

Uppity engineering students?

To all those who survived Engineering Week, I apologize for bringing up a subject that has been exhausted to the point of redundancy.

It galls me to provide the "engineers" with just one more opportunity to satisfy their insatiable craving for seeing the word "engineers" in print (regardless of what context it is placed in). Hopefully, it will be the last time — on my part anyway.

Over the years, "engineers" and the Engineering Faculty have tended to be one of the most visible faculties on campus, especially of late. What strikes me as somewhat incongruous is that we — all of us — have unconsciously catered to the idea that the "engineers" are an elite group on campus, by the simple fact that they are the only faculty on campus that refers to its students by the name reserved for members of the engineering profession and not for engineering students.

Naturally I can understand that it would be an ego boost to be equated with successful, experienced and qualified professionals in one's field, but it seems rather presumptuous to say the least. I'm sure not too many professional engineers would appreciate being relegated to

the same level as a student who is working toward his BSc.

One doesn't see psychologists, economists or doctors running around campus; more realistically we see students of the above disciplines who (hopefully) accept the fact that at present they are indeed students — nothing more, nothing less — until such

time as they graduate.

I think it is high time everyone (engineering students included) stopped trying to force a square peg into a round hole and started awarding engineering students the status they merit — and nothing more.

Emille Gnanasihmany
Physical Education IV

Non-drivers: cash only

I find it ridiculous that I have to carry cash at a great risk to myself as a young woman whenever I wish to shop. A chequing account was opened for me by my employer last summer at our mutual convenience. Although I rarely write a cheque over \$20 and I have plenty of I.D., my cheques are not acceptable in the eyes of the business world.

Like so many young women on campus I am disgusted by the discrimination allowed to flourish openly in this 'democratic society'. I refer specifically to the fact that people who can't afford a credit card and for whatever good reason don't drive are not allowed to write a cheque, however valid.

I am outraged that my citizenship card, which is legally on par with a passport, is not accepted, for according to the law of this land this card must be accepted internationally as sufficient I.D. The federal government designed the S.I.N. card so it could be used as official I.D. by any working Canadian regardless of income. The business world will not accept this as good enough to write a cheque on.

Why should I be forced to go back on my moral beliefs and get a credit card? Why should I come up

with \$400 to get a driver's license so I can write a \$20 cheque? This is blatant discrimination against the lower income individual.

Moreen McDuff
Arts I

Bad taste - is that all?

Amid all the letters from male engineering students agreeing that the "Pediophiliaology" article in the *Godiva* should never have been published, I was struck by something: letter after letter in effect says "Everyone agrees the article was in extremely bad taste, but....."

BAD TASTE????? Is that all it was?

What if the article had talked about how much fun it would be for these letter-writers' younger brothers to be kidnapped, beaten, castrated, and murdered? Would this be no more than tackiness? Or — horror of horrors — extreme rudeness?

With attitudes like that, is it any wonder our society is so tolerant towards child molesters, wife beaters, and rapists?

Kevin Simmons
Commerce III

Sneaky teachers bend minds to evil ends

You people are all so smug. When you are hard up for a laugh pick on some Education student. Well it's been a long time coming but we in Education are finally getting the last laugh.

It all started years ago when the first Ed. student jokes started circulating around in dark, opium filled lounges in the engineering building. At first we in Education put up with it, it was kind of neat to see primitive minds working. But then it got out of hand and even the artsies were quoting Ed. jokes. That was the last straw, it was then that we decided to take action.

The plan was a stroke of genius and the means to carry it out was right at our fingertips. It was going to be a long haul but we were determined to finish the mission. At last it is done.

Do you wake at night with the feeling that you are being watched? Do you walk down the street at night and hear the scurry of footsteps only to turn and find nothing there? Do you find yourselves locking the doors at night and wondering if five locks are enough? Well, you are not alone, as countless others will confess. Do you wonder what is causing the uneasy feeling?

Just think about it for a minute. For years you ridiculed us on the campuses only to turn around in later years and entrust your dearest possessions to us. That's right, your children! We were first to realize that kids not nukes are the ultimate weapon. We discovered that through a gradual process of mind control

we would have access to this powerful weapon.

Oh, I know you're thinking that you haven't noticed any change in the children around you, fact is, they don't even know themselves. But it's there and all we have to do is trigger it. The beautiful part about all of this is that now that our plan is in place nothing can stop us. Society has become fat and lazy and very dependent on teachers to take care of the kids for a few years. The world never did give us much but what we did get we used.

Now we aren't going to say what we have programmed into these kids, but just remember the next time you want to say an Ed. student joke, how heavy do you sleep at night?

James Albers
Education II

Fugitive a lucky man

Dear Gunnar Blodgett,

It seems to me that you have had the best of both worlds. Now that things have gone sour, you want to renounce your American citizenship. If you were so concerned why did you wait until the DRAFT REGISTRATION NOTICE to make your intentions known? So now you must fact facts and bit the bullet. It seems to me, Gunnar, that you are a goner. Don't despair, you still have a chance at the presidency.

S.N. Wilkes
Education Admin. I

PARTY TIME!

Friday, January 30
Details in 282 SUB

Tune in, turn on, drop out!

SECOND WIND

by Nina Miller

Second Wind is a very rare column of opinion open to all Gateway staff.

Now that much of the fiery indignation sparked by Engineering Week has cooled, one thing is becoming increasingly clear: there is confusion and a severe lack of awareness on campus concerning women's issues. But if there is something positive to come from Engineering Week, it is the creation of a women's center, for which the Students' Council has made provisions.

Although Engineering may be the last bastion of overt male domination on campus, most of the other faculties are still male-oriented and the University runs on a system heavily stacked in men's favour.

Women are faced with problems incidental to their status as a minority in this patriarchal institution.

For example, funding for a secondary education is harder for women to obtain than for men, because women have a lower earning capacity for summer jobs and are more frequently single parents. On the whole, a university education is much less accessible to women.

In the university, women are faced with discrimination (intentional or unintentional), sexual harassment by professors (studies show this is rampant on campuses across the country), violence against women, rape and other offences.

A women's center would

serve as a resource library for people interested in studying these problems, act as a support group for women faced with these problems and provide a forum for open discussion, inviting different perspectives on these and other issues concerning women.

A women's center would not be a threat to the male population on campus, not a form of isolationism, not a private club where women would plan attacks on the other sex.

It would be a step forward for women to deal with their own problems independently.

Historically, women have been kept apart from each other, isolated, left to establish ourselves in the shadow of their 'mates'. The women's center is a step on the part of women to affirm our own identity.

If men felt the need to have a men's center in order to question

and redefine their roles in society, I would welcome it with great encouragement.

However, women are taking the initiative now. As pioneers in a 'man's world' it can be scary, alienating and frustrating. Alone, the task of changing our roles in the world can be overwhelming.

But by coming together and sharing our perspectives and experiences as women, we will be able not only to gain a better understanding of ourselves but to begin functioning as balanced, well-rounded human beings and to contribute to the positive growth and development of our society, ameliorating conditions for both men and women.

A meeting will be held this Wednesday at noon in Room 270A SUB for the organization of a women's center on campus. All interested women are welcome to attend.

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Whole world is sexist

This letter is in regard to articles which appeared in the *Gateway* during Engineering Week. Having been involved in Engineering Week three times, I know that it is a chance to take a break from a heavy course load and "unwind" and is an important part of the year for those students involved.

A lot of people complain, though, that Queen Week is sexist. Using this criteria one could say that the Medical students, as evidenced by the Med Show, are sexist; the *Getaway*, in their article about Wayne Gretsky could also be labelled as sexist; and

perhaps we should boycott Edmonton Transit for carrying advertising for women's pantyhose.

Granted, the engineers have an image problem. As far as a lot of non-engineering students are concerned, the only thing we do is drink to excess. Let's keep this in perspective. Sure we like to live it up during Engineering Week, but otherwise we aren't much different from medical or law students. Upon graduation we will assume responsible jobs and contribute to the social and political life of the community.

Mark Stefanick
Engineering IV

Gold Medal Award



Each Spring, the Students' Union awards a student with a Gold Medal for excellence in curricular and non-curricular activities at the University of Alberta during the previous academic year.

Criteria:

- candidates must be in the graduating year of their most recent degree program
- candidates must have a Grade Point Average of at least 7.5 in courses taken two years previous to the graduating year and in the first term of the graduating year
- extra-curricular involvement in University and/or community activities.

Deadline for Applications: 20 February, 1981

Contact the Students' Union Executive Offices for application or nomination forms, and/or for more information (259 Students' union Building, 432-4236).