

Engineers get support

This letter is written in response to Suzanne Bizon's letter which appeared in the January 14th edition of the *Gateway*.

Ms. Bizon's arguments fail to have an impact on me for several reasons; there are three particular areas in which her arguments have failings.

1. Ms. Bizon should have researched her topic more thoroughly. A statement such as "we women at this University are not here to see other women being judged as acceptable or unacceptable by the quality of their facial structure and their breast and hip measurements" indicates that Ms. Bizon is not aware that the Engineering Queen chosen by the Engineering Faculty is not ultimately judged by her looks.

The Engineering Club which accumulates the most points over the week's activities has their nominee chosen Queen.

The "beauty" aspect is only considered in initial nomination - there is no beauty contest during Engineering Week. I will leave it for Ms. Bizon to decide if this is any more desirable.

2. I seem to disagree with Ms. Bizon (and I'm sure most feminists in general) over the issue of sexuality. To me, sexuality is strictly an individual matter. It should be allowable for a woman or man to participate in any sexual activity or contest held to their liking. I agree with Ms. Bizon's statement that "the way in which women are viewed and treated in society is the issue of concern (in Engineering Week)". However, for Ms. Bizon to throw out such drivel as "women (Engineering Queens, etc.)...refuse to see how their own actions affect other people", is more hypocritical

than effective to her argument.

Ms. Bizon is attempting to impose her feminist sexual beliefs upon the women who participate in Engineering Week, and may not herself be capable of seeing how her comments affect the people she criticizes.

What if a woman makes a conscious choice to reject your feminist viewpoint, Ms. Bizon, - can her opinions legitimately be sluffed off as stupidity? Attempting to downgrade Queen participants to some sub-species lower than yourself because of their acceptance of an activity you view as sexist indicates that you are unable to accept the concept of individual sexuality.

I agree with your stand on sexism in activities such as the kick-line which may portray women as nothing more than "tits and ass", but this revelation is nothing new to those who participated.

Their sexual beliefs allowed them to participate - yours dictate that you would never participate; both opinions should be respected. Individualism, Ms. Bizon, must be accepted where sexuality is concerned.

3. I take offense, Ms. Bizon, to your gross generalizations concerning Engineers. The active participation of women Engineers as equals in such activities as ice sculpting, boat races, and treasure hunting indicates that male Engineers are not afraid of "equality" where women are concerned.

Some female Engineers may be perturbed by the sexist activities, but they do not resort to calling Engineering Week an event for little "boys".

Judging from the huge crowds

in CAB, there are a lot of little "boys" from both sexes on this campus. Your opinion of Engineers is as stereo-typed as a sexist's view of women. Perhaps I should slander you with the comment that all Commerce students (i.e. Accountants) are dull; or perhaps I should slander Arts students by claiming they all suffer from caffeine addiction.

One must remember, Ms. Bizon, that the feminist movement has only been pressing strongly for reforms for the last 20 years; may I remind you that man's prejudices have been entrenched over thousands of years.

It may be centuries before they are completely disrupted. It is unlikely that you will see a complete disruption of sexism in your lifetime - nor should you expect to.

Norman Sacuta
Education II



Special people on campus

The year of the Handicapped has come and gone. I would like to think that people will continue to work with handicapped people rather than pushing them to one side.

I have had many rewarding experiences working with handicapped people on campus and off. They don't want pity or to be ignored, but who does?

I think we all appreciate a little respect and a helping hand once in a while. Handicapped

people seek no more and no less.

There are many students on campus who need help taking notes, reading or just getting around in all this white stuff. How about helping out. If you can't even spare a fraction of your time at least get involved in Awareness Days this week.

Try on another's moccasins, or white cane, or wheel chair ... and see what it's like.

P.J.S.

Libraries strangled by fieldhouse

While walking by the new fieldhouse, we wondered how long students of this university will be paying for it. It seems foolish to undertake a massive project such as the World Student Games while the libraries and academic staff are suffering from large cutbacks.

The University claims that the Games will give it world attention. The University will get the recognition for the athletic facilities while its academic reputation suffers. World class universities such as Stanford and Harvard have maintained their reputations on academic excellence, not holding large athletic

events. The University blames the provincial government for cutbacks. The provincial government, in observing the preparations for the Games, must feel the University cannot be suffering too badly when it can undertake such an extravagant project as the Games. Meanwhile, the heart of our university, the library, is being slowly strangled by lack of funds. The province has only so much money to spend, while the Games receive a large amount of funding, others areas will naturally suffer.

We wonder how the average Canadian taxpayer feels about the

Games. He is already paying for the Montreal Olympic's deficit, soon to be paying for the Calgary Winter Olympics and the World Student Games.

The average Canadian looks at a university as an educational institution and must wonder about his tax dollars being spent on an athletic event, while quotas are being implemented in several faculties due to cutbacks.

The Games Organizers claim a large amount of revenue to pay for the Games will come from ticket sales. We question this when Bears and Pandas games are poorly attended, plus the fact that Albertans now have a lower disposable income to pay for entertainment.

In our opinion, our fees and the taxpayers' dollars would be better spent in providing quality education at the University of Alberta, not paying for another large sporting event that Canadians cannot really afford.

If the University of Alberta wants a world reputation it would be better to create a reputation based upon an academic excellence by hiring new professors and developing the libraries. All the Games will provide is a brief time in the spotlight, not a longstanding reputation.

Respectfully Yours,
Former Taxpayers and
Presently Students,

Gary Cornfield
Law I
Alan Johnston
Economics III.

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FEE PAYMENT DEADLINE

University regulations provide that the last day for payment of the second instalment of fees and for payment of fees for Second Term only registrants is January 15, 1982. A penalty of \$15.00 will be charged on any payment received after that date.

The regulations further state that should payment not be made by February 1st, registration will be subject to cancellation.

Fees are payable at the Office of the Comptroller, 3rd floor, Administration Building, or by mail addressed to the Fees Division, Office of the Comptroller, The University of Alberta.

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