

A few of our favorite words

You can't say shit, piss, fuck, cunt, cocksucker, motherfucker, tits, turd, or twat on television, but you bet your balls we can print them in the *Gateway*



OPINION
STAFF

Group
Commentary

Ever since you were first introduced to the word *fuck* in the third grade, swearing has, no doubt, been a very important part of your vernacular. Whether you curse like a sailor or self-consciously blush and say “darn,” cussing is damn near everywhere—hell, this paper’s chock-full of them in any given issue.

That’s why we decided to take the time to give our favorite dirty words the recognition and support they deserve. So if you’re the type of person that gets all kinds of squirmy-uncomfortable when they hear someone swear, you can go get the mouth-soap ready for the rest of us when it’s finished.

Theresa Jahraus

The debate over which swear is best is likely to be centred on what sounds most dirty or profane. Things like “motherfucker” and “asswipe” may sound crude, but that’s merely a superficial aspect of what makes a good curse. Like being called a stupid-head by a seven-year-old, these profanities just don’t have any meat to them. For a swear to be truly great, you must be able to pack the most bang for your buck, so to speak. Enter *douche*.

The term *douche* is loosely defined as a stream or jet of water that is applied to a body cavity for hygienic purposes. In general, however, douching tends to be more specifically known as a “vaginal lavage.” That’s right: cleaning out a vajayjay. Now you’re getting squirmy and uncomfortable. Perfect.

But it doesn’t end there. Douching isn’t actually something that’s highly recommended on a routine basis. Its excessive cleaning powers tend to remove things that are supposed to be there, and all sorts of unpleasant-aries can result.

Just imagine the satisfaction there is to be had: calling someone a *douche* is not only comparing them to the nastiest of the nasty, you’re also saying that they’re completely inept as well. Now that’s adding insult to injury.

And if the object of your onslaught doesn’t quite grasp the full implications of the word, you can bask in a quiet satisfaction similar to that of serving someone chocolate-covered beetles while telling them it’s some exotic nut. Let’s see *bastard* top that.

Victor Vargas

Swear words like *bitch* and *fuck* have been overused, and have lost most of the power they once had as a result. A lot of them have been shortened to abbreviations—especially *whore*, which has now been reduced to resemble Santa Clause’s jolly laugh—and with the rise of the Internet age, every word seems to have been condensed into pathetic little acronyms like FU.

Now that they’re so clichéd, these words are more like mosquito bites than a sharp thrust into the ego of

the human soul. In contrast, *motherfucker* has remained the bunker-buster of potty-mouthed wordsmiths everywhere.

Motherfucker is unique in the land of swear words because it’s managed to survive the acronym massacre that our language has experienced in the information age. *Douchebag*’s been neutered and remains the pathetic, sullen *D-bag*, and even the mighty *what the fuck* has been reduced to Whiskey Tango Foxtrot. But shortening *motherfucker* is simply not an option. As hard as people try, you cannot reduce four syllables and twelve characters of absolute hatred into a couple of pathetic letters.

You can’t just say someone is a motherfucker: that person has to be the alpha of their group—by definition, they’re the mother of all fuckers. This is a word that’s reserved for only the most badass of people. For instance, John Travolta is a mother-fucking *poser*—he constantly plays villains and action heroes, despite being a singing, dancing, Saturday Night pretty boy at heart—whereas Samuel L Jackson just screams out “mess with me and you’re a dead man” simply because he is Samuel L motherfuckin’ Jackson.

In the end, you can call someone the bitch-sucking ho-bag of ultimate fucking, but only by calling them a motherfucker can you properly roll “Sir, I believe you have become Oedipus” into a pointed beam of pure malevolence. Now that’s just motherfucking badass.

Morgan Smith

Cunt. Say it with me. *Cuh-uhnt*. Hesitant to say it? Then you’ve already demonstrated why it’s my favourite cuss word—that is, it’s still a dang cuss word. Of all the swears, *nay* words, in the English language, *cunt* is hands down, bar none, the most powerful.

Think about the last time you were out in mixed company. How many times did you hear the word *fuck*? *Asshole*? *Bitch*? Now, can you recall the last time someone uttered *cunt*? Even amongst my godless cadre of bawdy profaniteers, when someone drops the C-bomb, people take notice.

With the ever-increasing moral decrepitude of popular culture, *cunt* still exists primarily in the realm of drunken teenagers telling off female bus drivers and only the nastiest of pornography.

No doubt part of the reason *fuck* is so popular is its versatility as a noun, verb and adjective. But *ass* is just as anatomically specific as *cunt* in that it refers to a specific body part—so why does *cunt* retain its potency as a filthy word?

Who cares? I like the word *cunt* because of how it sounds. You hear that harsh *cuh* and you know that it ain’t gonna end pretty. Then the *uhnt* comes roaring around the bend and your darkest fears are confirmed.

And let’s not forget the reason it’s a swear in the first place. There’s nothing like being in bed with someone when one of you growls the C-word through clenched teeth. It takes dirty sex to a whole other level of awesome. I like how I feel when I say it. No one can best *cunt* when it comes to sheer shock value and drama—*cunt* is tops.

Paul Blinov

Although not nearly the most offensive thing you can hear, *fuck* remains the Godfather of dirty words for me. It grants immediate satisfaction to its wielders, with the building slur of the “fuhhh” sound tightening into a whip-crack with the “ck” to reinforce whatever message you’re trying to convey, good or bad. It’s not particularly racist, sexist, or vulgar—it’s the Coke Classic of bad-boy attitude.

I still remember my introduction to the word: as a child, some older, cooler playground champ who was sitting atop the slide asked, “Are you allowed to say *fuck*?” Having never heard the word before, the eight-year-old me simply replied, “Fuck yeah!”

Fuck is a versatile word: it can be expressed in a joyous “Fuck yes,” a biting “Fuck you, man,” or maybe a somber “That’s fucked up.” No matter how you want to play it, it adds some serious punch to whatever it is that you’re saying.

Granted, *fuck* frequently gets over-used, especially when it peppers any of the above statements every single time they’re used. *Fuck*, like a fine shiraz, has to be saved for just the right moment to truly achieve its intended effect. Calling your friend a “fucker” in jest means little, but if you drop an F-bomb during a heated argument, suddenly it’s a big deal: you’ve just dealt him or her a powerful, toppling blow.

In grade school, I was always known as the goodie two-shoes who never swore, no matter how angry I was or how painful the stubbed toe. *Fuck* was my gateway into the wonderful world of verbal abuse; hence, it’s my pick. Just don’t overuse it.

Conal Piense

To claim that there is one, singular swear that stands out above the rest is a fallacy. Over-use of the word *fuck* has robbed it of most of its impact; *bitch* is practically a term of endearment; and *shit* has become so diluted that I wouldn’t even blink if I heard it dropped in a church. The only way to maintain the raw, savage intent of cursing is to frankenstein them together into the kind of word-poison that’d have your mother washing your mouth out with Javex.

Simply telling someone that they’re a whore or a slut is something they can brush off their shoulders, but call them a goddamn cock-thirsty fuck-trench, and you’ve got an insult that sticks. The key is to weave a visual tapestry with your words so that they can truly appreciate what a sorry bastard they are.

Instead of “you dirty bitch,” try “you shit-gargling scum-fuck.” Even something as simple as using an old swear in a new and inventive manner—for instance, “it was pretty cuntish of Lando to betray Han like that”—can add some extra punch to your cursing.

So next time you find yourself stringing your angry sentences together using *fuck* as the your sole building block, take a step back and try something new.

Tell Hank that you’ll tear out his goddamn heart and fuck his soul if he doesn’t finish his part of the group project, and let Suzie know that she’s leaking whore-sauce all over the dance floor and that it’s a goddamn health hazard—before you know it, people will know not to get downwind of your cuss stream.

NOTICE TO STUDENTS

Fee Payment Deadline September 28, 2007



AVOID LINE-UPS AND MAKE YOUR PAYMENT ON TIME.

Use internet or telephone banking to make a bill payment.

Available at RBC Royal Bank, BMO Bank of Montreal, CIBC, Scotiabank, TD Canada Trust, HSBC, ATB Financial, Canadian Western Bank, Servus Credit Union, and other Credit Unions

Visa, Mastercard & American Express payments can be made on the internet at www.financial.ualberta.ca.

Payments can be made by students and non-students. Receipts will be available for viewing online and will be emailed to the address provided.

Deposit a cheque in the drop box.

Located on the main floor of the Administration Building.

Pay with debit, cash, cheque, or money order at the cashiers wicket.

Located on the third floor of the Administration Building.

Need information on the amount you owe?

Visit www.financial.ualberta.ca and link to Student Tuition Payment Options & Student Account Balances.

Remember:

If you are an undergraduate student and have paid the \$175 confirmation deposit, deduct this amount from your timetable fee assessment when making your payment.

STUDENT RECEIVABLES

Financial Services, 3rd Floor Administration Building

STUDENTS' UNION COUNCILLOR BY-ELECTION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

SU COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES:

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY
& HOME ECONOMICS
Fawn Jackson

ARTS

Matt Trodden
Basil Bansal
Jake Troughton
Shad Thevenaz
Patrick Wisheu
Sean McQuillan
Jon Mastel
Jane Powell Leadbeater
Bryant Lukes
Caitlin Schulz

EDUCATION

Rachel Dunn

ENGINEERING

Steve Melenchuk
Abdul Doctor
Mark Hlady

MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

Bayan Hussein

NURSING

Natalie Cloutier

OPEN STUDIES

Mark Prokopiuk

SCIENCE

Bridget Casey
Karen Lawrence
John Braga
Mark Hnatiuk
Jordan Zhang
Dana Lee

GFC COUNCILLOR CANDIDATES:

AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY
& HOME ECONOMICS
George Reis
Taryn Ng

ARTS

Patrick Wisheu
Bryant Lukes
Alex Preston

BUSINESS

Yuri S. Broda

MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

Daisy Hartmann
Bayan Hussein

SCIENCE

Jane Kluk
Andrew Rogan
Karen Lawrence



WWW.SU.UALBERTA.CA/VOTE

THE STUDENTS' UNION IS HOLDING A COUNCILLOR BY-ELECTION
ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 & FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28.