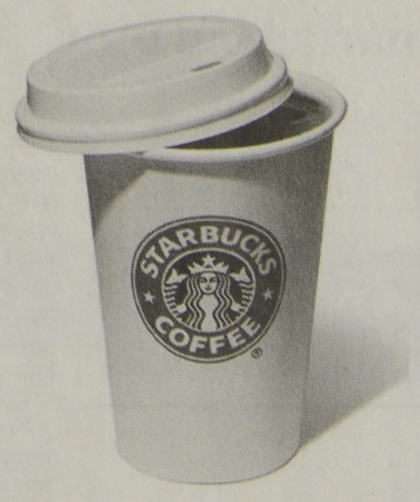
The old man rant

an opinion from Dave Evans



You know what really grinds my gears? Starbucks. Sure, Starbucks is great if you want to feel more important than you are, prancing down a busy street in Toronto. But guess what? This is Fredericton, New Brunswick! Asking a date to meet you at Starbucks because they'll think you're more sophisticated than you really are? Sorry pal, you aren't fooling anyone. People who live down the street from me (which is 5 minutes from downtown) grab their guns, truck and a case of beer and tramp around the woods on weekends. Hell, maybe they're drunk right now. Point is, when they go into a coffee shop, do they want to order a grande mocha-crapa-frappa-lappa-chino? Hells no! They want a large double-double, light on the bullshit. You know why there are 10 Tim Hortons in this city and only two Starbucks? Because nobody gives a damn. And that's what really grinds my gears.

New licence plates should promote cleaner driving choices



Colour shouldn't be the only change to license plates in Canada, argues Dutchak.

Internet

by Chris Dutchak,
Intercamp
(Grant MacEwan College)

EDMONTON (CUP) -- Alberta's red hot economy often means that everything seems to cost more, be in short supply, or both. Citizens are eager to share their opinions on the situation and, according to the premier, they'll get their chance soon.

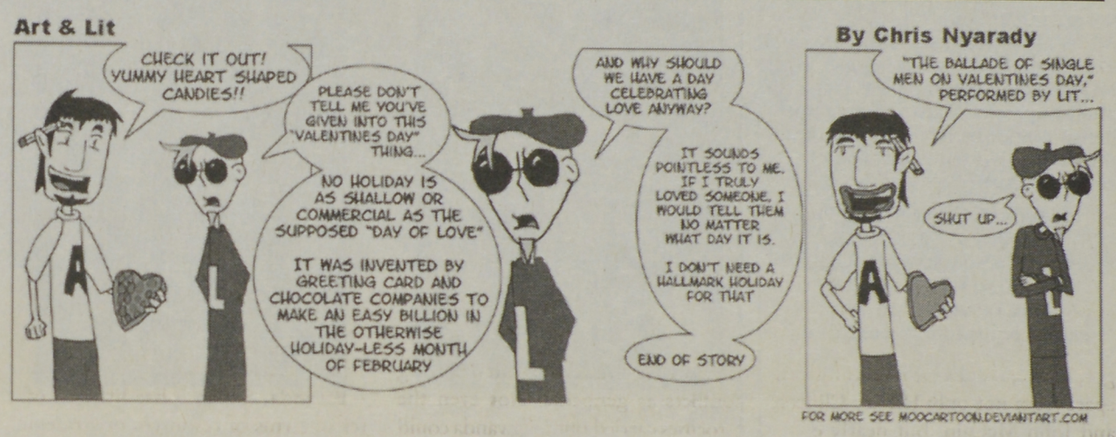
But democracy may have come earlier than expected as Albertans were encouraged last month to complete a web-based survey on proposed changes to the province's motor vehicle license plate design.

Taking the survey I found most of the questions were mainly based on field and type colour in addition to possible imagery such as mountains, plains, and oilfields. Having been pegged for lacking ecological foresight and doing little aside from half-heartedly promoting carpooling and public transit, Alberta's political leaders should've used this opportunity to encourage environmentally sound transportation decisions.

Like the veteran plates already in use, perhaps Alberta can come up with a redesigned plate to recognize vehicles meeting certain fuel standards or space economy. Another alternative, though less attractive, would be the opposite, where vehicles with unsustainable sizes and levels of consumption are tagged with plates labelling the poor choice of the driver in a politically correct yet fun way.

While Carrot-and-stick licence plate policy won't change how the province drives any time soon, more encouragement from the province would put a dent in our image as officially sanctioned planet-eaters.

Art & Lit — **By Chris Nyarady**



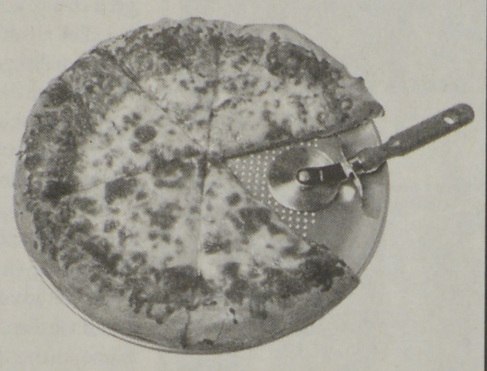
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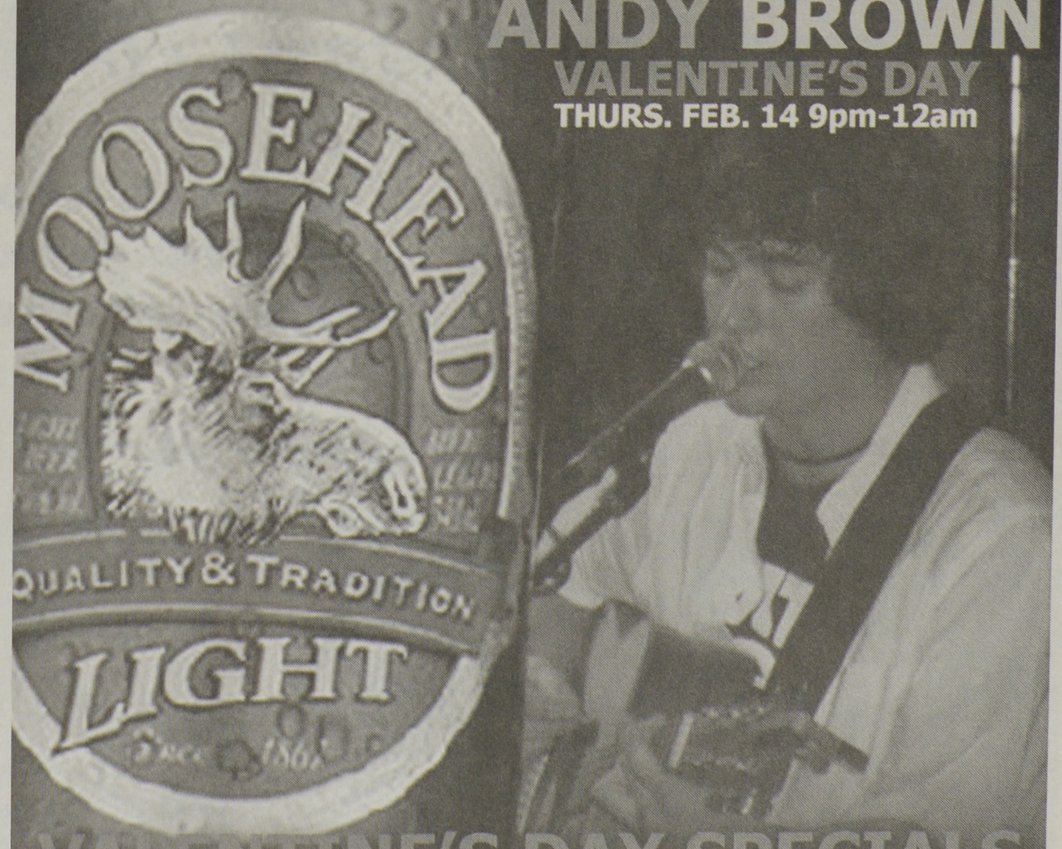
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