

Opinion

Alan Small



Let us groan, let us groan, let us groan!

Somebody turn up the heat!

If Andy Rooney were here, he would most likely say, "I don't know about you, but I hate cold weather."

If David Letterman were here, he would probably say something about Monday being the start of the frozen spit season in Edmonton.

If you're like me, your car doesn't start, your face is frozen, you're tired of wearing bulky sweaters and angry over homeowners who don't shovel their sidewalks.

Now, if Edmontonians haven't had enough to groan about, people from up north are saying that we are "A bunch of wimps. I think people there are getting soft" when it comes to winter weather.

Hey, you Yellowknifers, you Beaver Creekers, is it our fault that you spend all your waking hours panning for gold and wrestling polar bears? At least you don't have to put up with rain in January. (I didn't think we would ever have to until Sunday either.) You don't have to worry about 35 above weather in the middle of summer either. Sure, you may be accustomed to bone-chilling blizzards, but you guys in Yellowknife just don't know how to sweat.

Scientists all over the world are whining about the global warming that the Earth is going through. They call it "the greenhouse effect." The scientists should all be subjected to staying outside in just their labcoats so they too can feel the effects of "global warming."

Another thing about those scientists: they say that the average temperature in good ol' Edmonton is -9C. They say that Canada turns into a desert-like state during winter because of the lack of moisture that falls. Again, these scientists' computers must have been left outside during the blizzard.

However, it'll be fun next week to hear Americans whine about the Alberta Clipper. Let 'em freeze in the dark.

The Gateway

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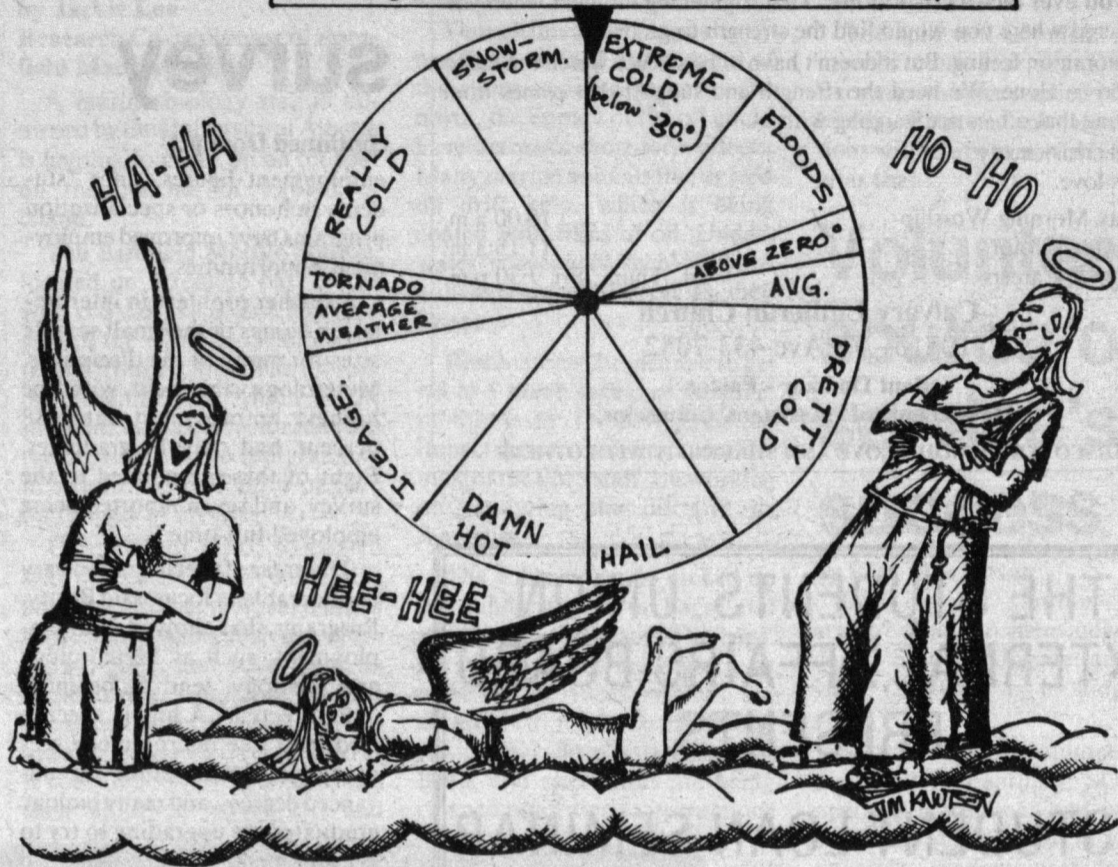
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EDMONTON'S WEATHER take a spin!



Letters

Respect religions

I am writing to express some unease over the recent "Christian Awareness" week. Not seeing in the advertising who the sponsoring body was created confusion among many. Your advertising for this event did not list the groups who were in fact responsible for it. The Chaplains' Association was not.

There are two areas that concern me. The first has to do with policy. Does *The Gateway* not require that all advertising have an identifiable sponsor? Should not the sponsoring bodies be identified in the copy? Such a policy would be helpful for all of us. Enabling us to identify sponsoring bodies helps us understand the presuppositions and perspectives certain speakers or events hold. This makes for clearer and more honest communication.

The second area of concern is more difficult but more important to clarify. Any one group that makes claim to be the spokesperson for Christianity is exhibiting both arrogance and ignorance. What we are learning in the ecumenical movement is that there is no Christian position but rather a number of positions: Coptic, Orthodox, Roman, Anabaptist, Fundamentalist, Evangelical, Conservative, Liberal to name but a few.

As I participate in the Chaplains' Association on campus, with its openness to inclusion of other faith traditions, I am learning that co-operation does not mean uniformity. Our respect for each others' traditions and ministries with an openness to critical examination of our own presuppositions is what builds co-operation. This makes for a lively and ever-evolving dialogue where all are mutually transformed. The beginning of such a dialogue is the awareness that one speaks out of a particular tradition and set of presuppositions within the whole. The claim to be without presuppositions or the claim to be able to speak for the whole without prejudice is foolish and imperious. It is important then when we advertise or represent ourselves that we make clear what tradition we speak out of

or from which group we come.

The aim of education should be the ability to make finer and finer distinctions while growing in appreciation and understanding of the whole. I hope, irrespective of tradition, we might share in this educational enterprise.

Shalom,
 Rev. Daniel H. Bogert-O'Brien

Ed. note: At present, The Gateway does not require that sponsors be identified in the ads.

Integrate in-school training

Re: Expand education experience (Jan. 31)

Thank-you for your reply to the letter of Jan. 24, 1989 (Education lacking). We feel we must in turn reply to your letter. We are aware of the Volunteer Teaching program offered by the E.S.A. The benefits that students could gain by being a part of such a program are tremendous. We find no fault in your program; in fact, we have been members of numerous similar programs in the past. What Lisa Hart and myself are attempting to do is to convince the Faculty of Education to provide additional in-school experiences within our degree program.

We feel that these additional experiences are crucial to our professional development and should be a part of our degree requirements. The Faculty of Education should not be dependent upon a volunteer organization to complete our development as teachers. We pay a substantial registration fee and expect top quality education.

Another point that we would like to make is that, while the Volunteer Teaching Program is terrific, it is not directly linked to our university course material. In addition to more in-school experiences, we are asking that those experiences be integrated with our theory courses. This integration would provide us with a more cohesive and enriched education.

We commend you for attempting to fill the gaps in our education by providing the Volunteer Teaching Program and we encourage all students to participate in it, for the benefits are countless.

Nevertheless, we caution the Faculty not to depend on volunteer organizations as a means of 'cutting corners.' The Faculty of Education must provide more in-school experiences, integrated with course material, within our degree program.

If there are any students who wish to show support for such a policy we urge you to sign the petition in the Main Lounge of Education, during most noon hours. Thirty seconds of your time could result in EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Marcia Penner
 Elementary Education III
 Lisa Hart
 Elementary Education III

HUB less smelly

I'm sick and tired of hearing Artsie type people whining about the changes to HUB mall. Before the renovations HUB was dirty, ugly, noisy, crowded and smelly. Now the mall is still crowded and noisy — but it is not as dirty and ugly and even smells better. What's the problem?

Bruce Beingsner

