

THE GATEWAY

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U of A's 2020 vision

U of A ranked 133 in recent survey, but President Samarasekera confident top 20 is within its reach

THOMAS WAGNER
News Writer

The University of Alberta, in the annual *Times* of London survey released 6 October, was ranked 133 among institutions worldwide. However, this ranking hasn't discouraged the University from trying to reach its goal of becoming one of the top 20 universities on the planet by the year 2020.

Although a high goal, President Indra Samarasekera is confident the U of A can upstage its Canadian rivals in the rankings, among them the University of British Columbia, the University of Toronto and McGill University, by reaching that elusive 20, just one ahead of McGill's current ranking of 21.

"The U of A is not top of mind for many professors around the world," Samarasekera said. "It needs to become better known as an institution [in order to rise in the rankings]."

She explained this focus on marketing, or "developing a brand" for the U of A, is in large part due to the criteria of the rankings, 60 per cent of which is devoted to research.

However, the plan isn't getting full approval from everyone. Amanda Henry, Students' Union Vice-President (Academic), noted her concern over this marketing intensive initiative.

"Ideas like getting on the top of lists and things is probably a pretty good external marketing endeavour," she said. But she stressed that the University needs to balance its recruitment of staff through the use of "an awesome brand" with a continued focus on necessary non-research experiences that U of A undergraduate students need.

But both Samarasekera and Henry

explained that increased exposure is not without its benefits, as the other side of the University's continued initiative is to boost the number of faculty on the ground with the intent to bump the current student to faculty ratio, sitting at 23:1, to the 14:1 of previous years.

"The University needs to work hard at increasing the quality of what we do ... [by] recruiting the best faculty, students and grad students," said Samarasekera, a tactic she hopes will boost exposure.

"The U of A is not top of mind for many professors around the world."

INDIRA SAMARASEKERA,
U OF A PRESIDENT

However, Henry said that part of the trouble in trying to reach the goal of being in the top 20 by the set date may come in the form of competition from universities with deeper pockets than a public institution such as our own U of A could hope for. She pointed to the current top university, Harvard, as a prime example.

"If the U of A wants to be an institution on par with Harvard, that's probably a laudable goal, but, I'm not sure how to do it without a multi-billion dollar endowment," said Henry.

She expressed concern that if this rise meant an increase in student costs, the increase might not be worth the higher level of exposure afforded to highly ranked institutions.

Anyone interested in a full list of ranked universities or the methodology used in the ranking process can find it at www.topuniversities.com.



AMANDA ASH

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT ON THE RED LIGHT Montréal's The Stills played for a Molson event Sunday at the 'Plant.

Long-forgotten LSD treatment might aid alcoholics start a trip to recovery

SEAN MCCLURE
News Writer

When most people hear the term LSD, ideas of little pieces of blotter paper soaked in mind-expanding liquid that offer users a new world of altered perception and oneness come to mind—not to mention jail time and parole.

The illicit reputation of the drug may, however, hinder its potential as a powerful treatment to a serious addiction.

Dr Erika Dyck, professor of the history of medicine at the University of Alberta, has been taking an historical look at the use of LSD as a treatment for alcoholism.

"What the research was showing was that [alcoholism] was something psychological in nature," Dyck said.

Dyck explained that during the 1950s, researchers in Saskatchewan were treating alcoholism with the drug known scientifically as d-lysergic acid diethylamide. The researchers originally made the connection between the effects of LSD and alcoholism withdrawal by examining what are known as delirium tremens. Delirium tremens are acute psychotic states caused by withdrawal from heavy drinking resulting in confusion, tremors and hallucinations—something quite similar to the effects of taking LSD.

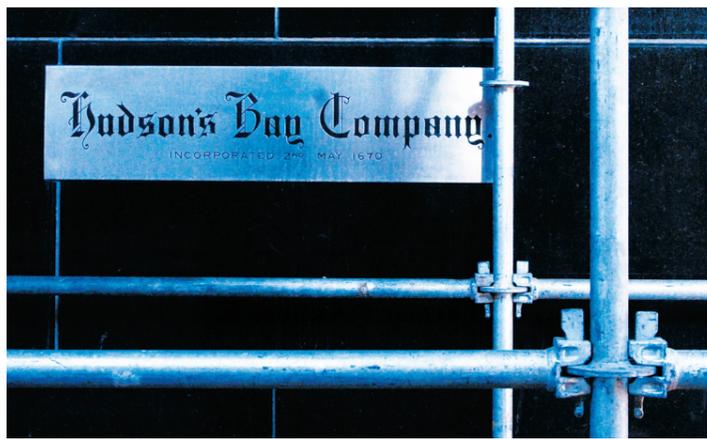
Since these tremens seem to mark a turning point in the disease, the researchers were interested in seeing if LSD could offer a therapeutic start to a recovering alcoholic.

The researcher's results showed significant rates of recovery and helped strengthen the idea that alcoholism should be characterized as a disease.

Although the approach gained support from the provincial government, local chapters of Alcoholics Anonymous and the Bureau of alcoholism, negative media attention of LSD as a harmful recreational drug curtailed further clinical trials.

PLEASE SEE LSD • PAGE 2

Bay building expansion hopes to relieve U of A growing pains



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

TRADING UP The downtown Bay building is getting a U of A-funded makeover.

EDMON ROTEA
News Staff

After two years of planning and development, the former downtown Bay Building will soon be the new home of the recently named Enterprise Square.

"We think that this is going to be the most sought after penthouse address in the city," said Pamela Freeman, Vice President of Company Development of Technology, Entrepreneur, and Company Development (TEC) Edmonton—a joint venture between the City and the University of Alberta that aims to foster commercial research and development.

Representatives of TEC Edmonton

delivered a presentation on 11 October to existing tenants of the Research Transition Facility (RTF), currently near the Health Sciences LRT station, which is to be relocated on the third and fourth floors of Enterprise Square. The 61-year-old RTF building is to be demolished sometime in 2007/08 to make way for the Edmonton Clinic—a new \$577 million health sciences facility.

Currently, the RTF maintains a 95 per cent occupancy rate, with over 35 tenants. But academic space is becoming a premium on the U of A campus.

"We have a severe shortage of space on this campus right now," said Leo Leujeune, Planning Officer for the Office

of the University Architect. "Faculties are bursting at the seams and needing more space. One of the key drivers in the purchasing of the Bay Building was to not only allow TEC Edmonton to develop space for their tenants—but to also move some University groups into the Bay, thereby freeing up space on campus for academic work."

Enterprise Square, when completed, will be approximately 350 000 square feet in office, laboratory or commercial space—freeing up over 175 000 square feet on the main campus. The building already has existing tenants, including CityTV studios and The Bounce 91.7FM radio station.

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Getting some Insite

Right from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, Eric Szeto delves into drug culture and programs for addicts

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Unwearably bad

Our picks for the NHL's worst jerseys prove that grown men will wear anything for a million dollar contract.

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