

Listings



The Round Corner By Greg Whiting

Letters cont'd. from pg. 4

B. Bennett are largely responsible for this (i.e. all depends upon the education budget).

Perhaps the effects of funding cuts are not obvious to students here, but please be assured that if they became reality in Alberta, U of A students would really suffer. That is the truth. I am disappointed that there are students' council members who do not support their own cause. Anyone who does may wish to express the need for proper funding by writing Mr. Dave Russell, Minister of Advanced Education, 323 Legislative Building.

Cameron Wakefield

The real world

To The Editor:

I wish to comment on your article, appearing in the Gateway on November 20th entitled, "Education Students Angry Over Marks." To "Tim" and the rest of the petition signers — Welcome to the real world! As one of your professors stated, this is not high school, not only are you marked on your own performance but also how it relates to your colleagues. When you signed up to center these hallowed halls you knew, or soon were going to find out, that the marking system used most frequently is the bell curve. Contrary to your belief, most teachers from kindergarten on up mark you in relation to the other students. The bell curve in university forces you to work in "Mickey Courses" in order to get a 4, generally considered a passing grade, while correcting for extremely difficult course where the class average is in the 30% range (talk to any engineering students if you want examples of this.) The one major problem with the bell curve system, however, if used in a strict sense is that it needs large class sizes to work properly. This system is generally considered invalid in class sizes under 30 people. In the working world, you are evaluated against is-workers more often than on an individual bases, it's only human nature to compare one person to another. So face it people, no matter where you hide, the Bell Curve will get you!

Karen Wronko
Agriculture II

Leftist U of A

To The Editor:

I'm sure that I'm not the first student to notice that our university, in comparison to the public, is more than a little bit left-wing and liberal. Letters to the Editor are continuously condemning Reagan's administration, Alberta's right-wing labor laws, and Canada's ambiguous policy on nuclear weapons, to name but a few examples. We dismiss our Western leaders as uncaring and neo-fascist. We state that "it's time to change."

Most of the time I agree with these attitudes, but I can't

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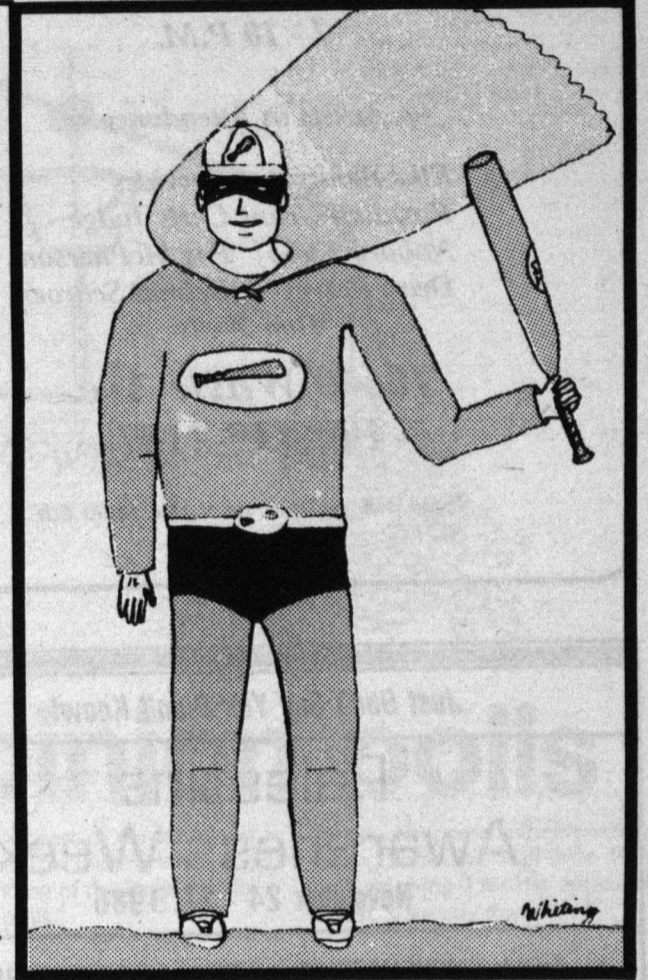
help but be skeptic about myself, and possibly also my fellow students. From what I seem to understand, this anti-establishment university attitude is not something new. Post-secondary students have complained about society's right-wing policies since the end of World War II, but yet we still complain today as if we were citizens of a dictatorship. Are we perhaps being a little too critical?

I can't help but wonder why we are so condemnatory of the "establishment" when our leaders are thirty years older than we, and have more than likely experienced the same left-wing university tendencies when they were our age. How can we constantly condemn a leader who has seen and experienced more than you, I, or any other student on campus? I will be the first to agree that the U.S. should stay out of Nicaragua, but can I call Reagan an idiot for taking the opposite view? He knows more about the subject than I will ever know, and his opinions carry far more responsibility than my whimsical ones.

I am not saying, however, that we should not strive for change. It is healthy for us to point out and realize what is wrong, and try to change it to what is right. But this continuous condemning, judging, and name-calling has got to stop. If we achieve inner peace of mind, we will be able to change this world for the better without stomping on our opposition's face. Who am I to call Reagan a fool when I don't even know what countries lie beside Nicaragua? At the risk of sounding like a holy roller, I would like to use the example of Jesus to best illustrate my point. He was the most perfect human being to live, and yet He still hung out with the worst of men, wanting them only to change their ways and achieve inner peace of mind. He did not judge, criticize or condemn, and yet he has affected our world more than any other human being. Change, whether it comes on a classroom-sized or world wide scale, comes from within the individual.

But then again, I'm just as bad for criticizing the way we condemn others. I may be being a little too idealistic, but this is just food for thought and I welcome all rebuttals.

M. Borger
Science II



Batman.

ON FLY & WALK THE

J. Dylan

It is getting harder and harder to find a photo-copier without a line of people in front of it. The other day I was in the education library to photo copy some periodicals I need for a paper. The copying machine was, of course, very busy. The girl using it when I arrived was wearing a mini-skirt and high heeled shoes, standard dress for the middle of November. I don't think she knew what she was doing. The first print she received was of half a page, so she adjusted the book she was copying and pushed the button and received a quarter of a page print. She got pretty mad at this point, but she calmed down when the guy behind her offered to help. He adjusted her book, and pushed the button and out came a perfect copy. She asked him to show her again and he did, and she got another good copy, but then he said that she should do it so she would know how to use the machine. So she turned the page of her book and placed it on the machine and pushed down on the book so there would be no curved letters on her copy, and pushed the button, and out came half a page again. No wonder there is always a long line behind the copying machine.

Watch for scads of humor in the upcoming issue of **The Getaway** Dec. 10... Don't miss it!

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