

# Opinion

*Dragos Ruiu*

Thanks,  
y'all



Another year of *The Gateway* comes to an end with this issue, and it's time for the editor in chief to write a goofy editorial to thank people and say how much fun it was. So what the fuck, I thought it was fun, so I'm gonna do the same thing. I'll even get an opportunity to indulge in gratuitous profanity.

Let's do the thanking first. And the editors this year all deserve thanks. They put up with strange hours, low pay, foregoing homework for that story or photo that just had to be done, my strange whims, and endless abuse. They did it week after week with little thanks other than the satisfaction of a job well done. Kudos...

Behind the editorial team was an even more important team - the volunteers. Those unique people who managed to thread the maze of the second floor of SUB and find our messy office are the people who should be thanked the most. They all worked hard to do something that still amazes me when I think about it. We were a bunch of well intentioned amateurs, putting out a paper twice a week. Doing it by the seat of our pants, and learning a hell of a lot in the process.

I'm sure all of of the people who worked on the paper this year are going to remember something they learned at the paper this year. And most will have some fond memories.

Things like Jeff Cowley screaming "Rosa, you have such fat hair!"

Things like getting the administration to re-examine Rez and Faculte St. Jean.

Things like scooping the *Journal* and the *Sun* once or twice.

Things like the "Day in the Life of the U of A" issue.

Things like delivering the paper using the trunk of Rob Galbraith's car when Teri was sick.

Things like Clive's camera corner and swap meet. Clive saying "You wanna buy a camera? Cheap? It's a fantastic deal!"

Things like Randal handing out Gummy bears in layout, and then watching all the sadistic bastards bite the heads off first.

Things like Al and Randal managing to talk for endless hours, four months straight about a hockey pool!

Things like the Issues from Hell... "Oh shit! It's five o'clock, we don't have a front page photo yet. Hey, relax, okay, that's not a problem. The problem is that we don't have a front page news story, and three of the entertainment stories never showed up."

It's been a riot. Thanks y'all.



## Fundamentalists too forceful

This evening at 11:30 pm, my friends and I, who had been working on a banner for an upcoming function, were right beside the new cafe being built in CAB. We had posters with us and decided to place one on the construction wall. This poster may be considered by some to be sexually suggestive but is not pornographic. As we were putting up this poster, a fellow came along and commented that we should "raise up and accept God!" (I assume he didn't appreciate the poster). The U of A is a mosaic of people and everyone is entitled to their opinion, so my friends and I simply shrugged this comment off. This fellow then went away while continuing to loudly recite: "raise up and accept God!" He returned shortly with some religious material that he was attempting to pass on to us and was shouting in his challenges to "accept God" and "purge the Devil." He extended his hand and made a five dollar bet towards any of us to grasp it and feel "the power of God." Partially as a joke, but more to have this fellow leave, I extended my hand. He shook it vigorously several times, lifting it skyward while continuing to shout things which I can't remember because I was so struck by his enthusiasm. Much to my relief, he let go and placed the religious material in my hand. He then left but we could still hear him chanting from far down the hallway.

Besides wanting to eliminate any exaggeration, the reason I have described this event so thoroughly is because I wanted to point out the difference between having an opinion and forcing an opinion. Whether or not I am a Christian is irrelevant, but it is important to note that he never asked if I was. He simply assumed that I was not and continued to harass me. I don't think that the University, or anywhere else for that matter, is a place for this kind of behavior. It's a place for people to come together and share ideas and

information: not force them. In fact, this fellow actually did his religion a disservice, as he scared me more than convinced me into becoming a Christian. Unfortunately, he lost his bet as the power of God didn't blacken my fingertips nor lighten my soul; however, he did impress upon me the awesome power of fundamentalism. I think that everyone should have their own beliefs and values but shouldn't make someone else accept them. As a parting comment, I would ask that this fellow refrain from doing this as someone is liable to get more upset and land a violent demonstration from the Devil right between the eyes.

Paul Roberts  
Science II

## Garneau parties boisterous

Re: English prof fights drunken fraternity parties (April 4)

As a concerned resident of the Garneau Community, I feel that most of the mudslinging done by Jennifer Kelly, Vice President of the Garneau Community League, is hypocritical. Mrs. Kelly and her husband, on numerous occasions, have complained about the disturbing noise of Fraternity parties. I would like to bring to the attention of the Kellys the fact that on many occasions the Garneau Community Centre, located on 109 street and 84 avenue, across from my residence, has held several loud, boisterous parties. These parties cause vandalism to neighbors' property vehicles, and sanctity. As Vice President of this Community Centre, Mrs. Kelly, are you condoning these parties? As such are you not also hypocritical in accusing the Fraternities of doing the same thing? What actions have you taken to stop these parties? It is time to stop blaming and stereotyping the Fraternities when in fact there are more to blame.

John Orpe  
Arts II

## Cyclists an endangered species?

The return of the sun and the corresponding warmer weather are two of the first signs that spring is in the air. Let us hope that this year we don't have cyclists up in the air joining them as a further sign of the seasonal change. I'm referring to accidents involving bicycles and cars and the fact that there needs to be more public information and a clarification of the laws that govern cyclists.

As a commuter cyclist, I was of the understanding that bicycles were considered to have the same rights as cars, and were expected to follow the same laws. I have never, however, as a cyclist, been accorded my own lane, and have rarely been given the right of way. Edmonton drivers seem to ignore cyclists and refuse to treat them with any degree of respect.

This point was further proven to me when I was hit by a cab who was pulling out of the University Hospital and claimed he did not see me. I was later told by a police officer that I was in the wrong because it was illegal for me to be passing a car on the left hand side. In fact, the officer said that there was a bylaw that requires bicycles to ride as far to the right of the road as possible at all times. If this is the case, then how is a cyclist to turn left? Make three right turns? Now I admit there is some logic in this idea, but it is impossible to ride on Edmonton streets without having free access to both lanes, and this means having the same rights as a car. The other alternative is to allow cyclists on the sidewalk which is, in fact, where many winter mountain bikers ride. I don't support this idea because instead of collisions with cars, we have collisions with pedestrians at a more frequent level.

This leaves us with the state we're in now: a bicycle has some of the rights of a car and, hopefully, some of the rights of a pedestrian. This kind of half-hearted compromise is exemplified by the existing bike routes in the city of Edmonton. The system is disjointed, involves the sharing of the High Level bridge with pedestrians, and doesn't take into account that a bicycle is a vehicle capable of travelling at speeds of up to 70 km/hour. This has frustrated many cyclists and led to a situation where they abuse their privileges (notably downtown bicycle couriers).

What we need is a review of present laws, present bicycle paths, and particularly more public information of the laws. But most of all, we need to be careful around these cyclists because no matter what rights they have, their lives are in the hands of Edmonton drivers.

Robert Remmer  
Science I

## Parties promising

Re: English prof fights drunken fraternity parties (April 4)

If Gary Kelly's accusation that "a growth of used condoms lines the streets" after one of these parties is true, I would hope that these Fraternities be named publicly. Furthermore, I would hope that the times of future parties also be mentioned. Such action would prevent people such as myself from going to all the wrong parties in the past year!

Paul Samycia  
Lambda Chi Alpha  
Science III

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