

THE GATEWAY

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FILE PHOTO: BEN BEGLEY

ZOOM ZOOM ZOOM U-Pass negotiations continue to accelerate with ETS ready for a September 2007 implementation.

St Albert first to put in for U-Pass

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

A commitment from St Albert City Council on Monday to subsidize a universal transit pass at \$90 is being hailed by student representatives as a major stepping stone. And, after two years of lobbying, they're optimistic Edmonton City Council and Strathcona County will soon follow suit.

"Six months ago Edmonton City Council was still talking about implementing a U-Pass at \$120 and not subsidizing it for students at all," Student Union President Sam Power stated.

"St Albert's proven itself as a leader in the U-Pass project by being the first municipality to approve the \$90 we've been lobbying for," Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer said.

U of A students had approved a U-Pass—which would give them unlimited access to transit in the three city districts—at a mandatory fee of \$60 per term per student in a 2004 referendum. But because Edmonton Transit System (ETS) had calculated operating cost of running the U-Pass to be \$120, SU representatives were left to find outside financial support to fund that gap.

And, while that referendum's mandate ended last April, negotiations for subsidies continued throughout the summer, with the SU indicating they perceive the best U-Pass deal for students to fall between \$60 and \$80.

[A subsidy from City Council to bring the U-Pass to \$90 has] been requested by the U of A Students' Union—it's what they want and it's what they feel that everybody will vote for but nobody's guaranteed anything yet," City of Edmonton's Transit and Public Works (TPW)

Chair Ed Gibbons explained.

TPW's budgetary meeting to determine how much the City of Edmonton should be expected to contribute to the U-Pass project was set to take place on 19 September, but according to Power was moved to 3 October after University Administration failed to properly outline their commitment to the project.

"Transportation and Public Works asked them to submit what their financial contribution to the U-Pass would be and they were unwilling to do that in public," Power said. "They don't want the City's input into subsidization to be dependent on what the University is putting in."

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**DAVE COURNOYER,
SU VP (EXTERNAL)**

While Gibbons explained there would be no further delays once Grant MacEwan and the U of A's administrations clarified their stance on the U-Pass.

"I hope that we have all the information and that the two administrations have worked hard enough that it will go forward," Gibbons said. "I've got no reason to put this off except for having improper information from them."

PLEASE SEE U-PASS • PAGE 4
ALSO SEE KNOECHEL ON PAGE 9

Mold and mess meet arriving I-House tenant

SCOTT LILWALL
Deputy News Editor

Moving into residence at the beginning of the fall semester can be a chaotic experience, as students try to unpack their belongings while preparing for classes. But at International House, one student found her room to be an ordeal in itself.

"There was mold all over the bathroom, and urine all over the floor in there. It hadn't been cleaned. The carpet was stained and dirty all over," Elena Wee explained, describ-

ing the state of the sixth-floor room when she moved in over the Labour Day long weekend.

"You expect a certain level of cleanliness," she added.

Arriving from Vancouver on Sunday, 4 September, Wee says that she was disappointed not only with the room, but also with the response that she got from the building's administration.

"I asked about being moved into a different room. There were empty rooms across the hall, but they said that they had already been assigned

to others ... [It was] very much "Take it or leave it," Wee said.

Residence Services offered to put her up in a room in Lister Hall until the assigned lodgings could be properly cleaned, but she opted instead to spend the next few days with a friend off campus until she could move into the residence.

Sarah Garskey, Residence Coordinator for International House, explained that it wasn't possible to move Wee into another room in the building, as all the other spots had already been assigned to other students to move into.

"There was mold all over the bathroom, and urine all over the floor in there. It hadn't been cleaned. The carpet was stained and dirty all over."

**ELENA WEE,
I-HOUSE RESIDENT**

"Unfortunately, there was no where else she could stay," Garskey said. "Of course, if one of our residents has a complaint, we will do everything we can to address it, but we couldn't this time."

Upon returning to the room later in the week, Wee said that she still had to spend an afternoon cleaning before she was satisfied with the dwelling.

"I think there should be a better check on the rooms, and that students should be told to keep it at a certain standard," Wee said.

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Jet-set Lament

The Winnipeg Jets flew off to Phoenix over ten years ago, but a one-game exhibition in the 'Peg was dumb.

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Digging her new crib

Camilla Gibb, this year's Writer-in-Residence, is excited to share her story with aspiring U of A writers.

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