

Editorial

Letters to the Editor should not be more than 250 words in length. They must include your signature, faculty, year of program, I.D. number, and phone number. Requests for anonymity are at the discretion of the Managing Editor, but the above information is required regardless. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway.

whiner that lurks within

Many Gateway readers probably caught wind of the story that was all over the past weekend's *Edmonton Journal*. I refer to the nude drawing controversy, or what was at least made to look like a controversy, judging by the media attention it garnered.

For the uninformed, last week the head of the university's office of Institutional Research and Planning ordered one of his people to remove a piece of art from his office wall.

The art in question is the sketch of a nude woman's backside, comprising head, arm, back, and buttocks. Hardly erotic or suggestive, to say the least (see Saturday's *Journal*, front page photo).

The work was on Philip Davidson's wall, and was the result of artist Eileen Raucher Sutton, Davidson's wife. Apparently the sketch offended some female staff members, who complained to Davidson's supervisor. After gathering that there was genuine concern in the office, Davidson removed the sketch from the office.

Is this a case of knee-jerk censorship? I hope not. The university knows better than that. Certainly art of a more "decadent" nature could be found on display elsewhere on campus, or in university library books. The U of A is certainly a conservative campus, but also an "enlightened" one.

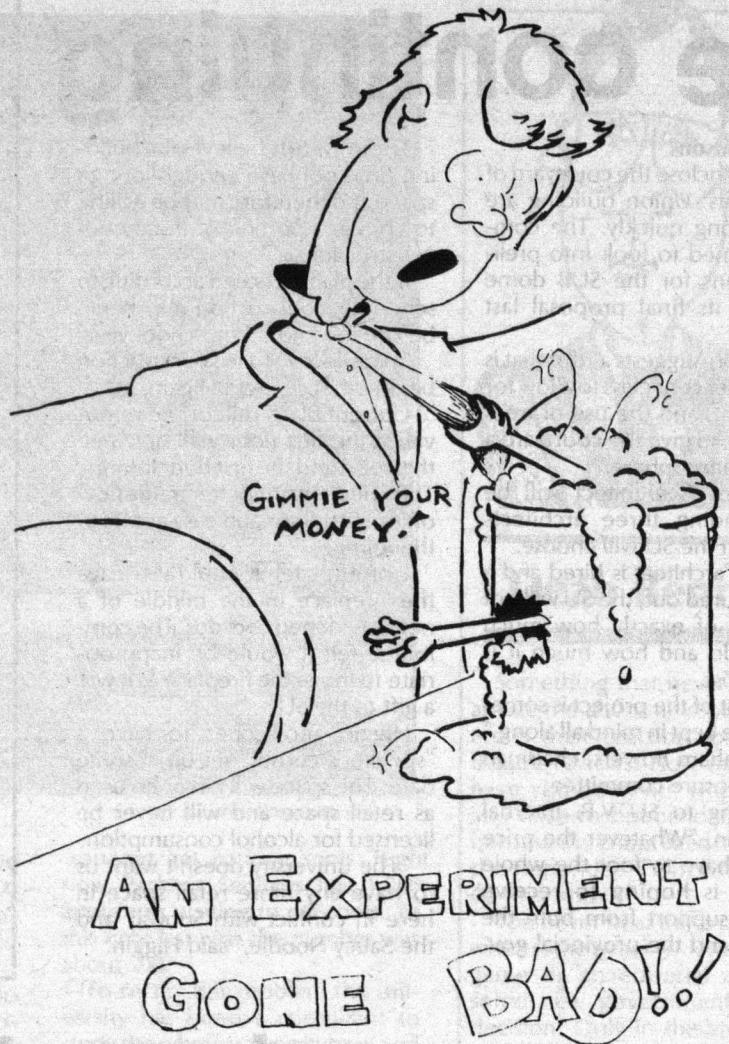
No, the university says this is simply a matter of being sensitive to the other co-workers in the office. Indeed, if one brought their pet rat to work every day in their pocket and let it putter about the confines of a private space in the office, one could be called insensitive if the demand to remove the rat immediately due to sudden revulsion among co-workers was ignored.

But hold on. We're talking about art here. Not a monster, but a simple human sketch. Not pornography, not erotica, but a thousand words conveyed on a few simple lines of charcoal (or ink, pastel, pencil, whatever...).

It is unfortunate that such a barbaric denial of beauty happened. Of course, keeping in mind the scope of this incident, one could hardly use the word censorship in this case. However, the next time you hear that some school board wants to pull *Robin Hood* or *Catcher in the Rye* from its libraries, don't choke in disbelief.

This may be 1986 but there's still something out there to offend every one of us, to bring out the whiner that lurks within. Let's try not to let such whinings trample on the freedom of others.

Greg Halinda



Letters

Your job next?

To the Editor:

Thank God that the courts in this province found in favor of the workers for a change, (Gainers workers getting THEIR pension fund back). I for one hope that the province continues on this track and changes our labor laws. In other provinces it is illegal for companies to hire "scab" labor during a strike — why not here as well? Alberta's labor laws promote the oppression of workers, give companies the power to treat workers like shit, and also creates the long, drawn-out strikes we see in the Zeidlers and Gainers situations.

I realize it is difficult for students to be sympathetic toward workers in these strike situations, or to find the time to do anything really concrete to abolish these unfair labor laws. All that I'm asking is that you write your MLA and voice your displeasure with our labor laws; someday it may be your job that is in jeopardy.

Joe Martha
Science IV

Duty explained

To the Editor:

It was with dismay that I read Dean Bennett's article in the October 23rd issue of this paper entitled "Driver Is Fired".

In the article your writer disclosed the name of the complainant without his permission — an act that I consider to be the mark of an irresponsible press. The article would have been equally effective had you referred to 'a student' instead of revealing his identity.

In order to protect a student who makes a complaint, and so that other students will not feel apprehensive about reporting incidents to the proper authorities, I would expect a responsible paper to report the news with the interests and freedoms of these individuals in mind. The notion of freedom of the press carries with it a heavy responsibility to protect the identity of those who may be adversely affected by releasing their names.

I write this in the hope that you will bear this duty in mind each time you report an incident.

Patricia Perron
Student Ombudsperson

Aggressive thrills

To the Editor:

In response to the letter previously published regarding the article on *The Survival Game*, I have a few points for him or her to ponder.

Firstly, to the charge that it is "by its very nature an aggressive activity." Quite right. However, let's face it: human beings, shaped by millions of years of evolution, are aggressive. Aggression is a survival mechanism, and a few hundred years of "enlightenment" aren't going to change that. The aggressive instinct is part of our lives. *The Survival Game* is an opportunity to relieve our aggressions harmlessly and have fun in the process. Thematically "violent" games are a release for violence which would otherwise manifest itself in a more harmful form.

Secondly, it is indeed a "cowboys and Indians" for all those kids over 18." Ms. Lundrigan's comment about being in "the pro camp" had to do with the game, not war in general. Those of us who play the game have no trouble separating OUR reality and fantasy. People who have actually been in combat (not veterans of an era) say there is a certain vicarious thrill in shooting people, one which is totally overshadowed by the horror of killing and war. *The Game* provides the thrill without the killing. Of course our attitudes are different concerning real combat. *The Game* is like a good Chuck Norris movie: it's violent, fun, and no one really believes it portrays reality.

You may wish to believe that human beings are moral creatures. They are not. A moral code is not inborn, it is not "right", it must be learned. And as with all learning, it may be right or it may be wrong. You cannot expect a nonexistent "moral code" to win out over the combined force of evolution and media indoctrination. As long as we do get a thrill from aggression, isn't it better that we pretend?

Peter Harris
Honors Genetics

Isn't it stupid?

To the Editor:

The Cameron Reserve Reading Room is merely an empty room with the majority of reading gone overnight by 3 pm. I was so annoyed to find everything I wanted to study gone on Oct. 16 — a Thursday night with extended hours but no books there.

cont'd...

... cont'd

Out of the 14 hours that it's opened, a book will be there for only 4 and a half hours (10:30 am. to 3 pm.) Isn't it stupid?

In order to reduce the long line up during the day and to ensure better access, I suggest reserve books should be no O.V. at all or one hour before closing. That's the policy of the majority of reserve rooms across Canada.

Cindy Ford
Arts II

Big hairy deal

To the Editor:

RE: Golden Bear Suspended for Haircut.

I was quite surprised to read the *Journal's* story on Russell Schoeppe's eccentric haircut (Sunday, Nov. 2). When Schoeppe showed up to practice with a mohawk haircut, Coach Donlevy demanded that Schoeppe get a "proper" haircut.

It seems odd that an instructor at an institute of higher learning is allowed to dictate personal taste to his students. Jim Donlevy's demands of Schoeppe were unreasonable. Prejudice on the basis of personal appearance is something a student may experience after graduation, possibly in the workplace. Ideally, this type of bigotry is something that a University stands against.

Correct me if I'm wrong — isn't football that game where players wear helmets? Surely a haircut would be completely covered by a helmet. How then could a certain hairstyle get in the way of a player's ability?

Donlevy's actions add to an already overburdened stereotype of athletes as a bunch of unthinking redneck jocks.

Perhaps Mr. Donlevy would feel more at home in communist China. There, practically everyone dresses in an extremely similar fashion, and there are very few eccentric hairstyles. Everyone obeys the "coach" too.

Matthew Hays
Arts III

BSB made clear

To the Editor:

RE: Letter from Ken Hui in the Oct. 28 Gateway.

Judging from his letter it would appear that Mr. Hui is misinformed with respect to how office space in the Students' Union Building is allocated to clubs.

Letters cont'd. on page 5

The Gateway

The Gateway is the newspaper of the University of Alberta students. Contents are the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief. All opinions are signed by the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gateway. News copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. Newsroom: Rm 282 (ph. 432-5168). Advertising: Rm 256D (ph. 432-4241). Students' Union Building, U of A, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2G7. Readership is 25,000. The Gateway is a member of Canadian University Press.

Editor in Chief: Dean Bennett
Managing Editor: Kathleen Beechiner
News Editors: John Watson, Greg Halinda
Entertainment Editor: Suzanne Lundrigan
Sports Editor: Mark Spector
Production Editor: Juanita Spears
Photo Editor: Rob Schmidt
Media Supervisor: Margriet Tilroe-West
Advertising: Tom Wright
Circulation: George Onwumere
Advocate: Denise Whalen

Halloween dawned all too soon for the kids from Hell. Juanita, cap in hand, winked seductively from a corner as Cam McCulloch and Ken Hui lined up dates for Brad Johnson, "boogie boy" and Karen Baier. Sandra Peterson, J. Dylan, S. Balasak and Greg Whiting came running in with loot bags, while Darlene Rutter shook a reproving head. Stephen Pandke, arms akimbo, looked gravely at Bruce Gardave and John Charles. Roberta Franchuk giggled, "But Scott Gordon is bartending, who will save Krista and Elaine from the marauding Mike Spindloe and Kourch Chan? Jerome Ryckborst, ever verbose, cried atop his lungs. Alan Small is from Radway while Danny Schnick and Paul Menzies and Alex Miller grinned together about Telf's ghost costume. Tom just sat and sighed.