# 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.

## **Look out Bub Slug!**

Comics, comics, those wonderful comics. How many of us flip excitedly to the comics page of the newspaper we're reading for that five-minute escape? I'd say most of us are guilty, and rightly so. Wryly referred to as the "current events" page by some, the funnies are a valuable resource that can make us laugh or even think (gasp!) sometimes.

Unfortunately, though, all is not well in the state of comicdom. I think most of us relate well to the following scenario: you finally reach that

special page (or the weekend bonus colour comics pullout), but you instantly ignore 70 per cent of the stuff on the page.

It turns out only 3 or 4 of the strips are really enjoyable anyway, right? Sadly, many of the old reliables are no longer funny.

With a heavy heart, the first one I point my finger at is Peanuts, by Charles Schulz. You've lost it, Chuck. The wit and humour have bottomed out. Schulz just isn't funny anymore, and I wish he'd retire and save some credibility for the once-wonderful Peanuts.

Other strips that should be cancelled because they're just too ho-hum are: Fred Basset, Archie, The Better Half, Marmaduke, and Beetle

Bailey. Better throw in Frank and Ernest and Family Circus, too. All of the above have beaten their respective themes to death. Reading through one of these duds causes one to visualize the old, graying cartoonist who, having lost the edge, refuses to put down their pen. Gymnasts and hockey players know when to call it quits; why don't

The cartoons that are "in" today (like Bloom County, Shoe, Calvin and Hobbes, Bub Slug) are a bit different — they aren't bound by themes such as husband vs. wife, owner vs. pet, or kids vs. parents. Maybe that's a foreteller of longevity. Peanuts has been around for 20 - 30 years and

it wasn't bound by a theme I guess we can hope for some mystical panel of editors to delete redundant comic strips, but that's about as likely as universities releasing redundant professors

Next on the chopping block: The Born Loser, Broom Hilda, Catfish, Andy Capp, and the Wizard of Id.

**Greg Halinda** 

# Letters 🖄



# **Moral argument**

To The Editor:

While the Campus New Democrats may appear to be guilty of poor planning in giving less than 24 hours notice of our desire to have a university representative formally accept our petition, it should be noted that there was no indication of a willingness to have a university representative present no matter how much notice had been given.

Nevertheless, we are confident that our petition, signed by more than five hundred students and staff, will be taken seriously. Gainers has shown a cynical disregard for the principles of collective bargaining and has made it obvious that they are more interested in breaking the union than in settling the dispute. By ignoring a widely supported boycott and taking advantage of Gainer's lower prices, the university leaves itself open to charges of complicity.

We believe that the moral arguments underlying our petition are so compelling that the university administration will be persuaded to stop buying Gainers products for the duration of the strike.

We await the decision.

Alan Rutkowski NDP Campus Club Executive

## Baha'i sexist

To The Editor:

RE: The Baha'i article presented in the Gateway.

The Baha'i Faith seems to have some very positive prerequisites for peace. However, the first concept, equality of the sexes, is continually contradicted in the word choice of the majority of their literature. Throughout the article presented by the Gateway and various pieces of Baha'i literature I have read, the use of exclusive language is very evident. How can there be equality among the sexes when the Baha'i only consider the "oneness of mankind" 50% of society is ignored. This may appear to be a petty argument to some, but considering that language is the base of a society, if our language is sexist then so is society. Equality can only be gained when people write, speak, and think in inclusive terminology. Some people have presented me with the argument, "Do you want to neuter the whole English language?" No, the concept of inclusive language does not attempt to neuter a language. Inclusive language presents a more liberal perspective to the male oriented language which currently exists. For girls and women who are continually bombarded by language riddled with "man", "mankind", "him" and "he", it subtly socializes the population to think in terms of male dominance.

The Baha'i Faith is definitely one of the most liberal world religions, and its beliefs, if ever accepted, would create a much more caring and compassionate world. However, the article presented an example of the exclusive ways in which the majority of society writes and speaks. Therefore, until inclusive language is adopted by everyone, true equality between the sexes will never occur.

> **Beth Parks Education II**

#### propaganda Porn

RE: PAAP article, front page, Dec. 2.

As a reader and contributor to the Gateway I am concerned about the coverage given to PAAP (which stands for the cute euphemism, Positive Action Against Pornography).

The front page AD for the above group's propaganda leaflets glorifies this new approach to censorship and gives it unwarranted credibility. This group which is supposedly "dedicated to eliminating sexual stereotyping in the media" also tosses in a few cute phrases like:

Once people realize that pornography is evil . . . " ... apparent links between pornography and violent

crimes such as rape. Let me remind the readers that this group also wishes to

support the re-drafting of Bill-C114 - a stifling, totalitarian, lawmaking attempt to crush sexual expression.

As well, about 'pornography and violent crime' let me remind you that in the United States, the Meese Commission on pornography, with the support and funding of a number of fundamentalist groups and the U.S. GOVERN-MENT, spent more than a year and umpteenth amounts of money attempting to prove "a causal link between pornography and violent crime". They couldn't!

I suggest to PAAP that if they wish to change our society's stereotypes they begin by educating their children to make our world a better place, instead of attempting to impose their "I know what's good for you better than you do," mentality upon us through legislation and government suppression.

treat the 'Information Kits' described with the same grain of salt you would apply to a pamphlet by the U.S.S.R. government entitled, "Why invading Afghanistan has helped the country."

To The Editor:

I also suggest to readers of the Gateway article that you

Dragos Ruiu C. Engg IV



Two weeks ago I read an article on education written by Peter Pocklington in the Edmonton Sun. Although I agree with much of what Mr. Pocklington thinks is wrong with the present educational system, I do not agree with his proposal on what should be done to solve the problem.

agree with Mr. Pocklington when he argues that the public school system and curriculum is based on the average, middle-class child. This is true. The only way in which a bright child may be treated differently from other students is by attending a gifted child program. Mr. Pocklington proposes an educational system which would have students working at their own pace. He also would like to see students be evaluated strictly on achievement alone, without taking student effort into account when performing an evaluation. Mr. Pocklington fails to realize that a system which allows individual students to perform at their own desire could present problems to both students and staff. Not only would students suffer, by having to deal with too much competition in school, but educators would also find it difficult to standardize their evaluating procedures.

Pocklington's statement that "effort is often more praised than achievement" in the present school system is simply not true. In order to evaluate their students' work, educator's must rely on a standard grading system that is based on both effort and achevement; effort should not be looked upon as a student's feeble attempt to work in class. Unlike the way that Pocklington views it, effort is looked upon by educators as being a student's positive contribution to the classroom. If a student shows good effort in class, other students benefit from this. The reason why it is beneficial to maintain a classroom with bright, average, and under-average students is to allow students to learn from each other; this makes student evaluation much easier for the teacher because he can see how individual students are

doing in relation to the rest of the class.

I will agree with Mr. Pocklington when he states that most children have a desire to learn. However, from my past experience I have found that most children enjoy learning with others rather than working individually. A child who works alone and is constantly competing with fellow students in class often fails to socialize with other students; this child may eventually become alienated from the class. Pocklington, who supports this kind of competition in class, does not understand that most children like attending school so they can socialize with their peers. If educators allowed students to learn at their own pace, there would be too much competition between students and, as a result, the social interaction that is necessary for the students' personal growth would be diminished. Is this how educators should guide students to be responsible individuals?

Pocklington asks "What would be wrong with 14-year-olds graduating from high school?" This question raises another — would students graduating at this age be mature enough to accept the responsibilities of life in the adult working world? Although most educators may feel that today's youth are progressively maturing at a faster pace, a student who is fourteen is still dependent upon guidance and advice coming from parents, teachers, and friends.

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### The Gateway needs a Photo Editor

The Photo Editor must:

- a) be a student at the University of Alberta
- b) endeavour to ensure that photographs are available of all matter of concern for publication in The Gateway
- c) help train volunteers to take pictures for publication in The
- d) supervise the usage of equipment and accessories in the photo
- e) ensure photo files are maintained
- f) maintain photo supplies

### Remuneration: \$750.00/month

Election will be held on January 8, 1987

Interested applicants should see Dean Bennett. Editor-in-Chief at The Gateway office, Room 282 Students' Union Building.

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