

# Get ready to Skulk



ROBB  
MYROON

we mustn't get distracted with such details as the third week of January quickly approaches. Now it's time for everyone else to learn what this is all about, and not turn their heads away from what is currently known only as a bizarre group of Listerites running around and acting ridiculous.

This week-long affair combines intense events, outrageous challenges and more heart from every member in Henday than you'll see all year into a magic concoction that would impress even the mad Dr Strangelove. Not only do they show perseverance by "pitching a tent," staying out on the cold ice every night, all night—they show us the importance of every team member.

Now that we've roasted all of our chestnuts over the now-dying open fire, Saint Nick has gone home for another round of elf cutbacks and all of the sugarplums are no longer dancing in our heads, a special time of year is upon us. While for many the upcoming season brings with it late nights and the stresses of school, a select few prepare themselves for a far more important and secret event. If you listen hard enough, you can hear the whisper across the halls: Skulk is coming.

I know what most of you are thinking: Skulk is just some dumb Lister thing—or to be more specific, some dumb Henday thing. But I dare you to read on. I dare you to not turn away before seeing what it truly is. Because Skulk isn't just some game the Listerites play; they don't simply go home afterwards and giggle in a circle about how Patrick looked so foolish playing Twister next to Tara. For one week, Skulk is life. Everything else comes secondary, your sole purpose of existence being to further gain points for your floor.

People are no longer known by their names—they're a floor, creating a bonding experience stronger than anything their first-year ECON classes can deliver. Perhaps it tears apart inter-floor relationships, but

Skulk is kicked off with a Sunday volleyball tournament, setting the stage for the rest of the week. Various other contests are held throughout as well. Last year saw the casino night, in which floors began with a certain stake at the beginning of a three-hour session, with the winner finishing with the most money, even if you were in the hole. Pitching a Tent is also a popular event, in which one member from the floor must be on the Lister rink at all times through the night, with intermediate challenges every three hours, such as dodge ball accuracy and a macaroni eating contest. Other events from the previous year include a head-to-head *Dance Dance Revolution* playoff and a 40-person game of Twister.

Skulk may—or may not, I'm not committing to anything—create appalling acts of teamwork around campus, but it will be teamwork nonetheless. Love it or hate it, but Skulk is coming.

## LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

However, it is obvious that some students have a dangerously narrow and ignorant perspective on real issues plaguing modern humanity and have turned a possibly beneficial solution into a frivolous conflict between rich and poor.

JENNIFER FORSYTHE  
Arts I

## Vive la France—et sa système d'éducation

A little perspective on the right to an education issue: I obtained a master's degree from Sorbonne in Paris because in France education is a universal right. On average I paid 500 euros per year compared to the \$10 000 that I will have paid at the end of my two-year after-degree.

Far from complaining, I enjoy being a student at the U of A. Nonetheless I am eternally grateful to France for providing me with an affordable opportunity to earn a degree at one of the world's most illustrious and prestigious universities. Back in Alberta, this left-winger still clings to the ideal that higher education should be open to all regardless of income. If this makes me a "raging socialist" so be it.

CHANTELL ARCAND  
Education III

## Book drive not all it's cracked up to be

It's unfortunate that students are being essentially misled by the posters around campus for the book drive. If you read the small print at the bottom, it says the books are going to Better World Books. A little Googling shows that they donate a portion (and it doesn't say what portion, is it 50 per cent or one per cent?) of their proceeds to their charitable partners,

and that they are a social enterprise. This is code for "For Profit Business." There is nothing wrong with having a business, but it's dishonest to tell students you're donating the books to poor people in Africa when in reality most are sold, and most of the rest recycled. Incidentally, Better World Books doesn't publish the salaries of its founders. So who benefits? Students should ask.

MICHAEL BUMSTEAD  
Engineering III

## Getaway no Gateway

I write this hoping that some hoax has been played on the University of Alberta. I hope that the Gateway edition placed in the business building is a dreadful hoax done by people who lack intelligence [sic] and respectability.

If it is not a hoax than something is wrong in the editorial staff of the Gateway. There is no excuse for the content and language used. If there was a point literate people would know how to be clear, forceful, but not completely offensive. If you want to be funny, be funny.

ALBERT JAMES  
MBA I

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, sent via carrier owl or e-mailed to [letters@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto: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, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.

## LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Campus riot all in good fun

The editorial, "Campus Riot," which appeared in the Gateway on Tuesday, 17 November, calls for comment. Firstly, the tone of the editorial was certainly not in tune with the events of last Friday. An Engineering banner was placed on the Medical building with the intent of starting up once more the friendly rivalry between Engineers and Meds which used to flourish. Their sporting instinct aroused, the Meds accepted the challenge. What followed is known to the student body—an enthusiastic fight, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part in it.

Through its misleading editorial, the Gateway seems bent in creating the erroneous impression that malice and ill-will prevailed. "Enmity" did not foster the outburst—it was spontaneous, and in the cause of good clean fun. The general reading public is quite tolerant of an occasional flare-up in the student ranks, and if the facts were reported accurately, it could have formed no false impressions of life on the campus. Rather, the impression would be false if it were led to believe that the student body were devoid of life and a taste for excitement.

The policy of the Gateway comes to light in its editorials—surely it should lean to the intellectual and more important side of campus life rather than to censor and enforce student discipline.

JE POOLE  
24 November 1936



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