

A town that can't support one lawyer...

# the Gateway

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1981

...can always support two  
H. L. Mencken

Gateway office scene of confrontation

## Posters provoke clash



Photo Ray Giguere

One of the anti-sexist protesters and a number of his engineering opponents face off in the Gateway office yesterday. The offending posters are piled in the foreground.

by Mike Walker and Peter Michalshyn

An anti-Engineering Week protest erupted into violence yesterday.

At about 3:00 p.m. a number of male and female university staff and students burst into the Gateway office in SUB with over 50 princess posters torn down from CAB. They were closely pursued by a group of engineering students.

A confrontation followed, during which the groups argued heatedly over sexism and Engineering Week.

"We are a group of individuals who are concerned about sexism... these posters are offensive to us," said one of the protesters, none of whom were associated with the Gateway.

"Are you going to change anything with theft?" said one of the engineers, complaining that the posters were taken down illegally.

"How many women have you talked to that found it offensive?" said another. "This is the first encounter we have had with any hostility."

One of the seven protesters was allegedly assaulted by an engineer while carrying some posters away from the scene.

The man, who has asked not to be named for fear of reprisal, claims he was kicked in the forehead by his assailant.

Two engineers who witnessed the incident said his head was injured during a scuffle when it struck a brick wall.

"I do not know who the assailant was... I broke it up," said Rob Leedham, a fourth year electrical engineering student.

Two protesters helped break up the scuffle while another three brought the posters to the Gateway office, seeking publicity. The other three joined them about five minutes later.

Once in the Gateway office, the two groups squared off on opposite sides of the room and traded insults and accusations over the crumpled posters strewn on the office floor.

"These posters are a threat to women," said one of the protesters, all of whom asked not to be identified.

"This is reinforcing and expressing ideas that go out into

the world... that is where you get the basis for discrimination against women in the work force."

The engineers followed the protesters to the Gateway office intending to "find out where they were going and then call Campus Security," said fourth year electrical engineer Ian Goodacre.

"It's the wrong way to protest, as far as we're concerned," said another.

"There's no excuse for it no matter what their views are," said fourth year civil engineer Bob Koziol. "Nobody has ever complained to anyone before... these people just can't form their own vigilante groups... They're breaking the law."

One engineer pointed out the posters were put up with permission and suggested the protesters should respect that.

"I don't think we have to respect the fact that women are oppressed," said one of the protesters. "That's propagating the oppression of women... and your kicklines do too."

The engineers weren't convinced the queen contest was sexist.

"Do you hear the kicklines complaining?... The princesses? Are they sex objects?" one engineer said.

The anti-sexist protesters and the engineers argued for another half hour in the Gateway before the protesters walked out. The engineers stayed a while longer to explain their points to the Gateway.

As a result of the confrontation an SU Forum is planned in two weeks in SUB Theatre, to debate "Is Engineering Week sexist?"

7000 people employed

## University generates \$230 million

by Jim McElgunn

Did you know that the University of Alberta employs more people than Texaco Canada?

These and dozens of other gems were released Tuesday in a report on the economic impact the U of A has on the Alberta economy. The report was written by grad student Patrick Hahn of the Management Advisory Institute, an advisory group of commerce and business administration students.

The report says the university is one of the largest industries in the city. In addition to directly employing more than 7000 people, an estimated 21,000 jobs in Alberta are dependent on the university.

The university also provides buying power in the local economy through wages and salaries, purchase of goods and services, and spending from out-

of-province students and visitors attending seminars and conferences.

The report estimates that the total economic impact of the university on the Alberta economy was \$230.7 million in 1979-80.

The report compares the university's function to that of a large corporation. "Like any manufacturing firm, a university provides a specialized product - higher education - in return for funds... Inputs, financial and human, are transformed into a 'finished product' which provides a service to or meets a need of the society."

But the university contributes more than jobs and spending power to society, says the report.

"How, for instance, can such variables as the propensity to save or spend money more efficiently,

or invest more wisely, the enhanced adaptability to social change, the increased awareness of and interest in government, the propensity to educate children more thoroughly and the myriad of other indirect benefits associated with higher education be measured?" asks the report.

The report has been publish-

ed during the time when the provincial government is considering how much to grant to the university. But Ron Thomas of university Community Relations says "it's not really something done to try to attract more funding to the university." The report was written, he says, to inform the public through the media about

the university's major economic contribution to Edmonton and Alberta.

When asked if the report might be interpreted by, say, the ministry of Advanced Education and Manpower as an implicit argument for more government funding, Thomas said, "That's possible... yeah, sure."

## The Horsman cometh

by Cliff Engelmann

There will be no tuition increases until the government has a policy on the matter, Advanced Education minister Jim Horsman told the Federation of Alberta Students yesterday.

And students here have an opportunity to let him know what

they think about university funding, student loans and other issues when he appears on campus Monday at noon in SUB Theatre.

"This is an excellent opportunity to let Horsman know about students' concerns with tuition fees," says SU vp external Kris Farkas.

Student leaders will meet

with Horsman in February to discuss tuition fees.

Horsman also told FAS if they can get all the institutions in the province to submit applications through FAS for the student position on the Students' Finance Board, he will definitely pick one of their nominees.