

NEWS BRIEFS

Compiled by Bill Luthi & Isha Thompson

TWO NEW MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Marc de La Bruyère and Gordon Clanachan have been appointed to the University of Alberta Board of Governors, each for a three-year term beginning 23 August. These appointments were made to replace Brian Heidecker, who took over as Chair in July, and Gail Surkan, who resigned. Advanced Education Minister Denis Herard is responsible for the appointments.

The Board of Governors is comprised of a Chairman appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, the Chancellor, the U of A President and seventeen other members, including two Students' Union representatives elected by the student body. It is responsible for financial and staff decisions, and making administrative policy. Financial decisions range from

tuition and course fees to building maintenance, property acquisition and new building construction.

Currently, Marc de La Bruyère is the chair of the Alberta Business Family Institute and serves on several other boards including Phillips Exeter Canadian Scholarship Fund, the Conseil Consultatif of the Faculté Saint Jean and the Business Advisory Council, University of Alberta School of Business. Gordon Clanachan was previously the president and CEO of RailLink Ltd. Currently, he owns Clanachan Enterprises and is a co-owner of Galloway Removals Ltd. He also serves as a director for Alberta Blue Cross and Bridgewater Bank, as an XS Cargo Income fund trustee and chair of the Edmonton Regional Airports Authority Audit Committee.

ROBOTS MIMIC INSECTS' INTERACTION

A University of Alberta professor hopes to prove to the public that the interactions of social insects like ants and bees are an ideal blueprint for creating efficient robots.

Dr Hong Zhang, a professor in the Department of Computing Science and NSERC/iCORE Industrial Research Chair, was awarded a 2006 NSERC Discovery grant for his work on collective robots. Zhang and his group of graduate students will be given \$39 000 per year for five years to work on Multi Robot Systems (MRS). The MRS is a group of robots that are each smaller than a paint can; yet Zhang is designing his robots to interact similarly to a group of friends who go out to the movies—the robots are meant to move as independent units but are programmed to make decisions and perform tasks with the consensus of the entire group.

But even though Zhang compares the MRS to common interactions among humans, he stresses that he and his students are using social insects as their model. Insects' ability to communicate amongst one another and commit to a specific task is an attractive feature for Zhang's robots, and by using algorithms to map the behavior of insects, Zhang's team will be able to



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: WEIYANG LIU

ATTACK! Hong Zhang is designing social robots to interact with one another.

recreate it with the MRS.

According to Zhang, the integral component is that tasks are completed simultaneously and within the group: no single robot is in control.

The potential that Zhang's research

may have on the future endeavors of robots is remarkable. He points out that robots with collective decision-making and construction skills can also contribute to saving lives in case of terrorist attacks or natural disasters.

COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Scott Lilwall

During the summer months, Students' Council met every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12 September. However, here is a wrap-up of some of the issues that went before Council this summer.

24/7 SUB

Vice-President (Academic) Amanda Henry released a report on 27 June, reviewing last year's pilot project to turn SUB in to a 24/7 study space. The report examined the costs, security concerns, and other issues related to the project, which kept the lower two floors of SUB open to students and staff 24 hours a day, from January to the end of April. In the report, Henry argued that the costs of keeping open the area were well worth the expense, and that a significant number of students took advantage of the study area, especially during midterms and finals. Henry concluded that the project was a success, and that the SU should recommend that the program continue in to the 2006/07 year.

INTERNSHIPS

On 11 July, Council put forth a motion to develop a policy stating that the Students' Union would negotiate with faculties and departments to ensure that any co-operative or internship program would be accessible to all students studying in the faculty. The policy also stated that the SU would lobby the U of A Administration to monitor the co-ops within the faculties, to make sure that the opportunities were open to all eligible students. This came after criticism that some students, especially international students, weren't able to take part in important co-op programs in certain facilities. The motion was put to a vote and passed.

U-PASS

On 8 August, Council approved a new policy on student transportation, passing a motion on the Affordable Universal Transit Pass. The policy stated that the SU would continue to negotiate with the Administration and with the City's Transportation Department to provide an affordable U-Pass to students studying at the U of A. The motion was put on the table after the expiry of the SU's old U-Pass policy, which was decided on by referendum the year before. Unlike the old policy, the new statement doesn't set any specific price cap on the potential pass, which councillors hope will make negotiations with the City of Edmonton and the U of A easier.

CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Edmon Rotea

HE WOULD HAVE GOT IT, EVENTUALLY

On 15 August at 1:30am, Campus Security received calls that a male was "going crazy"—yelling obscenities and violently shaking bike racks near the LRT station.

When Campus Security arrived on the scene, the troublemaker was spotted attempting to steal a bike which he had accessed by sheer luck, guessing at the combination of its cable lock. A few minutes later, he attempted to get into the cars in one of the parking lots on campus. Campus Security promptly arrested the male for trespassing and escorted him off campus, ending his very busy day.

SAVED BY THE BELL

At around lunch time on 15 August, a male was observed riding a red bike around campus. Thirty minutes later, the same man was spotted riding a black bike. He was stopped for not having a bell on his "new" bike and was found to be trespassing on campus.

The subject was placed under arrest and ticketed for trespassing. Wire cutters and other tools were found in his possession and the man was escorted

off campus.

Later that day, Campus Security received a complaint that a bike had been stolen from a bike rack on campus. The bike the man was riding earlier apparently belonged to the complainant and Edmonton Police Service is preparing charges to file against the thief.

ONE-SHOED WONDER

During a 9pm patrol on 19 August, Campus Security personnel heard the sound of breaking glass coming from the Dentistry and Pharmacy building. Upon further investigation, an intoxicated male sporting one shoe was found inside the building. He had emptied the contents of a fire extinguisher in the hallway and was in the process of kicking out a window when Campus 5-0 arrived.

The male was arrested and released into the custody of the EPS. While inside the police van, the male kicked the doors of the vehicle so hard that authorities needed to use a crowbar in order to get him out. EPS is preparing further charges against the man. The property damage is unknown at this time and the male had no University affiliation.

HEADSTRONG HELLRAISER

On 22 August at 2am, while on a patrol in the area around Newton Place, Campus Security received a report of a male who had smashed his head through a window of a nearby business.

When Campus Security arrived, the

hardy hoodlum was bleeding and threatening nearby bystanders with a pair of scissors. Campus Security ensured the safety of the bystanders and requested the assistance of the EPS and called an ambulance for the man. EPS quickly responded, and the male was arrested and taken to the hospital for treatment for his injuries.

CAMERA IN A MOTHERFUCKIN' TOILET

City police are still looking for person(s) responsible for placing a hidden camera found in the ceiling directly above a women's bathroom stall in the South lobby of NAIT's main campus. The incident occurred several times since 4 July, with the latest incident occurring on 24 August.

A video recovered from the first incident consists of footage of women using the bathroom stall.

No suspects have been found, but investigators haven't ruled out any possibilities. The video recording equipment is currently under examination by EPS forensics authorities.

Campus Security has yet to receive any reports of a similar incident occurring at the U of A. For the sake of the safety and security of everyone who lives, works, or studies on campus, increased awareness is recommended when using public washroom or locker facilities. Anyone who finds anything suspicious in any campus washroom should contact Campus Security at 492-5050.

STREETERS

The temperature's dropping and fall classes are going to begin soon.

What did you do this summer?



Nathan Kan
Combined Japanese/
Chinese II



Jose Rodriguez
Grad Student



Monica Ma
Business II



Deniz Dogan
Science IV



Michelle Mudryk
Education III

I worked for two months at a garden centre and then for this month I quit so I could study for some language courses in the fall because that's going to be my major. I'm going to do a combined Chinese/Japanese. So it went by a lot faster than I thought but I'm enjoying the four month summers.

I just worked and went to a friend's wedding. And that's about it.

I went to the United States to have a holiday and travel. I went to San Francisco, New York, Boston, places like that. My favorite was San Francisco because it's quiet and peaceful, not dirty like New York.

I got married in Turkey, in Istanbul. I got back to Canada about two weeks ago.

I worked a lot at Starbucks and Indigo, but it was pretty good, especially hanging out at [my friend's house] until two in the morning and then having to get up to go to work at 8am.