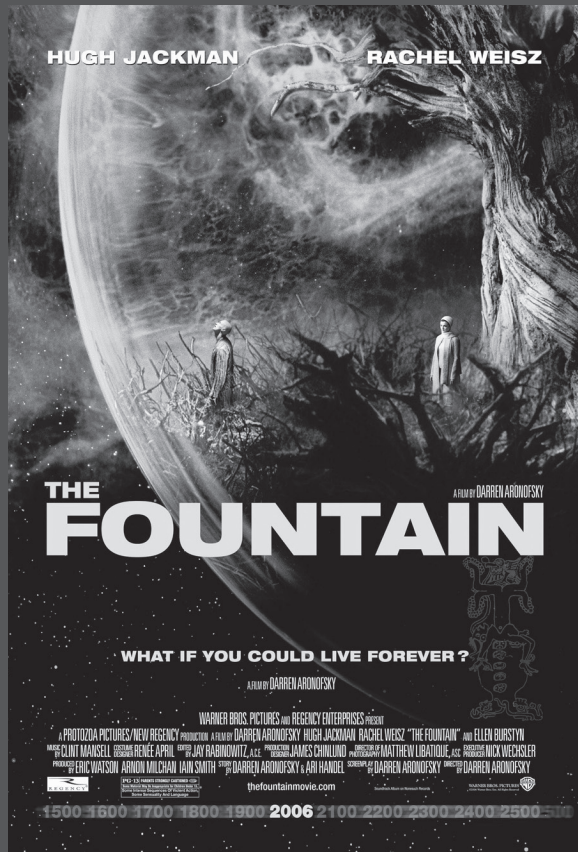


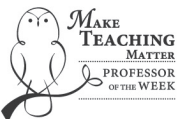
WIN free movie passes



Email contests@gateway.ualberta.ca and enter to win advanced screening passes for two on Wednesday, November 15, 2006 at 7:00pm at North Edmonton Cinemas (14231 137 Ave).

OPENS IN THEATRES NOVEMBER 22

PROFESSOR OF THE WEEK



DR. HELEN VALLIANATOS
ANTHR 110

"A student can nominate a professor? I feel more than obligated to nominate Dr Vallianatos, an exceptional woman in her field. A novel poet, she evokes the interest of her audience through gentle discussions on gender differences. Her own interest in this field enhances classroom discussions, leaving us hungry for her next class. Dr Vallianatos is singular in what constitutes dedication to teaching, providing positive feedback and inspiring young students interested in pursuing the field of anthropology. It is my honour to give Dr Vallianatos a standing ovation for a job well done!"

MAKE TEACHING MATTER!

NOMINATE YOUR OWN PROFESSOR FOR PROFESSOR OF THE WEEK

Excellent teaching is the foundation of an outstanding undergraduate education, and the university community needs to begin to value everyday achievements in undergraduate teaching.

The Students' Union is looking to recognize professors who demonstrate sincere enthusiasm for teaching undergraduates, innovative methods of engaging students in the learning process and a willingness to go beyond what is normally expected of a professor.

Don't let great teaching go unrecognized.

Nominations can be picked up/submitted at any Faculty Association office or InfoLink desk, or at the SU Executive Office front desk. Nominations can also be emailed to the Associate VP-Academic Tasneem Karbani at avpa@su.ualberta.ca.

Québecers lighting up less: study

NATHAN PERKINS
The McGill Daily

MONTRÉAL (CUP)—Health is improving in Québec despite smoking rates that are above the national average, according to a recent provincial report.

Santé et Services Sociaux Québec, which collaborated on the report, said that though roughly a quarter of the population smokes, smoking rates in Québec have decreased over the last decade and that associated risk factors are at a 20-year low.

"Smoking is more prevalent [in Québec] than in other provinces but has been decreasing faster than in other provinces," explained Louise Guyon, from the Institut National de Santé Publique du Québec (INSPQ), the other organization that worked on the report. She attributed the change to the public campaign against smoking.

Gilles Paradis, a professor of epidemiology at McGill University, said the public-education aspect of the campaign was the driving force behind curbing cigarette smoking.

"The biggest battle we have had to face in relation to tobacco in the past ten years is the attempt to decrease exposure to second-hand smoke," he said. "People now understand that they must limit their exposure to smoking."

The campaign for smoking reduction in Québec peaked with the Tobacco Act, effective 31 May, 2006, which prohibits smoking in public spaces such as restaurants and bars. No statistics on its effectiveness are yet available; however, McGill student



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: JOSH NAULT

I LIKE BIG BUTTS Health workers are breathing easier as smoking is down.

Zina Smires said that having to leave a bar or restaurant to have a cigarette is a nuisance and that she's smoking less as a result.

"[The Tobacco Act] makes me smoke fewer [cigarettes] than before, since I always have to go outside after meals or at the bar," Smires said, adding that it would only get harder in the winter.

Still, Smires maintains the Act has done nothing to stigmatize or decrease the popularity of smoking in the province.

According to Guyon, creating a stigma or alienating smokers would not be helpful, but "de-normalizing" smoking will be a critical step in changing public opinion and people's habits.

"Ten years ago, people saw smoking as something normal—everyone was doing it. Now, it has changed radically—only one in four people smokes," she said.

Instead, she lauded government programs that encourage people who want to quit smoking.

"Québec is the only province to reimburse pharmacological aid, such as nicotine replacement therapy," she pointed out.

Based on the statistics and recent Tobacco Act, Paradis and members of the INSPQ are optimistic about the direction that Québec is heading in.

"The intent for public health policy is to protect those who do not smoke and help those who want to quit to do so," Paradis said.

Student society dispute holds up salaries

EARL TAPIA
The Peak

BURNABY, BC (CUP)—Staff and employees of Simon Fraser University's student society could have trouble getting paid due to controversy surrounding the executive members of the society.

A special general meeting held 25 October resulted in students voting to impeach the seven Executive members of the Simon Fraser Student Society (SFSS).

However, according to a letter from the student society's legal counsel, Don Crane, the executive is contesting the legitimacy of the meeting and is planning to prepare a petition to the Supreme Court of BC to declare the impeachments invalid.

In the meantime, SFSS bank accounts have been frozen by its bank, meaning some staff, members of the SFSS board of directors, clubs, departmental student unions, and suppliers may not be paid.

As a result, the society has had to pay some employees with cash straight from the society vault.

"We are working on a solution to ensure that our staff are paid, because that is the most important thing to us right now," said Margo Dunnet, one of the contested board members.

Despite these measures, some staff members aren't pleased about the situation.

"We don't have a choice, we were just put into this dispute," said one employee, who didn't wish to be named.

"As far as we know our paycheques aren't going through, so we won't be getting paid until the bank accounts are unfrozen ... we get updates as to

what's happening, but so far nothing's been moving forward so we've been told we might not even get paid during our next pay period," the employee added.

"Banks are not political. They don't pick sides. It is their job to ensure that money can only be spent by the right people, so when they heard there was a dispute over who the directors of the society were, they froze the accounts."

MARGO DUNNET,
ONE OF THE CONTESTED
SFSS BOARD MEMBERS

According to Dunnet, it's the bank's policy to freeze accounts when there is a dispute over the directors of a society.

"Banks are not political. They don't pick sides. It is their job to ensure that money can only be spent by the right people, so when they heard there was a dispute over who the directors of the society were, they froze the accounts," she explained.

The University Administration has also revealed their position regarding the recent events surrounding the SFSS.

A letter released last week from SFU President Michael Stevenson states, "Pending a decision to the contrary by the Supreme Court of BC, [the

University] must respect the outcome of the special general meeting."

The letter also states that the University has been monitoring the situation closely, but that the ability of the University to intervene is "severely limited" because the SFSS is an autonomous body constituted under the BC Societies Act.

The letter also states that while many students have asked the University to "freeze" the transfer of funds it collects on behalf of the SFSS, the University is required to transmit those fees under the University Act.

"Stevenson's letter was fair," Dunnet said. "I appreciate the fact that he continues to remit funds to the society and that he recognizes the autonomy of the society."

However, she also stated that the University's position on the matter doesn't affect the present Executive's efforts to deny the validity of the special general meeting.

"The University and the student society are two separate organizations. [Their] recognition of the special general meeting doesn't really impact what we're trying to do here, because we are an autonomous society," Dunnet said.

And with the exception of former SFSS president Shawn Hunsdale, who wrote a letter of resignation two days following the special general meeting, members of the Executive are still working for the SFSS.

Dunnet explained that the executive members remain working to "ensure the society continues to function."

"We are only interested in being here right now in a caretaker capacity," Dunnet said. "No large financial decisions will be made by those signing officers who are in dispute."