

THE GATEWAY

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PETE YEE

SCORING IN BUNCHES Trish Ariss scores two of her 18 points in Sunday's 89-71 Pandas victory. Full story on page 9.

Canada, US still close: McKenna

ROSS PRUSAKOWSKI
News Staff

Despite disputes over softwood lumber and clashes over border security with the United States, the former Canadian ambassador to the US said during a lecture that relations between the countries remained good.

Frank McKenna, who served as ambassador from March 2005 to March 2006, spoke on 15 February before an audience at the Institute for United States Policy Studies. He touched on a number of contentious issues between the two countries, and how discussion, like in the case of the softwood lumber dispute, can

strengthen the Canadian-American relationship.

"I realized how important the [softwood lumber] issue was from the first day on the job, because I went to the White House to be presented to President Bush and he told me that he thought our countries get along really well, now we just needed to 'solve that wood thing,'" McKenna said. "The recent settlement on softwood is a good one and was the right thing to do ... because [it] was beginning to poison everything else about the relationship between our countries."

In his wide-ranging speech, McKenna noted a variety of reasons why he believes Canada is generally overlooked by the United

States while Canadians "have a near obsession" with America. He argued that this was due to Canada having a relatively small population compared to the US. He also cited an American political cycle that "runs red-hot all of the time," and has recently been dominated by issues like security and illegal immigration.

"Security issues preoccupy people in the United States in a way that they don't people in Canada," McKenna said. "We're aware of how devastating 9/11 was and we were traumatized by it, but it didn't scar our soul the way it did the United States of America. There, it influences all of the public policy choices that are made."

PLEASE SEE MCKENNA ♦ PAGE 4

New complaint aimed at Coke Yes

Ballot beef argues Coca-Cola advertising, *Gateway* opinion article should be seen as pre-campaigning

SCOTT LILWALL
Deputy News Editor

The second and third rulings relating to the Coca-Cola plebiscite question have been made by the Student Unions' Chief Returning Officer, adding more fizz to an already contentious election issue.

Both rulings stem from one complaint, received by CRO Rachel Woynorowski on Tuesday, 20 February. The complaint argued that two parties, the Coca-Cola Company, and the *Gateway*, engaged in pre-campaigning activities that gave the Yes side of the plebiscite an unfair advantage. While only one complaint was received, Woynorowski felt that the issues would be dealt with better with two different rulings. In the end, Woynorowski decided not assess a penalty in either ruling.

"[B]oth dealt with Coke, yes, and both dealt with pre-campaigning, but they were not intimately related to each other," Woynorowski said.

The complaint in the first ruling argued that the signage and advertising that Coca-Cola displays around campus constituted election materials. SU bylaws forbid the display of materials intended to influence voter opinion before the official campaign period, which began yesterday.

The Coca-Cola plebiscite question, which will be put before voters on 7-8 March, will ask students if they are in favour of extending the beverage company's current exclusivity contract with the SU and the University of Alberta. The agreement would give Coke exclusive rights to campus in return for scholarships and funds provided to the SU. If passed, the agreement would be in place until 2015. If not, the agreement would continue until 2010.

The complaint claimed that Coke's advertising around campus provided an unfair advantage to the Yes campaign.

PLEASE SEE RULING ♦ PAGE 4
ALSO READ WARREN ON PAGE 7

Graduate students pull ahead with U-Pass verdict

MARIA KOTOVYCH
News Staff

University of Alberta graduate students will soon have unlimited use of Edmonton Transit, St Albert Transit and Strathcona County Transit, thanks to the results of a recent Universal Transit Pass (U-Pass) referendum.

According to results released on 16 February, 83 per cent of graduate students approved the mandatory fee, totalling \$75 per student per term, set to begin September 2007. The price was made possible by a contribution of \$15 per student by the University.

Christine Delling, President of the Graduate Students' Association, was happy with the result.

"I was very excited about having such a strong Yes vote and such a high voter turnout [36 per cent] on that issue. People must have been interested in [it]," Delling said. "83 per cent is a very clear message of what students want."

Delling felt that in general graduate students will benefit from the U-Pass. She explained that many grad students aren't from Edmonton, so they might not have their cars here; and, for other students, avoiding driving to campus and parking will be a benefit as well.

"It also improves graduate student life at this University in general, and that's our mandate as the GSA," Delling said, noting that the U-Pass has environmental benefits as well.

Delling indicated two reasons that probably explain the high voter turnout and graduate students' interest in this referendum. It was conducted online, making voting convenient for students working in labs or those away on field placements. Furthermore, the GSA had been discussing the U-Pass issue and giving students a lot of information about it since April 2006. The GSA worked closely with the Students' Union on this issue, Delling said.

Students registered only in "off-campus" courses, those who are senior citizens, those who work for one of the three Transit companies or those who can't make use of ordinary transit services by reason of disability will be exempt from the U-Pass fee, but will be allowed to opt in.

On 7-8 March, U of A undergraduate students will vote on a U-Pass referendum during the SU elections, while Grant MacEwan College will hold their U-Pass referendum on 21-22 March.

ALSO READ PRUSAKOWSKI ON PAGE 7

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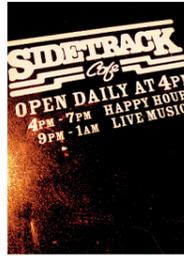
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Why is he smiling?

Is it his six Stanley Cup rings? His perfectly smooth dome? His love of greasy potato chips? Guess again!

OPINION, PAGE 5



RIP Sidetrack

The Sidetrack Café has locked its doors forever. Now, local artists must rock their jammin' socks elsewhere.

A&E, PAGE 13

Retraction

In the 13 February article "Just say no to SAKCoke" a number of incorrect statements were made regarding APIRG's relationship with SAKCoke. As a result, the *Gateway* unequivocally retracts all conclusions drawn about APIRG in the article. For the full retraction, please see page 2.