Problems still plague Faculte

The events at the Faculte Saint Jean concerning student grievances over the past few months have really upset us. We feel that extra problems have been created by an enormous communication gap between the students and the administration. Matters have not been helped by our Students' Council who don't seem to be fully understanding the situation.

On the 5th of December 1980, the Faculte's Students Council presented a list of student grievances to the administration with January 15 as a deadline for the response. On January 14 the minutes of this meeting were posted. We felt that most of the answers were unsatisfactory, because they did not correspond to the student complaints.

One good result of this meeting was the creation of an ad hoc committee to study the English and French competency exams which was one of the biggest complaints. The others remain unanswered except for verbal responses made by administrators to students during private conversations. Apparently a more coordinated counselling program will be developed to avoid conflicting advice, a new public relations staff has been revising the recruitment information and a new standardized French language program is to be

However education students are still unhappy with the French language fluency test which they must pass before student teaching. They feel the exam is a good idea, but an illegal program change, because people already in the program are not exempted from taking it. This has been detrimental to some students' careers because they have had to postpone student teaching or transfer to the Faculty of Education, sometimes losing credits.

As far as we know these are the only results of student endeavors. Perhaps more has been accomplished, but unless ideas are exchanged, how are we to know? All the student grievances seem, to us, to be valid and reasonable. Why then, does the administration become so defensive?

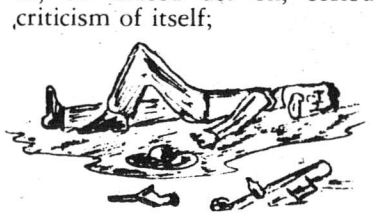
What the students would like is to have informative discussions about the improvement of the Faculte. If this lack of communication could cease the students and the administration would hopefully be able to understand each other's positions and resolve remaining problems.

Names Withheld by Request

Defend thyself, you cad!

WHEREAS the 1980/81 *Gateway* seems incapable of, or afraid to, publish views which run contrary to its own;

AND WHEREAS, the said newspaper is unwilling to admit to, or indeed act on, serious criticism of itself;



AND WHEREAS, the editor (allegedly you, Mr. Krause) of said newspaper has carried the paper beyond all good taste and reason;

WE, the PEOPLE, do hereby challenge one KEITH KRAUSE and any second to a duel, by words, on the topic:

> That the *Gateway* has no value, and future editions should be stopped before it is too late."

In short, Mr. Krause, if you are a man of honour, come down from the heights of yellow journalism, and face your real public.

I have the pleasure to remain, sir, merely one of,
your scathing and literate critics,

Kevan Warner,
President,
U of A Debating Society

Pornography - rape link unproven

I read the article "Naked Man Attacks Woman in Ed" (Feb. 3) with great interest. The fifth paragraph states: "The assault was connected with the article entitled "Pediophiliology" in the Engineering Week paper *Godiva*, in a letter presented to the General Faculties Council executive by the GFC Equal Opportunities Committee (EOC) Monday." The chairman of the EOC, Stan Munro, is quoted: "In general, the fact that women are treated like that (assaulted) is a potential outcome of the inherent sickness that is evident in articles like that."

It is rather obvious that neither Mr. Munro nor the *Gateway* made any attempt to support these claims. Had they done so, they would have found evidence lacking. The President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography in the United States found in 1970 "no evidence that exposure to erotic materials adversely affects behavior patterns." In short, it found no causal relationship between pornography and sexual offences. It could neither prove nor disprove such a relationship (*The Economist*, Sept. 23, 1971).

Other studies (Cairns, Paul & Wishner, 1962 (Mann, et al., 1973) agree that no empirical evidence exists which supports the position that reading or viewing pornography produces harmful social consequences.

By citing these studies, I am not attempting to support or condone the printing of "Pediophiliology" in the *Godiva*. However, I am disappointed in Mr. Munro, presumably a university professor, making such uninformed and unsubstantial claims. As well, the *Gateway*, who seem to gleefully attack engineers and Engineering Week at every opportunity, has neglected to "balance" their article, as they do with so many others.

When the *Gateway* disagrees with the viewpoint expressed by persons interviewed, an additional paragraph is always included to present the opposing (i.e. the *Gateway's)* viewpoint. This is supposedly done in the interests of "objective reporting." However, when the views expressed are in concordance with the *Gateway's*, this is not done.

Perhaps the editors were hoping that the credibility of Engineering Week would be further damaged. The only damage inflicted is on the credibility (?) of the *Gateway*. Sorry, guys, better luck next time.

Steve Dunk
Engineering II

You blew it - try again

The time has come to review the fundamental rule of journalism: FACT BEFORE OPINION. Consider how one story could (should?) have been written:

"On Friday afternoon approximately 300 students from the faculties of Engineering, Phys. Ed., Education and Commerce protested the use of student money to finance a paper they felt unrepresentative of the majority of students on campus."

Notice how the point of view is reported, not added later on some editor's desk.

Articles containing statements such as "Rapes linked to publication" or "Beer leads to heroin" without supporting facts are at best, rumors and at worst, lies.

Will Gamble
Engineering IV
Will Woodhouse
Engineering IV
Will Collins
Engineering IV
and at least 297 others.

Managing Editor's note: Our best evidence (including photos) indicates that there were at an absolute maximum 150 students participating in the protest, and probably less. The great majority of these were engineering students.

Aspidistra

by Alison Thomson

While the Canadian constitution is providing a source of controversy for the British Conservative Party, the Labour party is undergoing far more serious upheaval and internal strife.

The Wembley special convention at the end of January took the selection of the Labour Party leader from the MPs and gave it to an electoral college, in which trade unions will have 40 percent of the vote, MPs 30 percent and constituency representatives 30 percent. This was the final straw for the right wing of the party; they decided the primacy of the left was irrevocably entrenched, and established the Council of Social Democracy.

This council, led by the Gang of Three (Shirley Williams, David Owen, and William Rodgers), is quite likely to form the nucleus of a center party, which may or may not merge with the existing Liberal Party.

The new electoral college is intended to make the party more democratic. The fly in this ointment is the way in which the union votes are handled; they are block votes, so that a leader of one of the larger unions wields huge numbers of votes, cast on behalf of members who may be Conservatives, indifferent to politics altogether, or in violent disagreement with the union leadership. Thus, many of the center and right-wing MPs object, saying that in the name of democracy a far greater injustice is being perpetrated.

The whole scenario is strange when considered in the light of Canadian politics; our closest parallel to the Labour Party is the New Democratic Party, but the NDP is not and has not ever been a labor party, and has not, therefore, to contend with the union block vote concept.

No one is totally enthralled with what has come out of the Wembley conference. Party leader Michael Foot was committed to retaining half the votes in the hands of the parliamentary party, and was dismayed at the result. A great many of the Tribune MPs, on the party's left, realize only too well that a large union block vote can be used as effectively against them as for them. Only Tribune leader Tony Benn is pleased; it is a considerable victory for him, crowning three years of personal politicking. A change of this sort is, as well, the only chance he has of being elected leader. One must not, however, allow cynicism to run rampant; Benn is sincerely committed to seeing Labour fight on a genuinely socialist manifesto, and sees the recent changes as facilitating this process.

The prophets of doom are all too ready to say that by electing a left-wing leader (Foot), and by setting in place a mechanism that will make much more likely both future left-wing leaders and the splintering of the party, Labour has ensured eight or twelve more years of Tory rule. This is unnecessary pessimism; it is when Labour fights elections on uncompromisingly socialist principles that it is strongest, and a Labour Party led by Tony Benn wouldn't be capable of the liberal sell-outs of Jim Callaghan.

A party of the center is doomed to fail. It can have no real policies to differentiate it from the Tories, and by 1983, Britons will have had enough of that. The changes at Wembley are an important step forward for those in the labor movement committed to a socialist Britain.

As a postcript to this column, does it surprise anyone but me that only one person of a relatively random ten surveyed knew who Michael Foot is?

ALCB infringes on right to boogie

Up until last Friday afternoon, we had planned on having a beach party on Saturday in the party room provided by our apartment complex. Two months ago we had booked it for January 17 and started planning. Wednesday, we were told by the ALCB that we could not sell liquor because we were not a "registered community organization."

Our only other alternative, we were told, was to buy all the liquor for our 150 guests ahead of time, list it with the ALCB, then give it all away at the party. We were not allowed to accept donations from our guests, nor were they allowed to contribute in any way to the party in the form of liquor, mix, chips, etc. In addition we had to buy hot and cold food for everyone, and obtain signatures from the city police morality squad and the ALCB head office. We were advised the police would be there to check everything out.

All we wanted to do was have a party — for our friends only — and break even by either selling drinks or charging $2 admission. It wasn't a public party or a profit-making venture. As a result of all this trouble, we were forced to cancel the party.

We think it's time Alberta's archaic liquor laws were brought under revision to see what purpose they serve. We don't condone wild brawls at socials, and to this end, public or profit-making parties should be controlled.

But surely a private party should be given certain consideration as long as the hosts are responsible. Let's try and move the liquor board out of the 1920s. To all the people we couldn't reach about the cancellation, our apologies. To the Alberta Liquor Control Board, thanks for nothing.

Tom Field
Engineering II
Ted Byrt
Commerce II

Strip away this sexism

Today we discovered that one of the graduating wind-up activities organized by the students in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology will be a Thursday night out at Chez Pierre's. For those of you who are unfamiliar with this night spot, let us tell you. Thursday is Women's Night and the evening's entertainment features male strippers.

If the males wish to strip and the females of Speech Pathology wish to watch, then there would seem to be a mutual agreement. However, though men do not tend to go public with discriminatory behavior on the part of women, we are fellows who believe fair is fair. We are members of that 4th year graduating class and on behalf of the male minority we are going to yell discrimination.

The activity is not suitable to the needs of all persons concerned and simply to delete the two males from the activity is discriminatory and sexist.

When men do this sort of thing, it becomes a violation of women's rights; blatant discrimination against women.

When women do it, it is supposedly just for fun. Sorry, girls, we don't see the difference!

Perhaps the new Women's Center should include an educational facet to their proposed program to train their fellow women-kind in the art of "Practicing what they preach."

Ron Hahn
Allain Demers
Speech Pathology IV

DIDSAVE

Since it is mostly university people who support our efforts to collect money for the Canadian Save the Children Fund (CANSAVE) may I report through your pages the results for this year?

We collected from the Book Box and from the AV Centre $285, and from the sale of CANSAVE Xmas Cards $835.80, for a total of $1,120.50.

We are most grateful to the donors for their generosity.

Noel Parker-Jervis
English Department