

## Parents should be licenced

I would like to advocate greater government involvement in the private lives of its citizens.

By this, I do not mean banning smoking or drinking, or insisting we all wear reflective vests when we ride our bikes.

I am talking about regulating children.

In Canada, you need a license to drive a car or ride a motorcycle. You need a license to shoot deer or catch fish. You need a license to get married, and a license to open a hotdog stand on Jasper Avenue.

Yet to create a human life and teach it the things it needs to know to get along in the world, you do not need a license.

The only conclusion I can draw is that deer, fish, and hotdogs are more important than children.

Because we live in a part of the world that grows more complicated every day, children are facing greater and different pressures than their parents did. Choices that one generation faced in their college years — drug and alcohol use, sex — the next generation faces in junior high school.

It is hard enough for adults to cope with their own problems and their position in the world. To teach a psychologically malleable child these skills is a job few adults are capable of.

For example, many adults do not possess the ability to resist peer pressure or advertising hype, as a look at any Yuppie will tell you. How, then, can people who are trying to pay off a BMW teach children that they do not need the entire Masters of the Universe collection?

Childraising is a psychologically demanding job, and parents must be able to cope with the stress involved. Yet many people see children as merely cute, obedient, and a constant source of fun and undemanding love. Having unrealistic expectations about childraising can lead to frustration and even child abuse: emotionally immature parents beat their children because "they wouldn't stop crying".

The overriding concern in a decision to have a child must be the welfare of that child. No one has the freedom to reproduce irresponsibly, or to have children that they are not capable of raising to become adjusted, competent adults.

Therefore, some form of control over childbearing should be instated.

Licensing is one solution, with permission to be granted after the parents pass a stringent set of emotional and psychological criteria. This does, however, leave open the possibility of illegal children and a booming trade in black-market Pampers.

Perhaps more research could be directed toward finding reliable birth control methods, instead of perfecting exotic fertility techniques for the very few who can afford specific genetic reproductions of themselves.

At the very least, everyone should be encouraged to examine their motives behind their desire for children. If they decide that they really want kids, they should have to rent one on a trial basis — they could have either a hyperactive two year old or a thirteen year old heavy metal fan.

If, after a year of trial parenthood, they want to continue, they should be allowed to. However, psychological counselling would have to be supplied on demand.

Roberta Franchuk



### Time for change

I know this is a petty bitch . . .

But late at night when you NEED caffeine, it's the little things that matter.

I know you've seen them, they're all around. They're by every Coke machine, just sitting there. Quiet. Quiet, with a little red light on. A light that says EMPTY.

Yep, I'm talking about the change machines. Now, will the gnomes, elves or whatnot please remember to fill them once in a while. ESPECIALLY ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF SUB!  
Dragos Ruiu

### ACT! correction

As the Interim Research Coordinator for the Anti-Cutbacks Team! (ACT!), I would like to inform students, staff, and members of the community of an inaccuracy printed in the ACT! pamphlet that was recently distributed to students by the Bookstore and with the Students' Union 1987-88 Handbook.

Under the heading "How Cutbacks Hurt Students" is the misleading statement, "With the closure of the Extension Library students have witnessed a decline in the status of the campus library system from 7th in North America to 11th." The statement implies a causal connection between the closure of the Faculty of Extension Library and the decline in the stature of our campus library system. This is not the case. In fact, the continual decline in the status of the campus library system began before the closure of the Extension Library and thus, no responsibility for the decline in status can be attributed to the closure of the Extension Library.

Unfortunately, this inaccuracy escaped our attention until many of the pamphlets had been distributed, and I would like to apologize to all students and administrators for its inclusion. The ACT! research team acted with the best of intentions to produce a number of statistics that are factual and reliable. However, it seems that in an effort to include as much information in the pamphlet as possible, two distinct and separate facts (i.e. the closure of the Extension Library and the continual

decline in the status of the campus library system) were combined and thus, the actual situation was inadvertently distorted.

Once again, I apologize for this inaccuracy. In the future, the contents of all outgoing documents will be more closely scrutinized.

Wade Deisman  
Interim Research Coordinator, ACT!

### No Yearbooks?

Once there was a young woman, name of Dana Farnel, a floor coordinator in Lister Hall who had an idea. Why not create a Rez yearbook? They'd done it before, we could do it again! "Yah, that's the ticket," she screamed, "It could be just like in High School!"

The residents though, for the most part, that it was a great if not tremendous idea. What fun! A yearbook of our very own, one that would show us as we were, drunk and crazy. So we set it up with some wonderfully trustworthy company and plastered our faces (or at least some horrid photos thereof) across some seemingly innocent pages of white paper. Then we sent it off.

It was supposed to be ready in April. Great! We'd have lots of time to write stupid things in each others' books. Then it was going to be ready in the last week of April, not so much time but we'd survive. Then it wasn't going to be ready until after we had to move out. Give us your addresses we'll get to you in May.

I looked in my mail box in May, no yearbook (surprise, surprise). It wasn't there in June either, or July for that matter, or August. No one seemed to know what happened, but we were all sure of one thing, it would be there when we moved into Rez. It wasn't. It still isn't. We aren't so much perturbed as annoyed (ten bucks isn't much but it could have bought a few beers instead of a non-existent yearbook) We can't get any answers, we can't get our money, and we aren't getting our yearbooks. We thought if we brought our dirty laundry before everyone we'd at least get some action. They're going to make a new one this year but can we at least get last year's first?

Dan Skinner

## Express your opinion

Letters to the editor are encouraged and always welcome.

If you have a concern, idea or 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, 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 SUB, or drop them at any SU information booth.

## The Gateway



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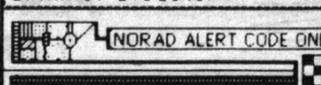
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### The Warp Zone

First-year engineering student Martin Coliper accidentally transposes two numbers during his telephone registration!



1.0402187 \* 126023 \*  
 The error sends a signal through phone lines to a U.S. Air Base in Alaska, which interprets it as a message for alert status. For about 3 224 seconds, the world hovers on the brink of disaster!!!



The drama of the situation is lost on Martin, as he winds up registered in courses such as Introductory Swahili and Advanced Medieval Russian Metaphysics

Гатецаы ис good to read!

