

EDITORIAL

U.S. mental block

Finally, the whole sorry debacle of the American hostages in Iran is over. This, thankfully, also signals an end to the biased, ethnocentric and distorted news reporting coming from American and Canadian networks and newspapers.

I feel sorry, not because of the plight of the hostages, but because the American people are no closer now than they ever were to understanding the roots of the resentment and even hatred inspired by their presence in any part of the world.

Instead, they blithely skip along, assuming their moral superiority and demonstrating their righteous arrogance and indignation at anyone who questions the suitability of the American Way of Life for their country. They elect presidents, not because they support human rights (the alleged cornerstone of American democracy) but because they support "friends," like the Shah in Iran, the dictators in Chile and El Salvador and the puppets in Vietnam.

When Iran deposed the Shah and took the hostages there was at least the hope that Americans would gain some insight into the reasons behind the discontent sweeping across the Third World, and the Middle East in particular. Iranians of all classes supported the revolution, directly or tacitly, because they saw it as the necessary first step in ridding themselves of the vise-like control exercised over their society and culture by imposed values and alien traditions.

The upheavals in Iran were not and are not the exclusive workings of a pack of wild-eyed, bearded fanatics. Instead, the mullahs represent the only stable element in Iranian society, and it was to these symbols of tradition that people turned wholeheartedly for rescue from the ravages of rapid modernization.

More specifically, what the Shah and most other U.S. backed Third World rulers wanted was the facade of Westernization without the values and traditions that go with it. Row upon row of shiny fighter planes, modern shopping malls and air conditioned high rises may be nice, but they do absolutely nothing to alleviate the suffering of the mass of peasants in most nations. These trappings simply entrench the autocratic elites, allowing them to exploit their own people.

It is these trampled masses who know the U.S. only perceives their land as a means to their own self-serving ends. These include maintaining the status quo power structure to facilitate the exploitation of people and resources, and fulfilling so-called "strategic needs." They see clearly that they are treated as nothing more than pawns, and they don't like it.

So they take the only action possible; they strike out at the visible symbols of American power and influence — they chant slogans, they plant bombs, and they take hostages.

Of course, violence against foreigners cannot be condoned. However, the response of the militant students was not an irrational anomaly, but the predictable result of American policy. Unless Americans shed their childlike naivete and acknowledge the forces of change in the world, they will find themselves more and more often in situations similar to the one they have just escaped from.

Keith Krause

the Gateway

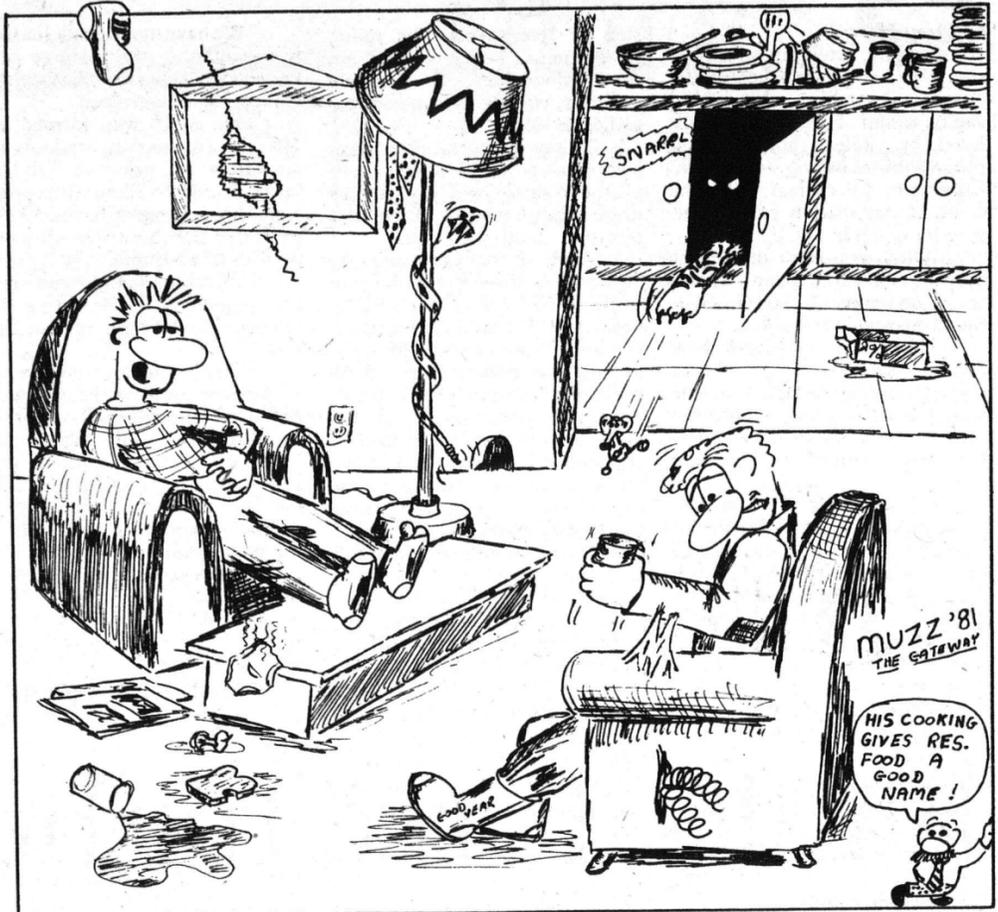
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If it happens on campus...it's news to us.

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Who says the Gateway's tacky? Us guys gots lotsa class. Just look at our lineup there - it's what you's call yer regular noble menagerie, ya know? Ya gots yer Baron Greg Harris, Lady Elda Hopfe, Dame Alison Thomson, Friar Wes Oginski, Princess Cathy Emberley and the esquire himself, Michael Skeet, Esquire. If that don't satisfy ya, you's got yer Duchess Maureen Laviolette, Royal Physician Doug Spaner, Czarina Sandy Gusnowski, "Prints" Tom Freeland and Kaiser Jens Andersen. Not to mention Their Jocknesses Garnet DuGray and Dick Hancock. And yer royal duo - King Muzz XXIII and His Lowness Blinny I. I'd like to see yer Andy Snadbum and G.O.D.O' Callahan at yer Urinal top that one! Class with a capital 'K' - know what I mean?

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. With a readership of more than 25,000, the Gateway is published by its proprietor, the Students' Union, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter session. Contents are the responsibility of the editor; editorials are written by the editorial board or signed. All other opinions are signed by the party expressing them. Copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. The Gateway, a member of Canadian University Press and the Youthstream Network, is located at room 282 SUB, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7.
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I'M LIVING PROOF THAT HUMAN LIFE CAN BE SUSTAINED ENTIRELY ON COLD PIZZA, WARM BEER, AND KRAFT DINNER.

Can't you hear the music?

It never fails. Every year I have to either write or phone in to complain of your unbelievable lethargy in covering the events sponsored by our own university artistic community.

Some assume that the Gateway is a university paper conceived and run by the people of this institution. It has been believed, (wrongly, too), that the Gateway is a comprehensive media vehicle for the reporting of the various events on campus.

The Department of Music does in fact exist and has been responsible for some very fine concerts in just about every musical field which the Western Hemisphere offers. Symphony, chamber music, rock 'n' roll, big and small band jazz, C & W, R & B, electronic, folk; all these and from every period known from early medieval to the present are to be heard. The Department is met often with good critical acclaim — not here it seems.

I look in the Gateway and see pages of basketball, Golden Bears, coach interviews and the like, but no mention of some of the best music played in town — right here on campus. Either you don't care a damn about the musical life here or you don't know anything about music. Your painful lack of coverage — even bad coverage — leads me to believe both cases. It must be that you wouldn't know music even if it came up and bit you on the ass.

If the Gateway can claim or ever hope to be the paper of the university community, then its primary responsibility is not the review of the Good Brothers at SUB, or whatever, but for the many gigs the Music Department works so hard to present to its in-the-dark university fellows.

You don't review the bloody Eks! You do review the Bears! So cover the events we present! Every last goddamn musical event you people cover is handled by the downtown papers. Even we get media exposure from the Journal

and the Sun. It's really not their responsibility. But it is yours!

Now get this: we're still presenting many concerts including two up-and-coming operas, plus featured solo performers, groups, etc., at the Power Plant. These good people against some typical hard-nosed bureaucrats will open up another

outlet for the university artistic community.

Think about your responsibilities. Must we keep hounding you all? You're deaf and blind and ignorant. We are not amused. We are not impressed.

Bill Damur
Grad Studies

Rowdy but pragmatic

It has been my experience that fellow engineering students tend to possess a certain view of the world. It is a pragmatic one filled with transistors, gas turbines and efficiency ratings. We worry about making things work — in real situations and for real people. It is a preoccupation that leaves little time for idealism or good manners.

Engineering students are usually people with common tastes. Beer, not wine, is the favoured drink and pretty, personable girls are preferred. In our classrooms rowdy laughter is more likely than cries for revolution.

Unsurprisingly, then, Engineering Week is an event for common, ordinary people. It's for people who like boisterous, bawdy entertainment. It's for people who like to have a good time. In this it is a quite unremarkable event.

Yet, engineers have recently been called arrogant, repulsive,

adolescent, stupid, lustful, boorish, slobbering sexists (to quote but a few). It would seem that Engineering Week is also an occasion for hysterical name-calling.

A more fitting name, and a more damning one is easily found. Engineers are human; but isn't everyone?

Lloyd Takeyasu
Engineering IV

On the lam

The assistance is sought of any person who may have information relating to the December 10, 1980 armed robbery of a Loomis money shipment in the Students' Union Building.

Confidentiality will be maintained if desired. Please contact the Investigations Branch of Campus Security at 432-5252.

WFG. Perry
Director
Campus Security and Traffic

Oink! Oink! (Blush)
We have a problem

As a newspaper committed to anti-sexism and equal rights for women, it's embarrassing to admit it, but this year we have a serious shortage of women on staff. However, we're determined to solve this problem before it becomes entrenched. So if you're a female student interested in writing news, sports, arts or features, taking photos or doing layout, drop in soon - we'll be glad to see you.

P.S. This doesn't mean we aren't happy to get more male staff also!