

EDITORIAL

Captive Council

Students will soon probably face \$1.50 to \$1.70 per day bus fares. They should consider the situation and who is responsible for it.

The continuing furore over transit fares is only indicative of a much larger and broader pattern within the civic administration: the administrators see the City of Edmonton not as a function of the people who live in it, but as a corporation — and they run it as such.

Mayor Cec Purves and the four city commissioners (the city's senior administrators) look upon themselves as corporate executives, and all have ties of some description to business. They are on good terms with Edmonton business leaders and are right at home at black tie Chamber of Commerce dinners.

Seen in this context, the administration's proposed bus fare increase is completely sensible. Faced with a severe budget problem, and in need of a considerable amount of extra money to balance it, the administration had to evaluate possible solutions in the light of its (not necessarily City Council's) long-term goals. One of these goals is to annex St. Albert and Sherwood Park; a large property tax increase would dramatically affect the course of the provincial government's current deliberations on the subject.

A bus fare increase, on the other hand, will arouse more criticism within the city than in the surrounding area. And it is consistent with the general user-pay philosophy of the administration (it is debatable whether council shares this philosophy). It should be obvious that a decision taken in this manner has at best only an even chance of being in the best interests of Edmonton residents.

But isn't City Council at the pinnacle of power at City Hall?

In theory only. In practice, the information presented to Council, upon which it is to base its decisions, is controlled by the commissioners. In effect, this constricts the possible range of decisions because it lacks full information. Since the administration seems convinced that the best interest of the City can be served by pandering to those of the City's businesses, Council's options often reflect this judgment.

Further, by presenting Council with completely defined options, and by restricting the flow of information to councillors (who are busy enough as it is and probably don't mind), the administration can almost guarantee that Council will be choosing between options entirely favorable to the administration's goals.

The solution? Informed councillors. The first step might be an interest in demanding information from the administration, and in questioning its judgments in a more than cursory fashion.

The commissioners might react less than enthusiastically to such a change. It would not only diminish their control over City Council; it could eventually (depending upon the councillors involved) change the direction of Edmonton's development. And this might be bad news for the business sector, prime beneficiary of the present order.

Mike Walker

the Gateway

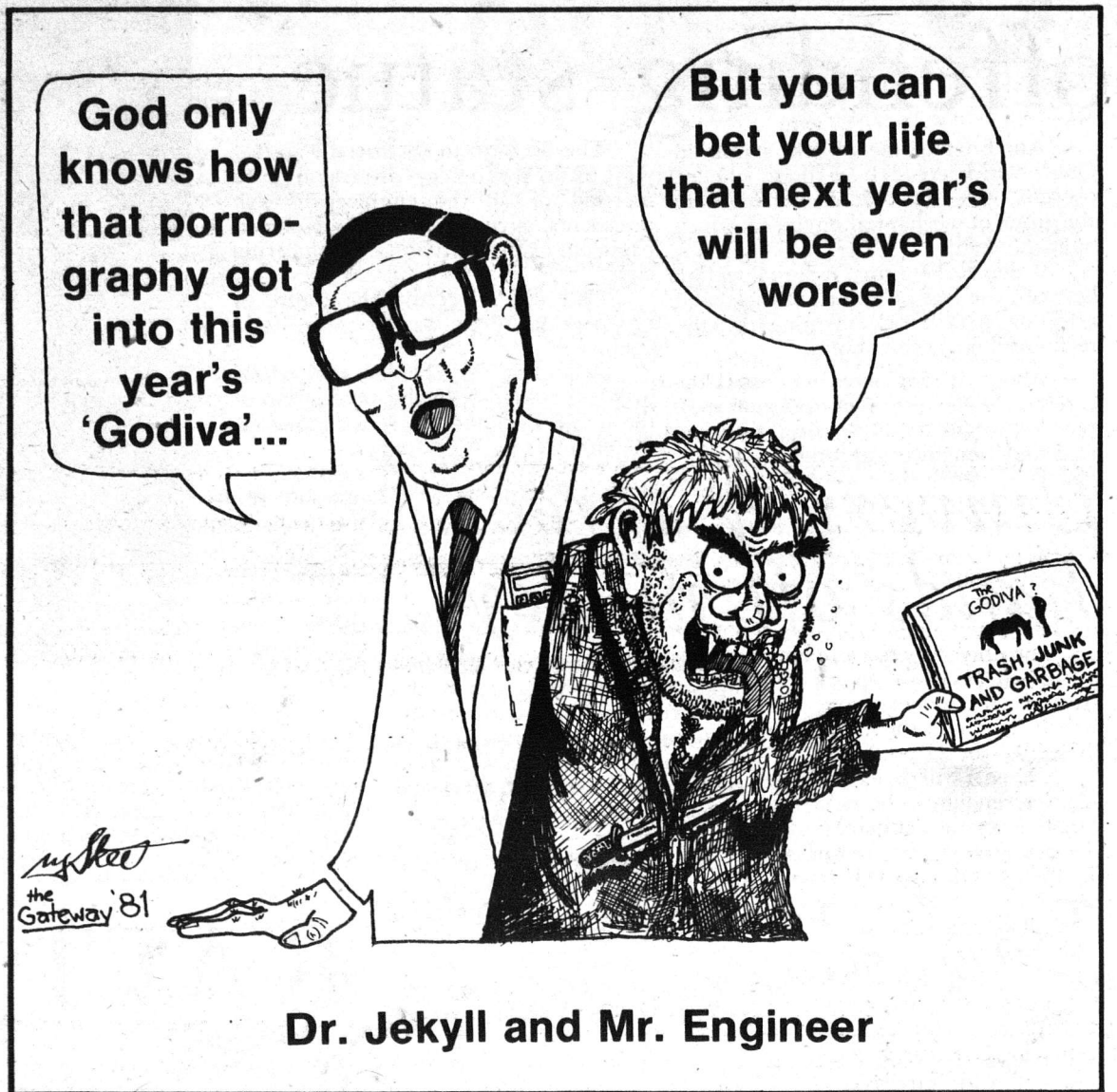
If it happens on campus...it's news to us.

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Strange times...threatened lawsuits, editors missing and presumed abducted, engineers chanting "Gateway sucks" and mass confrontations in our office. When in fear, when in doubt, run in circles, scream and shout. Whereupon Garnet DuGray, Tom Freeland, Maureen Laviolette, Jens Andersen and Cliff Engelmann slipped away to Fridays to steady their nerves. Michael Skeet fretted and paced the floor at 6 a.m. while Alisoun Thomsoun escaped by playfully dropping u's into labor stories. But the pressure was too intense for Eida Hopfe, Doug Spaner, John Roggeveen, Cathy Emberley and Friar Wes, and they fled the newsroom in hysterics. "They're coming to take us away, ha ha, they're coming to take us away..."

THE GATEWAY is the newspaper of the students of the University of Alberta. With a readership of more than 25,000, the Gateway is published by its proprietor, the Students' Union, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the winter session. Contents are the responsibility of the editor; editorials are written by the editorial board or signed. All other opinions are signed by the party expressing them. Copy deadlines are 12 noon Mondays and Wednesdays. The Gateway, a member of Canadian University Press and the Youthstream Network, is located at room 282 SUB, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2J7.
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Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Engineer

Godiva more than a prank

Dr. P.F. Adams
Dean of Engineering
Rm. 5-1 Mechanical Engineering

Dear Dr. Adams:

We the undersigned wish to express our concern and outrage re: the publishing of an article called "Pediophilology" in the recent edition of the *Godiva*. While we are sure the matter has been brought to your attention, we believe that it is important that you understand the extent of public feeling about this matter.

It would serve little purpose to reiterate the contents of what was attempted to be passed off as rumor. Leave it at the statement that we found the article filthy, dangerous and far beyond the boundaries to the freedom that should be allowed to the press. Not only was the article disgustingly pornographic, it read frighteningly like a manual of "How to Rape, Mutilate and Murder Young Girls". We assume that no person in a position of responsibility had anything to do with this and would expect that those who did would be ferreted out and dealt with properly. For a university that is so concerned with its public image that it would host the World University Games, it boggles the mind that this type of material could be allowed to be printed.

We feel quite strongly that a mere public apology is not enough in this particular situation. It is noteworthy that this type of "kiddie porn" is extremely prevalent in society today so that it cannot be passed off as a mere

"prank". It is emblematic of a disease that is spreading and anyone in the least concerned about child welfare should be appalled.

We believe that a referral to the DIE Board by the Administration would not be out of place. Any group that provides funding for any university publication should condemn this article and make it quite clear that such obscenity will not be tolerated in any student or publicly funded publication. This type of thing has happened in the past and will continue to happen if it is left unchecked.

We believe that public decency, safety and the reputation of the Engineering Department and the University as a whole are at stake here. These considerations should not be jeopardized by a few perverted individuals who knew full well what they were doing. We would hope you share our concern and would expect to hear of strong actions on your part to curb this sort of thing now and in the future.

Dan Roger
Alison Beames
Pat Lance
and 32 others

Ban Engineering Week

It was with great indignation that I read Dean of Engineering Peter Adams' comments on the *Godiva* article. That article is only an extreme example of the chauvinistic and immature activities of Engineering Week as a whole. Other aspects of this week of "fun" include skits about rape, racist jokes, obscene ice sculptures, kicklines and of course the notorious Queen contest with its degrading parade of princesses.

Dean Adams, as well as some department chairmen and faculty, bear much responsibility for this situation. They have always supported Engineering Week and have winked at some of its more disgusting aspects. The *Gateway* of January 8 reported that Dean Adams and the chairman of electrical engineering are among the judges of the "princesses" in the Queen contest.

By their actions they have helped to reduce women to the

status of objects and encouraged the herd mentality that prevails during Engineering Week. It is a sad comment on their judgment that they cannot see that under these conditions rape and even murder of women gain acceptability.

This is the only campus of its size in Canada which does not have a Women's Centre. The need for such a centre is obvious. The Students' Union has yet to heed a Federation of Alberta Students resolution calling for the establishment of such a centre. Furthermore, it has tolerated sexist harassment of women by engineering students in RATT, despite complaints. The struggle against sexist ideas on this campus is a long and hard one, and the S.U. has a responsibility to take a leading role.

I suggest the following course of action for Students' Council:

1. Begin organizing a Women's Centre immediately;
2. Call on GFC to ban Engineering Week;
3. Call on President Horowitz to investigate into the role of the Dean, department chairman and the faculty of Engineering in encouraging sexist, racist and other offensive activities among Engineering students.

Brian Mason
Science III

Lots and lots of staff

...is exactly what we need. So if you're interested in writing news, sports, arts or features, in taking photo or doing layout, drop in soon.

The Gateway
Room 282 SUB