

THE GATEWAY

volume XCVII number 5 • the official student newspaper at the university of alberta • www.gateway.ualberta.ca • tuesday, 19 september, 2006



NEAL WILDING

SWEET, SWEET FANTASY BABY Owen Pallett brought a hipper kind of sexy back to the Powerplant on Saturday night.

SU aims for access to Aramark deal

More student input needed in process, says Yusuf

SCOTT LILWALL
Deputy News Editor

Amid growing concerns and complaints about the mandatory meal plan for residents of Lister Hall, the University of Alberta Students' Union has set up a new committee in hopes of increasing student input into the matter.

Open up the door so that we can understand how they're spent and understand whether or not there is [room for] improvement in how they can be spent."

OMER YUSUF,
VP(STUDENT LIFE)

The Food Services Advisory Group was created on 12 September at Students' Council through an unanimous vote.

The purpose of the committee will be to ensure that students' interests are looked out for when it comes to mandatory meal plans and other food services on campus, according to the motion that create the group, presented by Vice-President (Student-Life) Omer Yusuf. He explained that the committee was formed with the intention of making the contract between the U of A and

Aramark—the company that handles the food services for Lister Hall—more accessible to the average student.

While there are two seats on the group for council members, other groups will be represented. Students living in residence, as well as graduates and undergraduate students will each have a representative on the committee. Both the Aramark and the University's Ancillary Services will have seats on the Food Services Advisory Group.

Yusuf stressed that students in residence are the ones paying for the mandatory meal plan, and as such, deserve a voice on the way the money is spent.

He also said that the committee should bring more transparency to the process, and give the student body more information on the contract the University has with Aramark—which, so far, has been largely been out of reach.

"The movement that we're trying to create right now is to set up a system where we can address some of the fees and get an understanding. Open up the door so that we can understand how the fees are spent and understand whether or not there is [room for] improvement in how they can be spent," he said.

Michael Janz, President of the Lister Hall Students' Association, agreed with Yusuf's sentiment that there was a need for greater transparency and that students should have more say when it came to the Aramark contract.

PLEASE SEE ARAMARK • PAGE 2

G8 still needed for global change: deputy foreign affairs minister

EDMON ROTEA
News Staff

Amongst the criticisms and controversy surrounding recent multilateral political meetings, Canada's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, V Peter Harder, shared his thoughts on the role of the Group of Eight in a lecture titled "The G8 and Multilateralism: Do Either Matter?"

In the public policy lecture, hosted by the Institute for Public Economics & Alberta Finance, Harder emphasized the importance of G8 summit events as a continued catalyst for creating discussion and support for issues of both domestic and international concern.

Harder, a veteran G8 delegate who served as the deputy minister for Industry Canada and for the Treasury Board, stressed the importance and

effectiveness of the G8 body—especially in an era of globalization and increasing international interdependence.

"The G8 matters because it has made progress on global issues—whether on agreeing on public policies to be supported, or in some cases, taking collective action as a community of eight," Harder said.

While membership in the G8 is currently exclusive to the leading Western industrial democracies and the Russian Federation, the G8's discussions and policies have shifted to become more inclusive concerning the issues faced by non-member states and their citizens.

"The G8 and multilateral institutions matter when they hear the voices of those that are shaping the world. How are we grappling with rising powers is a G8 challenge. Of those who have little

power is a G8 challenge—even though the G8 fashions itself as the leading group of Western industrial democracies," Harder explained.

The recent G8 summit in July not only included discussions with non-member states, but with various civic and social organizations.

"Increasingly, it's also about how we engage civil society as well," Harder said. "It's now become practice that the G8 will not just be a meeting of the countries represented in this organization, but a deliberate invitation that, preference to the host and subject matter, is now common place."

However, many civil society organizations and groups have also critiqued and questioned the effectiveness of the G8 on matters of growing international concern—from issues ranging from

the climate and the environment, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, to disaster response.

"Many have said that the communications put out by the G8 is nothing but words—and that the summits have lost their meaning and are just a media showcase. I wouldn't share that view. I don't want overstate the role of the G8 but I think it's too easy to understate how important [it is] in the international arena," Harder said, later commenting that there are other important elements in the discussion process.

"Agreeing on a problem, on the priority of issues, and on the principles that must guide our actions are critical components to action and resolution. I believe that the G8, even at the recent G8 summit, made some important gains in broad areas from energy and

the pandemic issue," Harder said, suggesting that the G8 discussion process can foster international awareness and dialog of other global issues.

"The G8 can impel positive change in the multilateral system by identifying capacity gaps in the international architecture and propose practical solutions that will attract wide support," he said.

Harder remains optimistic that the G8 will continue to make progress on global issues in the future.

"In summary, I believe that the G8 is an important instrument of Canadian multilateralism engagement, that it is an evolving instrument, that process does matter. But at the end of the day, it's substance, deliverables, and results that will measure success and I believe that there has been significant success in this process," Harder concluded.

Inside

News	1-4
Opinion	5-8
Sports	9-12
A&E	13-17
Comics	18
Classifieds	19



Get ready to groaaaaan!

Love them or hate them, Gratuitous Groaners are back for another dicey round of homonymic hilarity.

COMICS, PAGE 18



Uncanny unmasking!

The Crossword makes a cunning comeback with a perplexing puzzle to quiz the keenest comic connoisseurs.

CROSSWORD, PAGE 19