

From the bottom up

Engineering Week is sexist, but it is because the event is so well publicized that it gets attacked. The poster-tearing activists on this campus are obviously too lazy to seek out and destroy subtle, ever-present discrimination.

The participants in Engineering Week acknowledge what sexism there is and no one feels pressured into or downgraded by what they have chosen to do. Yet, there are situations where people have no choice in the matter, such as sexual harassment, rape, or work conditions.

Sexist ideas exist in the media, schools, everywhere. We have been brought up believing them; they are acceptable. If the article in the *Godiva* had been racist rather than sexist, it would have been front page news from here to Toronto and legal action would have been severe.

The article was a mistake, but what led to its being written anywhere are the inherent attitudes of society. They go unnoticed until a spectacular appearance in something like the *Godiva*.

Banning Engineering Week

would create defensiveness and hostility. It would be treating the symptoms of a deeply entrenched disease, the roots of which go back to classical times. The solution is not token activism, but change — from the bottom up.

Until the accepted forms of sexism, that would be too radical to call sexism, are eradicated, nothing will change. Armchair activists who must have their causes thrust into their faces will never succeed in improving the position of people in society. It makes one wonder if they really want to.

Janice Arnison
Commerce I

Take your article and...

As I was reading the article entitled "The Experts' Favorites of 1980" I could not help becoming considerably indignant towards the attitude of the writers (or so-called "experts"). I feel the off-the-cuff remarks of Messrs. Kosowan and Brown concerning certain Edmonton radio stations and staff, and topics such as "biggest jerks and embarrassments of the year" are quite out of line.

As one's own choice of music is highly personal, expressions of

such a nature are inconsequential and immediately render the accompanying material somewhat incredible. I, as a reader, have to trust the author's sole use of expertise in writing such an article, and upon failure to do so (as these gentlemen have done) I would seriously question the so-called "expert" nametag attached to their positions. Thus, I find this article most useful at my backdoor, underneath my snowboots.

Beverly Demchuk
Science III



Aspidistra

by Alison Thomson

The world is about to be assailed with a particularly nauseating specimen of American jingoism: an inauguration and the return of the hostages will be too much provocation for some people to resist.

Already the flags are waving and the cries of "nuke the ayatollah" are sounding. And Reagan is promising "an era of national renewal."

What concerns me about this apparent resurgence of nationalism in the United States is embodied in Reagan's statement; what precisely is Reagan planning to renew? What if he means America's erstwhile place in world affairs? If this is indeed his meaning, El Salvador could very well be Vietnam, 1980s style.

It is conventional wisdom to believe that after the U.S.'s withdrawal from Vietnam, and its embroilment in the Watergate scandals, the nation went through a period of intense self-doubt and questioning — a sort of national existential dilemma. Whether or not this was the case, any hesitancy the American people may have felt over the wholesale interference in other nations' affairs has been dispelled by the hostage-taking.

Americans are apparently ready to take up the white man's burden again, and this readiness carries with it serious threats to world peace and other nations' integrity. It isn't logical to blame this militarism on Reagan, either; it was quite apparent during Carter's term, although he refused to embody it in the way Reagan undoubtedly will.

It is not patriotism to which I am objecting. Patriotism is not militarism, nor is it nationalism. The belief that one's own country and culture are intrinsically valuable and worth defending is relatively harmless. An American citizen's feeling that his is a great country, and the best place in the world to live, may seem odd to someone who doesn't share the belief, but it doesn't interfere with the sceptic at all.

Patriotism and rationalism may co-exist in a single brain. Nationalism and rationalism cannot. I hasten to explain what I mean by nationalism — it is the desire to inflict one's way of life and culture on innocent bystanders, such as Vietnamese people. As George Orwell pointed out, one can be nationalistic about countries or ideology. It is an attitude of mind which precludes reason and encourages closed-mindedness.

And it is an attitude of mind Reagan's election and the release of the hostages will exacerbate in many Americans.

A women's centre is going to be established at the university; the Students' Union has agreed to support the idea, and an organizational meeting will be held next Wednesday, January 28 at noon in room 270A of the Students' Union Building. All interested women should come and make plans for the center. It could be a drop-in area, the centre of political action, a feminist library... Come and share your ideas for a meeting place for women on campus.

Guitar Works hops

FOLK, COUNTRY, BLUES

by 'Ma' Fletcher

Due to filled classes, I have an overflow of students. I will run an extra Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced class to start Jan. 24th and 26th (your choice).

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A.P.E.L. Division

University Orientation Days February 26 & 27, 1981

How Can You Participate?

In order to make University Orientation Days 1981 a success several students will be required both February 26 and 27 to act as tour guides, man information booths around campus and assist with equipment set-up. Students will also be required throughout February to help assemble information packets and to do preliminary organizational work. Those who volunteer will earn the University's basic hourly wage of \$4.35 an hour. In addition, those working February 26 and/or 27 will also be provided with lunch each day.

During Reading Week this year the University's faculties, departments and students organizations will be hosting two days of presentations, displays and special events for high school students, guidance counsellors and interested parents from all over Alberta. Participants have been invited from all of the Province's high schools, and University Orientation Days are designed to give those involved a better understanding of a university education, from academic programs and admission requirements to clubs and athletics, from fees and studying to housing and social activities. The objective is to help those who will soon have to make serious decisions regarding careers and post-secondary education gather much of the information they will need to do it properly.

If you would like to work at University Orientation Days, please drop by or call our office (between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.), at the address or number below and ask for Julia or Kathy. You may volunteer to work both days, one or any portion of one day February 26 and 27. (preference will be given to those who volunteer to work full-time both days). Or you may volunteer to work a few hours in February assembling information packets. Students selected to act as tour guides or information assistants will be required to attend a three-hour training workshop either Sunday, February 8 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., or Wednesday, February 11 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. (Please indicate your choice of workshops when applying.)

Please direct your inquiries or applications to:

University Orientation Days
Office of the Registrar
Room 128 Administration Building

Phone: 432-5088