4 NEWS thursday, 19 october, 2006



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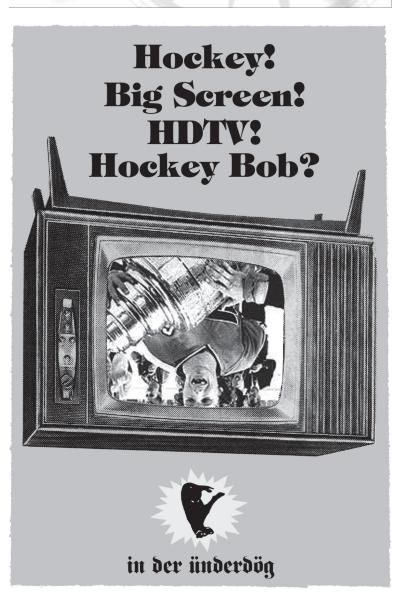
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THE TIMES, THEY ARE A'CHANGING Grant MacEwan is Alberta's first college to be awarded degree granting status.

U of A Provost welcomes competition

MACEWAN • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"We're looking fairly closely right now at the admission requirements for Arts, which haven't really been revised or looked at seriously in quite a long time, just to make sure that we are encouraging the widest possible pool of qualified applicants and not putting anybody off unnecessarily," Woolf explained.

However, Higgins highlighted the fact that it's ultimately up to students to decide which of the city's degree granting institution is most attractive and he affirmed that while the GMC

degree is new, it has the ability to provide a quality education for those who choose it.

"Obviously the choice at the end of the day is very much the student's," Higgins said. "It's for students to make that decision about the degree they want to take and we're confident that the kind of experience that students have here and the kind of education that we can give them."

Amrhein pointed out that so long as demand in Alberta's postsecondary system outstrips supply, the introduction of a new degree-granting institution would only be a positive for the province.

"Even with the addition of Grant MacEwan and Mount Royal we still don't have enough [bachelor program] spaces. We still collectively are turning away students that should have a seat somewhere in the system," Amrhein said. "My overall view is that adding baccalaureate spaces in Grant MacEwan and Mount Royal is a good thing. Because it expands capacity, it's also a good thing in that it will provide some competition for the U of A and the U of C and the U of L," Amrhein said.

COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Scott Lilwall

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 31 October.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question Period opened with an inquiry on what, if anything, was being done about the state of the wireless internet access in the Students' Union Building, after many students have complained of spotty service. Vice-President (Academic) Amanda Henry stated that there was an investigation in progress on the issue, and noted that the microwaves in the eating areas were partially to blame. She said more information would be available when the investigation was completed.

Chris Cunningham, VP (Operations

and Finance), was asked about whether SU-run businesses are taking necessary measures regarding the proper handling of food and cleaning in the wake of concerns about viruses and food safety. Cunningham explained that, while no new measures have been put in place, businesses run by the SU are very careful to follow proper health measures.

Finally, the exec was asked about plans to prompt the provincial government to release its long-awaited tuition policy. VP (External) Dave Cournoyer explained that dealings on the policy were at a standstill, which he attributed to the current leadership race within the Conservative party. He said that SU's plan was to wait until after a leader was picked before expecting progress on the policy.

REPORT ON COCA-COLA CONTRACT

After Question Period, Council moved on to vote on a motion that would order a report to investigate options other than the current deal with Coca-Cola and their beverages monopoly on campus. Supporters of the bill argued that, as a third-party to the agreement, the SU had

the right to investigate other options. As well, some felt that it would be hypocritical to denounce the recent renewal of the contract that the University has with Aramark without taking a close look at the Coca-Cola deal. Some felt that the report was unnecessary and that other options were less lucrative than with Coca-Cola. In the end, the motion was passed with an amendment requiring the report to be completed before 5 December.

HEADS OR TAILS

Finally, the last act of Council was to appoint a new member to the Budget Finance Committee. With three nominated candidates, the first vote ended in a tie for first between two councillors. Another vote was made with just those two candidates, which also ended in a dead tie. According to Students' Council tradition, the final decision was made by the toss of a coin, with the win going to Joseph Blais.

U-PASS REFERENDUM QUESTION

SU had See story page one.



FACT:

Some believe time to be cyclical, with the end of an event flowing smoothly into its beginning.

FACT:

News meetings, held in 3-04 SUB, while being linear in nature, do take place at the same time every week, Fridays at 3pm.

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