Setting the line of personhood between man and toaster

We need to establish a stronger distinction between things and people — otherwise, it's a slippery slope to marrying your blender.

LANCE MEYER

Random objects don't have feelings.

This sounds like a redundant comment, but I've noticed a large percentage of our population has forgotten this fact and has begun to equate anything that is plastic or old to objects that no one draws around anymore. I'm uncertain how we've reached this point, but it seems our own humanity will be compromised if we continue down this path for too long.

Everyday, I'm surrounded by inanimate objects. I sleep in one. I eat from them constantly. I've read more than one time in my life about the misallocation of time around these. Diamond rings on people's fingers with which I can speak and on which they're touch sensitive. Doors that are held open by an inanimate mountain forest in beautiful Columbia. This is a tragedy for the door, but not for the fictional owner of the door. What's she thinking? They're down the street. Writer is just a corner and she's missing the door to her goldmans house. What is wrong with you, I'm asking? You lose yourself, but the poor girl doesn't know.

Lance gives us enough to feel bad about — let's not make up imaginary feelings for things that may not have even been alive at any point. Smoke and use these objects to make our lives more bearable. If we start to show empathy to our inanimate brethren, then we've lost our place of dominance as sentient beings. Next thing you know your couches will be the right to voice, and in a few years we'll see who's sitting on whom.

IAN PHILIPPOCK

can anyone honestly claim that inanimate objects are emotionless? Clearly, your years of wild hedonism have dulled your emotional senses. How else can you ignore the simple suffering of the robotic auto worker, for instance, clearly this blue-collar Nelson of bolts is suffering at the hands of his cruel Fordan overlords. Driven to desperation, the only way out for this 21st century American at the end of his robo-tape is suicide. Thankfully for his little kids, barely cut out of circuit boards, it's all just a dream. The Robot Tramshells will remember this the next time you're weeping when forced to work 24 hours a day, welding bread onto a Checker. And you want to claim he has no feelings? Please.

I want everyone here to think long and hard about the people who raised you. That's right, I'm talking about Mr. TV and Mr. Couch. I'm sure you didn't think I'd have you sitting out your family's indoctrination servants, but you've done wrong. Don't forget that TV and Couch raised your ass from youth to university student. And all of you ever did was repay them with shatter hate feelings. Don't you think your couch worries about you?

For that matter, my debater partner clearly has no idea how the film industry works. Of course I wouldn't care about the feelings of that door, because getting kicked down is its job. That beautiful Harrington Special to the Cadillac of doors. It will get kicked down two, sometimes three times a day. Its soft, pearly white surface has been honed to kiss the boots of titans of the film industry. It would be an honour to work with that door, and if that fictional lady didn't want her door kicked in, she shouldn't have mounted it in the first place, and she definitely shouldn't have been living on a film set, because bad things tend to happen there. I just because you've never bothered to ask your sofa what it's feeling doesn't mean it doesn't have these emotions. Well, that's because we don't realize the most crucial fact about furniture. It's clearly more polite than us. Your CDs don't care if you're in your room, or eat donuts on them, they'll keep on spinning round for you as many times as you wish. I personally think this is an indication of deep emotional solidarity. And thousand little soldiers, your possessions will continue to suffer for you, the least you could do is have a chat with your chair every once in a while.

I think I've clearly established that furniture has feelings. Basing the contrary, no one can deny the emotional cries of a cracking Larynx, or the gentle skin-to-skin touching of a couch on a lazy Sunday, comfortably refusing to relinquish every moment of contact. And Lance, you're not seriously worried about getting passed by in the evolution ladder by your couch, are you? I know you're smarter than that. It's that lounge chair you have to worry about.

IN INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY

Do you always read the rule book?

Discipline, Interpretation & Enforcement (D.I.E.) Board

Requires undergraduate U of A students for the following positions:

- Tribune
- Associate Chief Tribune

The DIE Board is responsible for the interpretation and enforcement of Students' Union legislation.

DIE Board Tribunes are the "judges" of the UI of A Student's Union. Members of DIE Board sit in teams of at least three, hear evidence and arguments, and write decisions on interpretations and violations of SU legislation. The typical Tribune will attend one training session of a few hours, and no more than three hearings in an academic year, each lasting a few hours. The majority of cases heard by DIE Board are related to SU elections.

DIE Board members need strong reading comprehension, logical and writing skills, must be impartial and be able to hear cases on short notice.

Application Deadline: October 15th, 2009 at 4:00pm

Please submit resume to: Catherine Raitt, 2-900 SUB, or email to ea@su.uaalberta.ca

For further information about the DIE Board, go to www.su.uaalberta.ca or ea@su.uaalberta.ca

Only short listed applicants will be contacted. Positions subject to Students' Council ratification.

IN INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY

ILLUSTRATION: ROSS VICENT