

# Campus LRT line to go underground Provincial gov't decision awaited

by Mike Walker

The U of A and the city have submerged their differences about the proposed Light Rail Transit (LRT) line through Garneau by applying to the provincial government for \$35 million.

The university, the city, and the U of A Hospital sent a joint submission to Transportation Minister Henry Kroeger last month asking him to cover all the extra costs of an underground LRT line through the university

campus.

Current estimates for the extra cost are about \$35 million, but they could climb dramatically. Any extra funding would be over and above 'normal' LRT funding from the province for the rest of the planned LRT south leg.

Last year the university said it would block plans for a surface line through the campus. It has this power, since the city cannot expropriate university land as it can any other land.

City officials responded that going underground would add between \$30 million and \$50 million to the cost of the South LRT. The city decided that if the university wanted an underground line, it would have to be covered by a special provincial grant.

Now the former adversaries seem to have found agreement in favor of an LRT tunnel.

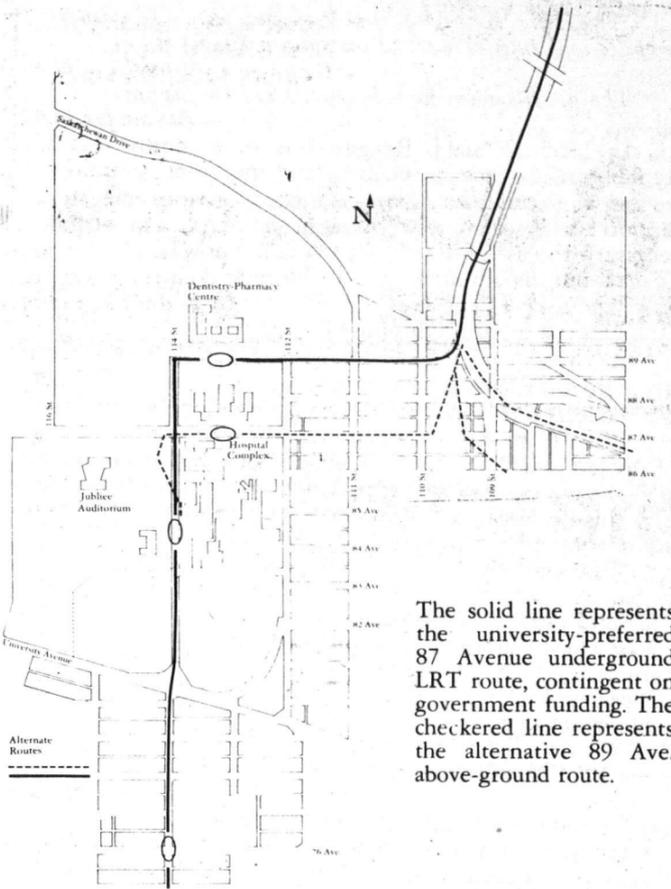
"There are strong arguments for an underground LRT that have nothing to do with the university," said U of A president Myer Horowitz this week.

A surface LRT through the university area and south would be a massive mistake for the city's planning, he said. In 50 years the benefits of an underground line will show.

"How stupid Montrealers would have felt if in the 1930s they had built a surface transit line," he said.

Nonetheless, the university's strongest reason for not wanting a surface line remains selfish: it would add to already serious congestion on campus. In addition, it has been suggested that surface trains among 20,000 students would pose a real hazard.

What are the chances of getting provincial approval? "Excellent," said Horowitz. "What else do you expect me to say?"



The solid line represents the university-preferred 87 Avenue underground LRT route, contingent on government funding. The checkered line represents the alternative 89 Ave. above-ground route.

## ENNuF nukes, new group says

by Karen Kebarle

If nuclear proliferation is not halted, "we are not likely to see the year 2000," according to Edmontonians for a Non-Nuclear Future (ENNuF) member Geard Weih.

ENNuF was formed three months ago by a handful of members to increase public awareness of the dangers from the proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

ENNuF is an umbrella group of organizations supporting world disarmament, including several Edmonton churches, the Edmonton Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility and Save Tomorrow Oppose Pollution (STOP).

Organizers are seeking support from all areas of the community. Weih says informing students is a major concern because they are the ones who must try to solve the problem in the future.

Most of the protests against the arms race and nuclear power have been in the United States, Europe and Japan. But ENNuF believes these issues should concern Canadians as well.

Its members are against nuclear power because they say it is much too expensive and hazardous, and is irrevocably linked with the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

Canada is a leading exporter of reactors and fissionable materials although it does not at present own nuclear weapons.

India built a nuclear weapon in 1974 using materials from a reactor purchased from Canada. ENNuF fears this could happen again.

Weih says he is also concern-

ed about Canadian uranium exports. For example the NDP government in Saskatchewan "dearly loves to export uranium" because it is so profitable, Weih says.

ENNuF wants to convince the government to stop such exports.

As yet there are no nuclear power plants or uranium mining sites in Alberta, but Weih says the provincial government "would not hesitate for one moment to set up nuclear power if they thought it would turn a profit."

He says it is possible that nuclear power may be used to generate the intense heat needed to separate the oil from the bitumen in the Athabasca Tar Sands.

ENNuF will hold a public rally starting at noon April 4 at the Legislative Building. Speakers at the rally will include William Harding of the United Nations and Dr. Ursula Franklin of the University of Toronto, both renowned anti-nuclear activists.



# Choose your fee hike

by Peter Michalyszyn

Jim Horsman is asking Alberta students about alternatives to setting tuition fees in the future.

In a meeting February 18 with student association presidents across the province, Horsman, Minister of Advanced Education and Manpower, forwarded seven alternatives for consideration, encouraging students to choose one or come up with something of their own.

Some of the students, however, were skeptical about Horsman's motives, suspecting that some of the included suggestions - having "low, or no" tuition, for example - would never be considered and were therefore irrelevant.

"The main concern that came forward was that the government has already made up its mind," says SU president Nolan Astley.

But Astley also says Horsman stated adamantly and repeatedly that he hadn't made up his mind yet. He also reaffirmed his stand, Astley says, that there would be no tuition fee increase this year.

It seems to Astley that the government leans toward indexing the level of tuition to some standard, such as the inflation rate. This is one proposal that the U of A Students' Union opposes.

"We're all agreed against indexing," Astley says. Objections to indexing usually center around a loss of flexibility: Boards of Governors would lose the power to set the tuition fee levels, as would the department of Advanced Education itself, much less student groups.

Astley says his executive won't be submitting a complete tuition proposal to Horsman. Next year's executive will have to.

Phil Soper, SU president-elect, says he is opposed to any tuition fee increases until the provincial student aid system is changed to realistically accommodate students' needs.

The Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) is in the middle of a year-long review of its stand on tuition; they'll reach a long-term policy at their spring conference at the end of March. In the interim, FAS maintains there should be no tuition increases

without significant changes in provincial student aid system.

Horsman told students in the February meeting that he expects responses within six months, and that he will make a decision on tuition fee levels after the year-long review.

The seven proposals Horsman forwarded include:

- establishing a standing committee to recommend fee levels
- delegating authority to set fees to individual institutions either with or without guidelines
- freeze fee levels for a specific period of time
- maintain the status quo, where Boards of Governors recommend the fee increases, but where final authority rests with the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower
- index fees to some standard, for example, the inflation rate or the Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- have low or no tuition fees at all

## Baz by Skeet



## Constitution quiz

1. What is the Victoria formula?
2. Who is Harry Hays?
3. What provinces are challenging the federal government in court?
4. Who is Anthony Kershaw?
5. What is *Harmony in Diversity*?
6. What deadline has Pierre Trudeau set for patriating the constitution?
7. What was the recent Manitoba court decision on the constitution?
8. Who is Eugene Plawiuk?

answers on page 6

## bouquets and brickbats by Deacon Greese

"They-ey-ey asked me how I new-ew thaaat (tremble) your love was true-oo-ooo-oooo.

You know it's true love when you think about them constantly, dreaming up cute little surprises and just generally acting irrationally. It's a lot like engineers feel about the *Gateway*. But how do YOU feel about brix and (kiss-kiss) boux? What you? Sorry, I'm not that kind of column.

**Most Dangerous Place on Campus:** The area between General Services and the new Ag Building. The shade keeps the ice keen, the wind blinds you, and another one bites the dust.

**Another Stunning Example of Gateway Influence:** The Edmonton Oilers trade Pat Price after he is quoted threatening the *Gateway*.

**The Way of the World:** At the *Edmonton Journal* Sports Department, a former *Edmonton Sun* sports editor is outranked by a former *Gateway* sports editor. And our Shaune is ranker than either of them.

*Love hurts, love scars/love wounds and mars.*

Yes, and brix and boux loves you too. But love is not without its price. An epidemic of JTDs (Journalistically- Transmitted Diseases) is sweeping the country. Sportsphylis, Editorialea and the incurable PCes Simplex are rampant.

What can you do? Avoid casual encounters with disreputable newspapers. Don't pick up a strange paper on the bus for a quick read. Your best bet is to read only the *Gateway*. We're 100 percent free of journalism.