

THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 42 • the official student newspaper at the university of alberta • www.thegatewayonline.ca • thursday, 20 march, 2008

Students take another swipe at credit card issue



NATALIE CLIMENHAGA
Senior News Editor

A week after the University of Alberta announced it will no longer accept credit cards as a method of payment for tuition fees, students continue to protest the decision.

In lieu of the University's move, a non-SU-affiliated student group, Dare to Deceive, has emerged, challenging the quality of consultation that takes place between the administration and students. The group plays off the name of the official document that outlines the University's vision of what it wants to achieve.

"The University does need to learn that they can't just do whatever they want without consulting us," said Andrea Michaud, one of the group's Facebook administrators.

"The U of A has that slogan 'Dare to Deliver', but they're not delivering. They're just pretending that they do."

However, U of A Vice-President (Finance & Administration) Phyllis Clark stressed that consultation had occurred. She also remained adamant that disallowing the use of credit card payments for tuition fees is still "the right thing to do for the University."

The decision to discontinue accepting credit cards as a method of tuition payment, which will be effective 1 July, 2008, will save the University \$1.3 million in annual transaction fees. But despite the monetary gains, students remain dissatisfied with the impending change.

SU President Michael Janz stressed that Dare to Deceive doesn't represent the opinions of the SU Executive, but explained that student leaders have given up on fighting the decision.

PLEASE SEE **CREDIT CARDS** • PAGE 4
ALSO READ **EDITORIAL** ON PAGE 7

MIKE OTTO
CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE Protesters postered the Alumni Walk yesterday in response to the University's decision to no longer accept credit cards for tuition payments.

'Tis the season to steal—Campus 5-0

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

Students spending a lot of time on campus cramming for final exams should keep more on their mind than salvaging their GPAs.

Thefts on campus are an ongoing problem, explained Stephanie Hartwig, crime prevention officer for Campus Security Services. She explained that exam periods see a spike in crime around the University.

"In 2007, theft under [\$5000], there were 166 instances of it," Hartwig said. "The majority of the instances occurred in February and March, and then in October. So right when students first come to campus and start studying, and then when students are studying for exams.

This year we're seeing that start to happen again. As it becomes the end of the year, thefts are picking up."

"The thieves that keep coming back, come back for those reasons. The pickings are always going to be good."

STEPHANIE HARTWIG
CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER
CAMPUS SECURITY SERVICES

She explained that the majority of thefts on campus are committed by individuals not affiliated with the University and are often repeat

offenders who steal to make a living. Hartwig further noted that campus remains a prime target for thieves due to the high turnover of students each year.

"Every year we get a new influx of students who think it's just staff and students and their guests. So every year these students come in, they feel that sense of safety and security," she said. "The thieves that keep coming back come back for those reasons. The pickings are always going to be good."

On a recent visit to the Cameron and Rutherford libraries, Hartwig said she saw a total of 39 unattended items in the span of one hour. She explained that students must exercise caution when deciding to leave their things unattended.

PLEASE SEE **THEFTS** • PAGE 4



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: LAUREN STIEGLITZ

WATCH YOUR BACK ... PACK Theft of student valuables increases during March and April as students turn their attention to their assignments and finals.

Inside

News	1-5
Opinion	7-11
Feature	12-13
A&E	14-18
Sports	19-21
Comics	22
Classifieds	23



Dodge balls, basketballs, no balls

Paul Blinov takes a look at Lister dodgeball (12-13), the women of *The Vagina Monologues* show you don't need a pair to push the limits of performance art (18), and we prognosticate on March Madness (21). This Gateway has balls.

Hoppity holiday

The Gateway won't be around on Tuesday, as we'll be celebrating Easter in our own non-denominational way. Like eating chocolate, making pysanky, and falling asleep in church. Be back 27 March.