



Travelling down that long, lonesome mallway.

photo by Balan Mathews

## U of A students adapt to transit strike

by Satya Das

As the Edmonton Transit strike ended its fifth day Monday evening, there appeared little hope of a quick settlement. At 4 p.m. Monday, negotiations still continued between the Amalgamated Transit Workers Union Local 569 and the City of Edmonton.

While downtown businesses have started cutting back on staff, the situation at the University seems to be a curious blend of inconsistencies, a mixture of hasty over-reactions and simplistic nonchalance.

Reactions ranged from closure of services in some areas to total lack of reaction in others.

Gateway discovered from random conversations with students that many of them hitched to campus, and found it faster than the bus. Others caught rides with parents or friends.

Last Thursday afternoon, for instance, cars were piled up seven deep in front of the Administration building picking up people. Some drove their own vehicles, often forming car pools with friends.

A few students planned to take either Friday or Monday off, using the strike as an excuse. The absenteeism rate reported by many departments was only 10-15% higher than usual.

Measures taken by the university have worked out very well in the first few days.

Student Union President George Mantor said that the car pools organized by the Student

Union experienced a "fantastic" response.

The arrangement being used is that people who drive to campus phone the SU, and passengers who call in are picked up by a driver in their area.

The university has been operating a shuttle bus service between parking facilities in Mayfair and Emily Murphy Parks and the campus, and the response to this has also been very good.

It would therefore appear that the university population has declined by about 10-15% as a result of the strike, yet steps such as the closure of Dinwoodie for the duration of the walkout have been taken.

As a result of the closure of Dinwoodie, there were lengthy lineups at the SUB snack bar at lunchtime on Monday.

The SUB snack bar has curtailed its hours of operation to enable employees to find suitable transportation.

RATT partonage on Friday was actually up from last Friday's, so it would seem that the bus strike has had no effect on the number of drinkers on campus.

HUB merchants reported no significant trends in business due to the strike, and the lounges were as busy as usual.

Life apparently proceeds as usual at the university. Although the transit strike has certainly brought inconveniences, it has not achieved the potential crippling effect foreseen by many.

## GFC election cancelled

Friday's election of an Arts representative to General Faculties Council was cancelled due to a lay-out error by the Gateway.

Kimball Cariou and Kevan Warner will do battle for the GFC seat on Jan. 11.

Bruce Ney, election returns officer, said the election was postponed because the loser would inevitably appeal to the Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board that his views were misrepresented in the Gateway.

The Gateway asked for written statements from the candidates but in the heat of press night got them mixed up.

Ney ruled out the possibility of holding the election this

week, as the expected small turnout would be even smaller with the transit strike and exams.

No new nominations will be accepted for the election, Ney said.

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## Students' Union to ask for more time to repay HUB loan

The Student's Union executive wants to defer payment of an almost \$1 million in loans taken out on HUB.

This is one of several alternatives being studied by the executive to put the \$6.3 million housing complex on a sound financial base says Darrell Ness, SU general manager.

"If we can buy some time, the project will be successful," Ness predicted. "And we will buy some time."

Total payment due is about \$83,000: \$43,000 in principle and interest from two \$250,000 loans from the university and the students' union, and \$40,000 from another \$450,000 short-term university loan.

Permission to defer payment of the loans must come from the board of governors and students' council.

However, terms of the \$5.5 million mortgage with Royal Trust Co. can not be changed for at least three years, says Ness.

The executive has explained the problem to the Board of Governors finance committee, which assigned Lorne Leitch, vice-president finance and administration, to study alternatives to improve HUB's financial situation.

Ness indicated these alternatives may include elimination of the municipal tax on HUB, an increase in rent; and summer occupancy; to attract more commercial business.

"We're getting close to break-even on HUB," said Ness. "But students' union can't bear another deficit like that we're running this year."

"I think we'd ask for a three-to-five-year deferment to

give us a more solid footing," said Ness.

HUB will operate at a deficit of \$228,000 making it the primary reason for an increase of \$136,000 in the students' union's total deficit. (see budget on pages 6 and 7.)

The executive will meet with the city later this month to discuss removing the municipal tax on HUB, with a saving of some \$50,000.

According to Pat Delaney, SU academic vice-president, special status should be given to HUB on the basis that students live on fixed incomes.

It is unfair that HUB, a non-profit venture, is being taxed at a rate comparable to commercial property, says Delaney.

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## Member of advisory council on status of women speaks in city

by Regan McCaughey

Striving to 'raise the consciousness of people to promote equality, dignity and opportunity for women', June Menzies, vice-chairperson of the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women spoke to a capacity-filled theatre Wednesday at Centennial Library.

Ms. Menzies is an economic consultant in Winnipeg. She has worked in the Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women, was a candidate in the last Manitoba provincial election and was one of the key speakers at the recent Western Conference on Opportunities for Women.

The Federal Advisory Council was formed last May. At

present, the council consists of 28 Canadians appointed by John Munro, Minister of Labor.

They 'advise the government on matters relating specifically to the position of women in Canada.'

While every province is represented by people with 'a broad-range of backgrounds', western membership is the lowest, with Alberta having only one member.

The Council is free 'to undertake research on any matters relevant to the status of women' or 'to suggest research topics that can be carried out by governments, private business, universities and voluntary associations' and report to the press 'without government intervention.'

The Council will 'maintain a liaison with the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women.'

Ms. Menzies then proceeded to outline numerous areas the Council is now concerned with. While the subjects were not new, ie. equal pay for equal work; the extension of child-care services; equality for husband and wife during marriage and at its termination; equal employment opportunity for women..., the examples Ms. Menzies cited were interesting and unfamiliar.

In 1971, employees of both McGavin Toast Master and Canada Packers brought before the Federal Human Rights Commission cases of

discrimination in pay and fringe benefits for women.

The Commission rules that each individual receive back pay to make up for such discrimination.

The Companies took the Commission to court. However the court ruled 'the Commission not competent to deal with the case' and the matter was dropped.

During her discussion of sexism in school text books and in the mass media, Ms. Menzies described the Royal Bank's pamphlet Let's Pretend We Work in the Bank.

It refers to 'men as managers and presidents' and casts women as 'our girls the tellers, coffee-carriers or TV ad

promoters'.

When Ms. Menzies spoke with the Royal Bank she noted 'they were sensitive enough to understand yet not sorry enough to withdraw the book from circulation.'

Ms. Menzies concluded her speech with a challenge. 'It is the responsibility of each one of us to be conscious of the struggle for equal rights for women' and 'to be working against all opposing obstacles.'

Ms. Menzies' speech was sponsored by the Edmonton Option for Women Council. In support of her goals, a variety of literature was distributed by the Edmonton Women's Council and the Alberta New Democratic Party.