

THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 30 • the official student newspaper at the university of alberta • www.thegatewayonline.ca • tuesday, 29 january, 2008



KATIE MOONEY

I-WEEK IN FULL SWING Opening ceremonies entertained lunch-time crowds and kicked off I-Week last Friday at SUB stage.

Garneau residents contend frat house

BRENDAN COX
News Writer

Members of the Zeta Psi fraternity and homeowners in the Garneau area are involved in an ongoing debate over the proposed rezoning of a house on 88th avenue and just west of 109th street.

The fraternity contends that it was compelled to move to the house due to a lack of affordable housing at other locations. However, older, more family-oriented members of the community insist that fraternities disrespect their neighbours by hosting parties and causing disturbances. These points and more were brought up during a public meeting at the City Arts Centre on 17 January.

"It was agreed between the community and the fraternities that the fraternities would only be able to locate in certain areas of Garneau," said Anne de Villars of the Garneau Community League. "This particular fraternity is trying to locate outside those areas. The reason why certain areas were chosen and others were not is because, as the plan says, fraternity use of the community is not compatible with family dwellings, so they should be on the periphery of the community and this house isn't." During the meeting, de Villars displayed pictures of parties at other fraternity houses.

"It's our experience with the fraternities over the last many, many years that they do not necessarily behave well. Not all of them, but we do have examples of fraternities that don't think they have to abide by the rules—the city's rules: noise bylaws and the planning bylaws," she added. The house in question is owned

by alumni of the fraternity, but can't officially be used as a fraternity headquarters unless it's rezoned by City Council, which means that Zeta Psi is currently without a legitimate base of operations.

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ANNE DE VILLARS
GARNEAU COMMUNITY LEAGUE

The house is currently shared by five students, some of whom are members of Zeta Psi. James Upright, the president of Zeta Psi and a resident of the house, said that the new location makes life easier, and that it's nicer and much more affordable. Fraternity elders support the students living in the house by subsidizing a large part of the rent.

"Through our older members, we provide some of the best internship and networking opportunities for a lot of guys. I think our elders from this fraternity remember what it was like for them as university students, and now they're trying to give back," he said.

Members of Zeta Psi used to rent a house about two blocks south of their current location. The former chapter house was appropriately zoned for fraternity use, but it was more expensive and further away from campus.

PLEASE SEE **FRAT HOUSE** • PAGE 3

University BoG increases tuition and residence fees amid student protest

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

The University of Alberta Board of Governors approved a 4.6 per cent increase in tuition fees on Friday, as well as an 8.75 per cent increase in Edmonton residence fees.

The tuition increase will come into effect on 1 September, 2008, and will raise fees for full-time general arts and science students by \$215.55 to \$4901.55. But while this increase is tied to Canadian Price Index, the residence rate increase includes a 4.05 per cent increase in addition to CPI for deferred maintenance costs.

Prior to making its decision, the Board heard arguments from members

of the University administration and student representatives in favour of and against the increases.

While students were ultimately unable to convince the majority of the Board to vote against increasing fees, Graduate Students' Association President Julie Charchun said she believes the student presentations remain as important as ever.

"We still have to believe in the Board's ability to face these issues, to have a healthy conversation about them, and we have to exercise every opportunity that we have to present the students' point of view no matter what we think the Board might decide to do, because the Board doesn't always make the same decision," she said.

Resident Halls Association President Peter Ochs, who gathered over 2000 signatures prior to the Board meeting in opposition to raising residence fees, echoed Charchun's comments about the importance of continuing to promote student voices, even if it often seems like they go unheard.

"We feel that if we keep coming back, if we keep presenting these issues, we will be able to ensure that the University dots their i's, crosses their t's, [and] does look at where this money is going," Ochs said, noting that students have a responsibility to make sure that the Board puts "serious consideration" into why they keep raising rent and why they keep raising tuition.

PLEASE SEE **INCREASE** • PAGE 4



FILE PHOTO: MIKE OTTO

'A BAD TASTE' Charchun thinks debt loads are souring the U of A for graduates.

Inside

News	1-4
Opinion	5-7
Feature	8-9
Sports	10-12
A&E	13-15
Comics	16
Classifieds	16



Fashionable people

Stereotypes be damned—sometimes a dude just wants to feel pretty. Check out the dos and don'ts of man spas.

FEATURE, PAGE 8



Questionable things

Sex, drugs, and rock & roll are only the tip of the iceberg for Three Days Grace after being on the road for two years.

A&E, PAGE 13