

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.

CN safety hit-and-miss

Last week, Justice Rene Foisly made a series of recommendations based on the findings of a study done on last February's Hinton rail disaster. Foisly found an abundance of irresponsibility surrounding the crash, such examples as the crew's failure to follow operating rules, lack of sleep, inadequate safety controls on trains, and poor supervision.

Mechanical failure was not the cause of the crash, says Foisly, human error was.

Of course, one of the industry's main unions, the United Transportation Union, is outraged at such a suggestion. How, they wonder, can you blame the disaster on the poor overworked employees?

Foisly has ordered Canada's railway and associated unions to whip things back into shape within sixty days. That will be a challenge. How do you dig yourself out of a rut the depths of the one apathy has dug?

Anyone who has ridden a train, or for that matter worked for a government agency, will know what I mean. You start off paid well, supervision is slack, and you are not motivated to do a hard day's work. Coffee breaks and lunches get longer, you get bored, start yawning, and get tired. It's a ruthless cycle, and before you know it you resent getting out of bed in the morning.

While workers who are softened by years of laziness seem to be the problem, it is not all their fault. The lethargy trickles down from Parliament, where budgets are cut while civil servants grow fatter. Who wouldn't go astray with such an example of leadership?

Foisly is right; management is the real problem. Until the rail system takes on some discipline, safety will continue to be hit-and-miss affair.

Greg Halinda

ALAS POOR EDUCATION,
FOR I KNEW
IT WELL!



Letters

Incomplete coverage

To the Editor:

The apparent brevity in John Watson's 'Council votes for raising tuition fee', January 22 deserves some comments. Of particular concern is the lack of in-depth coverage pertaining to the subject from a comprehensive, (though not necessary critical) perspective. As the subject becomes increasingly controversial, a more detailed analysis of the issue would be appreciated. Any omissions would not be in the interests of the uninformed readers. I understand that Watson was limited in available time to accomplish the above mentioned article but I sincerely wish that in upcoming issues, the Gateway would cover the background facts and arguments leading up to the eventual passage of the well-mentioned motion.

A note of reminder, if I am not mistaken, there exists a valid S.U. policy which opposes tuition fee increases.

Needless to say, opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are those of the individual writers, and their interpretation of the passage of the motion does not necessarily reflect the view of the Gateway. However, there are cases where such individual's evaluation of the issue have not only been misleading but also inaccurate. For the sake of clarification, I would urge the S.U. executives to express their official stance in a statement on the subject.

Last but not least, I have reservations about the mandate of the motion and am in favour of the referendum regarding the zero tuition fee increase policy.

Ken Hui
Science III

Knee jerk reaction

To the Editor:

RE: Madrid Smith's letter on Racist Engineers.

I have no doubt that Africa is a continent full of rich and diverse cultures and there are few engineers, Mineral or otherwise, that would dispute the fact. Mr/s. Smith points out that the Mineral Engineering poster could only be the product of an unenlightened university population. Con-

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trary to her/his remarks, this university does offer courses on African culture including: ANTHR 383 Peoples and Cultures of Western Africa, ANTHR 384 Peoples and Cultures on Eastern and Southern Africa, and ANTHR 385 African Culture and Art.

As culturally rich as Africa is, it appears to be a continent devoid of satire. The Mineral Engineering poster was intended as such and was not meant to reflect engineers' biases or to offend African students. A knee-jerk reaction by Madrid Smith could well have been directed toward The Far Side or Herman, both of which have satirized the same subject.

Mr/s. Smith jumped to the conclusion that the dark figures on the poster were Africans. They could have been from New Guinea where some of few cultures, that practice cannibalism, still exist. In addition, there is at least one African culture, the Kuru of East Africa's highlands, that still practices cannibalism to some degree.

Before Mr/s. Smith starts to criticize again, I would recommend s/he do some reading. In this case, a university calendar, a book on Stone-age Cultures, and a cartoon strip would have prevented her/his ridiculous letter.

Michael Perlette
Mineral Engineering III

Next time stay later

To the Editor:

RE: Bowers and "Furious" on liquor.

It seems that whenever fraternities make the news it is in a negative manner. Mr. Bower's letter on the availability of non-alcoholic beverages at Delta Kappa Epsilon parties has only served to worsen the image of fraternities.

His letter complains that while at a Deke party he was allowed only one non-alcoholic beverage, since "it was being saved for mix". Mr. Bowers, however, fails to note one interesting fact. At that particular party we ran out of both CO2 and the syrup mix. This is why he was given only one serving of pop.

Delta Kappa Epsilon in no way condones or promotes alcohol abuse. In no way do we attempt to dissuade non-drinkers from attending our parties. Non-alcoholic bev-

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verages are free at all our open parties, as they have always been. We also do not place a limit on the consumption of pop, or "save it for mix", unless we are running out of it.

Had Mr. Bowers stayed at our party that evening for a little while longer he would have found that we had obtained full canisters for our pop machine and that we would have been more than happy to serve him with as many non-alcoholic beverages as he desired. Perhaps then he would not have been so quick to vent his mistaken opinion and further tarnish the image of fraternities at the University of Alberta.

Hugh Douglas Babowal
Arts II

Sullied image?

To the Editor:

RE: Business Week.

We're annoyed. Not angry, not militant, just annoyed. Two separate events on Thursday, January 22 caused our annoyance.

We understand fully that the discussion rooms on 2nd floor of the Winspear Reading Room are for discussion. Even Arts students understand this. Nonetheless, we feel we must protest the level of noise created by overzealous Business students in this area. This area is also set aside for quiet study, and some consideration for those of us who were ATTEMPTING to study would have been appreciated.

It is the opinion of the writers of this letter, that social functions are essential components of any course of University study. It is not the intent of the writers to malign the institution known as "BEER GARDENS". However, the inexplicable establishment of the Business Week Beer Gardens in the interconnecting passageway between the Tory and Business buildings, was a typical example of inept planning, an inexcusable lack of consideration, and incomprehensibly atrocious timing.

Once again, the noise level created by rambunctious Business students interfered with classes taking place in the Tory Building. One professor was obliged to dismiss his class a full 40 minutes early, since he was unable to be heard above the continuous din.

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The Gateway

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