

The Gateway

The University of Alberta Students' Newspaper Since 1910

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Ray Turchansky covered this weekend's hoop action for the *Edmonton Journal* in place of usual university beat writer and former *Gateway* sports editor Mark Spector. "He's at his annual piss-out at the Grey Cup," Turchansky said. "Actually, it's a monthly piss-out, but this one happens to be in Toronto."

The Bridge could fall in student referendum

by Lisa Hall and Dawn Lerohl

In response to recent controversy over their newspaper, the Engineering Students' Society (ESS) will let their student body help decide the future of *The Bridge*. A referendum will be held Thursday giving engineering students an opportunity

to voice their opinions.

The content of *The Bridge* was questioned after the November issue made sexual references about Mayor Jan Reimer. *The Bridge* is infamous for its vulgar jokes and stories.

The official referendum question

will not be announced until Thursday though sources say the students will be given three choices for the future of the newspaper: to preserve the paper as is, change the content of the paper, or terminate publication.

The referendum results will not

necessarily decide the fate of *The Bridge*, but will be used by the ESS to gauge student opinion of the newspaper.

Colleen Babowal, ESS board of directors member and president of the Computer Engineering Club, says the results of the referendum

are not binding "but we want to know for sure what students want."

The referendum will be publicized through posters and an article in the December edition of *The Bridge*, to be released this week. Engineering club executives will also be visiting classrooms to inform the students directly, said Gerald Laurin, president of the Civil Engineering Club.

Laurin expects most students to participate in Thursday's vote. "We expect a high turnout. We don't have problems getting turnout as engineering students are very active."

Members of the Education Students' Association will be manning the polls to ensure impartiality. "We'll be sitting at the booths, making sure only engineers vote," said Lisa Knapik, ESA vp internal. "They (the ESS) didn't want to look biased so they're having someone else run the polls."

ESS president Troy Roberts would not comment on the vote when contacted Monday night.



Jeff Cowley

Hitting the skids

A student driver flashes onto the skidpad under the scrutiny of instructor Grant Hogg, as part of the Road Scholarship program (top). The *Gateway's* Editor-in-Chief, Randal Smathers, goes lock-to-lock in a skid, but hangs grimly onto his 9-and-3 o'clock steering position. 96 students took part in the practical lessons, 200 in the seminar. Story p 2.



Jeff Cowley

U of A library security procedures upgraded

by Lisa Hall

The University of Alberta libraries are on their way to becoming a better and safer place to study, according to the U of A's chief librarian.

Various forms of harassment are a problem common to libraries, as well as other public places. Safety in U of A libraries was highlighted last month when two students complained to the University about procedures Rutherford library staff took when dealing with harassment situations. While some of the allegations were false, library staff met with the students and agreed it was time to review their safety policies.

One of the students' complaints

was that when an incident was reported to circulation staff, they often dealt with the situation themselves rather than calling Campus Security.

The students complained specifically about one individual who was frequently in Rutherford. He has since been apprehended by Campus Security and given a restraining order. If he is seen again, he will be arrested, said John Teskey, the University's acting chief librarian.

"We're more likely to call Campus Security now (when complaints are made), said Teskey. He noted that library employees are given training to deal with harassment situations, but admits that with frequent staff turnover and a large number of

part-timers, some employees may be uncertain of what action to take.

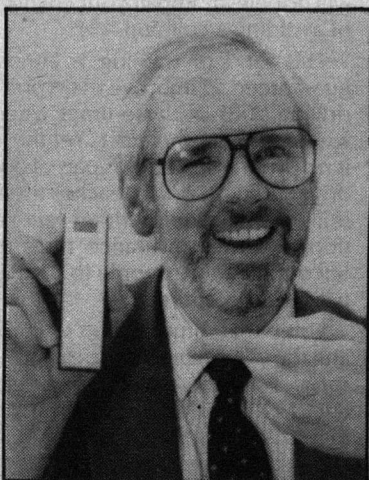
Staff have now been notified to call Campus Security to deal with every individual harassment incident. "We'll see how it works in the long run. There is a potential for error, but it is necessary to err," said Teskey, who added that Campus Security is aware that there is an added risk of "false alarms."

Circulation staff are also responsible for patrolling all areas of the library. Teskey noted that when an incident occurs, it is usually reported to the circulation desk. If staff are doing their rounds on another floor, it is impossible to contact them and tell them to go investigate a problem.

To cross this bridge, the library staff will now be equipped with pagers. "Circulation can always contact the checkpoint staff making rounds now," said Teskey.

As part of reviewing their security policy, a committee has been formed with members from Rutherford, Cameron, and Education libraries, as well as Campus Security. "They've started meeting and combining policies," said Teskey.

As well, Campus Security will be conducting a full security survey of all libraries in January. "They'll look at all aspects of the buildings, for potential problem areas," said Teskey.



John Teskey shows off a newly-acquired library beeper.

Colin Northcott