

Task force takes look at Engineering Week

by Ben Yee

The controversy over the article "Pediophilia" in the Engineering Week paper, the *Godiva*, has led the engineering faculty to re-evaluate Engineering Week.

According to Dr. P.F. Adams, Dean of Engineering, who commissioned the task force, with the exception of the article which he has termed "disgusting", there have traditionally been few problems associated with Engineering Week.

The concerns raised over the article gave a timely excuse to re-evaluate and redirect Engineering Week, he said. The task force is composed of Adams, nine engineering students, six engineering faculty members, two professional engineers, and Burton Smith, the Dean of Students, who is the only non-engineering member. The task force heard submissions from a number of concerned parties.

The Students' Union, the

Witching Hour Collective, the University of Calgary Engineering Students' Society, and faculty members were among the groups making oral submissions; written submissions were received from students, parents, instructors, and concerned citizens.

Their suggestions ranged from banning the Week to maintaining the status quo. All agree, however, that Engineering Week has some positive aspects.

The groups opposing Engineering Week objected to the excesses and abuses that occurred, especially the offending article.

The sexism inherent in Engineering Week was a major problem as well. The queen contest, kicklines, skit night and posters degrade women, the objectors said.

They met with little sympathy among the task force members, though.

Adams said, "I do agree it (Engineering Week) is sexist; I

don't know if it is sexist in an objectionable way."

Women's Engineering Student Society president Lydia Francis said most women engineering students have no objections to Engineering Week. And she sees nothing seriously wrong with it, herself, she said.

The task force has decided the week must be more than a time for students to form new friendships and enjoy themselves; it should also do something of value for the campus and the community, and aid the professional development of students, Adams said.

Kelly Scott, president of the Engineering Students' Society said there should be no radical changes to Engineering Week. However, there will not be such a beauty-contest tone to the queen contest next year, he said. In addition, other contests and overall participation will be emphasized.

As for the *Godiva*, Dean of Students' Smith said if it is published again, its editorial board will have to be selected long before publication. In addition, each article will probably be signed by its writer or submitter.

The task force is expected to report soon.

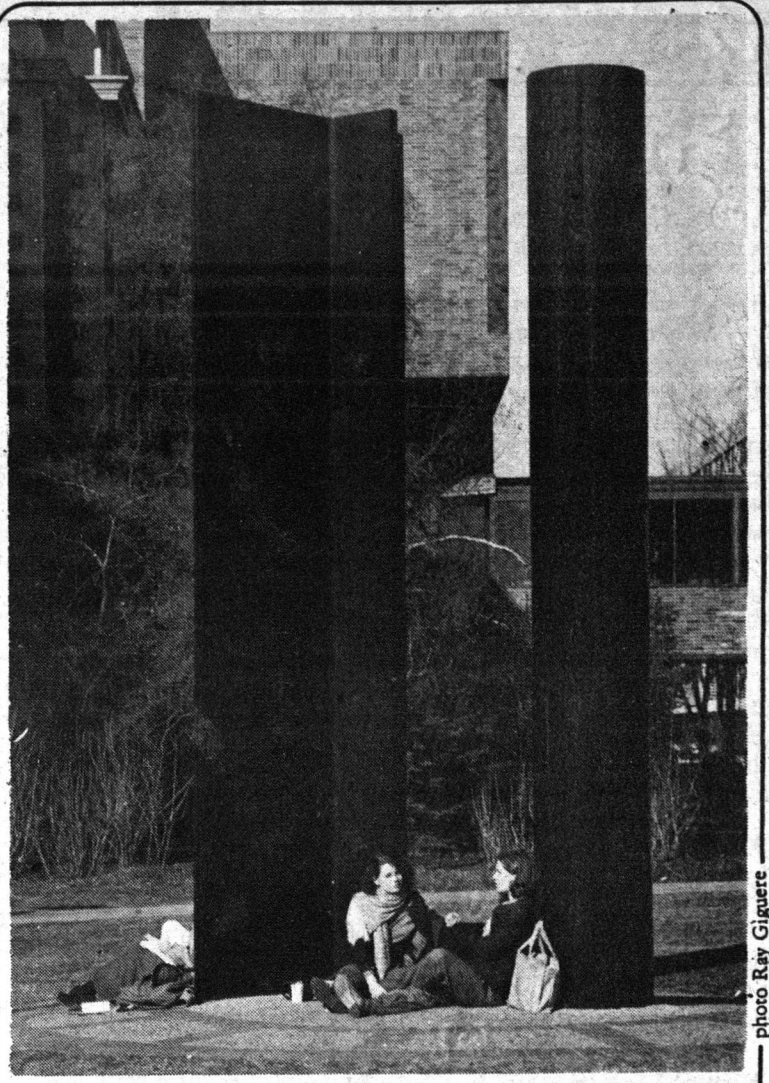


Photo Ray Giguere

Mere humans dwarfed by a large inanimate object. Sounds like the University, doesn't it?

High Level out?

by Wes Oginski

Whether or not the High Level Bridge will be used for the Light Rail Transit South leg (SLRT) has been a study of speculation according to Rod Heise, manager of Edmonton's Transit Operations and Development Branch.

"We are just completing a study on that for the city," says Heise. "There are problems with the existing bridge, and these will be included in the final report before a decision is made." The study will probably go to city council April 1.

If the city decides against the High Level Bridge, there are a few alternatives.

"We are looking at a mid-height crossing (lower than the river bank, entering and exiting through a tunnel, or use of the existing bridge or another," says Heise.

These decisions will affect the University leg of SLRT expansion, according to Ron Phillips, U of A vice-president facilities and services.

"The hospital, university, and city are going to fund a study by a consultant to study various

routes through the campus," Phillips says.

"I hope that by late summer we will have something done," says Phillips. "There already has been a lot of work done in previous studies to speed it along."

Four routes are being studied through the campus area, says Heise.

"There is along 89 Avenue in a tunnel; at grade along 87 Avenue; or in a tunnel along 87 Avenue," he says. "They will all be matching 114 Street, going south."

Again opposing views clash. There may be more disagreement between the city and university, because Phillips says above-ground routes are not acceptable to the U of A.

"As far as the university is concerned, an above ground route does not have Board of Governors approval," he says.

"If it skirts around the university, it would be up to the city," Phillips says.

"Whichever route is used, it must serve the campus, hospital, and hopefully the Auditorium."

Staff still not happy

Last week the U of A's non-academic staff rejected a 10.8 percent salary increase offer from the university's negotiating committee and applied for arbitration for the second time.

NASA's (the Non-Academic Staff Association) first application for arbitration was turned down by the Public Service Employee Relations board because the university Board of Governors thought there was still room for negotiations with the non-academic staff.

"That's perhaps fair" as an assessment of the Board's action, according to university vice-president Lorne Leitch.

"We suggested to NASA that we were prepared to make a move (in salaries) if they were also prepared to move..." Leitch says.

But NASA didn't bite, even though the Board did move from its original 8.5 percent salary increase to a 10.5 percent wage offer. NASA was looking for something far closer to 19 percent, just enough, says NASA's George Walker, to reach parity with other public sector employees.

Both NASA and the Association of Academic Staff at the U of A (AASUA), which is also seeking arbitration, have told the Board negotiating committee they want comparable wages to City of Edmonton and provincial govern-

ment employees.

But the Board maintains, Walker says, that it can only negotiate with what funds are available, 89 percent of which come directly from the provincial government. As yet the university doesn't even know how much money it's getting from the government next year, though.

negotiations over next year's staff contracts began in February.

At least 1,400 of a possible 1,800 academic staff have submitted ballots on AASUA's final position for arbitration. By next week the Board and faculty will submit their final positions to a selection officer, who will then decide on one of the two.

Schools endangered Feds may pull funding

VANCOUVER (CUP) — In the wake of reports that the federal government may eliminate its share of funding of post-secondary education, University of British Columbia (UBC) president Doug Kenny has supported calls for a Royal Commission investigation of Canadian universities.

In a recent letter to the *Toronto Globe and Mail*, Kenny says he supports calls for a Royal Commission or some other form of public inquiry that would look into the funding of universities across the country.

Kenny's comments follow reports last month that the federal government is considering cutting more than \$1 billion in post-secondary education funding, a move that would force provincial governments to dramatically increase both their contribution to funding and tuition fees.

"Precipitous federal government withdrawal from indirect funding of universities would be short-sighted and gravely damaging to the long term interests of Canada; universities are important to the nation as a whole," Kenny writes.

His letter may be part of a campaign by Canadian university representatives to increase public awareness of the federal government's overlooked role in education funding in order to ensure the government does not totally drop out of the funding picture.

Baz by Skeet



bouquets and brickbats

by Deacon Greese

Deacon is presently holidaying in a remote area of south-eastern Saskatchewan and couldn't be reached in time to Burghbits and Boukbox you folks. The lucky stiff won an all-expenses paid trip to scenic Lake Latrine, courtesy of the United Grain Growers. It's reported to be the garden spot of the Yorkton area. L.L. draws athletes from all over the prairies, to compete on one of the toughest mini-golf courses this side of Virden, Manitoba.

Most suggestive Machine on Campus: A Pinball game called "Xenon." When you caress the buttons in a gentle-yet-firm manner, a sensual voice responds with a moaning sound: "Ow... ooh... pow!" Rumor has it that the best players can make it scream "free game!"

Primal Scream Award: Goes to the first-year drama students. You can spot 'em a mile away, howling and laughing at each other at the top of their lungs. Obviously hoping to get nines in Center of Attention 241.

The Dead Philosopher We'd Least Like to Spend a Week on a Deserted Island With: This week's winner: Friedrich Nietzsche. (Although "Superman" Krause prefers Kierkegaard).

Tune in next week, when Deacon will be back to haunt you again. I'm sure if you ask, he'll invite you over for a club soda so he can flog his holiday slides: this one's Deacon and his car; Deacon, a tree and his car; Deacon's car, a tree, and the lake in the background...