

THE GATEWAY

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Grant Mac execs quit after tense meeting

JUSTIN BENKO
Intercamp

Now Grant MacEwan College has a shrinking Students' Association Executive to go along with their small class sizes after President Humza Ali Mahkdoom and Vice-President (Campus Life) Zaman Syed submitted their resignations to Students' Council last week.

Originally set on staying in office, Mahkdoom and Syed had a change of heart after hours of intense debate and lost tempers.

At the beginning of a regular Council meeting on 11 January, Mahkdoom and Syed, along with Vice-President (Academic) Corey Lemiski, were asked for their resignations by South Campus Councillor Arian Sweet. They were accused of not submitting paperwork previously requested by Council including time sheets, Visa statements and an apology letter from Mahkdoom who in November had faced a disciplinary charges.

The three executives initially declined the request for their resignations, defended their actions and attempted to convince Council they were suitable for their positions. But during the lengthy meeting, that stretched well over three hours, Council continued to press for the resignations, presenting evidence

suggesting that they were unbecoming and ineligible to hold office.

Unable to come to an agreement, Council went in camera—excluding the general public and the media from being present—and a motion was passed asking SA General Manager Al Morrison to research the eligibility of the Executive and councillors to hold office.

However, during a recess word leaked that everything was far from civil behind closed doors—witnesses said Mahkdoom shouted profanities at a number of councillors.

"He became verbally abusive to everyone at the table," said Councillor Leonardo D'Este, who in retaliation to Mahkdoom's outburst stood up, shouted a profanity back at the President and asked him to leave. Mahkdoom returned later in the meeting with written resignations for himself, Syed and City Centre Campus councillor Suhk Jhangri.

According to some councillors, Syed no longer met the requirements of office, making him ineligible for the position. Although no one will discuss specifics, executives are no longer eligible for office if they're unable to maintain a 2.0 GPA, or aren't a student at MacEwan.

The resignations bring to an end a three-month relationship described by both sides as difficult and strained.

PLEASE SEE EXEC ♦ PAGE 4

Perfect posture problematic

LIZ DURDEN
News Writer

A quick glance around any university classroom or lecture hall will reveal one collective characteristic: students slumped over books and notepads. While not the healthiest of postures, the common-sense alternative—sitting up straight—may not be any better.

"We had the opportunity of looking at the back in the seated position with gravity acting on it, nobody else has ever done that before."

DR WASHEEM BASHIR

A recent study out of Aberdeen, Scotland has shown that sitting upright at a 90-degree angle can put undue pressure on the spine and subsequently lead to damage and back pain.

Twenty-two subjects were observed

in the study, which used magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to determine that it's better to sit at a 135-degree angle, called "Keegan's position."

"Keegan's position is almost a 100 per cent similar to the lying down position," explained Dr Waseem Bashir, the study's lead author. Bashir also stated that they used the lying down position as a control in their study, as it's the optimal position for your back.

"You have to try and open up the angle between your body and your legs, that's what's important. That doesn't mean you slouch, that's not good for your back either because then you're not keeping your curvatures," Bashir said.

Bashir, who's currently at the University of Alberta hospital on a fellowship, explained that the study is a replica of a study done in 1953 by a scientist named JJ Keegan who used X-ray machines to study the angle of the spine and extrapolate what position was least stressful. The lab in Scotland was equipped with an upright MRI scanner, which is different than standard MRI machines, in which the patient lies down.

PLEASE SEE SLOUCH ♦ PAGE 4



KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

FAREWELL TO AN OLD FRIEND The flag flies half mast over the Administration building in honour of Bruce Stovel.

U of A's Stovel was a novel man

AMANDA ASH
Arts & Entertainment Editor

As students and staff come and go from the University of Alberta, they leave behind an imprint in the form of academic and extracurricular achievements. However, there's always that certain individual who inscribes a deeper mark than the rest.

On Friday, 12 January, Dr Bruce Stovel, a highly renowned and influential English and Film Studies professor, passed away at the age of 65 due to a sudden heart attack. Stovel retired in June of 2006 as a professor emeritus of the department, and although his presence was not felt within classrooms this past term, it was still fully alive through his countless publications on 18th-century literature and the tireless hours spent hosting his CJSR blues show, *Calling All Blues*.

The news of Stovel's passing caught many who knew him well by surprise, including Garrett Epp, English and Film Studies Chair. Epp remembers Stovel as a mentor for both himself and the previous two English chairs.

"He was the sort of guy that was a real friend to everybody, not simply a colleague."

GARRETT EPP,
ENGLISH AND FILM STUDIES CHAIR

"He was the sort of guy that was a real friend to everybody, not simply a colleague," Epp says. "He was a real gentleman—one with a terrific sense of humour as well. I doubt that there's anyone here, even relatively new folks

here in the department, that didn't have something to do with him."

"I've had a number of e-mails and phone calls from people who are no longer students here and who have heard the slightest of rumours," Epp continues. "That doesn't happen with everybody. He clearly had a deep impact on a wide range of people." Stovel graduated as a Gold Medalist with his BA in Honours English at Sir George Williams University in Montréal in 1964, attained his MA in Honours English at the University of Cambridge in 1966, and received his PhD *Magna Cum Laude* in English at Harvard University in 1971. After that, Stovel went on to become an Assistant Professor at Yale University from 1970–75 and an Associate Professor at Dalhousie University from 1975–85—where he also served as Department Chair.

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Getting their game on

The Edmonton Symphony Orchestra takes a break from Mozart to play some famous video game tunes.

COMICS, PAGE 23



Snap goes the neck

Add another one to Jack Bauer's kill count—and to his mint-vanilla ice cream count! Waffle cones!

COMICS, PAGE 23

Nie ma gazety

Us editors are heading to the Left Coast this weekend to learn how to make newspapers sexy. Accordingly, next Tuesday will be *sans journal*, but we'll BRB on Thursday, 25 January.