

## Musings on 'Geer week

Welcome back everyone to a new year at (good) old U of A. It's that time of year again, time for me to come up with another hot and controversial editorial. Well, I think I will just settle for about 400 words on anything. Now as I look through my wide range of topics from nuclear destruction to music videos, I try to think of what to write about. Now, nuclear destruction is old news and everyone has seen Michael Jackson's videos and they are just what the name says — BAD.

Why not write about something closer to home — how about Engineering Week? Yes folks — EW — that time of year for some to rejoice and some to loathe. It's that time when the sound of music fills the halls of our dear old university. The time when Quad becomes the spawning ground for young artists to show off their talent. To some, this is the most fun-filled week of an otherwise ho-hum school year. But to most, it is a time to just tolerate one section of the university as it blows off steam. Although for one section of fowl it is a time to fear for their very lives — but that is another story.

What this whole long drawn out editorial is supposed to come to is my opinion of Engineering Week. I am like most students and have to wade through halls packed with engineers and try to concentrate in classes with music blasting through the halls. But despite these problems, I still really enjoy EW; to me, it's a time when the campus comes alive. I see that giving the engineers one week out of 32 is not bad. My advice to all non-engineers trying to get through the week is to keep your heads down and sic an 'aggie' on them if you need to.

Bruce Gardave

## The Gateway

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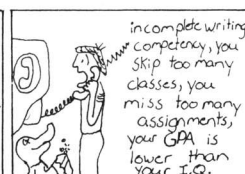
Letters to the Editor are encouraged and always welcome. If you have a comment which would be of interest to the students of the University, please do not hesitate to send it in. All we require is your name, address, and phone number, and student ID if you are a student. We will not print letters missing any of these. Letters should be no longer than three hundred words. Mail — deliver your letters to Room 282 SUB, or drop them at any SU information booth.

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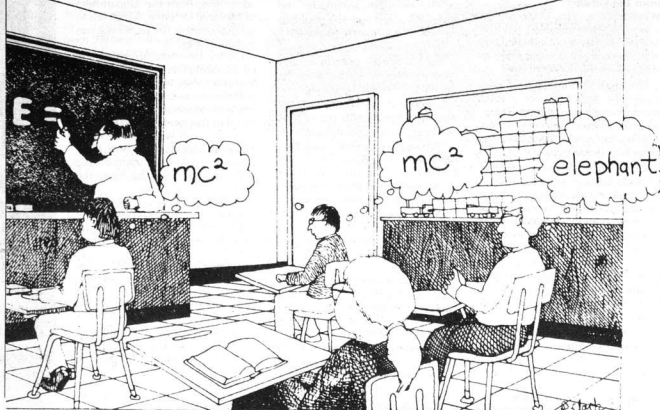
## The Worse The Better



And On Campus



## SPOT THE ENGINEER



## Share the blame

"One of the most effective marketing schemes in Canadian advertising history". This is how one journalist described the Olympic Torch relay, currently making its way across Quebec and Eastern Canada, exclusively sponsored by our crown-owned oil company, PetroCan. Built on the theme of "uniting the country", and explicitly targeting youth audiences, this campaign has been effective in generating wide and honest public enthusiasm. So far, it has also escaped damaging association with its sponsor's activities in Northern Alberta.

The Lubicon Cree Indian Band is fighting for its very existence. At first the fight was simply for the kind of treaty recognition which the provincial government has accorded other bands. Since the early 1970s however, resource development (licensed by the province without consultation or compensation) has destroyed the traditional economic base of the community. Welfare now replaces trapping and hunting as the mainstay of the economy. Now the fight of the Lubicon people is also against tuberculosis, alcoholism, suicide, and the other factors which have complemented federal/provincial policy toward native communities in the past.

The prospective genocide of the Lubicon people happens to share the same moment in history, and the same part of the globe as the 1988 Winter Olympic Games. We can all appreciate the irony of the two spectacles: one is highly visible celebration of official culture, corporate and state power; the

other is an act of barbarism committed in silence and obscurity, against a group with neither wealth nor political influence.

There is no better illustration of this reality than the fact that 19th century colonial genocide taking place virtually unnoticed only a few kilometers from the Games, which draw the attention and admiration of the whole international community. Only a few kilometers away... but for the Lubicon Cree this is the callous pageant of a power as distant as Manhattan is from Bhopal.

PetroCan and the provincial Tories might not get away with this so easily, however. In Europe, a protest campaign by Lubicon representatives and support groups has convinced international museums to boycott an exhibition of native artifacts connected with the Games (sponsored by Shell Oil). The issue of genocide has also been raised before the U.N.

Demonstrations have been launched in some communities along the route of the Olympic torch. The placards read: "Share the Shame. Share the Blame" referring to PetroCan's role, both as sponsor of the Torch Relay event, and as another beneficiary of drilling leases granted by the province on Lubicon territory. National media, fearing well-deserved international embarrassment, carefully ignore the demonstrators. But as the torch moves west, it may well ignite a dangerous fuse of protest, as more and more Albertans find out what their government is capable of doing for the sake of oil company profit.

Andrew Rodomar

**We need political cartoonists! If you are funny and talented, contact the Managing Editor at The Gateway.**

## Parking rules wrong

I realize I parked in a zone marked for motorcycles so I am guilty of a crime.

On the date of January 07, 1988, at 7:14 p.m., there were not very many motorcycles driving in traffic. I realize that some "die-hards", like myself, like to drive their motorcycles as long as possible. At the particular time of the offense the outside temperature was approximately 25 degrees below zero; there had been no motorcycles on campus since the finals of the first term.

I appreciate the designated motorcycle parking and respect it when there are motorcycles being driven to campus. When the weather is too cold to operate motorcycles, the parking should be made available to other motorists instead of sitting empty, with the exception of a few privileged U of A vehicles.

Edward J. Thompson