

Stick it to the man—be obese



CONAL PIERSE

With Thanksgiving just passed, I'm left with fond memories of family togetherness and the irritable bowel that can only result when one eats enough turkey for six, then chokes back the vomit so that they can have pie. Sure it's hard work, but when you live on your own and you know for a fact that you're out of Chef Boyardee, you've got to eat when you can. Besides, those leftovers would only go to the less fortunate—and I do not support freeloaders.

As I sat there, barely conscious and unable to contribute much to conversation other than the occasional grunt of affirmation, I realized just how hard overeating is. It takes both dedication and gastrointestinal fortitude, whereas choosing not to eat is just lazy.

And if I were ever to protest an injustice, I wouldn't choose a hunger strike because that's the coward's way out. Any schmuck can chain themselves to a bed and say that they aren't going to eat; it takes stronger convictions to sit down at a buffet table and refuse to leave unless things change.

Not only would an obesity strike be just as grotesque, it inevitably has a longer as well as a stronger impact. As a man wastes away from hunger, he becomes weaker and easier to ignore—and if, after a few weeks, nobody intervenes, no more protester. However, a man can live for years on a massive-intake diet, making it the marathon to the hunger strike's sprint. It's also a hell of a lot more effective when you roll up to a podium on your Rascal scooter and shout "fight the power" between bites of ribs.

Sure, after a prolonged period of heavy eating, they too will become completely immobile, but Jaba didn't seem to have all that much trouble getting around. He also had a Rancor, not that this is pertinent to your protest. But it helps.

Quite frankly, hunger strikes jumped the shark when Ghandi did one, and as we saw at Guantánamo Bay, they're easy enough to stop with nasal catheters once the protesters are too emaciated to put up a fight. But try keeping a cheese-cake away from a 300-lb man on a mission, and you're going to need a heck of a lot more than a simple IV drip. And unlike the paper-thin individual, it's much more difficult to remove someone dedicated to an obesity strike from outside of Duff Stadium, which gives their cause that much more gravity.

So the next time you're vehemently opposed to the slaughter of Burmese monks, the environmental impact of the oil sands, or the unjust seventh-place finish of Sanjaya, I urge you not to put down your fork, but to grab a ladle in protest. A man softly weeping as he's forced to eat another slice of key-lime pie is a much stronger image than one who can't cry because his body doesn't have the energy to produce tears. And though you may think the latter is worse, you've probably never watched somebody eat until they've thrown up.



CONAL PIERSE



If we keep treating them like this, they won't be our best friends for much longer.

Here at the Gateway, we understand that you shouldn't degrade your best friend unless they've already passed out—otherwise it's just cruel.

Be sure to drop by **Opinion meetings on Thursdays at 4pm**, where we're respectful enough to allow you to wear what you want—not just what we think is adorable.

**GATEWAY
OPINION**

Clown-suit-free since 1910



**BECOME A MASTER OF DIGITAL MEDIA
<!APPLY NOW FOR 2008>**

<! LEARN MORE AT OUR INFORMATION SESSION>

Location: University of Alberta

Building: Computing Science Centre

Room: CSC 3-33

Date: October 15

Time: 5:15- 7pm

Prizes: iPod and iTunes certificates | Pizza and drinks will be served

Masters of Digital Media Program @ the Centre for Digital Media

Vancouver, Canada

For more information and to register contact alison_robb@gnwc.ca | 778-370-1031

<http://mdm.gnwc.ca>

GREAT NORTHERN WAY CAMPUS PARTNER INSTITUTIONS »

