

# RCMP turbans get mixed reactions

Re: "Turbans in RCMP not a problem," Oct. 31 Gateway

Yes, a racist may be described as ignorant, intolerant, or as a bigot. But this does not *define* a racist. My Oxford dictionary defines racism as:

theory that human abilities are determined by race.

The current debate does not even deal with the question of a Sikh's ability to perform as an RCMP officer. Hence I cringe to hear opponents of turbaned Sikhs in the RCMP labelled as racists.

Should Sikhs be allowed to wear their turbans in the RCMP? Yes. Will it damage a Canadian tradition? Look at the example set by mother

Britain, who, in the mid-1800's, began heavily recruiting troops (Gurkhas) from central Nepal into the British army. Gurkhas maintained their distinct uniform and, ironically, this uniform included a long, crescent-bladed knife as a weapon. Gurkhas were prized as a durable and tenacious element of the British army, a force long in tradition that seems to have survived the Gurkha association.

Canada has nothing to lose. The distinct hat and coat of the RCMP will still be widely worn and seen as a symbol of our country, even if some RCMP officers are wearing turbans.

Greg Halinda  
Arts IV

What is a cry-baby?  
A cry-baby is ignorant.  
A cry-baby is intolerant.  
A cry-baby is exemplified by Mr. Samra and Mr. Toy.  
Is opposing a Sikh's turban a racist view? No.

Canada is a multicultural society and as such must accommodate a multitude of customs, traditions, and religions. In order to be fair to all ethnicities and religions, concessions must be made by all to promote the real purpose — a homogeneous, uniform law enforce-

ment agency. Why should a turban-wearing Sikh be allowed to radically alter the naturally evolved uniform of the RCMP?

I am of Scottish descent and being such, a kilt is very much a part of my heritage and identity, but I don't demand that the RCMP alter the uniforms to accommodate a kilt-wearing Scottish officer. If every officer of the RCMP were to demand that a component of their

religion or beliefs be incorporated into the RCMP uniform, the uniform would be barely recognizable.

In conclusion, the applicability of the word "racist" does not even enter the realm of plausibility in this case. You must first examine the wound before screaming murder.

Shawn Danbrook  
Science IV

## HUMOUR

### A Hallowe'en belly rub

by Kisa Mortenson

Trick or treat! Hallowe'en apples!

Yes, it's that time of year again when little monsters appear on your doorstep and you face the scary task of choosing a costume.

Hallowe'en is the perfect occasion to get as outlandish as possible and forget about the university student image — a time to break free from your button flies, toss off your loafers or your slightly muddied white sneakers, and just let your hair down. Let people see sides of your personality they never knew existed.

Having developed a definite Hallowe'en philosophy, last year, I decided to be a gypsy fortune teller.

Like any normal student who lives at home and doesn't have much money, I got mom to make the costume. I drew out the look and helped pick out the fabric and accessories. I had billowy striped pants, a shiny purple vest, a short white shirt (yes, you could see my navel, but Madonna beats me any day!), gold bangles, and scarfs. I was set to let people see the mysterious side of my personality.

Having ruled out trick or treating at professor's homes for nines, I decided to do the party scene with the rest of the university crowd.

Outfitted and feeling oh so gypsyish, I went to The Bash. Everyone was checking out costumes, and I knew anyone who noticed my costume would think mystery.

Human condoms walked by. Babies bopped on the dance floor.

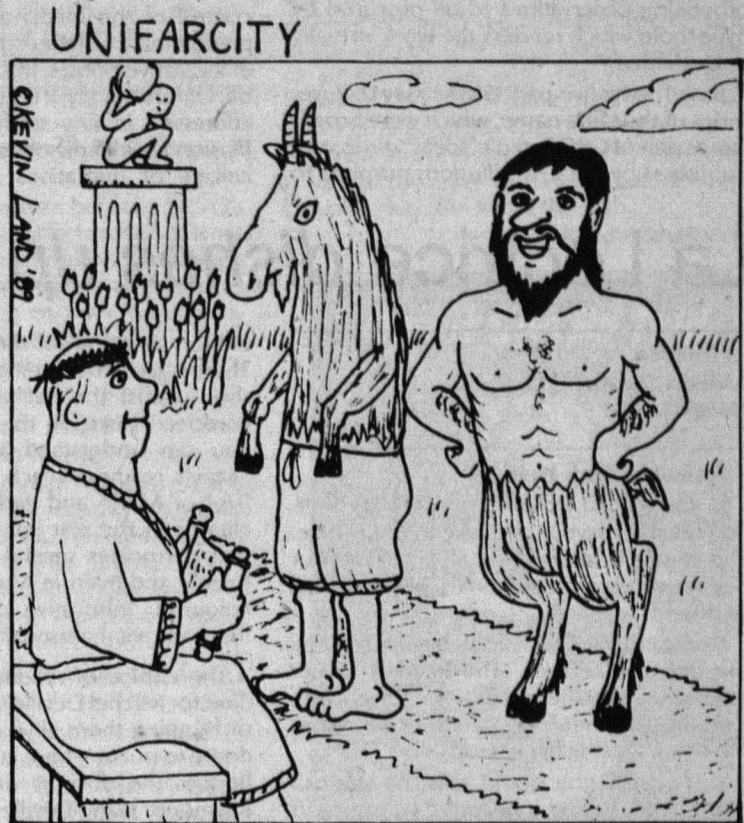
A bunch of beer cans bounced by followed by some guys dressed as Mexicans. The sombrero and poncho crowd approached me.

The Mexicans asked, "So are you a belly dancer?"

Being somewhat corked on Tequila, they looked at my belly like some fortune telling crystal ball just waiting to be rubbed. And there was no way I was going to a part of their future. And they definitely weren't going to see that side of my personality.

The Mexicans reached out to rub my belly, and I was off like a shot. Count Dracula, a good friend of mine, protected me from the Mexicans' happy hands. Thank goodness for fanged men.

Hallowe'en. What a great time of year to let your imagination run wild, but not your hands!



WELL, OKAY, MAYBE WE'RE NOT IDENTICAL TWINS, BUT...

## A Cheaper Transit Pass

A \$34 Transit Pass in January 1990?

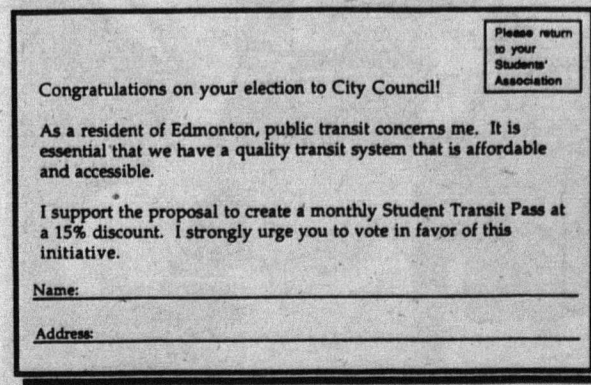
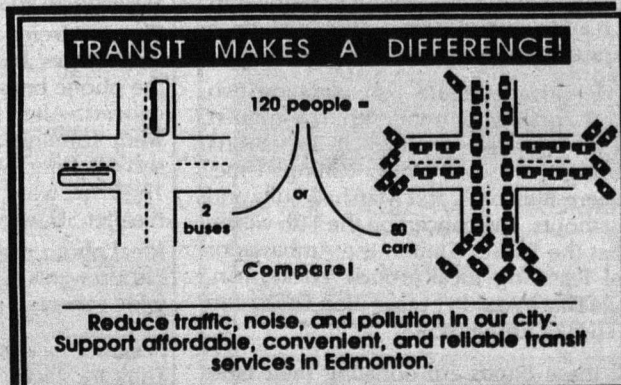
A \$32 Transit Pass in September 1990?

The November 14th meeting of City Council will vote on a proposal to create a monthly discount for a student Transit Pass.

This proposal has three key components:

- Phase out the Student Pak trimester pass
- Implement a 10% monthly discount in January 1990
- Re-examine the student discount in April 1990 with the possibility of increasing the discount to 15% for September 1990

A postcard campaign has been launched to generate and demonstrate support for this proposal. Please take a minute to sign a card and show your support for affordable public transit.



Cards can be picked up and dropped off at all SU Info Booths.

For more information, please contact the Students' Union at 492-4236.