

# Gateway editor is a horse's ass

Your editorial of February 1 referred to Engineering Week as "offensively juvenile," which certainly implies that engineers are individually inclined that way. You justified your argument that Engineering Week is offensive:

"LAW students kidnapped a princess, the AGRICULTURE students stole some ballots, and dumped manure on the ice statues, and unknown persons (NOT engineers) destroyed the sculptures. What have the engineers done that is offensive? Is making political sculptures juvenile? You don't object to the Sesame Street sculptures in front of Lister Hall, as if anyone could."

The Engineers can't help it if their activities are preyed upon by members of other faculties. The Aggies appear to have nothing better to do than dump horseshit on someone else's creativity, as well as organize the ugliest alcoholic grovel in North America; the Lawyers never have anything but manipulate the ideas of others, rather than create their own.

My conclusions about your editorial are similar to your's about Engineering Week, and certainly as justified: Gateway editorials are becoming, in many

ways, offensively juvenile. Either it is time people stopped taking Gateway editorials so seriously (not difficult), or it is time the Gateway editorials were stopped.

Neil Edmunds  
Mech. Eng. III

**Ed. Note:** Speaking of dumping horseshit, Mr. Edmunds, perhaps you should have reread the editorial before you began to indulge yourself. How do I *imply* it is engineers who are individually inclined toward offensive juvenile behavior when I, in fact, make specific reference to the various individuals who carry competition to extremes during E.W. and specifically avoid making gross generalizations that Engineering, Agriculture, and/or Law students are *all* inclined to behave in such a fashion? I referred to the *competitions* during the week not Engineering Week itself, as you misinterpret my comments to read. I did not, in fact, suggest ice sculptures were not valuable; I applauded the fact that for the last two years E.W. sculpture competitions have centred on political themes. Perhaps it's time someone taught you to read Mr. Edmunds. Or would that destroy your impulse for public embarrassment?

## Consul refuses petition

On Friday January 7, 1977, Daoud, alleged mastermind of the 1972 Munich Olympic Games incident in which 17 people were killed, and an accomplice to terrorist activities within Israel, was arrested in Paris. Requests by West Germany and Israel for his extradition quickly followed. Four days later, amidst a storm of controversy, Daoud was flown to political sanctuary in Algeria.

In the most strictly legal context France had violated its tradition treaties with Israel and Germany. The consequenceless expediency with which France disposed of Daoud was shocking.

Angry protestors picketed French embassies and consulates in Bonn, Jerusalem and other centers. In Edmonton, a number of university students — representatives of no political, religious or cultural organization — drafted a petition, the spirit of which censured the French government's handling of the affair.

In a matter of days nearly one

thousand signatures were collected and a written request for an audience with the French consulate in Edmonton was made.

A letter refusing this request was subsequently issued by the French consulate. It arrived, complete with the official French government explanation of the affair, in order that a "correct opinion in this matter" could be formed.

The official French Government communique stated that "neither France, her people nor her laws have any lessons to learn from anyone and those who desire to be her friends (should) refrain from trying to teach (her) their lessons."

The French consul in Edmonton, Mr. Pierre Guerand, is under no legal obligation to receive anyone. His duties here focus largely on public relations matters of interest to France.

All that was respectfully requested was a ten minute hearing.

Ronald M. Pascoe  
Arts II

Your (obligatory) spiel on Engineering Week was brought to my attention Tuesday and I must take issue with you on several points.

1. The kidnappings of the First Year Princess and a ballot box were initiated in a sense of spirited and enjoyable rivalry (as should all competitive endeavours be) and I congratulate both groups involved on their planning, skill and success.

2. The Quad ice sculptures took a lot of time and effort on the part of the Engineers. We are somewhat proud of our artistic ability and political insight. An allegation that the Engineers would deface and destroy other clubs' statues rankles of ignorance unforgivable in a "journalist."

3. It is true that we take the events of Engineering Week seriously. Whether rolling kegs, pulling toboggans or chugging beer, each man on every team wants to win. That is how it is in all team sports. And yet, we have a camaraderie and sense of sportsmanship between rival teams that I have yet to see in any Intramural or Intercollegiate team sports. Still we are considered the juvenile ones?

4. As to the kidnapping of the Gateway... What threats?? I have not as yet received any word (other than your editorial) from you concerning our actions, although as we were distributing the Gateway, I heard a rumour about it. The other organizations that we picked on, such as CBC, CHED, BACUS, THE CITY, etc., thought ours (sic) stunts showed a keen sense of humour, entertainment value and civic awareness.

I am glad that we Engineers have some time each year to take ourselves and our work a little less seriously.

Mike Ekelund  
President, ESS

**Ed. Note:** Your (obligatory) rejoinder makes a number of significant, factual statements including a well-documented rebuttal of my "allegation" that engineers would destroy other clubs' statues, or your comment that you have not received any word about the Gateway kidnapping (beyond phone conversations in which it was suggested that since we would lose our advertising revenue and our printing costs, that we would cancel the Engineer's Thursday

cabaret, reprint the Gateway from the printer's plates and charge the ESS for ad costs, and the costs of printing the paper twice). These suggest to me that you perhaps do not have as much

On Tuesday, in a Gateway editorial, Kevin Gillese made some comments concerning Engineering Week that show his lack of understanding of the event.

We are the first to agree that Engineering Week is competitive since it is the competitions between the six engineering clubs that make the week so successful. However, the competitiveness between the clubs is all in good fun and many lasting friendships result from the weeklong mingling of engineers from the different departments.

The princess kidnappings and ballot box thefts are as much a part of Engineering Week as beer drinking. As long as the other faculties play by the rules there are no hard feelings on anybody's part.

The smashing of the ice statues in Quad is also a traditional part of the week. The Aggies, who did the deed, had the courtesy to check with two engineers late Wednesday night

We, the engineering students here at the U of A feel very disappointed in the Gateway's coverage of Engineering Week.

Perhaps you could pause a moment and read what is written in the box above where your editorial appears which begins "THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students." Keeping this in mind, why do you feel it necessary to belittle a week of campus involvement, which was initiated to relieve the "January blahs," not only for engineering students but for a large portion of the campus? Admittedly, you did print a few pictures, but with "offensively juvenile" comments below them. This attitude shows irresponsible journalism and gives a rather childish impression of you and your staff.

reverence for "facts" as a future professional should have. It's easy to be hurt and respond emotionally to criticism rather than attempting to understand and respond rationally to it.

that the statues had been judged before leaving their mark. Hardly a juvenile act. (Ed. Note:?)

Kevin's referral to the Gateway as being stolen last Thursday is only partially correct. The Gateway was removed from most locations as a stunt, but the club involved had every intention of returning the papers without any threats. It would seem stupid not to, since half a page of photographs was about Engineering Week. All of the other stunts during the week were harmless and entertaining.

The engineers have shown that there are students at the U of A who have the ability to organize a week with numerous events, activities and one of the campus' largest formals. Perhaps, Kevin, you should be praising the engineers for successfully completing an extremely time consuming and difficult job, not calling them juvenile.

Executive of the  
Civil Engineering Club

In your editorial last Tuesday you suggested that Engineering Week is being taken too seriously and that it is about time it was stopped. This would be a sad occasion indeed! Apathy on campus is already very high and I don't feel that it is up to the Gateway to try to discourage such intergroup activities and socializing.

In conclusion, I would just like to say that Engineering Week is there to encourage participation of Engineers in non-academic activities and to have a good time in the process. I can safely say that for the people who participated in Engineering Week (about 1900 in all), it was a hell of a good time, and I, personally, would be very upset if this tradition were to come to an end.

L.B. Hale  
4th Year Mining

## -Gateway Notices:-

Gateway has some surplus photographic equipment which will go on sale as of this notice.

A motor drive designed for a Pentax body, complete with two rechargeable Rollei NiCd batteries, is up for sale for \$300.

The drive unit comes with a recharger which fits onto the handle for use.

Also for sale is a Vivitar 75-260 mm zoom lens, f 4.5. Asking price is \$100.



## CHARLES LUNCH

All of the boys in the gallery here on the Hill enjoy the post-election arrival of the new members, who fly in all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed from their home constituency, ready to take Ottawa by the horns and wrestle it to the proverbial ground.

One of my favourite pastimes is waiting on the tarmac at Louis St. Laurent International with a big sign that reads "Welcome to Thunder Bay." Many's the time a fledgling MP has turned right around and gone home thinking that someone should've told him they'd moved the capital.

A lot of new MPs have trouble adjusting to the hustle and bustle of the big city — Ottawa's varied night life ranges from taffy pulls on Sussex Drive to (illegal) beaver fights across the river in Hull. There's a strong temptation to fall asleep during question period in order to enjoy the spicier side of life.

Washington is not alone in its scandals. Just last month a prominent member of the A.I.B. was caught skinny-dipping in the Rideau Canal with his 65-year old

secretary. He was forced to resign in disgrace, and gave up his swinging bachelor basement suite to return to the wife and kiddies in Kamloops.

I still remember the days when Pierre was a bachelor and the East Block would echo to the sound of "Funny Girl" every time Streisand came to call. She even used to sing to him from the Public Gallery, but that came to an end when her high C shattered Robert Stanfield's glasses and woke him up.

The parties at 24 Sussex back then were a sight to behold.

Buxom lasses from hotspots like Trois Rivières and Baye DuRoi were chased around the fish pond by Cabinet ministers waving moose antlers, and new members were initiated into the top-secret "Order of the Ratskin Underwear." All they had to do was climb the Peace Tower and try to relieve themselves on the CBC reporters as they came to work in the morning.

Those exciting days are a thing of the past, however. As a new member arrives to begin his

new career, he is handed a small book entitled *Helpful Hints for the New Man on the Hill*. It contains all the information he/she needs to survive in Ottawa, such as:

"Please face forward when descending staircases so that you can see where you're going."

"If you do not know where the washroom is, ask a Mountie. Please wait until you are inside the cubicle before proceeding."

"Please do not pull John Diefenbaker's hair or bother him with questions. Yes, he is still alive."

And finally:

"Remember that for the next five years these buildings are your home. Don't write on the walls in your office, don't cut pictures out of priceless manuscripts in the Parliamentary library, and try to remember to wipe your feet before you track mud all over the marble floors."

With rules like these, it's no wonder fewer and fewer people are becoming interested in a political career — they've taken all the fun out of it.