

Opinion

Dragos Ruiu (Comp. E.)



It's amazing to see college sports in the United States — students there really care about their institutions. It's a stunning contrast to the atmosphere here, especially during Engineering Week.

This is the only week (with the possible exception of Ag Week) that the campus seems like a lively and exciting place. People with smiles and school spirit stand out from their everyday 'oh no, another day at this hell they call university' companions.

During this time the campus is brimming with activity, and with (oh my God, isn't that forbidden) students actually enjoying themselves. For one week engineers let off steam and take a break from a hectic academic schedule. They do this with a display of school spirit and togetherness — with activities that finally let them meet the people they have been working with for years.

Instead of cheering them on, you hear many people complain. The complaints usually contain the catchphrase 'sexist geers.' Or some will complain about people clogging the halls watching the club bands and kick-lines perform. Well, please excuse the engineers for going to the trouble to get equipment and having the dancers and bands practice — all to entertain you.

Oh, but I can't forget that they are exploiting those poor girls. I have several friends who are or have been kick line members, and they will attest that no one forced them to can-can dance. They do it because it is flattering, and the kick line members are attended to like queens. They have fun.

I know if the Nursing students (or any other predominantly female faculty) decided to have male kick lines and I was asked, I'd jump to say yes. Just because Arts Week and Science Week pass the campus without so much as a peep, is it the fault of the engineers?

The ironic thing is that some of the rowdiest participants in Geer Week that I know of are in other faculties (Hi Lance). Engineers don't discriminate, they welcome others to join them in their festivities, so why should people put them down?

I guess it's because of the apathetic attitude students have here. An attitude that says they should feel ashamed of their school and what they are doing. All I have to say is: Don't be a sheep, dare to be different, relax and have some fun.

The Gateway

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WHY IS THIS POOR CHAP PUKING ALL OVER THE FLOOR?

- A. THE MASS OVERDOSE OF CHRISTMAS GOODIES HE'S EATEN HAS CAUGHT UP WITH HIM.
- B. HE HAD ONE TOO MANY VODKA SHOOTERS NEW YEAR'S EVE.
- C. THE REALIZATION THAT HE CAN NO LONGER SLEEP IN, HAS MADE HIM ILL.
- D. HE WAS FOOLISH ENOUGH TO WATCH THE BRADY BUNCH REUNION CHRISTMAS SPECIAL.



Letters

Bug owner bugged

MY CAR!!!!

Or rather, my ex-car! Imagine my horror as I got off the bus on Monday morning to discover my first object of vehicular passion with a tree growing out of the roof! I was not amused.

I went through all of the stages that accompany a tragedy such as this — denial, guilt, anger, acceptance — this was more than just transportation, it was part of my family. She was my first, true car. I even put the first layer of shiny silver gaffers tape on the back seat.

As if this wasn't traumatic enough, several Aggie clones decided they'd make up for their cognitive disadvantages by vandalizing this defenceless car. Bravo, Boys!!! You did not only strike out against engineers (and who could blame you) you struck out against Bug people everywhere!!!

Trying to overcome a sudden sense of absence.

Paul Tansey
Arts II

Solution simple

Re: Treatment criminal (Jan. 5)

Ms. Fossen's worries about the theft of goods left outside the Bookstore are valid, but there are solutions (simple ones at that) beyond the expensive magnetization of all goods in the store. (A) Leave your belongings with a friend while you are shopping, (B) leave them in a locker (if you're lucky enough to have one) or (C) lock them up in a 'day use only' locker in the Van Vliet Centre (there are lots of them, all you need to do is bring a lock).

You haven't been treated like a criminal, Ms. Fossen, and your rights haven't been violated. It is the Bookstore's responsibility to take adequate precautions against theft of their goods. It is your responsibility to take adequate precautions against the theft of your own belongings.

Lonna Cunningham
Science

HUB a urinal

We, the undersigned, have finally reached the point where we must cry cease and desist. We have watched, and mourned, the steady deterioration of the once proud, funky and very much student-oriented HUB mall into a slick, contemporary urinal, with nary a thought for those of us who must every day venture through this travesty of progress.

The nooks and crannies that once offered quiet solace in this hectic pursuit of academic excellence have given way to yuppie pretensions that add nothing to the quality of life, and in fact may even be bad for one's health.

Conformity begins to permeate one of the last vestiges of individualism on a campus already overburdened by reactionary thought and mindless and mundane action.

Oh, for the days of old. Activism rampant; no point of view left unquestioned. Unfortunately the reality now is that the role of the university as a forum for the exchange of ideas has been sublimated to that of a training pit for the pursuit of profit.

What must be the most galling aspect of this must surely be the lack

of opposition that has been forthcoming from those who are the most affected. Us.

We are not malcontents who relish some trend du jour and board band-wagons with regularity. We are a varied cross-section of the student majority who believe (or should), that the primary purpose of a university should be an environment conducive to academic excellence.

When the administration places profit before learning perhaps we had better ask ourselves whether we are really prepared to countenance such a system; if so, how much can we stand?

Frankly, we expected more from Canadians. It is unfortunate that HUB mall must become the latest, and most visible, casualty in this move to foist conformity on such a diverse segment of the population as that (usually) found in a university setting.

Whether or not our letter elicits any response, we wish to go on record as voicing vehement opposition to the increasing gentrification of this once-hallowed institution.

To those who disagree — a pox on all your houses!

Michael J. Berry - Arts IV
 Mark Wilson - Student in exile
 Alexandra S. Hursey, Arts II
 Scott Gordon - Arts III
 Adil Qureshi - post B.A.
 Vance Trudeau - Ph.D. II
 Gerard Magennis - Ph.D. IV
 Brad Johnson - Arts IV
 Aubrey McPhail - Ph.D. II

P.S. And just what about S.U. Records? The one bastion of originality in the entire place and it is to be sacrificed on the altar of expediency. Shame!