

# THE GATEWAY

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The world-famous Purity Test is back. Flip to page 17 and bare your soul. Among other things.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: JOSH NAULT

## Anti-Coke posters net \$900 fine

SCOTT LILWALL  
Deputy News Editor

While the Yes and No campaigns of the upcoming Coke plebiscite question have yet to be officially formed, the Student Unions' Chief Returning Officer has already handed down a sizeable penalty against one of the sides.

CRO Rachel Woynorowski released a ruling Friday evening in response to a student complaint that materials put up by Students Against Killer Coke (SAK Coke) constituted pre-campaigning in the run up to the plebiscite question, slated for this year's SU elections ballot, from 7-8 March. The plebiscite question, finalized by Students' Council during last week's meeting, would have students vote on whether the SU should sign onto a continuation of the University's exclusivity contract with the Coca-Cola Company.

"I was aware of the materials up before, but we had a complaint come in from a student. So, according to our bylaws, the CRO has to issue a ruling within twelve working hours," Woynorowski said.

PLEASE SEE COKE ♦ PAGE 6  
ALSO READ FREHNER ON PAGE 11  
AND PRUSAKOWSKI ON PAGE 13

## U of A medicine evades probation

The Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry wins fight to retain its accreditation

RAMIN OSTAD  
News Staff

The University of Alberta's medical school is no longer facing the threat of probation after making numerous changes and improvements to the program, an international accreditation committee decided last Thursday.

These changes include an increased emphasis on active learning in the preclinical curriculum, a review and alteration of admissions procedures, and addressing the issue of student mistreatment by health-care professionals. However, according to Dr Tom Marrie, Dean of Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, the red-flag warning was only one factor among many that lead to the revisions.

"We decided to use this threat of probation to totally rethink what we're doing and basically make changes to make us better," Marrie explained. "One of these changes wasn't even considered by the accreditation people. They believed our admissions policies were fine. But we decided to look at our admission procedures anyhow."

On 5 October, 2006, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), which accredits and monitors the medical programs in Canadian and American universities, notified

U of A President Indira Samarasekera of its intent to place the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry on probation. The U of A's appealed the probation.

**"We decided to use this threat of probation to totally rethink what we're doing and basically make changes to make us better."**

**DR TOM MARRIE,  
MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY DEAN**

The U of A is only the second Canadian postsecondary institution to be threatened with probation. In February 2003, the University of Saskatchewan was put under 24-month probation by the LCME, due to problems with its curriculum and shortage of teachers.

In the U of A's case, concerns regarding the lecture-based learning style of the first- and second-year curriculum were cited reasons for the probationary status. Marrie have now eliminated those concerns by altering the

curriculum to allow for more active learning, more opportunities for self-directed learning and greater use of computer technology.

Also among the LCME's complaints are issues regarding lack of supervision during medical residencies, as well as claims of students being harassed by health-care professionals. While Marrie believes that some of these claims may have been exaggerated, the medical school will be working directly with Capital Health in order to address these issues.

"Remember that students in third- and fourth-year medicine and all our residents work in the Capital Health environment, so some of those elements are out of our control. We both have policies on mistreatment of anybody, not just students. So we've put together a committee to bring organizations together to actually align the policies and start to work on this as one," Marrie said.

The Gateway attempted to reach both the LCME and its Canadian partner, the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools. Neither agency would comment on the appeal.

As of now, the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry plans to implement many of its changes during the coming 2007/08 academic year.

## Home life influences university aspirations

CHLOÉ FEDIO  
Managing Editor

The fact that household income is linked to a student's likelihood of going on to university has been known for a long time. Now, a new study from Statistics Canada shows that youth with wealthy parents are more likely to go to university than those from low-income families, largely due to the influence of their parents, their parents' educational background and the youth's early academic performance.

Marc Frenette, the author of the study, "Why are youth from lower-income families less likely to attend university?" explained that this type of study was done before in the US, but it's the first of its kind in Canada. Frenette said the conclusions in both countries were similar.

"It's not clear what the mechanism there is, but likely there's some role-modelling effects going on. I do have a measure of parental expectations of the child, which also appears to play an important role," Frenette said.

The study used data from the Youth In Transition Survey (YITS), which

collected the overall school marks, parental education and parental expectations of 15-year-old students, and then followed them until they were 19 to collect information about their university participation. Frenette split the population of surveyed youth into quartiles, based on their parents' incomes.

The results showed that while 31 per cent of youth in the bottom quarter of the income distribution had attended university, 50 per cent of youth from families at the top of the income distribution had attended university.

Only 8.5 per cent of all youth reported money as a factor in their decision to attend postsecondary. But this percentage varied between students from different income distributions: among the lowest income group, 13 per cent said their financial situation was preventing them from going to university, whereas it was six per cent in the top income group.

Though his was a national study, Frenette said that looking at provincial differences would be a useful follow-up study, as there are differences in university attendance by province.

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### Anchors Away!

The old Ship might be sunk, but the Lister landmark has been given a makeover and a new purpose.

FEATURE, PAGE 8-9



### Shocking Defeat

The Trinity Western Spartans took advantage of poor Bears serving to ruin Alberta's undefeated season.

SPORTS, PAGE 28

### Sex, exams = tiring

Putting together a Purity Test is hard work. As is "studying" for "mid-terms." As such, the Gateway will be on hiatus until 27 February. Until then, have a relaxing reading week, and don't do anything we wouldn't do.