

THE GATEWAY

volume XCVII number 10 • the official student newspaper at the university of alberta • www.gateway.ualberta.ca • thursday, 5 october, 2006



NEAL WILDING

SNIPS, SNAILS AND PUPPY DOG TAILS With a fog machine, a plethora of laptops and a neon sign, Junior Boys pleased a large, energetic crowd at the Sidetrack Tuesday night, despite a few minor glitches.

SU passes new student loan policy principles

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

With the leadership race accelerating and a provincial election on the horizon, Students' Union representatives are pushing to have postsecondary education become a key issue and will be using new policy principles to advocate for changes to the student loan program.

The principles, which were brought forward by Vice-President (External) Dave Cournoyer passed first reading in Students' Council on Tuesday night, and will now go to the External Policy Committee (EPC), who will look over its phrasing before a reformed policy document is brought back to Students' Council for a second reading.

"What this policy does is it reaffirms what the Students' Union's position is on what type of changes ideally we would like to see with the student finance system and what kind of changes that ... we'll be advocating for," Cournoyer said.

"The Students' Union did have a policy on advocating for student loan reforms but it expired last year," he continued. "When we meet with the Student Finance Board and with the Minister [of Advanced Education], we regularly get asked on what kind of changes would we like to see in the student finance system."

While Council still has to vote on the language and wording of the

student loan policy during second reading, Cournoyer explained the principals themselves have now been endorsed. The new policy urges that the SU advocate for changes that will make the financial aid system more accessible, financially realistic and diverse.

Council also added a mandate to the principles which advocated on behalf of students who live in the same city as their parents to not have their living costs calculated as if they're living at home.

"If we can get the government to change it, it will definitely make things easier for students because some students who can't live with their parents—because of various different reasons—[may] find themselves unable to attend school because they can't cover living costs," said Councillor Theresa Chapman, who brought the amendment forward.

But Cournoyer stressed that reforming the student loan program was only one component of the SU's efforts to make postsecondary education more affordable for Albertans and noted that the SU already has another policy that was passed last year concerning tuition.

"We're continuing to advocate the province to roll back tuition to affordable levels," he said. "Our reforms that we're proposing to the student finance system would work perfectly in increasing the affordability with a roll back in tuition fees."

Engineering co-ops remain closed to international students

CHLOÉ FEDIO
Managing Editor

Though international students are now eligible for off-campus work, since the implementation of a federal program in July, some are still unable to participate in faculty-specific co-op programs at the University of Alberta. The challenge arises in the case of non-mandatory programs, and while the School of Business has admitted international students to this type of co-op program for the first time this year, the Faculty of Engineering is still a step behind.

Dr Ken Porteous, Associate Dean

who works in the Engineering Co-op Department at the U of A, explained that out of approximately 3500 undergraduate students in the faculty, about 1300 students are involved in work terms every year—the second largest engineering co-op school in the country.

"We've operated this program for 25 years and have never admitted international students at this point in time," Porteous said, adding that the program is under review for September 2007. "We're in the process of reviewing our policy and maybe changing it, but we've got lots of time to do that, in as much as we only

admit students once a year, and that's in the fall term."

Kory Mathewson, Vice-President (External Relations) of the Engineering Students Society, said that with such a large portion of engineering students involved in a co-op program, international students have been concerned about their lack of eligibility.

"We have had a number of students in the past—not this year specifically—that have come to the ESS and didn't understand the policy ... why they couldn't be in the co-op," Mathewson said.

PLEASE SEE CO-OPS • PAGE 3

Norovirus still spreading through Lister

Capital Health will keep monitoring Lister as long as students are falling ill

SCOTT LILWALL
Deputy News Editor

Several new cases of norovirus have been reported from within Lister Hall since Monday evening, extending the precautionary measures taken at the residence for at least another 48 hours.

Michael Janz, President of the Lister Hall Students' Association, said the residence learned of the other cases during the daily reports that have been prepared by the building's floor coordinators since the

outbreak began. While he didn't know the exact number of new cases since Monday, he stated that it was under 14.

Because of the new cases, Capital Health will continue to oversee Lister, and precautions to prevent further spread of the disease—such as individually served meals and the cancellation of group activities—will remain.

Lister has also started an increased cleaning schedule in the common areas and washrooms in an effort to stall the outbreak. According to Capital Health guidelines, the outbreak will be

considered controlled when 48 hours elapse with no new cases reported.

Janz also explained why students were urged to defer any media questions to Lister administration.

"There were some reporters and such that were coming through Lister and knocking on people's bedroom doors, asking for opinions and such. That's pretty invasive," Janz said.

Norovirus causes vomiting, diarrhea and nausea. Since 1 September, there have been approximately 130 cases of students catching the disease.

Inside

News	1-7
Opinion	8-10
Feature	11-12
A&E	13-17
Sports	18-20
Classifieds	21
Comics	22-23



The terrorists have won

This is a Martin Frobisher. Find out how it's connected to Bre-X, Thanksgiving and airport security.

OPINION, PAGE 9



No place like home

The Gateway's resident legal beagle dishes the dirt on tenant rights and dealing with shitty roommates.

FEATURE, PAGE 11

Turkey! OMG!

The Gateway won't be around on Tuesday, as we'll all be recovering from an overdose of tryptophan. Never fear, though, dear reader, as we will return Thursday, 12 October with more newspaper goodness.