanged, but it was the racial slurs delivered by several young men which make me feel ashamed and embarrassed to be categorized in the same group as those individuals — that of being a Canadian.

### Cartoon sexist

Re: The Nurses Strike Cartoon (Jan. 28, Gateway)

I can't believe this paper actually printed such a narrow-minded, offensive cartoon.

Does anyone really honestly know what the nurses are fighting for? By the looks of this cartoon, my doubts soar.

I admit that the nurse strike has had a very profound effect on the city of Edmonton and its sick and needy, but this strike isn't what the media makes it out to be. Money is part of the dispute (and why shouldn't it be?) The nurses are important and they deserve to be paid for one of the most demanding jobs there is) but the nurses are fighting for something that is very important to all of us: the right to be taken care of in the event of injury or illness. They've been working now for an unknown amount of time without a contract which essentially means that if a nurse is hurt on the job and is consequently unable to work, she gets the axe. Upon returning to the workplace, she must start at the bottom of the totem pole and work her way up to the wage she's worked ten years to attain. Now, I say, is that fair? NO!!! The nurses realize what this strike does to the quality of care in the city and Alberta; in fact, many have crossed picket lines to care for their patients. The picketing nurses let them through quietly because they know the compassion one feels for a needy patient.

But all the same, the nurses have a right to physical protection and care just like everyone else and apparently this is the only way to achieve something that shouldn't have to be bargained for in the first place. Maybe it's the system that's the shit, so don't blame it on the nurses! It's their right as Canadian citizens. (At least that's how I interpret the constitution.)

Deanna Matzkanke

One comment made in reference to Los Carajos was, "They're not even citizens, they're just immigrants, don't worry about them." A number of the players are in fact Canadian citizens, some are even Canadian-born, and should not be judged as immigrants solely on the dark skin, hair and eyes or their ability to speak another language. I would first like to remind these "gentlemen", and others who may need it, that even their ancestors were immigrants at one time (providing they are from neither a North American Indian or Inuit background), and that this country was built by immigrants who still are valuable and important contributors to Canadian culture and economics. Another particularly disturbing comment made was "get back to your own country, man. What is your green card?" This illustrates plain ignorance in reference to Canadian law, as a green card is used in the United States, and its Canadian equivalent is citizenship and Social Insurance Cards. If these young men wish to make this type of comment they should first acquaint themselves with the laws in the country of which they consider themselves citizens.

The incidence of this type of racism on campus is highly unacceptable. It is a sad fact that people such as this will be the foundation of our country in a very short time and will be raising children with these values and ideals. What is becoming of our student body, and what will become of our "multi-cultural society" in years to come?

Maria Veran