

EDITORIAL

Not that funny

"Even the girls in engineering don't think it's sexist."

That, in a nutshell, sums up the problems with Engineering Week. Girls are just girls, and there sure as hell aren't any women in the Faculty of Engineering, at least according to male engineers.

Now we don't want to rant and rave about the poor mistreated princesses and kickline participants or the slobbering boors who drool over them; that has been done before. And we certainly do agree there are many positive aspects to Engineering Week, aspects which, it should be emphasized, add to the spirit and camaraderie of university life.

The fact remains, however, that certain elements of Engineering Week are sexist, and offensive to both men and women. Women are treated as objects to be joked about, looked at or even abused, but certainly not as equal human beings. The totally repulsive article on picking up, mutilating, and murdering "little girls" in the engineers' paper the *Godiva* is only the worst example of this exploitation and degradation.

We are disgusted by the blatant condescension and arrogance displayed by most engineers during Engineering Week. Sexism, sexual harassment, and the exploitation of women are some of the most serious social issues of our time, and with their "the girls don't mind" or "they do it of their own free choice" attitude one would think engineers possessed all the solutions to the problem.

But you could parade all the vacant, glassy-eyed young women in the world in front of us saying "we really like being sex objects" and all this would indicate would be the depth of the problem, not the righteousness of their exploitation. The engineers' argument is about as convincing as the South African who tries to tell us blacks enjoy menial physical labor.

It is not at all surprising that women who have been taught that society measures their femininity (hence, their value) by their breast size should jump at the chance to have their self-image reinforced. What is sad, though, is that it doesn't seem to occur to anyone that this entire concept of womanhood needs rethinking.

Every day people express horror at the obvious examples of indoctrination which have been documented in the Soviet Union and elsewhere. No one seems to mind, though, when entire generations of women in North America are brought up to believe they are second-class citizens, and to have this belief reinforced by the attitudes of the male-dominated society in which we live.

Another favorite argument of the engineers is that the princesses are not judged on physical characteristics when choosing a queen. Points are instead amassed by a club for various activities, with the winning club awarded the crown. This is nice, but all it proves is that the princesses are trophies — and let's not kid one another — the point here is to have the most sexually attractive trophy, without regard for any other criteria.

Respecting a woman as an individual certainly does not mean denying her sexuality. But some people just have to learn that regarding women as trophies isn't good enough.

Keith Krause, Jim McElgunn, Mike Walker, Peter Michalyszyn, Robert Cook, Nina Miller, Bill Inglee, Ray Giguere and Geoff McMaster of the editorial board.

the Gateway

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We agreed on one thing: the Engineers don't deserve the attention they're getting. Adrian Chamberlain, Alison Thomson, Michael Skeet, Murray Whitby, and Jens Andersen offered to collectively eune-size them. John Roggeveen, Kent Blinston, Barb MacRae, Brent Jeffery, and Tom Freeland merely wished them expelled to southern Ontario. The dapper Steve Hoffart, Ian O'Hara, Gene Kosowan, Grant McGowan, and Igor and Jessica Levental advocated a cure - send them back to preparation school. Cathy Emberley, Elda Hopfe, and Maureen Laviolette just got sick after the first paragraph and haven't been seen since. And Hollis Brown - the old dear - is still searching for her Bridge-work.

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"AS I ACCEPT THIS CROWN I'D JUST LIKE TO WISH ALL ENGINEERS A RAPID END TO YOUR VOYEURISTIC HABITS AND HOPE THAT SOMEDAY YOU'LL DIG UP THE NERVE TO ACTUALLY ASK A REAL LIVE WOMAN OUT! THANK YOU."

Mindless and proud of it

Despite the inference of the Jan. 6 letter by 3 engineers that any replies to them would be "stupid", we have ventured to reply, insisting that as women we have the right to be so. Although we question not the worthiness of your intentions in creating Engineering Week, we must at the same time inform you that your motives are misguided and dangerous, especially to those of us who consider our roles as sex objects to be meaningful and most convenient.

Yes, we are "armchair inactivists", and damn proud of it!!!! The rigorous and demanding role of today's woman must not be underestimated: PTA meetings, knitting circles, shopping binges, weekly visits to Bertha's Beautyette, unmatched kitchen skills compensating for mathematical inability, and of course, beauty pageants — all this and much more is accepted for women in society with the knowledge that this is simply her "natural state."

Yes, sirs (spoken with deference, naturally) Koch, White, and Brucite, we agree that there is gross injustice in Engineering Week, but what you fail to understand is that the said injustice is to the men! While women are able to reap in all the rewards of running for Queen, men have not the same opportunity to experience the thrill of competition, to revel in the popularity and attention inspired by having their pictures posted throughout the university, to have their scantily clad bodies lusted after by thousands of members of the opposite sex.

While women are disappointed in not being able to observe your Olympian physiques exposed at their best, you, as men, are further denied the chance to bask in the glory that exposure in that epitome of unbiased journalism, the *Gateway*, would provide, to exploit those muscles, those tight legs, that chest, that appearance of virility that would put Michelangelo's David to shame, not to mention Burt Reynold's centerfold in

Cosmopolitan. And finally, you men, simply by virtue of your maleness, are deprived of the opportunity of escaping the oppressive pressure to perform intellectually or charismatically, of being judged by your physical, and therefore incidental merits instead, and of being rewarded by a \$200 piece of jewelry as the Queens now are.

Yes, we women are happy

Let's all be engineers

Once again Engineering Week is upon us, and once again dedicated arts and humanities students are rightfully protesting the degradation of women, the shameless beer-guzzling, and the fact that the Engineers have all the fun. Fear not! Here at last are some hints on how to crash the party.

Dress like an Engineer. The designer jeans and green hair are a dead giveaway. So is your ignorance of calculators — carrying one is *de rigueur*.

V-wing is the best place for kicklines. Hardcore artsies who can't read a map may have trouble finding it, but the reward is worth the effort. Prowl the halls until you see a blackboard covered with things you can't understand (in the technical jargon, called "equations"). Drawing and Painting students will recognize "diagrams" on these boards. Slipping inside, disguise your confusion by looking bored, until the kicklines arrive. Then you can look interested as you please. Drama students — remember to ogle the kickline, not the bodyguard.

We keep the drinking under wraps at the afternoon events, but at the evening events your lack of capacity will give you away. Hide a large person under your chin to pour your beer into. By wringing it out frequently, you might keep up with the first years.

Finally, leave your guilt and your bigotry at home. Unlike the average student, many Engineers do not believe that a beautiful woman is necessarily stupid. We just give credit where credit is due.

with the role of mindless sex objects. We are saddened, from a humanist point of view, that you cannot share its advantages. Men, how about a small protest march, or more typically male, a large scale bloodbath?

Louise Riopel
Arts II
Angie Druzewski
Arts III

(You female artsies can come and give some credit to the bodyguards' superlative-er-physical assets).

Pamela Jane McLean
Engineering III

Engineers' porno rag

As a long-time university student and former Students' Union employee, I take more than a passing interest in what's happening on campus. I was angered and dismayed, then, to see an article titled "Pediophilia" in this year's *Godiva*, the Engineering Students' Society Engineering Week newspaper, purporting to instruct freshmen engineers how to club female children into submission and then to perform various sexual acts upon them.

I found it particularly distressing that one of the sexual "thrills" advocated was the murder of the victim and subsequent necrophilia. The article must also have been embarrassing and demeaning to the Engineering Princesses whose pictures and biographies appeared immediately after it in the *Godiva*.

While Engineering Week provides an opportunity for engineers to let loose and exhibit a laudable amount of spirit and originality, I wonder if this article is representative of the thinking and tastes of most engineers. "Pediophilia" is more than in poor taste. It is pornographic in the worst sense of the word.

Lucinda Chodan