

# Editorial



Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words long. They must be signed and include faculty, year of program, phone number, and I.D. number. No anonymous letters will be published. All letters should be typed, double-spaced, or very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

Aye or nay for mandatory seat belt legislation in Alberta? The answer should be obvious. One would be hard pressed to find someone who would think twice about buckling up an infant. So why the double standard when it comes to putting the belt around ones own body? What purpose does it serve to have the infant grow up orphaned?

One cannot deny the statistics. Take Ontario for example. In 1975, prior to the introduction of seat belt legislation, 1,314 lives were lost due to traffic accidents. Last year, despite an increase of 25% in accidents, only 800 people were killed on their highways.

Saskatchewan, another province with mandatory seat belt laws, recorded 129 traffic deaths in 1977 compared to only 24 in 1985 after the introduction of compulsory seat belt legislation.

The Alberta government estimates that between 1978 and 1981 compulsory seat belt use in this province would have resulted in a 64% reduction in traffic fatalities and a 51% reduction in major injuries, not to mention minor injury reduction. Yet another survey shows that less than 20% of Albertans choose to buckle up while other provinces with mandatory legislation boast over 60%.

Alberta Transportation statistics for 1985 state that automobile deaths are up from 1984 by 13.4%, injuries by 4.7%, collisions by 10.6%. In more human terms that translates into 533 deaths and 19,855 injuries. Out of those 20,000 plus people, less than 15% were wearing their seat belts.

Besides the sheer number of lives which could be saved each year, there is the economics of the situation to be considered. In Ontario, because of mandatory seat belt legislation, that province will save an estimated \$2.5 million annually in hospital costs, \$20 million in lost time and productivity, and between \$40-\$45 million in indirect social and other costs.

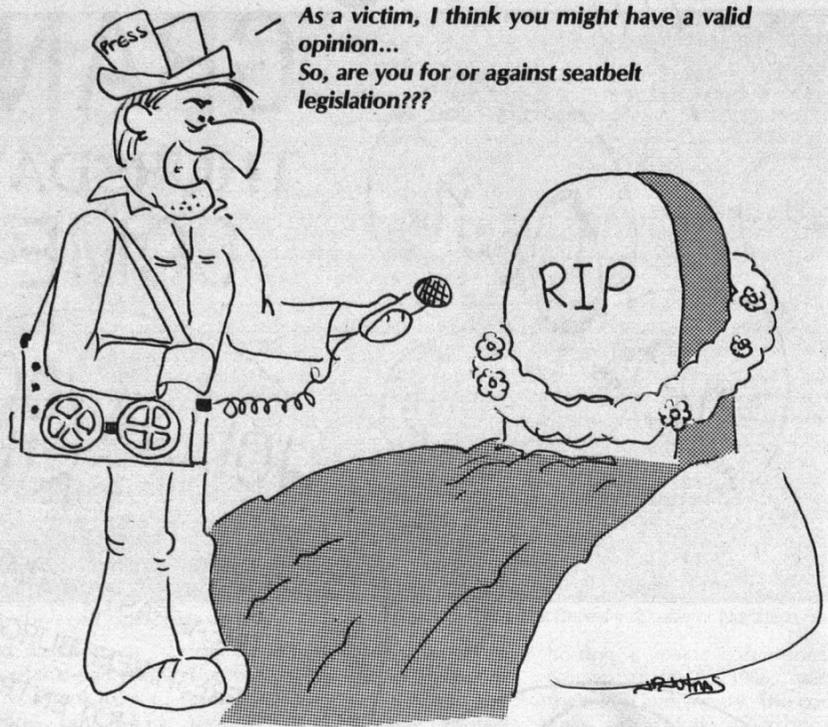
In Alberta, it has been estimated that this province could save up to \$10 million in medical and hospital costs and an additional \$30 million in lost time and productivity and indirect social costs. Face it! Seat belts save lives!... And yes, money.

The main argument put forward by those who oppose mandatory seat belt laws is that it would be an infringement on their personal rights to deny them the choice of whether to buckle up or not. What these people are forgetting is that driving is a privilege, not a right! When a person chooses not to buckle up and is sent crashing through the windshield of his vehicle, it is not only he that is faced with the consequences. Every Albertan shares the cost of piecing him back together, every Albertan shares the brunt of higher insurance costs, and every Albertan has to make up for his time loss and productivity.

It would be wonderful if all Albertans would freely accept the responsibility of driving defensively and buckling up. But let's be realistic.

This issue is not an issue of civil liberties, but one of common sense and caring for our fellow man. Statistics clearly show that Albertans are choosing not to do so. So come on Alberta, buckle up... or pay up. But be careful. The price you pay may be more than you bargained for.

Juanita Spears



# Letters



To the Editor,

With your acute sense of duty and with the media you control, allow me to enlighten my fellow man on our continuing survival. Extinction is what I'm talking about, and nothing must be done to prevent it.

In 1859, Charles Darwin's book, *On the Origin of Species*, was published in which he explained his concept of evolution. In short, he concluded that due to a surplus of individuals compared to resources, a struggle for survival occurs, where the successful survive to reproduce and the failures disappear, or become extinct.

In Ehrlich's book, *Extinction*, he describes this selection as a "perfectly natural evolutionary process, one that has gone on for millions of years with or without human participation." Therefore, why should the passing of an inferior species arouse such agitation in many of us? Is it our fault that evolutionary failures like the Dodo simply couldn't exhibit enough variation to accommodate change?

Man, however, has had the ability to adapt easily and survive in all four corners of our planet. We have gone far beyond survival to the highest levels of adaptation; high enough to influence the entire world. The human race has the right to take the world as its prize, and to evolve to seek greater rewards. Thus, nothing must be done to stop extinction; we cannot block the destiny of nature.

According to the Global 2000 report, commissioned by President Carter in 1977, the population of the earth will reach 6.35 billion by the year 2000. As a result, we are going to need more development and more room. We can't let other species limit our success and our survival.

We might even consider accelerating evolution by eliminating other species; it is only a matter of time before these failures will disappear anyway.

So, if you have faith in mankind and understand my true concerns, I would appreciate your opinion.

P. Visser  
Science III

A CUP-supplied article in the Gateway (p. 2) of September 16th claims that the 10% retaliatory tariff recently applied to books imported from the United States also applies to computer equipment. This is not the case. The tariff in that case is 3.9% (Federal Sales Tax of 12% must also be paid, though). The computer equipment duty had been lifted by an order in council in the first half of this year, but is now back in effect. Both of these tariffs are very much against the best interests of the Canadian people since they restrict the import of knowledge and technology which are vital to the development of our country. Indeed, I am so touchy about restrictions on books, that when governments act against books in any way, I think (rightly or wrongly) of fascist bookburnings. In any case, I hope that this letter will clarify the rates to be paid on computer equipment to any of your readers wishing to import it.

Martin Connors  
Non-Academic Staff

To the Editor:

I take exception to a letter by one Guy C. Germain published in *The Gateway* on Thursday the 18th. It bundles all fraternities together without regard for the differences between them.

The present system of recruitment at Delta Upsilon is nothing like that described. We do not force pledges to do anything that the actives do not also do. Ours is a non-secret fraternity, that is, we have no secret handshakes, rituals, hazing or anything else that no one else knows about. The meetings are open and pledges have equal voting rights on everything except money matters.

If you are being psychologically or physically abused in order to make yourself a "better person" by joining a fraternity, maybe you are joining the wrong fraternity.

Allan H. Evans  
Social Convener  
Alberta Chapter  
Delta Upsilon Fraternity

To the Editor:

re: food hazard: students turn to drink Sept. 11.

I would like to point out to disbelievers that K. Graham Bowers' article was in fact erroneous, but not in the manner which Peter McClure suggested. In fact, Graham has possibly underestimated the activities of Lister residents.

Bowers describes residents as being a "family with incest." Each floor has a sports senior whose duties sometimes include organizing orgies. This is the reason we have social seniors; they are responsible for helping people who have developed "social" problems.

Bowers indeed devotes a lot of his writing to describing the festive atmosphere of residence. Perhaps that's because the partying we do uses most of our time. But does it hurt our marks? I let you judge. Of the twelve people living in my wing, four made the Dean's list. Not bad for a floor on which the majority was informed they were not fit to live in residence the next year. Our floor shirts proudly sport the motto "animalus festivalus."

As for coordinators being overly generous in sexual matters, all residents in Lister have been informed that their coordinator is there to fulfill all their needs.

For Peter's sake: since (Mr. McClure) missed the jesting manner of Graham's articles, perhaps (he) also missed the sarcastic tone of my letter. As David Letterman would say, "It's just a joke." Or perhaps (he) didn't miss Graham's intention, but just wanted an excuse to write a letter to the Gateway.

Doug Boivin  
Business IV

To the Editor:

It seems that the business students are unhappy with their "ship" logo. They want something that "symbolizes the business students themselves." Narcissism reaches new heights!

If I may make a modest proposal, it seems to me that a good emblem would be a picture of a business-suited sheep driving a BMW. This would simultaneously symbolize their aspirations for upward mobility and their present attitude in pursuit of that goal. Good idea? YUP!!

Bill Sveinson  
Arts IV

To the Editor:

Thanks first of all to Graham Bowers and the good press we received in Thursday's Gateway (Sept. 11). I'd like to make a few comments about a non-food, non-alcoholic issue that is big here at Lister and everywhere else, namely parking.

A long time ago, the folks over at Parking Services decided to let the Lister Hall Students' Association make the decisions about which resident students should get parking over here at Lister. So, people filled out application forms, gave 'em to us, and four of us sat down and went through them, deciding who really needed parking spots for the reasons given. Factors we looked at were physical handicaps, student teaching, house committee membership, and distance from home among other details.

That was the easy part. After typing up the list of those parking spot recipients, we went out and bought a huge bottle of Tylenol #1, and proceeded to hear complaints. People everywhere should realize that owing a car is a privilege, and being able to park it is also a privilege, not a right. Second, it is much easier to obtain a parking spot if you live in rez, since there are only about 250 people putting in applications for 129 stalls. Odds of 1 in 2 of getting a spot are probably better than competing with the rest of the staff and student body who are trying to park on campus too.

Personally, I've lived in rez n plus 1 years, (where n is a positive integer approaching infinity), my home is six hours away, and I haven't needed a car until this year. Everywhere in Edmonton is accessible by bus. If you live more than three hours or so away, it is doubtful you will be returning home every weekend, or more than university holidays. Everyone has legitimate reasons why they need a parking spot, but needing a place to leave your car because your insurance runs out in October is a reason less likely to get you a spot than being a Physiotherapy student doing a practicum at the Misericordia. The people who did not get a parking stall had good reasons, but so did the people who did get one.

It is unfortunate that not everyone is able to park their car here at Lister or on campus, but there are only so many spaces, and many more people wanting to park. I hope I have shed some light on how we did our assigning, and added a tad more information to this issue.

Trent Tucker  
L.H.S.A. President

To the Editor:

The federal government, the provincial government, and the University of Alberta recreation centre together spend huge sums of money trying to promote Participation among the general public.

However, it is totally contradictory (to this principle) for the recreation centre to close off the university skating rink for the entire student population (legitimate users), but to give exclusive access to a certain category.

The competitive sports have their place. But the benefit of giving exclusive access to recreational centre facilities for a handful at the expense of majority (fee paying, tax paying) university community's well being is very, very questionable.

On behalf of the silent majority, I urge the university recreational centre to lift its near five month old ban on recreational skating (for the ordinary student).

D.E.M. O'cracy  
for the silent majority

## The Gateway

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Susie Swift slunk sensually into the office. "Big Daddy-o, you promised me... you did." Dean looked up sheepishly, "Aw, Susie, not again?" Kathleen wondered aloud, "Do blonds have more fun." "Affirmative," cried Glenn St-Germain. "I'm not sure," said Alex Miller. Dragos Riui simply shook his head and shouted, "But how can you tell if someone is a true blond?" Heather Moore smiled cautiously and pointed out the Grecian Formula on Lucien Cloutier's desk. "Really," postulated Alan Small, "perhaps if we sent them down the hall they could do something for Don Lindquist." Walter Yee went into hysterics, "I've had it with you people." Mark Welsh grabbed a pen and started to draw Stephen Pandke. "Look," cried Melinda Vester with glee, "they're capturing his likeness." Roberta Franchuk jumped up and grabbed Terri Mann's hand. "Come, I'll lead you all down the garden path." Sherri Ritchie, daisies clutched in her hand ran ahead. "Why isn't Don Lindquist joining us?" she asked. Randal Smathers collected his thoughts, cleared his voice, and called for order. At that, Alex Stetson ran screaming from the garden. "Really," said Mark Spector, as earnestly as he could, "Blaine ain't as bad as all that."