

## THE GATEWAY

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## colophon

The Gateway is created using Macintosh computers, Umax PowerLook 1000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Cool Scan optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of FENICE, Joanna, Kepler and Whitney. The Manitoban is the Gateway's sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that way." The Gateway's games of choice are The Ship and Rockstar Presents Table Tennis.

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## COUNCIL FORUM

Compiled by Scott Lilwall

Students' Council meets every second Tuesday in the Council Chambers in University Hall at 6pm. Council meetings are open to all students. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 27 March.

## POTENTIALLY PROBLEMATIC PRESENTATION

Students' Council opened up with a debate on suspending the normal procedures for meetings: while the first order of scheduled business was a presentation by Vice-President (Student Life) Omer Yusuf on the Students' Union's Environmental Co-ordination Office of Students (ECOS) service, some councillors were concerned that allowing the speech would make it impossible to vote on the SU's budget principles later in the evening. Council rules forbid a vote on a motion during the same meeting as a presentation on the topic. Since one of the budget principles recommended eliminating funding to ECOS, some voted to prevent the meeting from happening, while others suggested simply suspending the rule. After more than half an hour of deliberating, Council decided not to suspend the rules. Some immediately suggested adjourning the meeting and immediately holding another to allow the presentation, but in the end it was decided that Yusuf's talk wasn't intimately related to the budget recommendations, and both were allowed to

proceed.

Yusuf quickly outlined the mandate of ECOS, as well as mentioned a few of the organization's projects over the past year: the naturalization of campus gardens, free bike workshops for students and a waste audit of SUB, to name a few examples. He also made mention of the organization's future goals, such as a greater focus on advocacy and larger awareness campaigns.

A second presentation by Yusuf, this one on student services at the University, was postponed until the next meeting so that Council could more quickly get to a motion to eliminate Councillor remuneration.

The motion had been held over from the previous meeting.

## OF PLANTS AND THE 'PLANT

Before the motion, however, question period began. A number of questions were levelled at Yusuf, many of them relating to the number of students attending events and using the services supplied by ECOS. Yusuf said that the impact of awareness and educational campaigns was hard to determine, but estimated attendances of between 50-100 people at various workshops and events.

The Powerplant was also a topic of interest. VP (Operations and Finance) Chris Cunningham noted that, while he didn't have the balance sheet for March, the bar was still running at a deficit, but was in better financial shape than many believe. In responding to a question on if the closing of downtown's Sidetrack Café had resulted in increased attendance, Cunningham said that bar patrons hadn't risen noticeably, but that

the 'Plant was receiving more bookings from entertainers.

## TO PAY OR NOT TO PAY

Moving on, Council then entered into the highly anticipated debate on the bill to repeal councillor remuneration. Supporters of the bill argued that removing the pay for councillors was a prudent decision for an organization facing a financial cut, and that it was preferable to the alternative of raising student fees. Cunningham asked Council how it would look if "we approve pay for councillors and then, the next year, turn around and raise fees?" Others argued that amount of money paid out to councillors was too little to draw in anyone who wasn't already interested in volunteering in the SU, and therefore there was little benefit to the plan.

However, those that supported keeping the remuneration argued that the financial incentive was needed to keep talented councillors from moving on to higher-paying positions. They argued that Council members were also students who had bills to pay. Others pointed out that the original purpose of paying councillors was to encourage more students to run for the positions, and that one year wasn't enough of a trial period to see if it had a real impact.

In the end, the vote was called and the bill to repeal remuneration was defeated in a close 14-11 vote. A rare role-call vote was called, which made every member of Council individually state if they were voting for, against or abstaining.

Council then moved on to vote on the budget principles for the SU's 2007/08 fiscal year. For more information on the details of the budget, please see story on front page.

## NEWS BRIEF

## NANOTECH INSTITUTE OFFERS THE RIGHT EMPLOYMENT CHEMISTRY

The National Institute for Nanotechnology (NINT) and the Department of Chemistry have recruited a leading American chemist from south of the border.

A top researcher in the field of molecular scale electronics, Dr Richard McCreery has been convinced to come from Ohio State University to continue his work in Alberta.

"I am excited about coming to a place that puts such a high priority on research and development," McCreery said in a press release. "The situation and opportunities here were hard to resist."

Over the next five years, McCreery's research and academic efforts will be supported by \$4.5 million in funding, made up of \$2.5 million from the National Research Council, as well as large contributions from the Alberta Ingenuity Fund and the University of Alberta.

McCreery's work will investigate the behaviour of molecules as electronic circuit components, which may be an alternative to current electronics. Since molecular circuit components are potentially more versatile than current microelectronics, they may cost less and have lower power consumption.

"He will be instrumental in integrating research into the learning environment to enhance the undergraduate and graduate experience," Dean of Science Gregory Taylor also said in the press release.

Victor Vargas, News Staff

## STREETERS

Scientists in South Korea are currently drawing up a list of ethical guidelines for robots.

What do you think should be on this list?



**Rachel Woyonowski**  
SU Chief  
Returning Officer



**Chris Samuel**  
Open Studies



**Ian Stubbs**  
Engineering IV



**Shawn MacGregor**  
Science III

I can't answer that question—I have robots running in my election!

Any good robot's got to have lasers, at a bare minimum. Rocket packs would also be helpful. Robot lasers are a serious ethical concern for me.

No threesomes. There should always be more humans than robots in any robot sex. I'm worried that if water was involved, an electrical short could hurt any humans. There needs to be more humans than robots to prevent human damage.

They should be required to implant chips into Deceptacons to prevent wars on Cybertron. The Deceptacons are the evil force—they started the Cybertronian wars.

Compiled and photographed by Steve Smith and Ross Prusakowski

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**Sunday, March 11, 2007**

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