

Kickliners are not exploited

Dear Editor,

In reply to all those letters the *Gateway* received criticizing the activities of Engineering Week, we, the "Chemical Engineering Kickline", would like to present the other side of the story.

Take note Suzanne Bizon, Suzan Kalinowski, and any other women's libber who has written to the *Gateway* downgrading us kickline girls. We doubt that your opinions represent the majority of students on campus. In fact, we are sick and tired of hearing about your warped views on sexism and exploitation.

Just what is it that you find so offensive? Engineering Week is one of the few spirited events left on campus. The students in this faculty participate with enthusiasm. They work together, organizing and running the events on their own. What, we ask you, is so wrong with letting these guys (and girls) have their fun? Did it ever occur to you that they may be offended by your reference to them as "overgrown kids"?

The girls in our kickline all felt truly honoured when asked to participate in the Engineering Week activities. Not one of us

feels the least bit exploited.

Contrary to what you believe, princesses and kickline girls are not regarded solely as sex objects: rather, they are treated with a great deal of respect. If you find kicklines offensive, then you must be equally as offended by cheerleaders, chorus lines, dancers, etc.

Maybe we weren't all picked for our dancing abilities, but I can tell you we worked long and hard getting together our routines. What right do you have to refer to it as a "tits and ass" show? True, the guys may "ogle", but perhaps, they do so with appreciation. Is there anything wrong with being a girl, and being proud of it? Somehow, we don't think that dancing on a kickline puts us below your level in your quest for "equality with men".

As for Miss Bizon's comments that we "might as well not wear clothes at all", let me say that the kickline costumes are an integral part of the routines. Not only are they judged as part of the dance, but they must also reflect the theme of the club. Some girls actually go to a lot of trouble making or getting together their

costumes.

Last of all, we must say that Engineering Week was a wonderful opportunity to get involved, make new friends, and have a lot of fun. No, Miss Kalinowski, we are not simply on an "ego trip".

Perhaps if you girls would get involved in Engineering Week, you might appreciate what these guys are trying to do. Remember, it's all done by the engineers, for the engineers, and I don't believe they have to answer to you.

By the way, the women engineers that we met, were equally interested in the events of Engineering Week. Funny, they don't seem to hold your views.

P.S. A special thanks to all the engineers, in particular the Chem. E. club for their help and understanding. Signed, the "chemical kickline."

Robyn Kaulback

Ed IV

Linda Maybee

Ed I

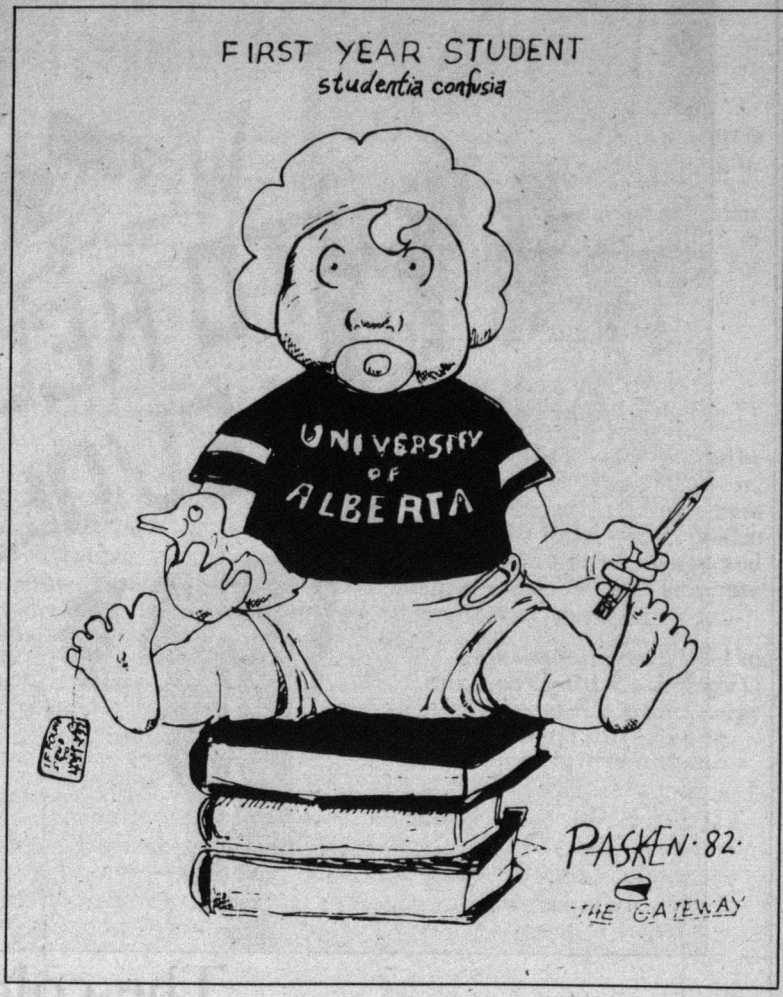
Mary-Ellen Day

Ed I

Patty Bidniak

Ed II

and "the mineral kickline."



Women in tug of war

Re: the Second Wind column, Jan. 14th

Incredible! An article by a *Gateway* staffer, no less, that actually seemed to imply that engineers have a right to life.

I do hope that that great bastion of naive ideology, the *Gateway*, is not crumbling from within! (Actually, guys, some of your articles are quite good, and I don't mean to imply that you are always writing slanted, one-sided stories, but I have noticed that most students tend to read the *Gateway* with the paper turned at about a 20 degree angle.)

Re: Sexism

Please pardon my pontification (normally I don't pontificate, but this is the *Gateway*, after all), but I must point out a few inconsistencies in the anti-sexism letter which ran in the Jan. 14th edition. I must point out that if you took ten average women and pitted them against ten average men in a tug-of-war contest and let them compete as 'equals', as the lady seems to want, I daresay you might soon discover a simple fact of life. Unless of course, you insist on not seeing it. So much for Quaecumque Vera.

Comparing men and women is like comparing apples to oranges - we're better at some things, they're better at others - and insisting that we are all equal is ridiculous. Suzan Kalinowski (the author) insinuates that ego gratification is the real motive for the kickliners, as if it was something contemptible and morally corrupt.

Personally, I don't see this as being a basis for arguing against anything, however, Suzan does, so might I ask her to examine her own motives in writing her letter? don't worry, Suzan, I know how hard it is to gratify your ego with all this competition around. Tall, dark and handsome guys with Corvettes are forever causing me grief, considering that I have none of these qualifications myself

I resent people implying that I am immature, that I am incapable of looking at women as anything but objects, and all the other garbage that we are always being accused of. I will admit that there are a number of people around, of both sexes, who do

have this problem, but insofar as curing it goes, I must suggest that most of the anti-sexists are barking up the wrong tree (no allusions intended, of course).

Might I point out that the most advanced country in the world today, insofar as ensuring that women are treated equally, (regardless of their differing physical attributes) is Iran. In Iran, women are not allowed to display any of their charms whatsoever. Are these people seriously suggesting that they are discussing 'progressive thought' when they are essentially proposing the same principals? Oh, well, maybe they all had enlightened childhoods and good toilet-training, and I'm the one who's full of shit, who knows?

In any case, I would certainly welcome some *intelligent* discussion on the matter. In the meantime, how about three cheers for the girls who were brave enough to participate in Engineering Week - their courage and enthusiasm bespeaks an inner beauty as well. (I say, Jens, can I have your permission to use that word like that?)

To conclude let me just say: "Vive la difference!" (And remember, all you anti-sexists, I did stipulate *intelligent!* - hate literature, which is all I have seen so far, just doesn't fall into this category).

Jon Lord
Commerce II

More med

In light of the recent letters to the editor, may I make two points:

1. In the January 19th *Gateway*, W.W. Flemons wrote that it is not nice to take a cheap shot at the Med Show which predominately features masturbation and comparable primitive activity. W.W. Flemons also stated that it is "downright inane" to suggest that medical students might learn something from the engineers. Pretty arrogant! The engineers had to take a lot of flak; now they are laughing as they watch the prima donnas take a nose dive.

2. The next time you have a party conduct an empirical experiment: invite a medical student. If he can carry on a conversation for a whole half hour (a) without putting down another faculty, (b) without stating how hard he works and how brilliant he is, and (c) without using memorized medical terms, then you have found the only medical student who is not a crashing bore.

By constantly repeating self-serving propaganda, they are using a clever Nazi technique: if you tell a lie often enough people will start to believe it. It also appears to be a good defense mechanism according to W.W. Flemons' definition.

Sincerely yours,
Timothy Taylor
Physics II

HUB blames students

From the report on the accident that occurred to the HUB Mall a couple of weeks ago, it seems that HUB Management always has something to blame the students for.

The fact that the truck hit against the wall rupturing the water pipe was not important.

The fact that the weather was cold and hardened the pipe was not important.

What was important was the fact that the students kept using the North end door to go to the Tory Building thus causing pressure on the pipe because cold air kept coming in while the heater was on.

It is true that there is extra pressure on the pipes when the

heater is on and the cold air is coming in at the same time. But if the HUB Management knew that, why didn't they do something before the accident. Why did they have to wait for the accident to happen and then say the students are to blame for it?

If HUB Management realized the consequences and only started taking actions after the accident, are they not just as "guilty" as the students?

And if they realized the consequences only after the accident, aren't the students just as "not guilty" as the management? Why put the blame on the students?

Diane Wong
Science III

Cheaters pass course

Imagine my surprise, in reading in the January 20th edition of the *Edmonton Journal*, that fourteen physical education students handed in identical exam answers (including identical mistakes).

Surprise became astonishment when I discovered that although all fourteen individuals were found guilty of cheating, 13 of these students passed the course.

The person who failed would have failed anyway, and the cheating did not even merit a comment on student files.

There may well be justifica-

tion for passing some of the individuals involved, but I personally feel there is something drastically wrong with this decision. How can the administrators responsible for this decision expect themselves to be taken seriously by both students and society?

These students did not even attempt to play within the rules, and there will never be anything on their academic records that will suggest they were anything other than normal students.

I smell a hoser here somewhere.

David Rumbold
Eng. II

SOUTHERN COMFORT

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