

## EDITORIAL

### About face

After slamming the West Edmonton Mall as a gaudy tourist trap in my last editorial, I decided it would only be fair to spend a few days digging around in an attempt to get the other side of the story. I talked to a representative of West Edmonton Mall and Fantasyland Tourism Ltd., I read an information kit put together by the mall's administration department, and finally, I took a guided tour of the mall last Saturday.

I accompanied a tour group from Vancouver, and they were all ecstatic. They didn't seem at all disturbed by the deafening roar of waterfalls, screaming macaws, and crying babies. They didn't mind spending a quarter of an hour trying to find a washroom. These people were here for one reason alone: shopping.

The shopping was terrific, according to the tourists from Vancouver. They didn't find anything they couldn't have found at home in Vancouver, but they were impressed by the selection, the well-stocked shelves, and the prices.

The tour group spent the weekend at the Convention Inn South (owned by Triple Five Corp.), and apart from shuttle trips from hotel to mall, saw nothing of our city. They were surprised by the glimpses of a real-city skyline that they did catch through the shuttlebus window, and all expressed an interest in coming back some day to explore the rest of the city.

The small group left Sunday night, loaded down with packages. What did they buy? A couple of sweaters, a pair of boots, some souvenirs. Hardly enough to boost our sagging economy, but the benefits may be more far-reaching. If just half of those who swore they'd be back actually do return, the revenue would be substantial, and the heightened recognition that Edmonton is more than a farm town could have a long-term effect on tourism in our city.

The West Edmonton Mall is tacky on a colossal scale, from its plastic chandeliers to its fast-food counters, but it could be worse. A lot of parallels could be drawn with Las Vegas, where everything is billed as "world's largest," or "world famous," but whereas Vegas draws its revenue from sex and gambling, its Canadian counterpart relies solely on good, clean shopping. And if nothing else, it is certainly putting our city back in the national spotlight, not as a mecca for transient workers, as it was a decade ago, but as a shopper's paradise.

Dave Jordan

### Elections, anyone?

As the deadline for SU nominations draws near, we watch and wait — what will be the issue in the future campaigns? Will it be leadership, integrity, and dedication versus popularity? Will it be another election that is lost, rather than won, by the better candidate?

Promises of bigger and better benefits for students will be plastered on the walls across campus. But unless the students themselves decide to participate in the meetings, the campaigns, and the debates, the messages will be lost. Apathy has brought us the past two executives and councils — do we want this again?

The key to the democratic system is participation. Students must take the time to consider the issues that they believe are important, and they must vote for the candidate that best represents those viewpoints. The alternative is simple — the administration can select the student reps to University committees.

When the rhetoric starts next week, the issues are likely to be CFS, university funding, student user fees, quality of education, and leadership. Ask the candidates questions — about their motives, their experience, and their determination to represent the students' views to the public.

Let's avoid the shouts of despair that are sounded every September — get involved and remember to vote.

The choice, as always, is yours.

Greg Owens

## ATTENTION

### Complaints, Beefs, or Concerns about the Gateway?

Call or Visit the Gateway Advocate

Ray Warnatsch, Rm. 282 SUB,  
432-5168



## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

### Real men

Your editorial "For Women Only" was directed to the male reading public. Hopefully they were not so flattered by this distinction as to swallow whole what you had to say. Any thinking man would be rightfully offended. What you in effect are asking is for half the human race to continue being part of the problem rather than part of the solution. Certainly this abortion debate is "a matter of women, real women," but it is also a matter of real men. Surely there are real men out there — men who accept responsibility for their actions. To say "let the women of the world decide on the destiny of their bodies" is a distortion of reality. Every "product of conception" is as much a part of a man's body as a woman's body, and the fact that nature decrees their offspring should grow and develop within the woman does certainly not diminish the role of the man in this event. No woman could effect such a dramatic change in her body by merely wishing it!

It is all too clear that the attitude which says abortion (and therefore pregnancy) is a woman's issue does great injustice to both men and women. It is this attitude that frequently leaves the woman alone with the child — and the decision. It is this attitude that makes men less than men by condoning or encouraging an irresponsible attitude to their own sexuality.

It is true, Mr. Editor, that men should talk to women about this issue, and women talk to men. They could be asking each other honestly if they as couples are prepared for the possibility of bringing a child into the world by their actions. Both sexes, in spite of the pressures of the Pill, have, believe it or not, the right to say No, if not prepared for the possible natural outcome of sexual intercourse. Thoughtful men will

take their roles as begetters of life and fathers seriously. Thoughtful women will do likewise, and when the possibility of parenthood becomes fact, they will hopefully be large-hearted enough to accept this reality.

Men, realize your dignity and responsibility as protectors of, and providers for your children. What women need is your support in pregnancy, but it is a sad state of affairs when a man is only supportive to the point of helping to destroy his child. On the other hand, it is also a sad state of affairs that a father has no legal right to protect his child from abortion if the mother chooses this action.

Ultimately, when a woman is pregnant, it is a man's issue too: (Pardon the pun.) Men should not be too quick to forget this, and we women should not let you. The power of procreation is entrusted to us. Together, we are surely capable of realizing our responsibility.

Francesca Laurence  
Science II

### Too much

Being a recent graduate from the University of Alberta's MBA program, I read with some interest John Algard's editorial in the January 8 Gateway concerning my boss, the Honourable Les Young's recent comments regarding teacher salaries.

As a matter of record, Alberta teachers are the highest paid in Canada and earn on average at least 25 percent more than the average American teacher. In this era when construction workers and employees of meat packing plants are taking wage reductions and farmers are facing depressed incomes, those being paid out of the tax base have a responsibility to consider the ability to pay of those who must foot the bill.

## The Gateway

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And out of the woodwork come the frenzied hoards of staffers, unleashed upon the world in this very issue of the Gateway. The flashy types, Bosco Chang, Paul Phillips, Tim Hellum, and Chris Menard; layout aces Ann Grever, Mike Evans and Greg Owens; reviewers Jeanette Christopher, Christopher Sadelain, Sheila Barry and Alex Neuberger; and columnists Peter Smyth, Bruce Horner, and Bill Doskoch. Susan Sutton dropped by, Brad Clark said hello, Jim Herbert took a story and ran, Mark Spector walked on, Pat Maguire walked the beam, and Alex Miller beamed up. Olga Jagodnik and Hani Dhanani took Mark Olyan to the movies. And thus ends another night at mother Gateway.