

gateway

Thursday, January 19, 1984

Mastication...

...everybody does it

Engineers' skits criticized

by Mark Roppel

The annual "is engineering week just good fun, or is it sexist filth?" debate began in earnest Tuesday night with the staging of Engineer's Skit Night in SUB Theatre.

Arts student Siobhan Avery brought the matter up at Tuesday's Students' Council meeting.

Avery asked Students Union VP Internal Peter Block why he allowed the night to take place in the Students' Union Building.

Avery argued that the event contravenes a Students' Union policy which states that SUB "should not be used as a forum for events or activities of a sexist, racist, degrading or otherwise offensive nature."

"Students are fed up with the Students' Union's preoccupation with policies that don't accomplish anything," says Avery. "I was upset they didn't stick to their policy."

Block, who is responsible for everything that goes on in the Students' Union Building, now admits that he made a mistake.

"It's a perfectly legitimate criticism," says Block. "I knew the Engineers' Skit Night was coming. I didn't know what it would be like, but I had ideas."

Neither Block nor Avery attended the Skit Night, but two representatives from the Building Services Board (BSB), Sheryl Jackson and Dave Koch, did attend.

BSB is the Board which originally drafted the policy against sexist and racist events. The Board will discuss Skit Night at its next meeting.

Both Koch and Jackson agreed that some of the skits contravened the policy.

"They did an ad for Clits Beer," says Koch. "They had someone wearing white with a red centre, with black hair around it. Their slogan was 'Clits Beer, for that warm feeling inside.'"

"There were a lot of Jewish Virgin jokes," says Jackson, "and jokes like 'How can you tell when a woman has an orgasm? Who cares?'"

Jackson says that when Lauri Lancaster of CHED - the only female judge of the skits-arrived, she was greeted with chants of "Show us your tits, show us your tits."

Jackson and Koch estimate that the sold-out crowd was 98 per cent male. The Engineering Students Society (ESS) places the percentage of men at about ninety.

"The ideas underlying that type of humour are frightening," says Siobhan Avery. "It treats women as objects... it's a degradation of human sexuality."

"Maybe in the contract it should be formally stated in writing (that sexist material is unacceptable) so they will realize ahead of time that this is unacceptable."

But Engineering Students Society President Howard Krone foresees problems with the vagueness of terms like sexist and racist.

"What's sexist or racist?" asks Krone, "who's definition do we use?"

"I really didn't see any problem with the show," says one female Engineering student. "Engineers don't hate women. They tell all kinds of jokes - not just ones about women. There were even a few clean jokes... It's all in good fun."

Krone says he is willing to talk to people who are offended by the skits: "I would have appreciated it if they would have contacted us."

On this point, Krone and Avery agree.

"I would like to see some sort of dialogue between the ESS and the women who are offended," says Avery. "I would never say that Skit Night should be banned."

Anne McGrath says that the Engineering Faculty should take a more active role in

controlling the conduct of Engineers.

"By not saying anything, the Faculty tacitly approves what is going on... the entire University should be outraged," she says.

But Engineering Dean Peter Adams has a slightly different view: "Our office has worked with the ESS in the past when events in Engineering Week were objectionable... I've received no complaints this year."

In the meantime Avery is considering taking the Engineering Students Society to the University Disciplinary Panel.

"I believe they violated the Student Code of Behaviour that says that no student may threaten the dignity of another student."

With the future of Engineering Skit Night in doubt, VP Internal Block can look forward to another major controversy when the notorious Med Show is held in SUB from February 1 to 3.

"We can't really cancel the show two weeks in advance," says Block.

Students in for tough summer

by Neal Watson

"Students can anticipate at least as much difficulty as last year in obtaining summer employment," says Jennifer Yip-Choy, the manager of the Canada Employment Centre on Campus.

However, despite dismal employment forecasts for the summer of 1984, Yip-Choy says "there are jobs, students just have to work harder to find them."

The Federal government has initiated various job-creation programs for the summer of 1984, to assist students in finding summer employment.

John Roberts, the Federal Minister of Employment and Immigration, announced on December 29 the federal government's "Summer Canada" employment package which will cost an estimated 170 million and will create 69,000 jobs.

Included in the federal government's plans for the summer is the Career Oriented Summer Employment Program or the "COSEP inventory."

The COSEP program will enable student to gain career-related experience in federal department's ranging from Transport to Health and Welfare to the National Museum of Canada.

Interested students complete applications at the Canada Employment Centre and then the various federal departments select successful applicants from the files of the employment centre. The application deadline is Jan. 31.

As Yip-Choy says, the intention of the COSEP program is to "match students to jobs."

Successful students stand a good chance of being rehired for the following summer, says Yip-Choy.

The two "Summer Canada" programs are geared more to job creation in the private sector.

Summer Canada Works will create 41,000 jobs for students to work in positions sponsored by individuals and businesses.

Summer Career Access is designed as a wage subsidy program and will create internships for students in the private and public sector. It will create 12,000 jobs this summer.

Minister John Roberts says Summer Canada 1984 will "provide students the opportunity to acquire work experience in high-level skills the labour market of the 1980's will demand."

Despite the federal government's efforts, jobs will be difficult to come by for students in the summer of 1984.

Yip-Choy emphasizes, "students have to take the initiative and begin looking now."

Dope attracts upper class

(RNR-CUP) -Federal narcotics agents estimate that last year, Americans spent 90 billion dollars on illegal drugs - twice as much as they spent on clothes.

The dope trade is the nation's fastest growing business, bigger than any corporation except Exxon. And it seems to be attracting an increasing number of respectable citizens.

Auto millionaire John DeLorean is just one of many

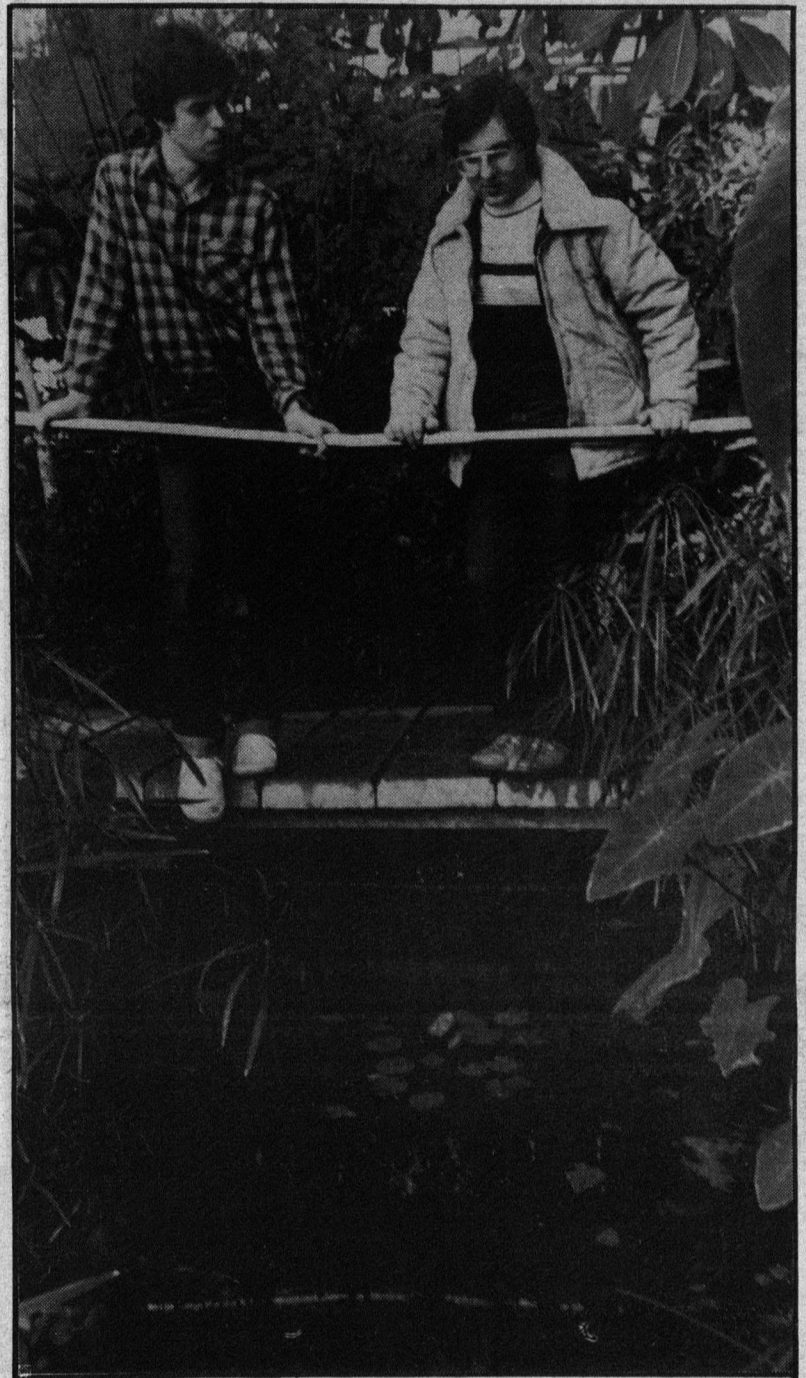


photo Angela Wheelock

Two first year agriculture students test the university's new weather control system.

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prominent figures who have been linked to narcotics trafficking. In the past six months, similar allegations have involved a Baptist Minister in Mississippi, a former Florida Supreme Court Justice, and the first violinist with New York's Metropolitan Opera. As one Florida drug agent put it, "We're not talking about your regular slimeball anymore."

And it's not just big shots, either. A Justice Department of-

ficial says you'd have to go back to prohibition to find a comparable level of police corruption.

In the last year, three North Carolina police chiefs and three Tennessee county sheriffs have been indicted or convicted of smuggling.

A Federal undercover agent who helped bust 120 pot dealers last year is now awaiting trial - for importing marijuana.

Gateway wine and cheese tonight! Thursday, Jan. 19 at 7:00 PM in Room 280A SUB.