

# Admin increases cleaning in residence to reduce infection rate

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“At first, we were told that we shouldn’t say anything because it would not be good for the reputation of Lister, but then they say that it will cause a panic among people and parents would get concerned,” the student continued. “But really, if your kid is in Lister, you’d want to hear about it, you know? Especially if they’re sick and you can’t contact them.”

Other students contacted by the Gateway confirmed the instructions to avoid talking with the media.

A meeting for residents of Lister and the public was held last night in one of the building’s conference rooms. In attendance was Dima Utgoff, Director of Residence Services, who explained what measures the U of A and Capital Health have taken to control the outbreak. During the meeting, he explained that Lister had restricted guest access to the building, and has moved the conferences that were scheduled to be held there, which will continue until at least Wednesday. As well, changes to food services, such as closing the salad bar and handing out individual sets of cutlery instead of storing them together, were made to prevent the disease from spreading during meals.

One of the most important measures, he explained, has been an increased cleaning schedule, especially concentrating on the building’s shared washrooms, which present the biggest risk of transmission. Utgoff said that Lister has contracted out to two local cleaning



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

**GIVE ME AN OUTBREAK** The virus’ spread is slowing, says Provost Amrhein.

companies to help handle the increased cleaning schedule.

Talbot told the crowd on ways to prevent the spread of the disease.

“Without getting too graphic ... things like diarrhea are ways for the virus to pass copies of itself to others. It’s very effective. What you are seeing are the mechanisms of a perfectly evolved organism,” he said.

The best defence against infection is that residents, ill and healthy alike, practice good hygiene, especially focusing on frequent hand washing.

Talbot said that Capital Health has not located any source for the outbreak,

and believes that it’s simply a consequence of having many people living in a relatively small space.

“The odds are that this was circulating in the community, and as students came into residence, that’s where transmission started to happen.”

He said that, due to the measures taken by the U of A and the monitoring of student health by floor coordinators, the virus’ progress has slowed. Still, Capital Health will continue to oversee the situation for the time being.

“If we get 48 hours with no new cases, then we’ll feel like we’ll have it under control,” Talbot concluded.

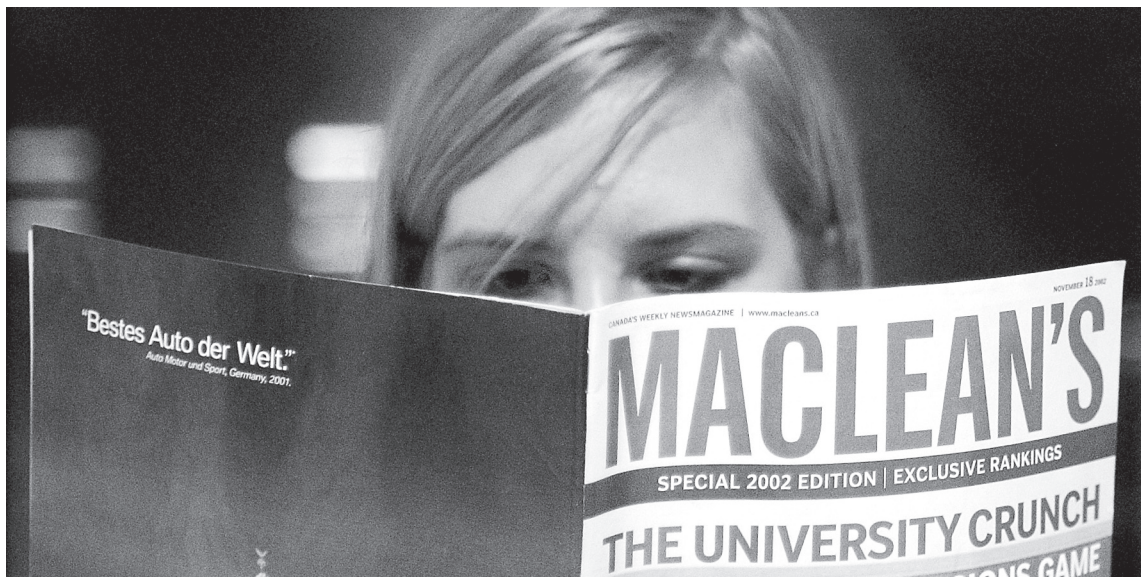


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: ASHLEY SCARLETT

**MY ISSUE WILL GO ON** Despite lack of support from some universities, *Maclean's* plans to carry on the annual rankings.

# Maclean’s rating to be published

MACLEAN’S • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“The act provides the right of access to records held by public bodies by any individual, and that right of access is subject to some specific and limited exceptions that are recited in the act,” Davis said.

These exceptions allow institutions to deny a FOIPP request if it attempts to access confidential evaluations made by the institution, if disclosure may be harmful to an individual or to public safety, and other limitations provided by the act.

“When the request is received, the public body has a duty to assist the applicant, and it spells out a time frame for a response,” Davis said. “Normally the first instance is 30 days from the time of receiving the application.”

For Keller, the FOIPP requests were a necessary last resort.

“In the past, lots of universities have criticized the ranking ... and that’s fair, that’s what you do in the marketplace of ideas. The whole idea of

refusing to make information public, to anybody, because you are unhappy with the way journalists are using that information—that’s a brand new development,” he said.

According to Keller, *Maclean's* has made alterations to their rankings system in order to appease the requests of the universities—the most comprehensive of which being their new University Research Tool. With it, readers can access all of the information that *Maclean's* has compiled on the 47 universities surveyed, and rank the institutions based on features important to individual users—allowing for much more personalized results.

“Readers want to know: is there a real difference between finishing first and finishing fifth?” Keller explained. “I think people would want to know that, and their now going to be able to see that, as of this fall. That’s actually the biggest complaint the universities had for saying they didn’t want to give us information. We’ve

answered it, and none of them have even responded to that.”

While the universities may provide the information to the request within the 30-day response period, there’s the possibility of the institutions extending the deadline in court passed the 2 November issue date; if that happens, *Maclean's* will be forced to continue the rankings without up-to-date information.

“We will, in all cases, use the best publicly available information,” Keller said. “Every university is being evaluated, and for every university there will be complete information. For some universities, some of the information may be a year old.”

The Gateway attempted to contact U of A officials in regards to the story, but after a number of attempts to set up an interview, they have not yet made a comment. There has yet to be any indication from the University as to what actions will be taken in response to the FOIPP requests.

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