

THE GATEWAY

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PETE YEE

CORNER KICKER Alberta striker Alex Campos fights off an overly grabby Calgary defender in action Sunday at Foote Field. The Bears let in a late goal on Friday to tie the Lethbridge Pronghorns 1-1, but responded by downing the Dinos 1-0 to move to 1-0-1 on the season. Full game stories for the Bears and Pandas on page 13.

U aims to cure MD shortage

BILL LUTHI
News Writer

In 2003, Statistics Canada reported that more than 1.2 million Canadians were unable to find a regular doctor. Locally, Capital Health has developed strategies to focus on the problem of physician shortages, while the University of Alberta Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry is making changes to its medical program to address the issue.

Capital Health works closely with the U of A and provides health services to the Edmonton region including a few small rural areas. According to Steve Buick, a spokesman for Capital Health, the population is getting older and their medical needs are becoming greater.

"We need the U of A to train more physicians so that we can hire them. And that means we need the Government of Alberta to fund more medical school seats at U of A and fund the ancillary resources," Buick said.

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Students seek shelter from housing crunch

HANNA NASH
News Writer

While balancing academics with a social life and work is a daunting task for any University of Alberta student, the difficulty of finding a place to live at the same time is another issue that many students are dealing with this year.

"Just keep looking was the plan," said Kirsten Pynnten, a first-year Science student who had great difficulty securing suitable housing near campus. "There's just a limited amount of rooms left. I kept calling landlords, but rooms were getting snatched up the day after they went up on a website," said Pynnten, who was particularly concerned, since she was searching from her home in Hay River, Northwest Territories and could only look for housing over the Internet. She later found a home right before the beginning of fall semester.

The limited space available in Edmonton is thought to be mostly due to the current economic boom. Marc Dumouchel, who works with the real estate website www.rentingspaces.ca, explained that the situation is a tough one for students of the U of A and other postsecondary institutions in Alberta to deal with.

"[The vacancy rate in Edmonton] is

about a third of what it was last year. It was around five per cent last year and, the last time I checked, it was running at about 1.5 per cent. There isn't a lot of new construction or a lot of units coming. In addition, there have been a lot of old apartments that have been converted into condos. Although those condos are being turned around and being rented out again, they're being rented out at much higher prices," Dumouchel said.

"There's just a limited amount of rooms left. I kept calling landlords, but rooms were getting snatched up the day after they went up on a website."

KIRSTEN PYNNTEN

To address the student-housing shortage, Grant MacEwan opened their student residences to those studying at other postsecondary institutions in Edmonton. The program, which began in August, allows students from other schools to take spaces not used

by those attending Grant MacEwan.

"There is a student-housing crunch, and it puts a lot of undue stress on individuals when they're not only thinking of tuition, books [and] getting to classes, but also about where to live and where they [can] afford to live," said David Beharry, a spokesman for Grant MacEwan. "That can be a huge burden on students, so whatever we can do to assist, while we have the space, we will."

The low vacancy rates, coupled with the limited finances of many students, is a challenge that the U of A Students' Union is trying to help with, according to SU President Samantha Power.

"We run an off-campus housing registry, and we know that the listings have declined by 40 per cent, but the traffic hasn't decreased on the website," Power said.

Power added that the likelihood of many students being forced to find housing outside the campus area demonstrates the need for a universal transit pass. She argued that the U-Pass would allow cheaper transportation to offset the costs of travelling from other areas of the city.

"The U-Pass is in its final stages at City Council. It's going through its last budgetary approval [around] 19 September and then it'll go through the budget process. We're hopeful that



STEFFI ROSSKOPF

THE YOUNG AND THE "RES"LESS Alberta's booming economy is making it difficult for students to find affordable housing options with perpendicular trees.

it'll be approved at the 19 September meeting," Power said.

A number of resources exist for students still looking for housing. On-campus living space can be found

through the University's Residence Services. Those looking for homes off-campus can search the SU's housing registry, or can search third-party sites such as www.homes4students.com.

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No relief in sight ...

Average cost of tuition in Alberta: \$4828 per year. Cost of having an SU that sells out its students: priceless.

OPINION, PAGE 9



Let's get Reztarded

Ms Ash suffers unpleasant advances from eighteen-year-olds in order to bring you the truth about Listerites.

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