

our paths that often. And if you could have seen him that day rolling down that highway I'm sure you would agree that he is, without a doubt, a true Canadian hero!!!

Melissa Kothas

Government "wildlife management" isn't

Letter to the Editor:

After learning of the reopening of the grizzly bear spring hunt season in Kananaskis country, I endeavoured to find out why the province felt the need to increase hunting pressures on the bear population in this area. This has not been an easy task. Alberta's Fish and Wildlife department says there are 50 to 100 bears in Kananaskis country. These figures, however, are not supported by any other grizzly researchers who have worked in the area and who are not connected with the Fish and Wildlife department. The department has not shown or published any supporting evidence of these figures. Therefore, one can assume that these figures are purely speculative as are most of the other grizzly bear population figures in Alberta.

The total population of grizzlies in Alberta is estimated at 500 to 1000 bears. That's an extremely wide range. Population counts of grizzly bears are generally extremely crude because the bears can have a territorial range of 500 to 1000 square kilometers. This means that the same bear may be counted in B.C. in one of the national parks, in Alberta outside of a national park, and in the northern U.S. The figure of 500 to 1000 bears may sound like a lot, but if this existed in the United States, they would have been classified as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

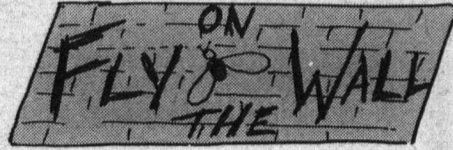
Can the Kananaskis population support the pressure of a hunt? When assessing this, one must take into consideration the cumulative mortality rate of the bears. Illegal kills and natural mortality weigh heavily on the grizzly bears.

The data base which the province has about grizzlies is very limited and shaky. Many studies are incomplete or were never finished and there is virtually no cooperation between the Alberta government and our neighbours in B.C. and the U.S. who are concerned with many of the same bears.

Sometimes I can't help wondering if our government has

any conservation strategy at all. There are dozens of species which are in trouble in Alberta and yet our government continues to pursue bizarre policies exploiting wildlife. This, to me, is an example of one dismal failure of our government's "wildlife management." Our Fish and Wildlife department would be well advised to pursue a conservative approach to grizzly bear management until it can conduct a thorough review of the status of the grizzly bear in Alberta. I would hope that the government would also take into account the great numbers of Albertans who value the non-consumptive recreational opportunities which grizzly bears provide; the joy of seeing these majestic creatures in the wild, seeing their tracks, or just the knowledge that these majestic symbols of wilderness exist.

Heidi Schaefer



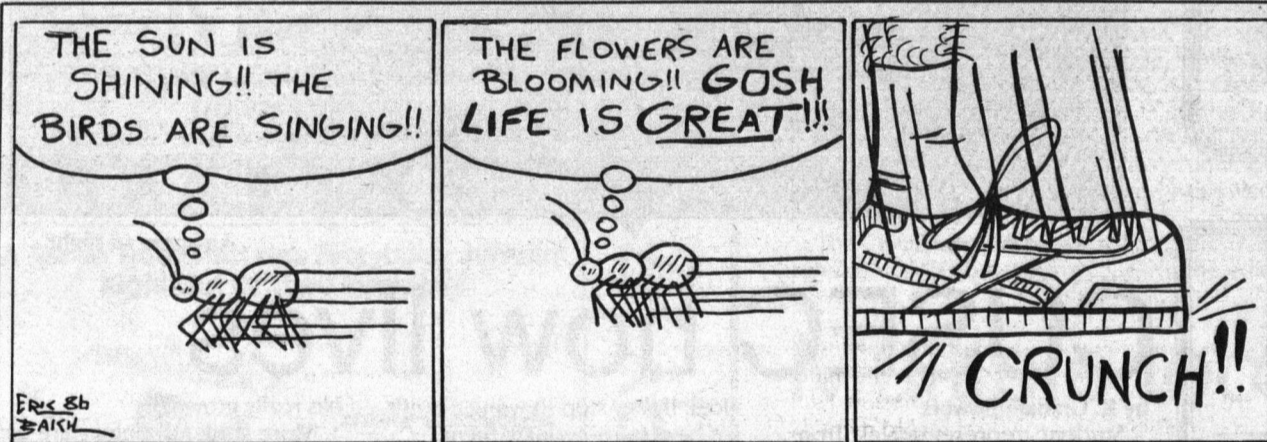
I was sitting outside of the arcade in Hub Mall the other night sipping a cup of coffee and watching a couple of guys play foos ball. It looked like they were involved in a pretty spirited match for their hands were flying from handle to handle and they were shouting and cursing at one another. When one of the guys would score he would throw his hands in the air and let out a whoop of celebration. The other would slap the table on one of the handles in disgust, then pull another ball out from the slot below and start the game again.

Well, during one furious bit of action, a girl walked by them. A girl wearing shorts and a t-shirt, and no bra. She was coming from the end where Java Jive is so the guy facing that direction saw her first. I think she distracted him a little bit. Her pace down the mall was a brisk one, thus, there was a fair bit of movement around her chest. She struck me as the type of girl who did not care if anyone looked at her or not, which was good because the guy at the foos ball table did not take his eyes of her. As she passed him, the guy he was playing scored another goal; but this time he did not get upset. I think he is in love.

— J. Dylan

Anyone interested in contributing time or ideas to a gay and lesbian special feature, contact Sherri at The Gateway (Room 282 SUB). No response — means no feature.

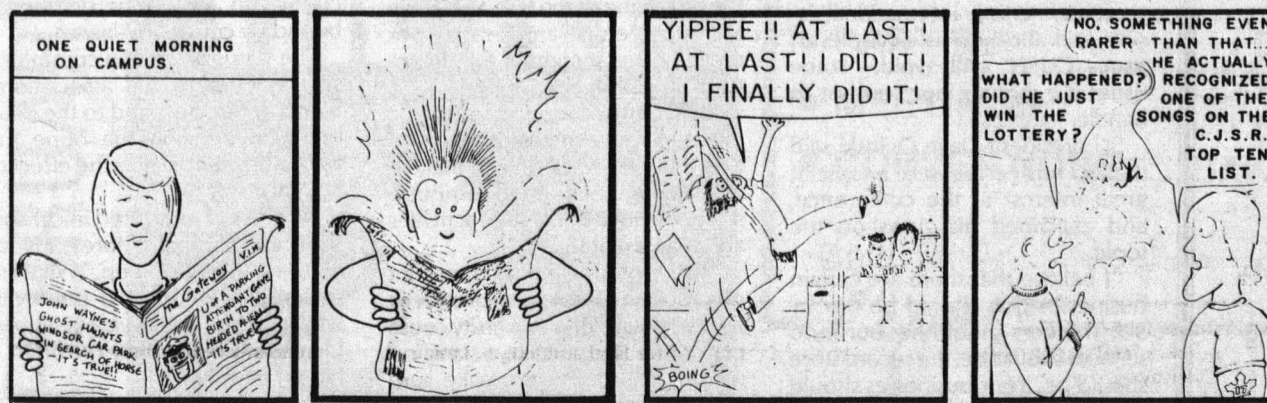
See me with any ideas for the upcoming women's supplement by Thursday Feb. 26. Deadline for submissions is Monday March 2.



The Real World



Michichi



Comments

by Tina Cristini

Striving for excellence — is this a lost ideal? In today's technological society, time and money seem to take precedence over good workmanship, good service, and pride in one's work.

Has the "pursuit of excellence" been replaced by more pragmatic objectives or, in some cases, downright mediocrity? For the sake of better efficiency have we gradually abandoned the goal of human fulfillment in the work and academic worlds?

In the field of education learning for "learning's sake" seems very rare. The majority of students work hard for marks in order to obtain that magic piece of paper which in turn will enable them to land a well-paying job.

In offices and retail outlets throughout the country numerous bored and frustrated employees appear to have the customer's interests at the bottom of their priority list.

In the areas of government, medicine, and transportation incredible blunders are made every day, costing taxpayers money, and sometimes costing lives as well.

In every profession sensitive individuals who cannot live with the constant struggle between the compromise of economic cutbacks and the pursuit of excellence are burning out at ever-increasing rates.

This is not to imply that more funds will automatically lead to more excellence. First of all, it is necessary to alter the permeating attitude of getting the job done with the least amount of effort.

Very few individuals go "above and beyond the call of duty" nowadays, and these poor souls are often derided and despised by colleagues who don't appreciate looking bad in comparison. How many times have we seen sincere students who love to learn be made to look like fools by those peers who are most interested in having a good time. I first noticed this reversal in values when I began teaching. Suddenly in the early 1970's, it became good to be bad and bad to be good. I sincerely hope that educators are taking steps to reverse that trend. According to the policy statements of the school boards, they are at least paying lip service to the ideal of excellence in education. Time will tell if this policy is being implemented effectively.

There is one pitfall that we must guard against, namely to avoid confusing excellence with neurotic perfectionism. The latter is often narcissistic and driven by some personality dysfunction, whereas the former is a sincere thirst for knowledge and a desire to develop one's innate abilities in the service of others, usually resulting in a more positive self-image, which in turn releases more life energy.

I'd like to know whether today's trends of poor service, shoddy workmanship, and the "cover-your-behind" (C.Y.A.) mentality have really made us any happier or just more frustrated. Perhaps the ideal of "the pursuit of happiness" (to which Americans are constitutionally entitled) should be replaced by the "pursuit of excellence." It has been my experience that excellence usually results in true happiness in the sense of satisfaction after a job well done, a glowing feeling about having achieved one's very best in the service of mankind, and an enhanced self-esteem.

The Round Corner

By Greg Whiting

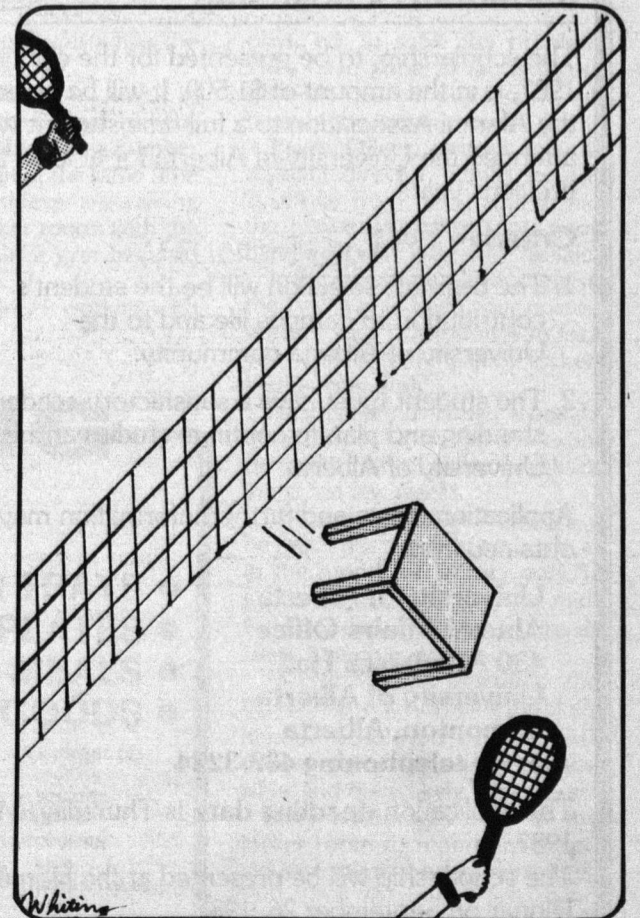


Table tennis.