CAMPUS CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Mike Otto

IT'S THE MOST LEGAL DRUG OF ALL

At 7pm on 28 February, Campus Security received a complaint about a man trying to peddle illicit substances to innocent commuters in the bus loop near HUB mall.

The verboten vendor was tracked down and found to be intoxicated. No drugs were found, but he was arrested for public intoxication and taken downtown to the George Spady Centre to get sobered up.

ALL'S WELL THAT STAIRWELL

At 8:10pm on 28 February, a sketchy male was seen entering and leaving a number of stairwells in HUB Mall. He later met up with another man, and Campus Security decided that neither together, nor alone, were the two likely to be residents of the building. Both claimed to have been delivering flyers to the residences, but Campus 5-0 didn't buy their paper-thin story and escorted the dodgy duo off campus.

DROP IT 'CAUSE IT'S HOT

At 4:27pm on 3 March, a male was seen stealing a computer from a room in St Joseph's College. Residents chased the laptop larcenist from the scene and towards the University LRT; the thief dropped the laptop at the top of the escalator and ran down into the station.

The creeping culprit is described as about 6' tall and wearing a blue winter jacket. Campus Security and Edmonton Transit System Security are investigating.

THIS ISN'T NASCAR PINBALL

At around 2am on 4 March, a car was stopped after it was seen hitting the meridian and weaving about on 112 Street. Constables arrested the degenerate drunk driver and the Edmonton Police Service was called to the scene. Police issued a 24 hour suspension for impaired driving to the meridian-busting motorist. He was found not to be a University student.

Joke candidates drain SU resources: Cunningham

However, Vice-President (Operations and Finance) Chris Cunningham questioned whether the decision to fund joke candidates was the most beneficial way to use student dollars.

"We are giving money to these groups to basically make a joke of the whole election process," Cunningham said. "I'm not a big fan of the whole joke candidate thing just because it is costing us money and you can't really elect these people. So I would question the benefit of having them; I don't think it really adds to the democratic process."

Even with the existence of joke candidates, policy also ensures that if one of them ever did win an election, the CRO would be able to hold a by-election instead of Students' Council having to go through the process of voting to impeach them.

While a joke candidate has never won an election, Woynorowski noted that some have come close, and in positions where only one real candidate is running, joke candidates ensure that

they continue to feel election pressure.

"It causes the real candidates who are running against the joke candidates to perhaps put a little bit more effort into their campaign," she said, adding that students drawn in by a joke candidate will then also listen to the real candidate's platform.

But, Woynorowski also noted that another concern brought up in Council when deciding whether or not to fund joke candidates was that having joke candidates "makes the election as a whole look like a joke."

"I don't know if I would go so far as to say it downgrades the election process or anything. I just find it frustrating that money is going to these campaigns and not to where it could be better used," Cunningham added.

Alyssa Shariff explained on behalf of VP (Student Life) joke candidate, Chubby Puff Ball, that part of the motivation to run a joke candidate came from the realization that students living outside the SU bubble pay little attention to the student elections.

"I was on Facebook and I kept

getting these invites to different groups that were like 'so-and-so for President' and it just occurred to me that the candidates are so gung-ho about this but the rest of campus really doesn't care," Shariff said.

Students may only come out to election forums to see what their favourite

joke candidate has to say, but Shariff pointed out that once they're there, students will be exposed to the platforms of real candidates.

"I figured my job was kind of to get people into the forums and then it was the real candidates jobs to actually convince them to vote," Shariff said.

JOSH NAULT

PINK EYE Preaching global takeover, Minor brings a lighter side to the election.

STREETERS

This year's SU elections feature an unusually large crop of joke candidates—three running for President, one for Vice-President (External) and one for Vice-President (Student Life).

What do you think about joke candidates?

Richie Assaly
Arts I

If Hillary Clinton can do it, I don't see why a lamb can't. Is there a lamb running? If Hillary Clinton can put together a campaign, anybody can, because she's a, you know, Clinton.

Jen Rush
Molecular Genetics III

They detract from the whole experience. Who am I supposed to vote for? If somebody's just there for a gag, what's the point? They're wasting my time, their time, probably a lot of Students' Union money. It's just a waste.

Jay Smith
Alumni

It's symptomatic of a general mistrust of political bodies and legitimate politicians.

Glen Dobranski
Computer Science IV

I think they add some much-needed levity; politics is too serious as it is. A few years ago I voted for Labattman and the Kokanee Kid. If you've got nothing else to vote for and you want to still vote, it's a good way to show your support.

Compiled and photographed by Steve Smith and Ross Prusakowski

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