

THE GATEWAY

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Tuition numbers crunched

StatsCan releases data on national tuition fees

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

Tuition fees in Alberta are now \$430 above the national average, according to Statistics Canada's annual report.

The results, released 18 October, shows that for the 2007/08 academic year, Canadian full-time undergraduate students will on average pay 2.8 per cent more in tuition fees than they did for the previous year. Alberta's tuition fees rose by 4.6 per cent.

According to Students' Union Vice-President (External) Steven Dollansky, Alberta's increase is indicative of the level of investment that the provincial government is putting into postsecondary education.

"Albertan learners have seen tuition rises that have drastically outpaced the national average, [and] the focus on reducing barriers of access to learners has not been recognized by the provincial government as it has been by other jurisdictions," he said. "As a result, we are falling behind our peers."

However, U of A Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Carl Amrhein questioned the value of comparing tuition fees to a national average.

"I think the average is a misleading number," Amrhein said. He noted that while Quebec is renowned for having the lowest tuition levels in the country, costs such as the differential fee levied to non-Quebec Canadian students studying in that province make comparing tuition levels up front problematic.

However, Zach Churchill, national director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), said that having different provinces charge different tuition fees affects students' mobility within the country.

Churchill stressed "the importance of the federal government and the provincial government taking a leadership role in assuring that we have an affordable and accessible postsecondary system in this country that is mobile [and] that allows students to study wherever they want."

Amrhein pointed out that since most of the tuition levels are fairly tightly clustered around the national average, he doubts lack of student mobility can be directly linked to tuition fees.

"There's not a lot of student mobility across the provinces to begin with relative to what you would find in say the US or within the European community," Amrhein acknowledged.

PLEASE SEE STATSCAN ♦ PAGE 5



MIKE OTTO
THE EMPEROR'S OLD CLOTHES A donation of over 700 pieces has allowed for an exhibition of 18th-century Chinese garments. Turn to page 4 for the story.

Special Collections library pleases all of the senses

KIRSTEN GORUK
News Writer

Not all early 20th century presses shied away from publishing erotic reads, as shown in the exhibit Golden Cockerel's Polite Erotica: A Legacy of Endurance and Distinction, now being featured at the Bruce Peel Special Collections Library.

The exhibit runs from October 2007 until January 2008 and features a collection of 60 books. According to Robert Desmarais, assistant special collections librarian, what stands out about the Golden Cockerel press was its ability to add a sensual touch to each of its publications.

"It was a luxurious press in many respects because they produced books that in many cases had no considerations for cost. They put in all the resources that they felt were needed to have a book that appealed to the senses," Desmarais explained.

Not all the works would be considered shocking by today's standards, but the addition of naked images created quite the scandal among book collectors at the time they were published. This was particularly prominent in the religious works in which stories were enhanced erotically. Understandably, there were objections to depicting religious figures in such a fashion.

The Golden Cockerel Press published its first book in 1921, and went on to print over 200 books before closing in 1961. What began as an

adventure in publishing became one of the greatest private presses in Britain. Renowned and condemned for its racy images, the Cockerel wisely chose to identify itself as a printer, rather than a publisher.

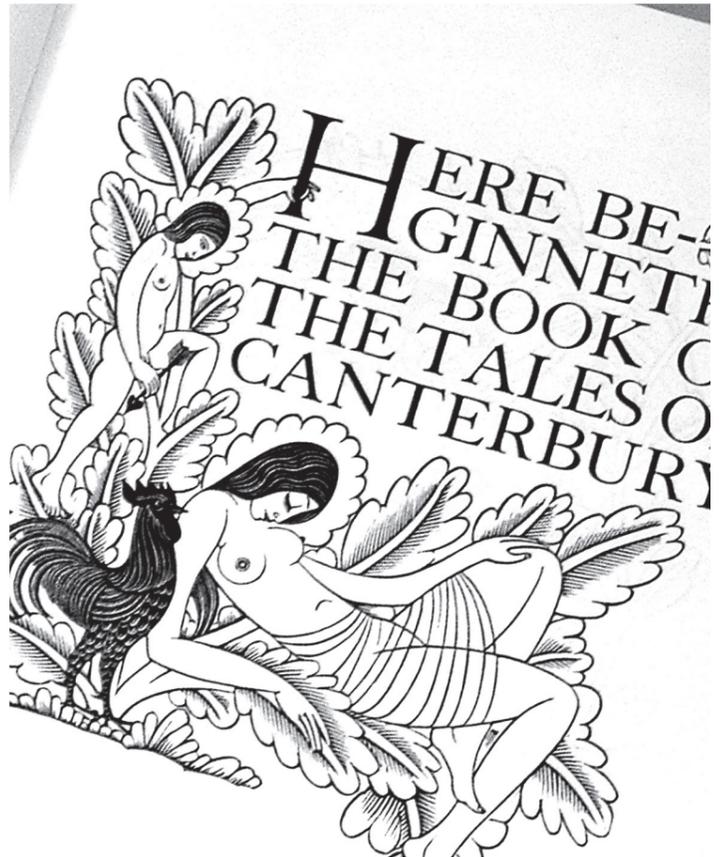
The published pieces included literary classics and books on travel or exploration—works like John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, William Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, and Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales*, all of which are considered key books in the collection.

As the books' popularity spread—chiefly through word of mouth—collecting the erotic books became a pursuit of prestige, explained Desmarais.

"The press treated the publications as literary events, and they were celebrated in the media," Desmarais said. "Book collectors wanted to own those works that were particularly loved by the press."

With careful consideration on the part of the press, only 500 copies of each book were published. This made owning a copy that much more prestigious. According to Desmarais, the books were thought of as artifacts: collectors weren't only interested in content, they also wanted "an attractive binding, beautiful paper, and presentation—illustrations, type set, font choice, and layout."

The books have managed to retain this value over the ages: earlier this year, a complete collection was sold for \$397 000 US.



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

GROWN-UP PICTURE BOOK Library exhibit includes many eye-raising items.

Although the press closed its doors over 40 years ago, its publications have not lost their relevance. As Desmarais explained, there's something unique about reading that no other experience can match.

"We've become a more technology-based society, and people want to get back to material things—things that they can touch, feel, and smell. The exhibit is open to everyone and is absolutely worth a visit."

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A green awakening

Sustainable growth is all the rage. Find out how a growing U of A is attempting to please the planet.

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A cold hibernation

Halifax's Wintersleep attempt to dodge questions about their third album, *Welcome to the Night Sky*.

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