

East Germans just wanted freedom

by Ajay Bhardwaj

The Berlin daily newspaper's headline read, "Berlin is Berlin again." Twenty-eight years after its erection, the ugly Berlin Wall was symbolically torn down earlier this month. When the Wall came down, a nation of people, forcefully separated amidst the era of the cold war, came together.

Isn't it about time, too? Germany, being split into halves, was like two Canadas. It was unnatural. Besides which, no country or man should be allowed to keep a nation apart, especially two superpowers like the United States and the Soviet Union, who do so only for their own preeminence.

Furthermore, a people had been suppressed. East Germans could not leave their country for Western Europe freely. Although they enjoyed the highest standard of living in the Communist Block, East Germans' quality of life was far below that of their western neighbors'.

So the East Germans did what people do best when they are upset about something. To borrow a line from a band, they "raised a little hell." They began by taking their protest into the streets of East German cities. In Leipzig 500,000 Poles protested. Then 225,000 Germans fled East Germany through Hungary and Czechoslovakia to the West.

That must have scared the bejesus out of the new leader of East Germany, Egon Krenz.

In an effort to stop the mass protests and the gross exodus, Krenz had to do something. With Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev stressing reforms, and the rest of the world looking on, Krenz was backed into a corner. His predicament had been exacerbated by calls from the West to let his people go.

Then, in the midnight hour of November 9, the Wall was symbolically opened. People power had won out. An important fact was proven: people want, more than anything else, to be free. The opening of the Berlin Wall is a tribute to the people of East Germany. They have shown great resilience for 28 years, and now they have been rewarded.

I'm sure that there are East Germans who will leave and never come back. However, when CBS news conducted an impromptu poll of motorists who were going West, 49 of 50 said that they would return. That just proves that all East Germans wanted was to be free.



LETTERS

Please keep letters brief. All letters must include name, faculty, year, phone number and ID number (ID and phone will not be printed).

Geers not fuckheads

"Well, winter has come and the whiners are out in force; it's not your paper, so it's none of your concern..."

This has been the standard engineer's response as seen by the public for many years. Sorry, folks, but this is just a load of crap that has been shovelled onto you by various *Bridge* contributors, engineering deans, and engineering club executives (including the Engineering Students' Society) for far too long. The truth is that the *Bridge* is a meaningless, trite, useless publication, full of racism, cheap shots, slurs against women, and as much titillating material as the junior-high mentality contributors can come up with. But everyone knew that already.

I would suggest that this publication in no way represents the feelings held by the majority of engineers; in fact, I suggest it is

created by a tiny percentage of our faculty's students for an almost-as-tiny percentage of our students so that they might get their collective jollies. Saying that the paper is in fun, and for engineers only is also cheap. They are both so untrue as to be silly.

After all of my talking, what would I do? Simple. Stop producing the *Bridge*. All of this wasted time and money (from SU and the ESS, presumably) could be donated to any of Edmonton's myriad number of charities. Finally, engineering would receive attention for actually doing something useful and helpful, and engineers might actually be collectively thought of as more than "dumb, red-necked, beer-drinking fuckheads." The truth is, we do deserve to be thought of better than that.

Nobody said the Berlin wall would ever come down either; the *Bridge* should be next.

Brian Jorgensen
E.E. II
Quinn Ferguson
First Year Geer

Method of channeling energy not amusing

I have one thing to say to those people who filed complaints against the Engineering Student's Society (*Troubled Bridge* in hot water - Nov. 21): Way to go! I agree 100% with your complaints against the E.S.S. and it is about time they got into "hot water" for their crude, distasteful publications. I have not only found *The Bridge* offensive, but also the *Engineer's Handbook*, which they create especially for first year Engineers.

The *Handbook* is filled with sordid, ignorant attempts at humour and, as a first year Engineer, I was not pleased with the lack of respect the E.S.S. has for people who don't possess the same senseless, perverted minds they seem to be cursed with. Of course they could argue that if I don't like the handbook, I shouldn't read it; but let me put an end to that by saying that as a first year Engineer, I might find some things of use in the *Handbook*. The only problem is, finding those things

of interest is like digging through an enormous mound of refuse in search of a pin. Perhaps next year the E.S.S. can provide a better, healthier service to new students in the faculty.

Furthermore, I strongly disapprove of the *Handbook* and *The Bridge* in that they reflect the

engineering student body. I am a part of that body. Tell me, who in their right mind would hurt parts of their own body? I hope the E.S.S. thinks about that, for not everyone finds their method of "channeling energy" amusing.

Peter Verburg
Engineering I

Bridge just a few laughs

Re: Opinion: Responsibility must transcend "theft" by Ron Kuipers

Mr. Kuipers has apparently been blessed with the gift to discern what is and what is not responsible journalism. I'm sure that this gift helps contribute to the success of *The Gateway*. However, I'm not so sure that this gift can be applied to journalism or, better yet, entertainment, which does not try, nor it is required to be, responsible. As entertainment editor for *The Gateway*, Mr. Kuipers should know

that entertainment of any form is not and in fact must not be responsible. Entertainment comes to us through a variety of mediums. I can think of many examples of music, literature, stand-up comedian acts which in some way offended someone. Does the medium of newsprint suddenly force entertainment to become responsible, and if so to whom? Does freedom of the press imply not to offend anyone? Of course not.

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The Gateway

The University of Alberta Students' Newspaper Since 1910

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