

THE GATEWAY

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LEFT: JACKSON HINTON CENTRE: NEAL WILDING RIGHT: MIKE OTTO

THE MUSIC OF THE NIGHT This past weekend overflowed with great live entertainment. Noteworthy acts included Faunts, Amy Millan and Cuff The Duke.

U of A focuses on 'top student' market

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Managing Editor

While universities in Alberta are filled to the brim and looking for ways to create new spaces for students, the University of Alberta itself is shopping for students in an effort to create a more diverse and prestigious institution.

Eric Newell, Chancellor of the University of Alberta, deals directly with students receiving Chancellor Citation scholarships, which are some of the more prestigious awards offered by the University, calling each student individually.

"What I found talking to them is there's a lot of competition for these outstanding students. Many of them had similar offers from other universities and some of the offers went beyond just dollars and cents," he said, explaining that some universities offer summer jobs to help with the transition if students are coming from far away.

"It seems to me they're getting lots more offers from more universities; if anything, the competition for outstanding students is heating up," Newell said.

Newell said that this year, the student with the lowest high school average receiving the scholarship had one of 96 per cent.

"They don't all say yes, but a majority of them do," Newell said, explaining that out of 23 offers that the U of A made, 14 students accepted the \$15 000 scholarships, which are given over the course of four years. "We would have taken every one of them at once."

Joel Carlson, a recipient of the Chancellor's Citation, came from Prince Rupert, BC to study engineering at the U of A's Campus Saint-Jean.

University of Northern British Columbia and Simon Fraser University both offered Carlson scholarships too, but he decided to come to U of A since it offered something other universities didn't; he would be able to continue postsecondary studies in French after his high school French immersion education.

Canadian export of asbestos raises concerns

Student argues that Canada should halt exports of potentially harmful substance to developing nations

ISHA THOMPSON
News Writer

Canada's exports of chrysolite, a form of asbestos, to developing countries, and the presence of the same substance in University buildings is being protested by a University of Alberta student, who worries about the possible health effects of continued chrysolite use.

Kyla Sentés is a PhD student in the Political Science and Public Health Sciences departments and a vocal opponent of the use of asbestos.

For Sentés, the debate is a personal one—in 2000 her father, a former asbestos insulator in the 1960s, lost a 25-year battle with asbestosis, a respiratory disease caused by inhaling asbestos fibers.

One of Sentés' main concerns is the export of asbestos materials from Canada to developing nations. She explained that asbestos, a naturally occurring fibrous material, has been used as insulation since ancient times. However, many countries, including Canada, banned the material in the 1970s, when its dangerous health effects were discovered.

Although it's no longer used in the Canadian construction industry, chrysolite is still mined in Québec, and exported to developing countries.

"To suggest that Canada's actions have saved lives is an insult to thousands of victims worldwide. If we had stopped our promotions of asbestos when we first knew of the risks (circa 1920), God only knows how many lives we could have saved."

KYLA SENTÉS,
PHD STUDENT

Natural Resources Canada supports providing asbestos on an international scale. While the department was unavailable for comment, they did forward a speech by Christian

Paradis, parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources, who spoke at the welcome address for the International Conference on Chrysolite held last May.

"The Government of Canada, through the Chrysolite Institute, supports the safe use of chrysolite, both domestically and internationally. We believe that any of the risks posed by the use of chrysolite must, and can be properly managed," Paradis said during the conference.

However, Sentés isn't convinced that chrysolite can be used safely at anytime, no matter what steps are taken.

"Every year hundreds of Canadians die from the so-called safe-use policies which were supposed to be in place here in the 1970s. Even the World Trade Organization has said it's just not reasonable to think it can be used safely," Sentés said.

She went on to argue that what she sees as the government's stance on the exports, treating the export of the substance as a humanitarian effort to promote construction and development in developing countries, is unconvincing.

"It's incredibly arrogant to suggest that Canada is acting as this shining

beacon of humanitarianism vis-à-vis asbestos," Sentés said. "To suggest that Canada's actions have saved lives is an insult to thousands of victims worldwide. If we had stopped our promotions of asbestos when we first knew of the risks (circa 1920), God only knows how many lives we could have saved."

Sentés isn't concerned only with the national government's dealings with asbestos. She believes that even places like the U of A aren't taking the possible health issue attributed to use of asbestos seriously enough, and it might be putting students at risk.

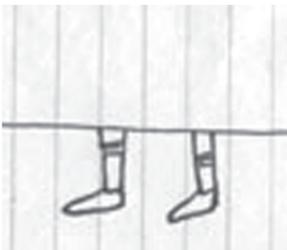
"Numerous offices in the Tory building have tested positive for the presence of chrysolite in the floor tiles. But the attitude of the University has been to wait until there's a real problem," she explained.

And while asbestos has its presence in a few buildings on campus—due to the old infrastructure put in place before the banning of the material—Hugh Warren, Director of Infrastructure for the planning department of the University, disagrees with the claim that the Administration is complacent to the threat.

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A man of many talents

Steve Nash has done a lot of things in his day, both on and off the court. What crazy hijinks is he up to today?

COMICS, PAGE 18



It's baaaaaack

After a two-year hiatus, the Pep Rally has returned to give you all the info we missed, and make Flames jokes.

SPORTS, PAGE 15