

## YOUR COMMENTS

Dear Mr. Lai,

Women represent the largest percentage of students in this intellectual institution, and deserve to be treated as persons and not as inanimate objects (i.e. beer or beer bottles). Anyone who is a human being is outraged at such a degrading and demoralizing view of women presented in last week's issue of the **Gem**: "Engineer's View from the Top". We are sure that future employers of En-

gineers from this institution would question the social implications of hiring individuals who have such low opinions of fellow human beings.

Is this page actually representative of the Engineering students? If so, then perhaps they need to publish their own newsletter to the few who might be interested.

As the editor, of a Student Union operated newspaper,

the **Gem**, you and your staff must shoulder responsibility for allowing degrading material such as "Why Beer Is Better Than Some Women" to reach print. As a portion of our student fees go to pay your salary and publication of this newsletter, we expect your standards to be higher. Articles such as this should be filed in the garbage can where they belong. Your judgement as editor and that of your staff is questioned by the undersigned:

Ian Hogg  
Janet O'Donnell  
Wanda Whitlock  
Marina Battams  
Cathy Robertson  
Barbara Peacock  
Ann Arsenault  
Shelley Mills  
Linda Gordon  
Lorraine Graham  
Krista Jaeger  
Kevin Curran  
Janice Robertson  
Donna Perry  
Ticia McInnis  
Susan Laviolette  
Pam Handrahan  
Shawn Naylor  
Claudia A. Mitchell  
Roger Black

Robert Mahen  
Beth Percival  
Alanna Boswell  
Maureen Profit  
Karen Miller  
Florence McCarey  
Shawn Naylor  
Cathy Boudreau  
Chris Bulman  
Carol Cusack  
Michael Trainor  
Bernadette Scheller  
Michelle Kinney  
Shelley Jackson  
Michelle Deighan  
Janet M. Armstrong  
Brenda Simpson  
Shauneen J. Hood  
Colleen Gallant  
Ann E. Currie

Dear Editor,

The recent edition of the student newspaper printed an article "Why a Beer is Better Than Some Women." I was shocked by this display of sexism and insensitivity toward women.

To better understand the positive contributions made by women and the biases, stereotyping, and devaluation of women, I would like to recommend that engineering students be required to take a credit course in women's studies. Such a course could discuss patriarchy and its effects. (How we view society,

engineering, and the objectivity of women.)

The article in the student newspaper serves a reminder to people working to improve the status of women that there

is some fundamental education lacking in the lives of our boys.

Sincerely,  
Dianne Porter  
P.E.I. Advisory Council  
on Status of Women

Ms. Lori Anne Heckbert is now serving as interim newspaper editor. The previous editor resigned due to personal reasons and a threatening phone call, effective 1:00 pm, October 17/86.

Dear Mr. Lai:

As per our telephone conversation, I am officially notifying you of my displeasure in reading an article entitled, "Why beer is better than some women" in **The Gem's** Oct. 16, 1986 issue (The Engineers Bi-weekly page). I do not share your view that the article is the exclusive responsibility of the engineers on campus. Yes, they should be held accountable, however, as the editor of the "jewel of the island", you

are ultimately responsible for what is printed.

My senses were assaulted by the content of this article. Not only is it degrading to women, words such as "unacceptable" and "offensive" immediately come to mind. If this is the best **The Gem** has to offer, perhaps, it is time to re-evaluate the objectives of this student newspaper.

Sincerely,  
Anna Sawicki  
Extension Representative

Dear Editor,

It is difficult to respond to an article you printed in last week's **Netted Gem**, "Why beer is better than some women", for this article has offended my very spirit.

I am very disappointed that the **Netted Gem** would consider printing any form of hate literature. Would the editor print blatantly racist material knowing the students both black and white would be offended? Would the UPEI student newspaper agree to

print anti-semitic literature without being concerned about offending all people of faith?

Women represent more than fifty percent of the human race. Women of all colours, women of all faiths, women around the world take offence to such brazen misogyny.

Despairing the lack of responsibility shown to your readers and the affront to women everywhere.

Sincerely,  
Terry Mitchell,  
for Women's Network

Dear Editor:

I was appalled when I read the most recent edition of your newspaper. The article comparing a woman to a beer bottle was disgusting and offensive. My only hope is that the sentiments of the author are not pervasive on the campus.

As an alumnus I am feeling, for the first time, embarrassment about the University I graduated from. At the pre-

sent time a major fundraising drive is being conducted in aid of the University and I would expect that your article will influence a number of people's pocketbooks.

The article has been written and published but I strongly suggest that you, as editor, write an editorial condemning the article.

Yours sincerely,  
Donna McGaugh Waddell  
Class of '76

To the Editor:

It has come to my attention that a petition is currently being circulated attacking the contents of the October 16th issue of **The Gem**.

I write this letter not to further attack you, but to encourage you in the face of this assault. It has been some time since the **Gem** published anything worth reading, let alone worth debating.

In fixing your editorial policy, you have made decisions on what you will publish and what you will not. Do not be swayed from your chosen policy. Do not let yourself be dictated to. If you do, then in short time you'll find that you will soon be publishing two thousand individual editions to keep everyone happy.

This letter should not be viewed as condoning the articles under fire. I am no

more interested in the Engineers' views on women than I am in the average rainfall in South America. However, I support your decision to publish what you see fit. Freedom of the press is a basic tenet of

our society and I can think of no better place to practice it than at this institution of higher learning.

Sincerely,  
Gordon Stewart  
Education Senior

Dear Editor:

Just a few quick lines to express my opinion on the most recent engineer's page, or what should be renamed "THE VIEW FROM THE PITS". I realize the engineers believe they have a God-given right to insult any and everyone but honestly ... I will not comment on the article on the far left dealing with beer and women as I believe the "fair sex" will comment on that article themselves. However, the remainder of their page I can and will comment on.  
The cartoon was in poor

taste, if not down right low-life. As a "bio" one of my roles in life will be the search for new life forms but I really hope that I never have the (dis-)honor of discovering an engineering ("very low life") form. I understand that you are required to give those people (and I use the term lightly, ugh) a page in your paper but is it not possible to exercise some control over them? In effect, give them a license (editorial or what-ever) to prevent such dribble from (dis-)gracing our newspaper.

Sincerely,  
Dave