

# Engineers non-sexist - who's kidding whom?

by Peter Michalshyn

Imagine over 1800 engineers loosed on the university intent on committing what they call "just having a good time."

Imagine Engineering Week. Imagine a rally in CAB with women clad in scanty apparel parading on stage in front of thousands of screaming students, predominantly male, with raunchy accompanying music in the background. And nervous Princesses waiting at the side for their turn to get up in front of the hordes to make their pitches for the good ol' boys in Mechanical, Chemical, Mineral, Civil, or Electrical.

That's Engineering Week. It's the time of year when the notorious, though much-maligned students of that faculty feel free to tell each other they suck.

It's also their time of year for pub crawls, boat races, keg races, and of course, the Engineering Queen contest, the event the Gateway loves to hate.

On past occasions the Gateway has protested the Queen

contest because it is blatantly sexist. On one particularly memorable occasion it published a picture of a staff member holding a plate of juicy, delectable ribs. Under the picture a caption read, "Butcher Bohdan, an engineering alumnus, claims his selection of processed meat has the current slate of engineering princesses beat by a country mile. We'll find out at the Queen's Ball on Saturday just who beats whom."

Unnamed engineers showed their appreciation for that comment by sending 100 pounds of raw meat to the Gateway's office, or all over the office, as it were.

The engineers, however, never admitted the Queen contest was sexist.

"We don't feel it's sexist, and neither do the girls (Princesses and those in kicklines) themselves," says Ed Spetter of the Engineering Students' Society (ESS).

"Even the girls in engineering don't think it's sexist," Spetter says, adding he thinks women engineering students are "the most liberated on campus."

Besides, Spetter says, the contestants will be judged for "poise and social graces" at the Princess Tea. Among the judges will be engineering dean P.F. Adams and his wife, and electrical engineering department chairman Dr. C. James.

The club whose Princess

for events such as the keg rolling, pub crawl, scavenger hunt, etc.

Theoretically, then, the club with the best-looking princess, equipped with winning poise and social grace, and accompanied by a half-decent kickline, could almost win the club championship without winning in any other event.

In fact, clubs get extra points for "harmless" stunts, approved by the ESS, who accept no responsibility for "harmful" pranks that may just crop up, coincidentally, during the Week.

In 1978 the ESS, then presided over by "stuntman" Mike Ekelund, supported the defacing of the Anthony Caro sculpture directly south of Rutherford South Library.

The engineers said at the time that they wanted to comment on the artistic value of the sculpture; they wrote "Mechanical #1" and "Civil #1."

Professors in the Faculty of Engineering wholeheartedly support Engineering Week, according to Spetter.

"They enjoy it as much as anybody else," Spetter says. He's been asked by profs if the kicklines will visit their classes, he says, adding that profs are "considerate" about students missing classes during the week.

And even if they didn't miss the odd class, engineering students could read about the



Assiniboia Hall stands patiently awaiting a new interior.

photo Bill Ingles

## Reconstruction from inside out

One of three original campus buildings, Assiniboia Hall, is being gutted completely and thoroughly reconstructed for an expected reopening in February 1982.

"The inside is quite extensively demolished by now," says Michael Szylling of the Campus Development Office. The outside will remain unchanged, however.

Assiniboia Hall had been destined for demolition earlier this year, but because of opposition gained a last-minute reprieve at the May Board of Governors meeting.

Renovations will be more extensive in Assiniboia Hall than in the Arts building, which is also slated for relatively minor scrubbing and patching.

The Arts renovations will cost more, however, because the building is much larger than Assiniboia. The latter will cost just under \$4 million, while Arts is expected to cost \$7.8 million to renovate.

That's expected, because money to finance the Arts renovation hasn't yet surfaced.

"If we get the money for the Arts building we could start probably in April next year," Szylling says.

That way people displaced from the Arts renovation could move into a yet-unassigned floor of the new Assiniboia Hall the following February.

But the key word from Szylling is "They're not behind schedule yet."

## SU stages Future of Education Week

The Horsman is coming, the Horsman is coming!

And that's just part of the Future of Education Week, a Students' Union event coming January 19 to 24.

The idea for the week came out of the Federation of Alberta Students spring campaign. Each member campus is sponsoring events to focus on local and provincial issues.

At the U of A, attention will be focused on the proposal to index tuition fees to the consumer price index, possible city bus fare hikes, and the Campus Co-op petition against destruction of

student houses in North Garneau.

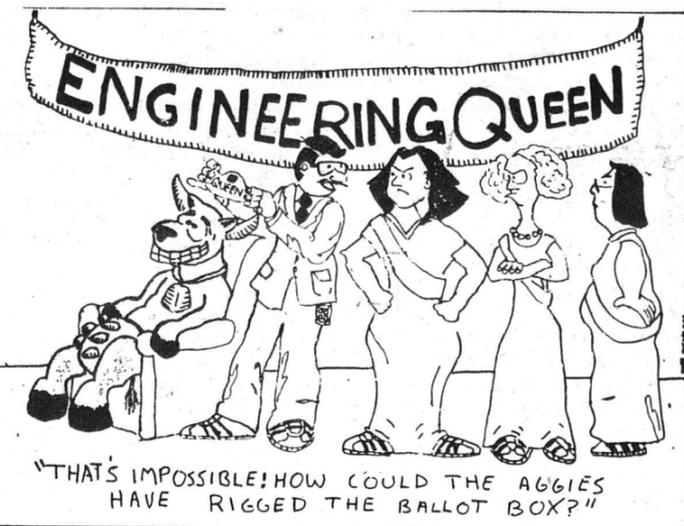
The week will begin with a speech by Jim Horsman on January 19. On January 21, Chilean student representative Patricio Lanfranco will speak about the difficulties faced by Chilean students.

Other activities will include classroom speaking tours, information tables in various buildings, and people wandering around in "Indexing proven hazardous" T-shirts. Skits on the issues raised and a visit by Grant Notley are other possibilities.

To finish it all off, there will be a Future of Education cabaret in Dinwoodie on January 24.



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demonstrates the most "poise and social grace" wins 20 points toward the final tally; another 30 points is given to the Princess and kickline that collects the most votes after the CAB rally. And another 50 points are distributed

week's activities in the *Godiva*, the official Engineering Week newspaper.

And as for the Gateway? Well... "We've been generally ignored," Spetter says. "I honestly don't know why."

**bouquets and brickbats** by Deacon Greese

*Just when you are good and sick of turkey, this arrives. But really, is it any worse than your Christmas marks?*

**Worst Christmas Special of 1980:** A Country Christmas: Tanya Tucker looked just as haggard out as Minnie Pearl. Maybe she is old enough for Glen Campbell.

**Best Christmas Special of 1980:** The original A Christmas Carol, run without commercials. Or pledge breaks.

Would anyone who actually believes the hostages in Iran are coming home in the near future raise your hands? Can you see better now?

**Words to live by department:**

"We won't pay more for less." slogan at U of A circa 1978

"It's necessary." Pat Haws

"There's a sucker born every minute." P.T. Barnum

There are fifty ways to leave your lover and 36 of them involve this column. Does the love of your life have terminal ennui? Write to brix and boux and tell us all the details. One mention in this column is a sure ticket to solitude.

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