



SHAUN MOTT

**UNITED WAVES** Participants take the plunge into frigid waters at the Chillin' for Charity fundraiser last Friday in Quad.

## Icy charity event chills to the bone

MEGAN KINGDON  
News Writer

As pleasant as the conditions were for November in Edmonton last Friday, most people wouldn't have considered it a nice day for a swim.

Yet across Western Canada, nine Jeux Du Commerce (JDC) West teams held their second annual Polar Bear Swim. For all those passers-by confused by the presence of hot tubs in Quad, this was the Alberta School of Business' Chillin' for Charity fundraiser.

Participants dove in to an icy pool throughout the day to raise approximately \$35 000 for the United Way. Among the swimmers was Dean of Business Mike Percy, Dean of Physical

Education Michael Mahon, and Big Earl radio host "Billy Bob." In the Tory Brezeway, Tweebilk, a penguin on loan from West Edmonton Mall, was also on hand to endorse the event, as was the University's Chancellor Eric Newell, who shared a few words before the ceremonial ice dump.

Jeff Lehoux, JDC West Vice-President (External), explained that going into the event, the team had hoped to raise \$30 000, an ambitious goal given the \$6000 they raised last year. But even before the event took place, the first-year Business 201 class, which is taught by Percy, had already raised close to \$15 000.

"[Business 201] did a cohort challenge, where each cohort tried to raise the most money, and through

that we actually raised \$4500, and then we had the Dean of the School of Business matching that and the MIS club also matched that on top. So we almost ended up with 15 Grand from that one class," Lehoux explained on the day of the event.

Dean Percy enticed his class by promising to bungee jump at West Edmonton Mall if they raised over \$2500, an event he will also be partaking in.

Percy added that it wasn't just himself getting involved that made the event a success, but the TAs and other faculty members who also gave their support. Jumpers independently raised money through pledges before plunging into the frigid water in an assortment of colourful and crazy costumes.

## Mobile STI clinic questions sexual taboos

MOLY MILOSOVIC  
News Writer

According to statistics from Capital Health, university students are finding plenty of time from their studies for extra-curricular activities—and it may be putting their sexual health at risk.

Young adults 15–24 years old have the highest incidence of chlamydia in Edmonton, with over 3000 cases reported to Capital Health in 2006. Edmonton has also been experiencing a syphilis outbreak since 2003, and cases of gonorrhoea are on the rise.

But organizers of the Dignitas University of Alberta sexual health fair are encouraging any students concerned about their sexual health to attend the event on 9 November from 11am–3pm, where free testing for sexually transmitted infections (STI) will be provided. Testing will take place next to SUB stage, with large dividers in place for privacy, and will take about 20 minutes.

After granting a very brief discussion on sexual history to STI nurses, students have the choice of providing either a blood or urine sample, and can expect results to be available in a week. The testing is totally confidential—students even have the option of providing a fake name.

The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of STIs, "but also to really get across the idea of de-stigmatizing

sexual health and getting tested for it," explained Erin Will, co-Vice President of Public Relations for Dignitas U of A.

"Making it easier for people to access services is [also] part of the idea," added Anne Aspler, president of the group.

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**ERIN WILL**  
CO-VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS  
DIGNITAS U OF A

Dignitas International is a humanitarian medical organization that provides community-based care for HIV diagnosis and treatment, with all of their projects currently based in Malawi. However, they have chapters in the United Kingdom, the US, and all across Canada, with Dignitas U of A being the first in western Canada.

The goal of the University of Alberta group is to increase awareness about the values of community-based care as a solution to the AIDS pandemic, particularly in resource-poor settings without Canada's level

of health care.

"This event that we're organizing is sort of analogous to the idea of community-based care, because we're bringing the clinic to the university community," Aspler explained.

The sexual health fair will also include educational booths from HIV Edmonton, Planned Parenthood, the Student International Health Association, and the University Health Centre, plus food and prizes. This is the second time a Dignitas group has been involved with mobile testing in Canada.

"Even if you feel like you have absolutely no risk factors, you're in a stable relationship with your partner, and you have no symptoms to suspect you might have an STI, it's always good to get a baseline of your normal levels," Aspler said. "From a health-care provider's perspective, it really helps to have that reference point."

Will emphasized the importance of knowing your sexual health status by drawing on the fact that "most people go to the dentist every year, not because there is anything wrong with their teeth, but just because you never know. It's the same thing: get tested for STIs, not because you have any reason to believe you have one, but you never know."

Students who can't make it to the fair to get tested are encouraged to contact the Capital Health STD Centre for free and confidential testing at any time.

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