

**THE GATEWAY**  
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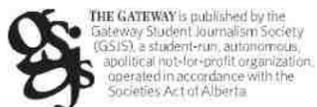
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**colophon**

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**contributors**

Dulguun Bayasgalan; Bryan Saunders, Ryan Bromsgrove, Adrian Lahola-Chomiak, Paul Cressey, Wendy Trieu, Bobby Williamson, Zaineb Hussein, Scott Fenwick, Aaron Yea, Aqib Shirazi, Sam Brooks, Evan Mudryk, Ross Vincent  
Skybox by Dan McKechnie

**Students go silent for LGBTQ awareness**

ZAINEB HUSSEIN  
News Writer

University of Alberta students took a vow of silence last Friday for the annual Day of Silence youth movement for LGBTQ awareness.

The event is based on the premise that many in the LGBTQ community feel pressure to keep silent in order to avoid the threat of stigma that institutions, society, and families inflict. The U of A student groups Siderite, a network for LGBTQ students in residence, and the Residence Hall Association organized the Day of Silence event, where participants didn't speak all day, until they broke the silence at 3 p.m. Around 40 students gathered, dressed in red to show their support, in the SUB Alumni Room to listen to three speakers who addressed the issues of bullying and discrimination that LGBTQ students face.

All three speakers stressed the importance of being vocal on LGBTQ rights and spreading awareness to local communities.

"Whenever you have a majority that does not understand, therefore fearful of the minority, there is sometimes a tendency to react negatively. The best way to get around that is to create a relationship between the two," said Rachel Notley, the MLA for Edmonton-Strathcona. "It's so important for the members of the queer community and allies like myself to educate people. Not just on the bad stuff, not just about bullying, about the good things, the fun things. You make it familiar, you make it real."



AQIBSHIRAZI

**TALK TO THE HAND** Students took a vow of silence last Friday and had to use other methods to communicate.

Former city councillor Michael Phair and Dr. André Grace, the director of the Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services, both spoke and emphasized the importance of the political realm in shaping the rights and perspectives on the LGBTQ community.

"You are the future politicians, future leaders in this country. Don't let politicians off the hook — hold them accountable" Grace said.

The speakers also addressed the federal election that will be taking place in the coming weeks, and asked the

crowd to not be silent and to make sure they are protecting and standing up for the rights of LGBTQ individuals.

Siderite member Laura Groves said this year the group focused on bringing attention to the word choices people use casually without understanding the hurtful repercussions they have on many people, which also functions to perpetrate negative stereotypes.

"I think the biggest thing is approaching your friends when they are using this language. If you hear someone say 'that's so gay,' 'fag,'

or 'dyke,' [you should] actually say something about it. It's so difficult to be the one that speaks out, but that's why this event is so important because the people that are participating were silent at one point, or recognized that there is this silence," Groves said. "I think the most important thing to take away from this is challenging the word use and stepping up."

Groves explained that Siderite also tries to ensure that LGBTQ student residents are given equal rights and are living in a safe environment.

**STREETERS**

As you may be aware, power usage in Edmonton spiked by one per cent for Earth Hour last Saturday. What is the least environmentally friendly thing you've ever done?

Compiled and photographed by Scott Fenwick and Matt Hirji.



Jen Toth  
Science IV



Carol Woo  
Visitor



Sean Urquhart  
Engineering II



Dylan Gibbs  
Science III

Yesterday, my friend was making supper with me at her house, and we used bottled water to fill the kettle. I don't want to admit that, it was her. [Why bottled water?] She doesn't like tap water. I protested, but we did do that.

I print off a lot of paper when I'm not supposed to, and my shower isn't energy-efficient. I take long, hot showers.

I just recently bought a huge, giant La-Z-Boy chair, and I was lounging in it during Earth Hour. So that probably wasn't the best thing to be doing. It's got a massage and a fridge, so that's probably not very good for the environment. Yeah, TV, Xbox, lights. I didn't actually know it was Earth Hour until after, and that's probably the worst thing I've done.

When I shave, I like to have the water hot, so I just leave it running all day long. I crank it up to 10, so we get some serious hot water there. That's the only thing I can think of.



“MY PORTRAITS ARE MORE ABOUT ME THAN THEY ARE ABOUT THE PEOPLE I PHOTOGRAPH.”  
- RICHARD AVEDON

**GATEWAY PHOTO**  
Full of ourselves since 1910

PHOTO MEETINGS FRIDAYS AT 4 P.M. ON THE THIRD FLOOR OF SUB.