

## THE GATEWAY

thursday, 22 march, 2007  
volume XCVII number 42

Published since 21 november, 1910  
Circulation 12 000  
ISSN 0845-356X

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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 Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion* and *MLB Baseball 2K7*.

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## Housing crisis looms for Alberta students

CHLOÉ FEDIO  
Managing Editor

With low vacancy rates in Alberta's two biggest cities, students are increasingly relying on campus residences as a home during their university days. The University of Calgary and the University of Alberta report applications for residences are up by 28 per cent and 18 per cent respectively, compared to the same time last year.

Joel Lynn, Director Residence Services at the U of C, said that the housing shortage in Calgary has especially been a challenge for students from out of town and outside the province.

"In Calgary, there's a serious housing problem. Students are going to exercise all their options, and apply to get their names on as many lists as possible to try and secure themselves accommodations," Lynn said.

According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), high net migration in both Edmonton and Calgary has led to a jump in home prices and mortgage-carrying cost, which has put downward pressure on vacancy rates. From October 2005 to 2006, Edmonton saw the sharpest drop in average rental apartment vacancy rate, with a 3.3 per cent decrease, and while Edmonton's

vacancy sits at 1.2 per cent, in Calgary it's 0.5 per cent.

Dima Utgoff, Director of Residence Services at the U of A, said that there's discussion about building a new residence for graduate students. Space crunches on campus led to a conversion of Pembina Hall, the former graduate students' residence, into academic space in 2005.

**"We have to be careful about going out and spending millions of dollars on a building where there may not be need."**

**DIMA UTGOFF,  
DIRECTOR OF RESIDENCE SERVICES**

"There's a need for a graduate student residence—I don't think there's any question," Utgoff said, adding that the U of A's new academic plan suggests there will be an increase in graduate students in the future.

Still, he explained that the Administration wants to make sure that the growth is sustainable before investing in a new structure, and that a review of U of A residences is currently underway.

"We have to be careful about going out and spending millions of dollars on a building where there may not be need," Utgoff said. "We don't want to build a residence and have it half empty."

The provincial government has set up an affordable housing task force to address the issue of low vacancy rates, but though recommendations have been made nothing has yet been instituted.

Janelle Morin, Lister Hall Students' Association Vice-President (Public Relations), was one student who presented to the province's affordable housing task force to lobby for more affordable housing for students. Lister Hall is the U of A's largest student residence, housing 1800 students.

"There's a 0.2 per cent vacancy rate around the University area, so really there's essentially no other options for students in a lot of cases," Morin said. "That's one of the most frustrating things: students don't have a choice about where they're going to live, so if residence's are not affordable, there are no other affordable options—or no other options period."

The U of A Board of Governors approved a ten per cent rent increase for the majority of its residences in January, to be effective fall 2007. LHSA President Michael Janz argued that the rent increase was unfair, pointing to the

"eight-by-eight [foot] Lister rooms."

"It's just getting ridiculous how expensive it is," Janz said. "The mandate of the residences is to provide affordable housing for students and to be able to house students that the University is trying to attract."

But Utgoff further explained that the rent increase was necessary, pointing to major projects, like the replacement of a transformer in HUB Mall, which costs \$900 000, and renovations required to the elevators in Newton place, which costs \$450 000. He added that the residence rates were fair when compared to market rates.

"We try to recognize that this, like anything else, like tuition, like textbooks, like any other supplies, is an affordability issue for students—there's no question about that," Utgoff said.

But Janz and Morin both argued that the University should lobby the provincial government to acquire more funding for residences.

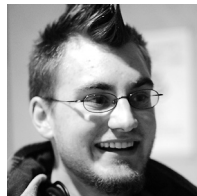
Morin hopes that the Residence Hall Association, which represents the community of 4400 students who live in residence, will join forces with the University and the Students' Union to effect change.

"We'd like to launch a joint campaign, talking to government, because they're no realistic way we can expect students to pay for this," Morin concluded.

## STREETERS

Numerous Nursing students recently had personal information, including GPAs, sent out over a listserv.

What would you do if your information was sent out in a similar manner?



**Adam Cembrowski**  
Science II



**Justin Asjarour**  
Science IV



**Belal Najmeddine**  
Business IV



**Peter Dean**  
Pharmacy I

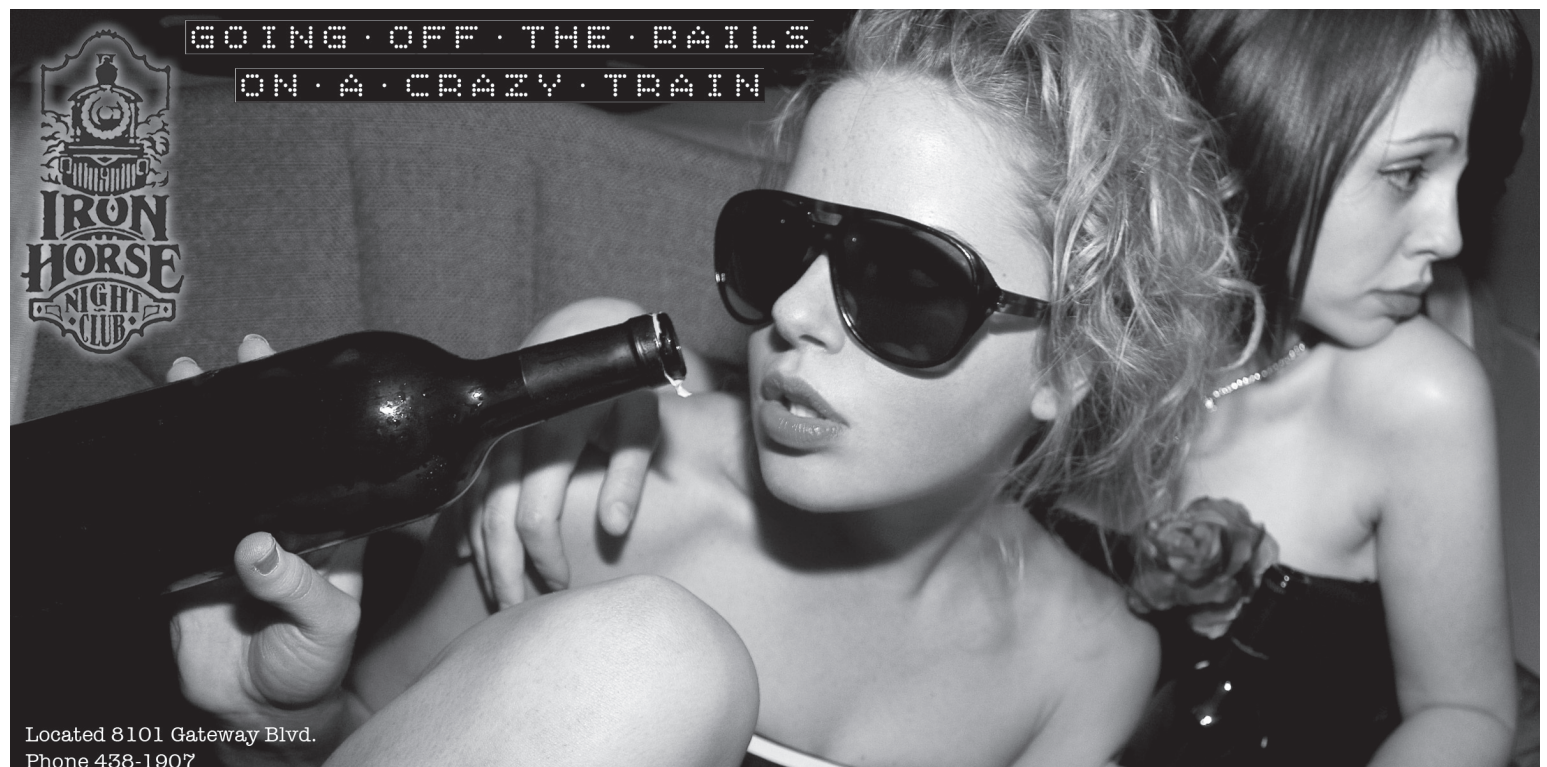
If somebody sent out all my information, I'd find the person and send out their information twice as hard.

I'd sue the shit out of the school.

The first thing [I would] do is sue the school. Then, when we go to court, I'm going to find out everyone who has my information and I'm going to beat them just because they received it and didn't tell me. After that, I don't know—probably beat them up again, or something.

I'd make a complaint, probably to the Dean. I'd be outraged. I'd dig a little deep on whoever spread that information, find out some nasty info about them and post it all over the U of A.

Compiled and photographed by Steve Smith and Krystina Sulatycki



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