

Resignations cap turbulent year for Grant Mac Council

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"It was tough working there," Mahkdoom said. "There were ideological differences in the direction I wanted the school to go and where they wanted it to go."

Mahkdoom, who came to office during SA elections in March 2006, lamented that for the past three months Council was more concerned with minute points relating to administrative details such as Visa statements and time sheets rather than relevant issues pertaining to student life and governance.

A number of councillors respected the overall decisions Mahkdoom, Syed, and Executive Council were trying to make, but felt they went about it in the wrong way.

"I like Humza's ideas. His professionalism on bringing them about leaves something to be desired," said Councillor Jamie Fraleigh, who at the 9 November Council meeting had brought forward two motions asking to hold a special meeting to review whether Mahkdoom and Syed violated a number of SA policies and bylaws.

Students' Council found Mahkdoom guilty of a number of charges during a special disciplinary hearing at the end of November, and ordered him to pay \$915 in fines and write an apology letter to students.

But despite all the tension and heated debate, not everyone is looking to hold grudges.

"On an individual level, they are all good guys," Councillor Kurtis Horner said.

"I'm not perfect, and I apologize for that, but that's how you learn," Mahkdoom concluded.

This has been a tough year for Students' Council at MacEwan: Jayme Tauber resigned in August after serving only three-and-a-half months. And last year, Vice-President Crystal Brown resigned amidst controversy.

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**JAMIE FRALEIGH,
GRANT MAC COUNCILLOR**

But despite having half of their executive seats vacated, the SAs remaining members haven't made any plans for bringing in replacements and it remains to be determined how the rest of the year will unfold. An emergency meeting is scheduled for tomorrow and, while lips remained sealed for the time being, MacEwan could choose to either run a by-election or simply appoint individuals to fill the positions.

"It's all still up in the air. I don't think anyone wants to do anything until after a potential meeting tomorrow," Bell said.

However, MacEwan isn't the only Canadian school having trouble retaining their student representatives, at Simon Fraser University in BC the entire seven-member executive were ousted by students on 25 October, 2006 amidst charges of corruption.

Jhangri and Syed were both unavailable for comment at press time.

-With files from Krista Maine

New technology proves old theory

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"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," Bashir said.

Bashir explained that, with new technology, they could see the effect of spine position more in-depth and more accurately.

"Using modern imaging—basically MRI—we can see everything in there. We can see the bones, we can see the discs, we can see the muscles, we can see the tendons, the ligaments. So to see what is going on in the back when you're sitting down; to clarify it," Bashir stated.

According to Bashir, back pain is caused by the loss of water in the spinal discs, which they measured in a separate experiment; again using magnetic resonance imaging.

"The MRIs pick up a lot of hydrogen signals and because water's got a lot of hydrogen in it, you can figure out how much water is in the disc," Bashir explained.

Results confirmed Keegan's 53-year-old hypothesis that it's better to sit with a 135-degree angle between your legs and



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: ANDREW RURAK

BEND OVER BACKWARDS Best for your back. Sitting in the dark not required.

your body, and that the more acute the angle, the more it harms your spine.

"The more acute the angle between your body and your legs, the more pressure it puts on your back discs because you're bending forwards [compressing your discs]. The worst position of all is the forward bending, the hunched over the keyboard position, the second-worst position is the 90-degree position that we

commonly sit in, and like most seats are made," Bashir said.

"We know there's a lot of pressure when we're sitting down because our bodies aren't made for sitting, they're made for standing and moving. Sitting down is a modern phenomenon in human evolution. We didn't sit down, we were all hunters and gatherers; we all sit at desks now and it's completely unnatural."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Written by Ryan Heise

LAYTON TO VISIT UOFA CAMPUS

The leader of the federal New Democratic Party Jack Layton will be on campus tomorrow to meet with student leaders as well as conduct an informal question and answer period.

"Whenever Jack comes to Alberta he usually meets with different groups,"

said event organizer and co-chair of the New Democratic Youth of Alberta, Katharine Hay. "He's met with seniors' groups and environmentalist groups, so this time he wanted to meet with youth groups and to hear our opinions on what should be important given the possibility of an election ... because we're the ones that are going to be living in this country for a lot longer than the people who are in power right now."

Mr Layton will be discussing tuition and housing issues with student representatives on Friday afternoon. Following this meeting, he will be giving a 10-15 minute

talk as well as participating in a question and answer period that is open to the general public—not just University of Alberta students and faculty. Attendees are encouraged to bring up any topics of concern that may be on their mind.

"The intention of this event is not for [Mr Layton] to bring issues to us, but for youth to bring issues to him," Hay added.

The session is being hosted by the U of A NDP Campus Club and will take place at 4:30pm in the Alumni Room on the main floor Students' Union Building.

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