

More funds, less food: Power

SU President wonders why some students are still starving in oil-rich Alberta

DEREK LARSON
News Writer

With the start of fall semester, the University of Alberta's Campus Food Bank is getting ready for one of the busiest times of the year. But some are questioning why, in one of the country's wealthiest provinces, students go hungry at all.

"The Campus Food Bank is an organization that serves all members of the University community," said Madeline Bachmann, executive director of the Campus Food Bank. "Our hamper is approximately a four- to six-day emergency supply of food, consisting of non-perishable food items."

The Campus Food Bank also provides perishable items, toiletries, as well as referrals to other services that may be of use to those in need. The food is collected through donations provided by

the surrounding community. Last year, the Food Bank gathered enough food to feed around 2300 students.

But Students' Union President Samantha Power questions why students at the U of A are forced to visit the Food Bank in increasing numbers.

"We live in an age where the Students' Union helps to operate a food bank for students, something we should never have to do," said Power in a speech at the President's Address two weeks ago.

"It's not faulting the service," Omer Yusuf, Vice-President (Student Life) later clarified. "It's saying that we need to operate this service because obviously there is a great need, and that need needs to be addressed with partnerships through to the University and even the government to supply funding and help students."

The great need in question, both Yusuf and Bachmann agree, stems

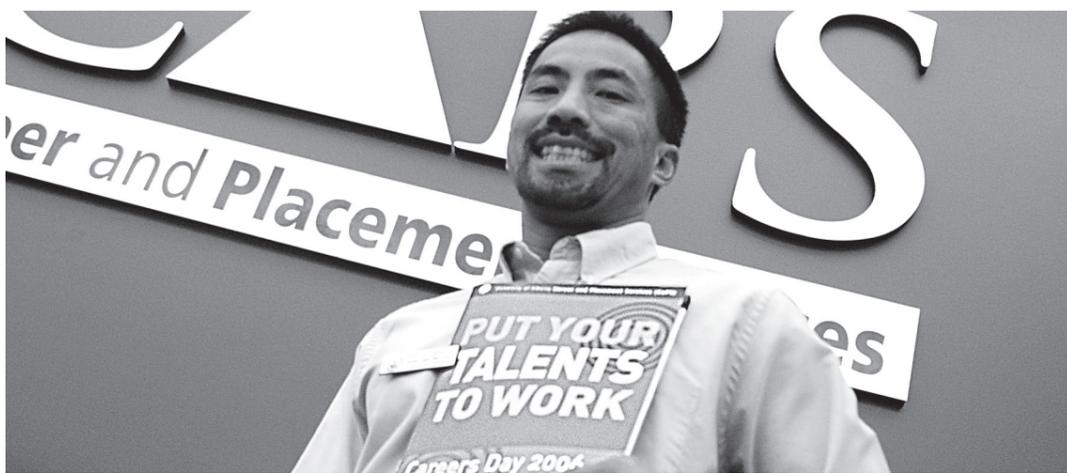
from the financial difficulties facing students today.

"A big difference between student life now versus student life in the past is that students right now are expected to find sources of income, to have jobs, to pay for their cost of living," Yusuf said.

And with students' schedules occupied by classes and work, they have little time for the extracurricular activities that, according to Yusuf, are a large part of university education.

But, until a solution to the financial woes of students is reached, those who fight the problem of hunger are grateful for the aid the Campus Food Bank is able to offer them.

"A lady came in for her first hamper," Bachmann related. "We filled it out and gave her the hamper and she was just so relieved to have this help, she actually started to cry. She was just so happy and so thankful."



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

HOOKED ON CAPS Careers Day opens doors for all students, not just those about to graduate, says Anthony Pangilinan.

Career Day shoots for first-years

KARI CHAN
News Writer

On Wednesday, 250 employers will converge at the Butterdome from 10am-4pm for the largest career fair held by any postsecondary school in the country.

Hosted annually by the University of Alberta Career and Placement Services (CaPS), this year's Careers Day promises to be the largest in their 16 year history, owing partly to Alberta's hot job market. Employers from local, national and international companies will be searching for students from all faculties.

"Careers Day is an opportunity for

students to network with employers, meet employers, career plan and also get a job," said Sarah Coffin, promotions coordinator for CaPS.

"It's a very hot market out there—lots of employers and there's definitely a demand for employment. Students have to definitely come and check out all these employers who are looking to hire [for] various positions," added Anthony Pangilinan, employment services coordinator for CaPS.

Although the focus of Careers Day is on employment, Coffin cautioned against the idea that Careers Day is just for those on the cusp of graduation.

"It's a good opportunity for students in first and second year to go and find

out [which] companies are hiring and to get an idea of what they need to do to get their ideal job when they're in their fourth year," Coffin said.

Pangilinan agreed. "Organizations will be recruiting for whatever need they have, but there will still be organizations recruiting from the first and second year," he said.

No matter the year of study, Coffin stressed the importance of being prepared to enter the job market. "There are so many employers there, [students] are probably not going to get a chance to talk to 250 employers. Check the website, see who's coming and maybe pick out some people that are coming ... find the booth and talk to the employers."

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