

# EDITORIAL

## The ties that bind

We've often heard people harping on how women are discriminated against because they have to fight for equality in a "man's world."

We've also been told that men are the "privileged sex," and women are the only ones that suffer as a result of the imbalance. This is all very well and good, as it has led to greater independence for women and a push for equality.

Still, few people realize the stereotypic sex roles that we are shaped toward from birth, can lead to psychological and societal problems for both sexes.

Women often complain that men can't or won't show their emotions, but it is often a result of their upbringing. A boy is chastised for crying, by both his peers and his parents, most often his father. He learns through conditioning to hide the "feminine" emotions such as sensitivity, fear, depression, and fondness with male friends. Similarly, many young boys are encouraged to follow traditional play activities, such as playing with trucks, and climbing trees. They are often discouraged from playing at traditionally feminine activities, such as doll-playing and "house." If a boy enjoys such "feminine" games he is called a sissy, a faggot.

Even minimal amounts of dependency are discouraged in boys; at age five or six, a boy is praised for his independence and channelled toward cutting the apron strings as soon as possible, whereas for girls it is the opposite.

While there may be some truth to the idea that the sociological differences in the sexes are due to biological causes, these are probably fewer than most would like to think.

It is probably true that males are born with the potential to be stronger, but this only develops into a reality (on the average) through conditioning. If boys are taught to play games which involve using their muscles, more so than girls, it follows that as a result, their muscles will be more developed.

The biological differences which exist at infancy between males and females are exaggerated throughout childhood, and after being ingrained, continue often for a lifetime.

As boys, male companionship is stressed, and even demanded. If a young male enjoys playing with girls he will cause undue anxiety to his parents. Then, at adolescence, and throughout adulthood, the male is considered a male chauvinist or a latent homosexual if he spends a lot of time with other males. It is a different story for women. It is acceptable, even expected for them to have both male and female friends, as well as a spouse, or boyfriend.

While women are able to talk about almost anything with their friends, men seem to limit their conversations to things extraneous to themselves, such as sports, or politics. They rarely if ever, discuss their personal lives, their triumphs and failures, or their feelings. This is due to the fact that men are conditioned to be competitive, and to win. Admitting failures would be admitting to being less of a man, and extolling one's triumphs would be equated with boasting. How can you be friends with someone with whom you are competing?

Many parents express the fear that if their son isn't adequately masculine, he may become homosexual. On the flip side of the coin, girls, by showing some masculine traits, aren't feared of becoming lesbians. This results in homophobia for many men. They could not live with the idea of someone erroneously thinking they were homosexual, so they go overboard in trying to prove their masculinity. Most men will reject their friends who tell them that they are gay, no matter how close they may have been. Also, if a male meets a man at a party, or elsewhere, whom he learns is homosexual, rarely will a friendship develop. Fear of guilt by association is one of the factors involved.

On the other hand, women tend to be more at ease with the thought of a platonic relationship with someone who happens to be a lesbian. The same pressures to prove their heterosexuality are not present.

While women have begun to realize that the roles they are asked to play are unacceptable for many, men have yet to achieve the same liberation from a system which is no longer applicable. As women experience their new-found freedom, men struggle with the system that bound females, and are finding they are bound by it also. If human beings are to interact as equals there must be both liberated women and men.

Anne Stephen

If human progress had been merely a matter of leadership, we should be in Utopia today.

Thomas B. Reed, 1885

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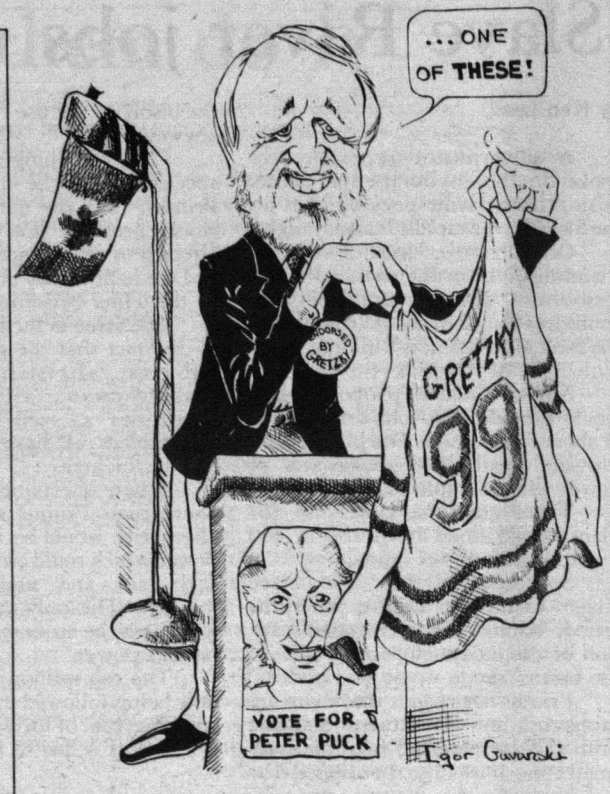
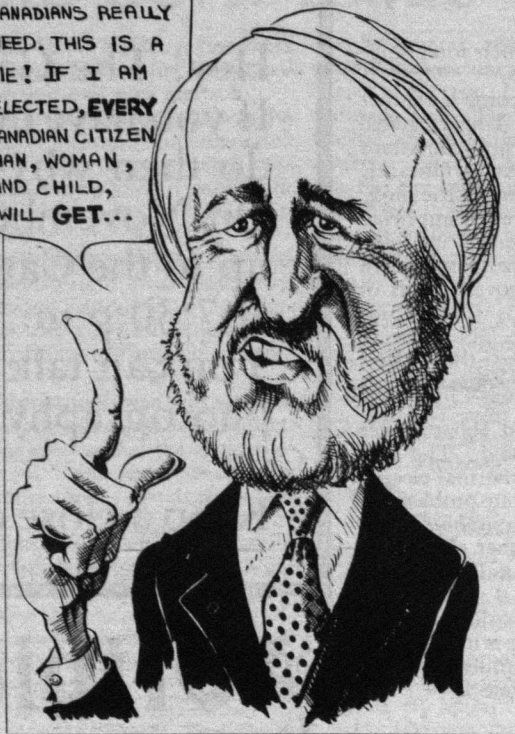
Staff this issue:

The first annual Gateway boat race was opened today by John Roggeveen tripping over Ken Lenz on the way to the beer cooler. Heather-Ann Laird groaned from the couch where she had collapsed on Peter Brock. Sandra Corbett, Nate Laroi and Durk Boivin staggered through the gree haze after James L. Stevens and Beno John. Aaron Buchowsky, Igor Gavinski and David tried to show Terry Lynn Paulgard their etchings. Only Kent Blinston was interested. Martin Coutts and Zane Harker were left in contention with Martin Beales and Bill Inglee. During their forty-seventh round, the custodial staff moved in to clean up. John Algard issued Extra-strength Tylenol and golden silence followed.

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SOME PEOPLE CLAIM I DON'T KNOW WHAT CANADIANS REALLY NEED. THIS IS A LIE! IF I AM ELECTED, EVERY CANADIAN CITIZEN, MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD, WILL GET...



## « LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

### Enumeration critic all washed up

Re: "Tory! Tory! Tory!" H. Mackenzie, October 19.

Being an enumerator for Poll 63, NORTH CAMPUS, I must take strong exception to Mr. H. Mackenzie's statement: "...the enumeration around the university area is extremely sloppy." I find this statement totally and completely unjustified. A prominent member of the New Democrat Party and myself made every effort to ensure that all eligible students were listed.

The Returning Officer for Edmonton Strathcona, Mr. Peter Albrecht, also informed me that he felt the university area was enumerated very well. I would also like to point out to Mr. Mackenzie, that contrary to your belief that "...PC's are up to their dirty tricks again..." the university campus was enumerated by both a member of the New Democrat Party and a member of the Progressive Conservative Party. Mr. Albrecht felt this was especially important for these two polls in particular (63 and 65).

So, Mr. Mackenzie, if you feel that these two polls and Garneau Towers (Poll 61) were done so sloppily, I urge you to talk to Mr. Peter Albrecht, the Returning Officer, as well as the Chief Financial manager for Gordon Wright's campaign and a University of Alberta political science professor of NDP affiliation; the last two being enumerators in polls 63 and 65 respectively.

As for your comments regarding Garneau Towers, I'm afraid, Mr. Mackenzie, that you once again did not do your homework before making these accusations. As I mentioned before, Mr. Albrecht was more than pleased with the results of the enumeration in Garneau Towers. Further after talking to both Mr. Albrecht and one of the enumerators for Garneau Towers, who incidentally became quite upset upon learning of your accusations; I

was informed that Garneau Towers was not only done quite thoroughly, but each of the 309 units in Garneau Towers were visited at least twice if the residents were not listed on the first trip. (Legally, one trip is required of an enumerator.) Those units that were not contacted were left an Absentee Electors Notice. It then becomes the responsibility of the individual to be sure that they are placed on the Voter's List. All that was necessary was for the individual to call the number on the notice, give the necessary information, and within a minute it would be over. For those who were missed, the responsibility was SOLELY their own and not the enumerators. The enumerator cannot be expected to return time after time for those who were not home after two and sometimes three visits.

One further point, Mr. Mackenzie, contrary to what you seem to imply, though Mr. Koziak has been Minister of Education, during the last term of office Mr. Koziak was Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Mr. King was Minister of Education and Mr. Horsman was Minister of ADVANCED Education. I believe Mr. Mackenzie, that you owe an apology to the enumerators of polls 61 (Garneau Towers), 63 (North Campus), 65 (South Campus), Mr. Julian Koziak and the Progressive Conservative Party.

Trevor Conway  
 Enumerator Poll 63

P.S. One final note: contrary to Mr. Mackenzie's statement, students who were missed do not have to go "...east of Mill Creek on the way to Saskatoon.", they merely have to call 469-7659 no later than Saturday and ask for Mr. Albrecht.

### Social activism versus donuts

It is unfortunate to learn that the Students' Union motion condemning Israel's invasion of Lebanon was treated with such ambivalence by many of the Council members.

While passage of the motion would not have seriously affected world opinion or altered Canada's foreign policy, the symbolic implications of the motion are very important. Firstly, it is an added voice to the growing intolerance civilized nations have toward Israel's actions in the Middle East. Secondly, and most importantly for the university, is that the motion is proof to ourselves that we can legitimately be concerned with issues outside the university. Since no one can deny that Israel's occupation of West Beirut was unjustified, and that Israel along with Christian Phalangist bear the responsibility for the massacre of the refugees, then the second point becomes the focus for debate.

Opponents of the motion feel that it is not the place of the Students' Union to make decisions on political matters. To follow this argument to its logical conclusion would mean to shut down all of the student political organizations in the University. The NDP, Liberal, Progressive Conservative and all other political organizations would have no place in a university which fosters upon this kind of political activity. If we are supposed to be the intellectual elite of society we should be concerned with political matters, instead of turning inward and pretending that this university exists in a vacuum that has no connection to an outside world.

The motion came very close to passing. 11 members of Student Council were courageous enough to support the motion. The 12 Council members who opposed, apparently feel that the Students' Union should only be concerned with organizing sockhops and donut sales.

Another argument brought up by opponents to this motion is that there have been other massacres, and they point to events in South America. Why single Israel out? There is a very important difference which the 12 members failed to realize. The recent massacre of Palestinians is part of a process, not an isolated incident. We all saw the television reports of Israeli war planes indiscriminately bombing hospitals and civilian areas. In their occupation of West Beirut Israelis destroyed the Palestinian research council building. Books, essays,

poems and other expressions of Palestinian culture were burned. Incidentally these same materials are illegal to possess on the West Bank and Gaza. Chattila and Sabra are hardly isolated incidents.

Again to the 12 members who opposed the motion, good luck on the next donut sale, please don't strain anything.

Edward Shihadeh  
 President, U of A Arab Students Assoc.

### Not by bread alone...

We are fortunate to have Mr. Coombs of the WCC share with us his views on economic issues and on the proper function of the University. It seems he prefers to see the University supported by private-sector donations rather than by government funding. When it is suggested that private sector businesses will subsidize "job-oriented" programs at the expense of general programs Mr. Coombs opines "Perhaps that does say something about the value of the arts faculty to society".

Now to fix the worth of an education simply by the effect it has on a human being's "production" is an error, and a vulgar one. The value of art and learning is not to be determined by the number of Alberta businesses willing to subsidize art and learning, but rather by the part these play in the good life. And the best life is not merely devoted to making more money and accumulating new toys, but also to some knowledge of goodness and of beautiful things.

I should have thought that the contribution of, say, a Mozart or Shakespeare to society is very great and that part of the well-rounded education consists of acquainting oneself with it. Nor does the truth of this depend on whether Coombs and his friends have ever heard of Mozart.

The desire to transform Universities into technical institutes has forgotten that technology, though useful or even necessary to the good life, is not a sufficient condition of it.

Glen Koehn  
 Philosophy