

Editorial

Female perspective: rape

A girl walked across a parking lot on Thursday night about 9:00 p.m. She was walking to her car, parked on Saskatchewan Drive. Two men came out of the Mechanical Engineering building and hooted at her. She was suddenly afraid as she realized how vulnerable she was.

This was the experience of a Gateway volunteer on her way home from a meeting. She told this story when we were talking about last Friday's "Women Unite: Take Back the Night" walk.

Her experience was a common one. While many women have experienced the fear of suddenly being alone at night and being followed by a man, many women also experience the horror of rape.

Few people realize the extent of violence against women. Rape is not reserved for women "who ask for it" or who wear sexy clothes or who are young and attractive. Jane Carstaedt, the director of the Sexual Assault Centre says "I have known women who have been raped in every possible situation in their lives." That means in cars, in their homes, at work, by their dates, by their husbands.

No wonder women are scared. One in three women will be raped sometime in her life. Even if women take precautions they cannot predict every dangerous situation, and police and the courts cannot punish offences that are often never reported.

What needs to change are attitudes. Sex is not a power trip. Too many normal, respectable people think masculine power is connected to sexual aggressiveness. And rape is not a crime of passion: it is a crime of violence, of oppression. Rape does not happen because men cannot control themselves or because women want it. A man rapes a woman to assert his power over her.

Men have to realize the fear their mothers, wives, sisters and girlfriends live with because of this notion of sex as power. Rapists often kill their victims but the vulnerability and humiliation are what women fear most about men invading their bodies.

If men could realize that women are people, not objects, and understand their fear, then perhaps women won't have to feel as if rape is their problem alone.

When our volunteer got to her car, she realized that the guys who hooted at her were only having fun and had gone to their own car.

But there is no way she could have known they were harmless. A woman has to assume the worst in a hostile world.

Ann Grever

Tequila

How can a potion as noble as tequila be so blatantly misunderstood? Is there some international conspiracy to suppress tequila consumption? Who is responsible?

As the answers to these questions are revealed it becomes obvious that it is just plain ignorance that is at the root of man's failure to appreciate tequila.

Because of this ignorance, tequila has become a beverage on the fringe of social acceptance. The tequila drinker is stereotyped as the completely shit-faced zombie, unable to control even the most basic bodily functions. Said drinker is frowned upon, and the moment that his peers realize the nature of the broth he consumes, he is shunned and ridiculed. This, my friends, is a tragedy.

So let us get a few facts straight and dismiss some of the myths that have spread due to decades of ignorance:

Myth #1: Hangovers from tequila are known to have killed thousands and rank second only to heart disease as the leading cause of death in Mexican and Central American communities. The fact of the matter is that tequila hangovers have caused no fatalities. However, those in the throes of such a hangover have often prayed that it would.

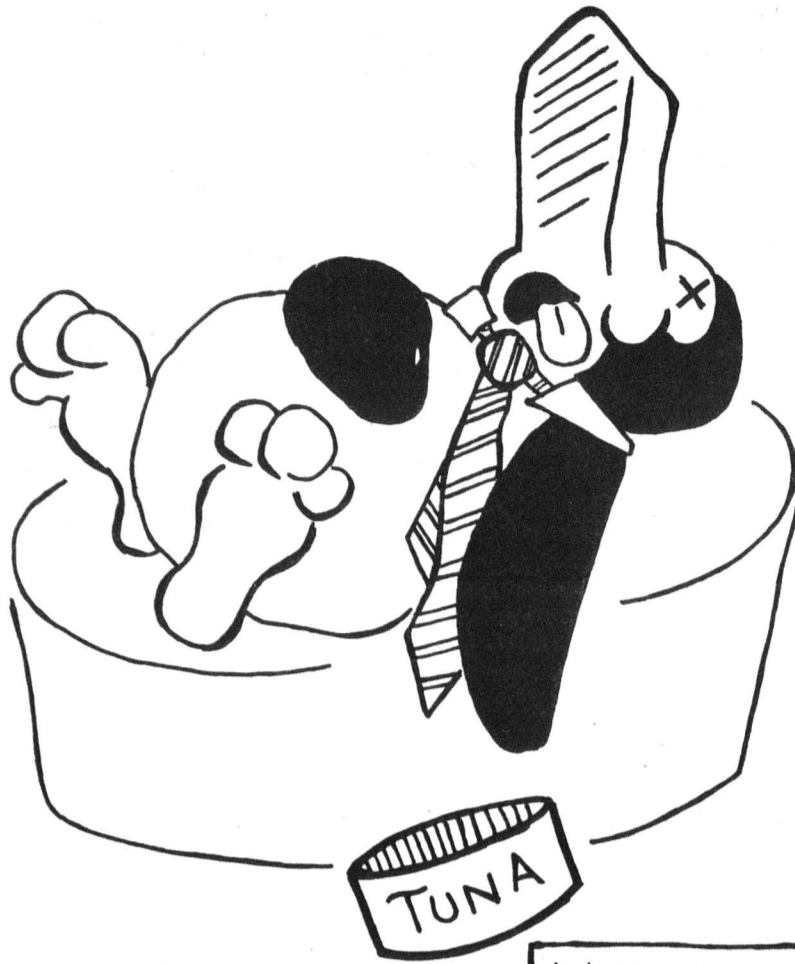
Myth #2: Tequila guzzlers can barely perform even the simplest task after they have imbibed large quantities of the "milk of Mexico." This is absurd. I defy any beer swilling bozo to perform the intricate operation of the tequila shot (lick a dash of salt off the left hand, shoot the tequila, and suck on a lemon wedge) after a few beers. Such a procedure takes timing, dexterity, and above all, talent that the average plebian drinker just does not have.

Myth #3: Tequila tastes like gasoline, only it tastes much worse. This too is a bald-faced lie. It actually tastes more like Pine-Sol than gasoline (although Esso 2000 does vaguely taste like the holy agave worm found at the bottom of some tequila bottles).

So come on folks, get a grip, drink tequilla. Never again do I want to hear some chain smoking no-mind ask me "How can you drink that stuff, it'll kill you?" Never again do I want to see fellow tequila drinkers forced into the dark, outer reaches of parties just to ply their mind-altering trade. This ignorance that has stained tequila's reputation for so many years must stop.

So jump on to the tequila train. We, as citizens of Earth, are heading towards a future where tequila is welcomed into all social circles. A future where presidential toasts will no longer be complete without a shaker of salt and lemon wedge. A future where tequila is the essential life blood of every man's, woman's, and child's existence. Yes, I have a dream.

Jose Cuervo as dictated to Mark Spector



WITH LAVISH APOLOGIES
TO BERKE BREATHED

DON F. GATEWAY '85

Letters to the Editor

Stamp appreciation

The 1985 Terry Fox Run enjoyed greater participation than in any previous year. This is due mainly to media coverage which promoted the memory of Terry Fox and the run itself. I would like to thank the 1200+ participants who raised more than \$70,000 to combat cancer.

I could not have done the job that I did without the endorsement of the Students' Council and the support of the President of the University of Alberta. Dr. Horowitz was one of our best volunteers; he, along with three Students' Union Executive members and thirty volunteers managed to keep the participants happy and the day running smoothly. I would like to thank the volunteers from the St. John's Ambulance and from the Community Police Network for the coverage of the route itself. A special thanks to the Edmonton City Police for their efforts in traffic control.

I would like to thank Palm Dairies, General Foods, Coca-Cola and 630 CHED for the refreshments donated to the participants. Other sponsors included U of A printing services, the Four Seasons Hotel, Labatt's Breweries, the U of A Bookstore, Chateau Gai Wines, and the Canadian Cancer Institute. The list of national corporate sponsors has been acknowledged many times so I won't list them here.

Cancer is a disease which can be beaten. The list of diseases which mankind has beaten is long; however when I know teenagers who have died from cancer, the list is not yet long enough. I hope to see you out there next year, and once again I thank everyone who helped out this year.

Edmonton Run Coordinator
Gordon Stamp

Sex: maybe baby

Late this August, I went down to the Bookstore to see what it had to offer before the lineups of fall. One of the interesting items I found there was a small booklet, for only \$1.00, by one of our own professors (Dr. Christensen) entitled "Pornography: the other side".

Its purpose was to present the *third* side to the dispute over sexually-oriented material: where most people were divided into two camps, one saying "Pornography is bad and should be censored", and another saying "Yes, pornography is bad, but censorship is more dangerous", the question of whether pornography, broadly defined, is really the menace it is cracked up to be is not addressed.

In general, its arguments were quite sound, and brought up some facts about male sexuality that are too often forgotten in discussions on these and related issues. However, I found two oversights in it that I think should bear some public discussion.

Although the issue of censorship, as such, was beyond the scope of the essay, an argument in that area was given: evidence that non-violent pornography is not harmful was cited, and, given that a basic democratic principle is that only genuinely harmful acts may be outlawed, even by majority vote, it was concluded that censorship in this area would be undemocratic. Unfortunately, only the conclusion that such censorship is *unwise* can be supported by the evidence. After all, in democracy, the question of who is competent to decide questions of fact such as "Is pornography harmful?" is also subject to majority vote. Scientists are, after all, a self-appointed elite: giving them a veto power over proposed legislation is not in the blueprint for democracy. In any event, allowing the scientific community to decide on whether or not acts are harmful, and therefore subject to prohibition, would not achieve Dr. Chris-

The Gateway

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The annual convention for the spontaneously combustible opened with a spectacular fireworks display. Patrick Maguire exploded in a glorious blaze, followed by Rod Campbell, Blaine Ostrapovich, Ashram Mustrapha, John Charles, Virginia Gillese, Gilbert Bouchard, Don Teplyske, Rosa Jackson, and Susan Atkins. Hans Beckers was a little slow setting off, but hot on his heels were Gord Stech, Paul Simao, Tim Kihn, Robert Filipchuk, Gary Kirk, Siobhan Hanley, Don Filipchuk, Edna Landreville, Vince Byfield, Greg McHarg, Lutfulkabar Khan, and Tim Hellum. Alex Miller just fizzled, and Pernell Tarnowski surprised everyone by pulling a rabbit out of a hat.