

# EDITORIAL

## Clean up the act

The events of the last week should have proven at least two things to the engineering faculty, the Engineering Students' Society and individual engineering students.

First, it's not just a small bunch of radical "femlibbers" or *Gateway* staff who are deeply opposed to the excesses of Engineering Week.

Second, it's time for a change; time for the Dean of Engineering or other responsible persons to take action to eliminate the Queen contest and kicklines or at least to remove the official sanction of it.

Abolishing Engineering Week altogether would be the wrong answer. This campus has Agriculture Week, Commerce Week, and other faculty activities, and there is no reason why Engineering Week can't be restructured along these lines. Engineers themselves are quick to point out that Engineering Week has many positive unobjectionable aspects and the princesses and kicklines are just a small part of it. Abolishing these aspects would certainly not destroy the spirit and tradition as some engineers fear.

Likewise, looking for specific scapegoats like Ed Spetter, the hapless editor of the *Godiva* (the Engineering Week paper), is also misguided. Expelling him or slapping the hands of the individuals responsible for skit night or the ice sculptures is only looking at the short term, and this is doubtless a long-term issue.

The Queen contest and the kicklines legitimize the sexist aspects of Engineering Week, allowing its excesses to occur. Skit night, with its graphic portrayal of rape, the *Godiva* article on child mutilation and the tasteless and obscene ice sculpture in Quad are all linked under the framework that has been handed down. It is only by abolishing the framework that sanctions such offensive behavior that the specific excesses can be eliminated.

The university administration itself cannot afford to ignore the situation any longer, pretending it is nothing but a student or faculty issue. The adverse publicity gained for the university with the public is enough to damage severely our image. That, at a time like this, ought to be sufficient for the administration to at least take a public stand.

Individual engineers have gone out of their way to demonstrate they are not barbarians, and it is easy to understand their feelings of persecution. All the same, demonstrating they are not barbarians as individuals does not serve as an excuse to continue acting uncivilized as a group. And Engineering Week is essentially a group activity.

People are now watching the engineering students closely, and whether or not they implement any changes this year is irrelevant. The point is that they simply are not going to be allowed to get away with their annual public display of immaturity and social irresponsibility for many more years. Now is as good a time as any to begin positive changes.

## Step right up!

The *Gateway* once again is in the market for an editor. Next year's, that is. If you are looking for a challenge (and I mean a challenge), if you have any relevant skills to offer, or if you are simply interested in discovering how to become involved, drop by the office and speak to me. You'd be surprised at how easy it is to achieve fame and fortune as a *Gateway* editor. Applications close January 28. Enter now, enter often.

Keith Krause

## the Gateway

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"What do you make of it, Holmes?" asked the faithful doctor. "It's a most curious phenomenon indeed, my dear Watson...hmmm, yes 'The Case

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of the Reappearing Staff.' It had happened quietly, with no prior warning. Suddenly, new and old staff had materialized in the office with stories and reviews and cartoons. Greg Harris, Lynne Raynard, Adrian Chamberlain, Chris McDonald, Mary Ruth Olsen, Julius Halliday, Karen Kebarle, Blair Brennan, Jackie Tatebe; the list was long. And still plugging were old faithfuls: Jens Andersen, Tom Freeland, Elda Hopfe, Maureen Lavolette, Alison Thomson, Brent Jeffery, Wes Oginski, Cathy Emberley and Michael Skeet. "Mr. Skeet, you say?" muttered Holmes. "Oh, I'm afraid this case is insoluble, my good man. Completely insoluble..."

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"TO BE OR NOT TO BE?"

## Godiva furor out of control

I'm getting sick and tired of reading multitudes of letters and articles in the *Gateway*, the *Sun*, and the *Journal* condemning Engineering Week.

The main furor seems to be regarding the article *Pediophiliology* in the *Godiva*. Admittedly, the article is disgusting and generally in bad taste; however, every condemning letter conspicuously lacks the mention of one aspect of the controversial engineering newspaper. This is that no less than one sixth of the front page is devoted to a warning of the contents of subsequent pages. This article is outlined in black and entitled "WARNING" in bold print.

Although the warning is presented in a somewhat humorous manner, it is sufficiently explicit: "This newspaper contains material that some people would call obscene...." This paper is for engineers, and anyone who takes this paper and is not an engineer is guilty of theft and may be charged accordingly, and "If you decide, to continue to read through, we can only assume you do so at your own discretion." Even the article in question itself had blunt and sufficient warning of its contents.

Briefly, regarding the comments on the apparently sexist tradition of electing an engineering queen and assembling kicklines, I find it almost laughable. These people imply that the girls are forced at gunpoint to take on these roles. I'm sure they have just as much fun as we do and feminist groups (etc.) have no right to challenge that. Their plea to ban Engineering Week is utterly ridiculous.

I definitely don't mean to imply that I support the "Pediophiliology" article. However, it can't possibly be interpreted as an incentive for raping and murdering young girls,

as is often argued. So, in view of the aforementioned arguments.... GIVE IT A REST!

Engineering Week lives.

Bob Driver  
Civil Engineering II

## Hardly good clean fun

I join the *Gateway* editorial staff in expressing my horror at the reprehensible article entitled "Pediophiliology," which appeared in the Engineering paper, *Godiva*, this week. Not only is pornography advocating violence against women rampant in our society today, but now some of our fellow students have seen fit to make little girls the target of sadistic sexual abuse for "the engineer who is seeking an adventure in new and unusual challenges."

Especially abhorrent is the implied suggestion that any child who is forced to participate in the "adventure" will actually come to enjoy herself, her "innocent little face" evincing only "curiosity and surprise" as a flow of semen is ejaculated onto it. Her eyes will remain glued to those of her conqueror, supposedly in awe and adoration of him and in thankfulness for the great gift which has been bestowed upon her.

Unfortunately, this image of females masochistically enjoying their victimization is a pervasive one in our society and one not easily dispelled, especially when trashy articles such as "Pediophiliology" are allowed to be printed, all in the spirit of good, clean fun, of course.

Realistically, how many eight-year old girls would not

react in terror and repulsion if confronted with a situation as that portrayed in the article?

I could go on "ad nauseum" (and I must say that article in question did nauseate me!) about the humorless sexism and perversion portrayed in "Pediophiliology." However, what is important now is to ensure that such an article is not again printed in connection with Engineering Week or any other University event. Letters to those who have the power to prevent such recurrence can be effective and those who feel strongly about this issue should take the time to make their voices heard.

And if I were one of the Engineering Queen candidates, I would withdraw from that competition in protest of the pervasive degradation of women that surrounds that event and the entire Engineering Week.

Andrea Seale  
Law II

## Swamped!

...with letters, that is. We received almost 40 for this issue so if yours didn't get printed, it doesn't mean we don't like you. So hang tough!