

Don't get stung by the plagiarism-ray

THE WORLD IS IN MOURNING, AND IT'S NO wonder why. Australian animal lover Steve Irwin, better known as the Crocodile Hunter, has met his end, stung in the heart by one of the many dangerous creatures he spent his life surveying in the wild. And despite his propensity for taunting the hapless beasts, police say there's no evidence Irwin provoked the stingray, whose deadly barb pierced his chest, causing his untimely demise.

The 44-year-old Crocodile Hunter's legendary status exists because he undertook the not-so-noble tasks of wrestling crocodiles and facing off against poisonous snakes—not to mention the time he put his month-old son into his path of self-destruction as he fed a 13-foot crocodile in front of a crowd of onlookers at an Australian zoo.

Irwin's final stunt, caught on tape during the filming of a new TV series, was the last episode in a lifetime of cheating death. It was a fitting end indeed, as there comes a time in every man's life when he just has to die.

Let this be a lesson to you, dear students, because life in academia plays to a similar tune. Undoubtedly, over the course of the past couple of days, each new professor in each new classroom has given you the same spiel on the rules and regulations of academia, and perhaps they seemed to overemphasize the consequences of breaking the cardinal rule: plagiarize and your time at university is immediately over.

Some rules are meant to be broken, like when your mother tells you not to eat fudge for breakfast or when you spend the entire day in bed because you're busy, uh, sleeping. Other more serious offences, like driving 30km over the speed limit because you were rocking out to your favourite band on the first sunny day after a long, depressing winter, can be rectified by paying a hefty fine. However, storing forbidden notes on your fancy calculator before a dreaded mid-term exam or buying an essay off the Internet because you decided to get drunk the night before it was due are evil doings that will get you more than just a slap on the wrist. It may seem harsh, but you won't get any second chances and it will ruin your personal credibility, maybe for a lifetime.

So if you didn't learn anything watching Steve Irwin on the Discovery Channel, at least learn this: some risks aren't worth taking. In conclusion, if you want your university career to survive, don't cheat. Otherwise, you may end up getting impaled by a stingray. Or, you know, expelled.

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Managing Editor

End of WOW will be a welcome relief

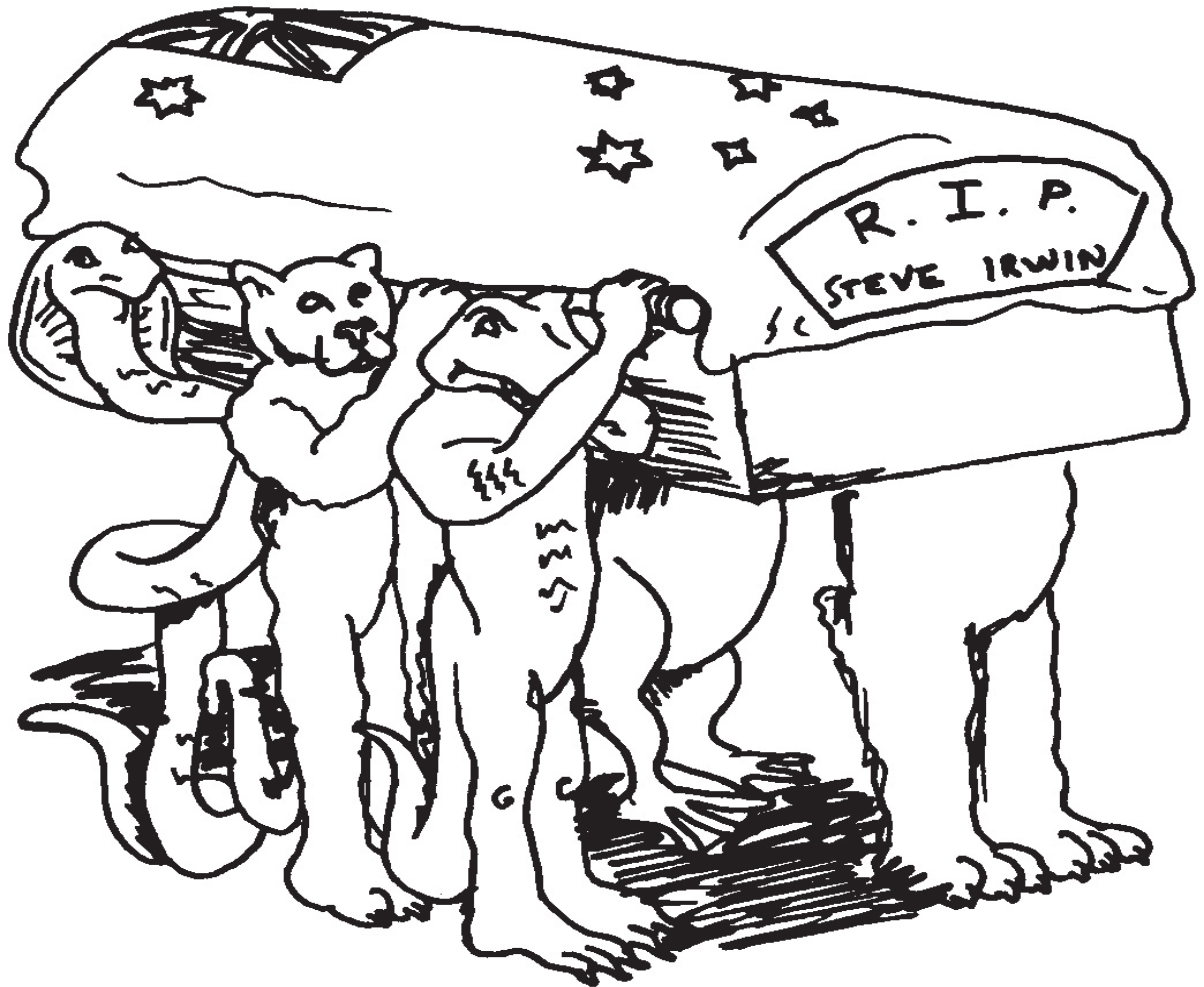
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT THE POINT OF OUR University's Annual Week of Welcome (WOW) was to welcome students to campus. But anyone who's attempted to navigate their way through Quad or SUB during this hectic time can attest, this is emphatically not how most students feel.

I've got nothing against the myriad student groups and organizations—the Gateway proudly among them—that dot the still-summery landscape during WOW, and I can't stress enough the importance of extra-curricular activities for making new friends and breaking away from the often gruelling travails of academic life.

The problem is that for every honest volunteer recruitment table, there's some greedy, unaffiliated corporation, utilities company or drinking establishment that's looking to fast-talk the bright-eyed first-years into some contract or other.

You can't even make it to your next class without juggling an armload of brochures, coupons and three-year contracts. More often than not, however, this crap ends up all over the ground, presumably to be swept up once WOW finally, mercifully wraps up. Welcome to university indeed.

ADAM GAUMONT
Opinion Editor



12/06

LETTERS

Insite an important step in Canada's fight against drug addiction

I want to congratulate you on a great article detailing the issues about Insite (re: "Safe-injection sites too effective to shoot down," 31 August). Thankfully it seems that the Conservatives have chosen sanity over politics for a few more months at least. Projects like Insite are essential if drug users are to have any way to change their lives. Of course it is great to have good treatment option available for people as well—I have no quarrel with those who remind us of our paltry investments in such services. We should at least ensure that people who use drugs have the means to stay alive until society is more responsive to their complex predicament.

BILL NELLES
Qualicum Drug Treatment Centre
Qualicum, BC

Safe-injection sites not the only answer

Your article on safe-injection sites shows the evidence is in and the sites are very effective. What's missing from your analysis are other alternatives. Just because SISs are better than nothing does not mean they are the best of many alternatives for handling addicts.

The government owes it to the taxpayers to look for the best method for dealing with addicts in major centers,

not just the first one to be endorsed overwhelmingly by insiders.

JOHN MCMURRAY
Alumnus

Cardboard comic crass

I just transferred from the University of Waterloo to the U of A, and I happened to pick up last Thursday's issue (31 August)—the orientation issue, of course—of the Gateway.

Overall my impressions were very favorable—I have to say, you guys assemble a very slick publication here—but one thing struck me as odd. That one thing is Mr Shostak's "Cardboard Constabulary" comic on page 28; this dumb little number not only flies in the face of the time, money and volunteer efforts put into this year's orientation, but also manages to fit in a jab at homosexuals in general—all in four succinct frames.

I've been on the editorial boards of a high school and university-level newspaper, and I've never seen an EiC approve something so counter-productive and blatantly discriminatory. For an "orientation" issue this Gateway failed miserably at welcoming the new student body with fair, inclusive language, let alone showing evidence of social tolerance.

My only hope is that Shostak isn't a regular contributor, or that at the very least he'll consider the appropriateness of his next comic. Suffice it to say that at this rate the Gateway's editorial board isn't one that I'd consider joining any time soon.

STEVE EDGE
Arts I

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any

letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters should include the name, student ID number, program and year of study to be considered.

LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

U of A not the bastion of gender equality that it claims to be

So, I understand this attitude is reflective of a number of individuals (ie men) who attend the University of Alberta, a university which claims, quote, to be an "equal-opportunities university," so much so that the idea of the freedom of private enterprise is so cherished that the manager of the drug store in a student-owned housing unit can openly violate something which is antithetical to the Bill of Human Rights—ie the direct exploitation of a woman to sell his product, which happens to be in this case a \$1.75 issue of Playboy.

To many women, the idea of a woman as an object is repulsive. We are not chattel; [not] something to be owned and petted. We are not playmates or playthings. Further, a society which requires a rake-off from the sale of cigarettes, the sale of liquor and the sale of over one half of humanity's population is a sick society. We are not equitable with booze and tobacco.

It would be a difficult if not insurmountable endeavour to evoke a change in attitude for the total society, but in an institution where liberal, idealistic and intelligent individuals exist, one would hope women would be recognized on an equal basis with their male counterparts.

The University of Alberta is not an equal-opportunities university. What its advocates espouse is hypocrisy. The courses relating to women have been severely cut back this year and inadequate counselling is still a problem.

Some people suggest we stop bitching and channel our energies into other areas. Who knows, then perhaps our upcoming sisters will have a choice of a course in Exercise Physiology for the Development of the Mammary Glands, or in other words, how to whittle your waist, reduce your hips and increase the size of your boobs so that perhaps you will achieve the envied (?) status of Playboy's Playmate of the Month. Hang in there, sisters.

MARGARET OSEEN
4 December, 1975

From the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just really hilarious.