

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

# gauntlet

VOLUME 46 • ISSUE NO. 26 • JANUARY 19 • 2006

put out

get out

The Den goes  
smoke free  
page 5

IF YOU IGNORE POLITICS, POLITICS WILL IGNORE YOU.

# VOTE

REGISTER in this riding, Calgary West, by calling 1-800-463-6868

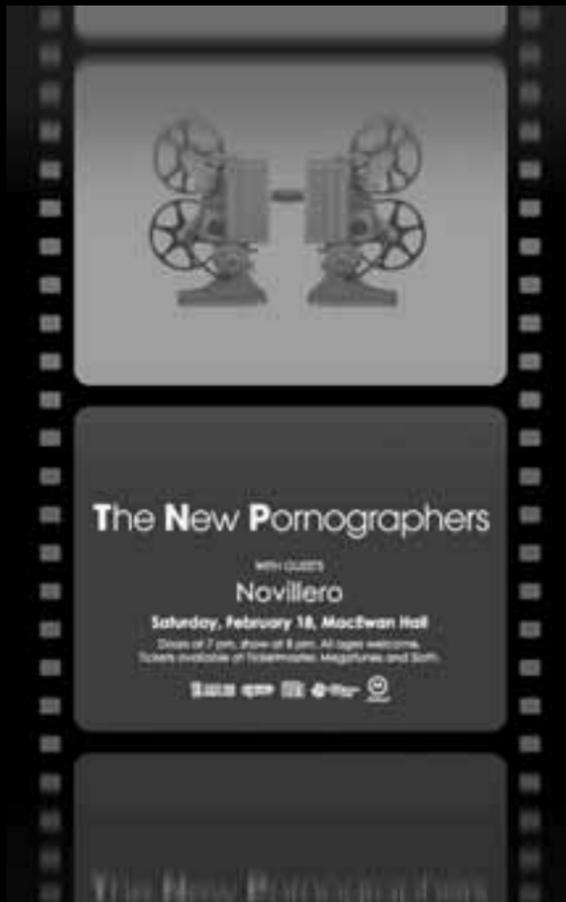
Even if you are NOT REGISTERED, you are still entitled to VOTE.

When you come to the polling station, bring **one document** containing the elector's name, address and signature (such as a driver's licence); OR **two documents**: one containing the elector's name and current address and one containing the elector's name and signature (for example, a SIN card or credit card and a tax bill or a phone bill).

**ELECTION DAY**  
Monday, January 23,  
7:30 am to 7:30 pm



MAKE SURE YOUR VOICE COUNTS. VOTE.



Do you have a good idea to improve the quality of student experience on campus?

What aspect of campus life? How would you improve it?

First Prize: **FREE TUITION** for one semester

Second Prize: **\$500** toward tuition

Third Prize: **\$250** at the University Bookstore

How would **YOU** improve your University experience?

The Students' Union is proud to present the



(formerly known as the UofC President's Challenge)

Application forms available at the SU office or on-line at [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca).

**Deadline for entry is Jan. 30, 2006.**



## JOB OPPORTUNITY SU GENERAL ELECTION 2006

# DEPUTY RETURNING OFFICERS

A number of Deputy Returning Officers are needed for the 2006 Students' Union (SU) General Election. Deputy Returning Officers are required from Tuesday, February 14 to Friday, February 16 to act as poll clerks in four hour shifts. Pay is \$8 an hour. Deputy Returning Officers may be called upon to help with election-related tasks (paid, of course) prior to the election.

You must be available for three training sessions prior to the election. Please complete an application form available at the SU office, MSC 251 and return to the SU office by Friday, January 20, 2006.

For more information contact Mike Brown, Chief Returning Officer, at 220-7771 or email: [cro@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:cro@su.ucalgary.ca).



## Students' Union Weekly Schedule of Events, Jan. 23 to 28, 2006

Monday, Jan. 23

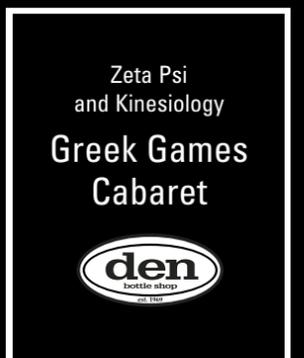
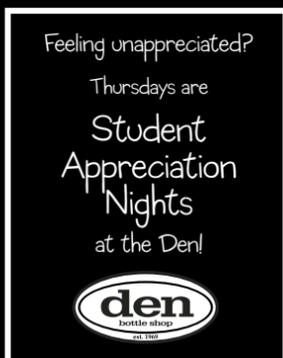
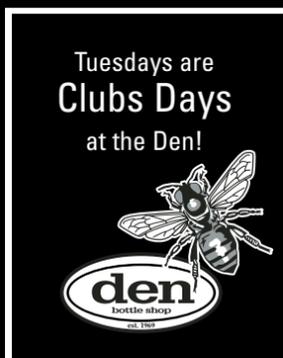
Tuesday, Jan. 24

Wednesday, Jan. 25

Thursday, Jan. 26

Friday, Jan. 27

Saturday, Jan. 28





Nicola Waugh/the Gauntlet

## Don't be a wiener, vote

This almost went on the cover. No, really.

### 4 EDITORIAL/LETTERS

#### Throwing poop

Want to know what we think of the electoral smear campaigns and media coverage given to each party? No? That's cool. I didn't read it either. What page are TLF's on again?

### 5 NEWS

#### Smoke em' if you got em'

The SU's grown a pair and actually made a significant decision. Try not to faint. Also, wall to wall election coverage and a voting guide your senile golden retriever could figure out.

### 13 FEATURES

#### How I learned to be a teenage girl

Films aimed at teenagers aren't just entertainment. For many kids, they're the roadmap to adulthood.

### 14 ACADEMIC PROBATION

#### WTF (Figure it out)

A story with excessive profanity, a subpar illustration and an overall piece of well, yeah we're not sure what to call it. It's an in-depth look back at the most disturbing, unnerving and overall ridiculous situations of 2005.

### 15 SPORTS

#### Calgary-Edmonton mega clash

No, really. Five Dinos teams faced off against smelly Edmonton meanies. Check it. Fo' realz.

### 19 ENTERTAINMENT

#### Ever wanted to run for Prime Minister?

Well now you can read about why it's a boring idea and why squirrel hating comics, men in pajamas, the future and hep-cats are likely a better use of your time.

### 25 ESCAPES AND PURSUITS

#### Events listing-tastic

There really isn't much going on this week. Support your local theatre scene and see something in High Performance Rodeo.

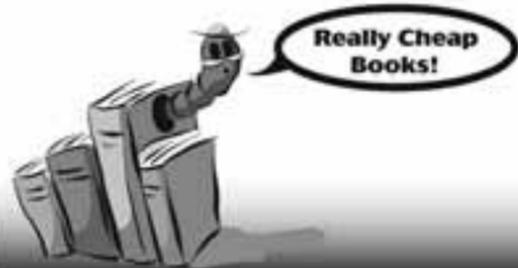
### 26 OPINIONS

#### It's raining cats and candidates. And SPAM.

That would be some awesome rain. Kind of gross, though. Turn to page 26 to be informed on an absurdly wide range of topics.

## Students for Literacy

# A Buck A Book



**January 23 to 27**

**10 am - 3 pm**

**MacEwan Student Centre Food Court**

**Editor-in-Chief:** Dale Miller  
 220-7752 eic@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca  
**News Editor:** Chris Beauchamp  
 220-4318 news@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

**Section Editors 220-4376**

**Entertainment:** Garth Paulson  
 entertainment@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

**Sports:** Sean Nyilassy  
 sports@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

**Features:** RG Scherf  
 features@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

**Photography:** Nicola Waugh  
 photo@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

**Production:** Adam Berti, Ben Hoffman  
 production@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

**Opinions:** Kyle Francis  
 opinions@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

**Illustrations:** Nolan Lewis  
 illustrations@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

**News Assistants:** Emily Senger,  
 Stephanie Shewchuk  
 news@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

**TLFs:** Kate Foote  
 tfs@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

**Escapes and Pursuits:** Chris Courtice  
 eandp@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

**Academic Probation:** Logan Niehaus  
 ap@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

**Business Staff**

**Business Manager:** Evelyn Cone 220-7380  
 evelyn.cone@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

**Ad Manager:** John Harbidge 220-7751  
 john.harbidge@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

**Graphic Artist:** Ken Clarke 220-7755  
 kdclarke@ucalgary.ca

**Network Manager:** Ben Li

**Office Assistant:** Laura Gerhardt

**Typesetters:** Amanda Robinson,  
 Katy Anderson

**Contributors:** Samantha Attaway  
 Andrew Barbera • Rachel Betts-Willmot  
 Dominic Fabrig • Katherine Fletcher  
 Sara Hanson • Hoang-Mai Hong • Simon  
 Jackson • Joel Klettke • Ryan Link • Kenzie  
 Love • Carly McKay • Jason McKay • Ryan  
 May • Nisha Patel • Ryan Pike • Andrea  
 Poupart • Andrew Rininsland • Jon Roe  
 Aaron Shuffletoski • Janice Tran • Drew  
 Waldorf • Crystal Wong • Darren Young  
**Golden Spatula:** Ryan Pike wrote  
 a lot of entertainment stories,  
 and knows more comic book lore  
 than any one person should. The  
*Gauntlet* salutes you, Ryan Pike.

**The Gauntlet**

Room 319, MacEwan Students' Centre  
 The University of Calgary,  
 Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4  
 General inquires: 220-7750  
 e-mail: gauntlet@ucalgary.ca  
 http://gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

**Furor Arma Ministrat**

The *Gauntlet* is an official student newspaper of the University of Calgary, published most Thursdays throughout the year by the Gauntlet Publications Society, an autonomous, incorporated body. Membership in the society is open to undergraduate students at the U of C, but all members of the university community are encouraged to contribute. Opinions contained herein are those of individual writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of the entire Gauntlet staff. Editorials are chosen by a majority of the editorial board.

The *Gauntlet* is a forum open to all U of C students but may refuse any submission judged to be racist, sexist, homophobic, libelous, or containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. We reserve the right to edit for brevity. Grievances regarding the *Gauntlet* follow a three-step process which requires written decisions from the Editors, the GPS Board of Directors, and the Ombudsboard. The complete Grievance Policy is online at: <http://gauntlet.ucalgary.ca>. The *Gauntlet* is printed on recycled paper and uses Dale's moccasins based ink. We urge you to recycle/soak the *Gauntlet*.

## GAUNTLET

### LETTERS POLICY

Letters must be typed, double-spaced and received by Monday at 4 p.m., and must include the author's name, student ID number, telephone number and signature. Letters will not be printed if they include attacks of a strictly personal nature, statements that discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or sexual orientation, or libellous or defamatory material.

All letters should be addressed to "Editor, the *Gauntlet*," and be no longer than 300 words. The *Gauntlet* retains the right to edit submissions. Letters can be delivered or mailed to the *Gauntlet* office, Room 319 MacEwan Student Centre, or sent by e-mail to [gauntlet@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gauntlet@ucalgary.ca).



# He who's shit slings furthest laughs last

Primates operate in a society close to that of human beings. In gorilla groups, there can only be one dominant silverback to guard and lead the entire group. When the dominant silverback is challenged by another male for leadership, there is often a struggle which can involve chest-beating, strutting, tearing up plants and shit slinging until one male emerges as the victorious leader, and the others recede into the background to plan their next attack.

On January 23, Canadians will take to the polls. And, if the most recent polls prove accurate, which have the Conservatives in the clear lead with 38 per cent and the Liberals trailing with 29 per cent, Canadians will use their votes to prove they are indeed smarter than the average gorilla, and that slinging the most shit is not necessarily the best tactic to make it to the top.

Conservatives, Liberals and NDPers are all guilty of running campaigns rich in inflammatory and accusatory rhetoric. A little known fact is that the Liberals get the most press time for theirs. According to Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission regulations, the political party with the greatest number of seats in Parliament gets the most press coverage, which should give the Liberals an advantage. This is not the case, though, as their aggressive Stephen Harper smear campaign has backfired.

The final Liberal ad campaign, launched on January 10 in a last-ditch attempt to sway voters from right to left, used 12 cross-country television commercials to try and scare Canadians away from a Conservative vote. But, Liberal accusations that Harper is an American-backed, racial minority and Atlantic Canada-hating, Quebec-separatist

loving politician who, if elected, will sacrifice all Canadian values and create the 51st state, seem to have missed their mark.

One of the ads, which accused Harper of fostering secret plans to militarize Canadian cities, was so distasteful that it was pulled, and Martin—while in damage control mode—commented to reporters: "The ad was pulled because it was pulled, and because there were better ads—that's essentially it."

Maybe the Liberal's motivation is to make their own misdeeds like the sponsorship scandal, Finance Minister Ralph Goodale providing insider tips on income trusts, and illegal Liberal money making its way into the hands of "yes" supporters during the 1995 Quebec referendum seem like lesser evils. Whatever the motivation, recent polls indicate the tactics aren't working.

Public response to this shit-slinging campaign proves that Canadians

are smarter than monkeys, and will not be influenced by scare tactics. But, the campaign itself also shows that our democratic system is in trouble. When the party in power gets the most time in the public eye, and consequently uses that time to defame other political candidates, rather than engage in meaningful debate about issues that matter to Canadians, there's a problem. When other smaller, yet legitimate parties, like the Greens, who actually want to debate the issues are denied public audience by being permitted less press coverage, there's a problem.

On January 23 Canadians will vote, and when the votes are tallied the stronger candidate will—among much hollering and chest pounding—proclaim his vision for Canada and become the new group leader. Meanwhile, the opposition will slink away, into hiding for the time being, to plan the next attack.

# Editor, the *Gauntlet*: Egads! An open forum?

## F+ still not a real grade

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,  
 [Re: "F+ not a real grade," letter,  
 January 12, 2006]

Yes, the team had talented members who have done some great things in the sport. No, the team didn't win any games. *At all*. Last I checked, a team was evaluated on their track record, not their achievements with other teams, in other places, with other people. I do agree it was a cutting remark to dish out a grade of "F+," but take it with a grain of salt.

I think if anything Mr. Nyilassy deserves some praise for bringing humour to the sports section. Mr. Nyilassy is not writing articles about efforts put forward by the team in fundraising because

nobody cares. There are four billion teams and groups trying to shove hands into the pockets of U of C students, so reporting on that would be trivial. As ridiculous as this sounds, as a sports reporter, Sean reports... *Sports*. His creative style is the only reason I open the sports section—he breaks the monotonous form most sports reports come in and creates something even a marginal sports fan finds entertaining, whether positive or negative.

So while the *Gauntlet* may never apologize for the harsh yet completely truthful article, I will personally offer an apology. Dino girls, I'm sorry you had a horrible season and that Nyilassy wrote an article about it. I'd give you an A++ for effort, but that's not a real grade either.

Joel Klettke

## Religiousosity

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,  
 [Re: "Unintelligent Design" letter,  
 Jan. 12, 2006.]

Intelligent design is a Christian brainchild. Michael Behe believes God is the designer. Evidence against evolution is not evidence for ID, and it is not a matter of evolution vs. ID.

Behe's research is flawed. Behe sees an arch and assumes God made it because he doesn't see the arch's early supports. He argues from ignorance.

A hypothesis is a *natural* explanation with *falsifiable* claims. God and ID are neither; thereby, neither hypotheses, nor theories.

Behe won't do new research to bolster his case, but demands to be proven wrong. The Christian Templeton Foundation cut off his funding, noting that Behe and the

Discovery Institute lack "rigor and intellectual seriousness."

Supernatural explanations like ID work, but offer nothing material to a desperate world that needs cures for diseases, food and other aspects of infrastructure for its booming population, and rejuvenation for Earth's polluted environment.

People suffer from poverty and disease, while Behe uses ID to make money (speeches and grants on top of salary), not to research. Then he attacks science for his failings.

ID is a political Trojan Horse whose ultimate purpose is to destroy science. Skeptics can look up the vise strategy and the wedge document, both written by leading ID proponents.

If I wanted an ID-like explanation, I'd make one up or join a religion. If parents want their kids believing such explanations, they'll teach them at home. Hopefully, this will be the last we ever hear of it.

Patrick A. Bick

# Den smoke-free by fall

Chris Beauchamp  
News Editor

Patrons who enjoy a cigarette and a cold beer after class will have to go somewhere other than the Den by September.

The University of Calgary Students' Union voted unanimously to ban smoking in the popular campus bar effective Sept. 1, 2006—over a year sooner than the City of Calgary's own smoke-free deadline of Jan. 2008.

su Vice-President Operations and Finance Joel Lockwood stressed the plan carries risks for the Den's bottom line, but said it was the right thing to do.

"Bars are very fickle," said Lockwood. "But it's all speculation right now what will happen. I don't think it will shut the Den down."

The plan will see the Den and all other su-operated indoor facilities smoke-free by September, with the Black Lounge to follow Jan. 1, 2007. Tobacco sales in the Den will be phased out Sept. 1, 2006 with those in the Black Lounge to follow when that bar becomes smoke free.

Lockwood said the incremental timetable was decided in conjunction with Den/Black Lounge management in the hopes that long-term customers would have a chance to ease into the new restrictions and



Aaron Shufletoski/the Gauntlet

**Butt out.** The days of smokin' and drinkin' and fightin' in the Den are over friends. Well, at least the smokin'.

the potential financial hit to the su would be less severe. He said the Den/Black Lounge generate approximately \$180,000 each year in revenue for the su.

The decision to ban smoking was made after the su debated putting the question to students in a binding referendum on the February su General Election ballot. A referendum was voted down as a number of members of council noted the majority of students are non-smokers and a

referendum would only confirm the su plan.

"As the financial stewards of this organization, to shrug this off to a referendum does not take our duties seriously," said su President Bryan West. "Although it's great publicity and important for students to have a voice, it's quite evident the vast majority of students want a smoke-free environment. I don't think it's necessary to go through the motions of a referendum."

The Smoke-free U of C student club gathered over 1,700 signatures on a petition in favour of the referendum question.

"The whole point of collecting those signatures was we promised students they would have a say on this issue and they could decide their own tobacco policies," said Smoke-free U of C President Ashley Fraser. "However, the resolution put forward was a big step in the right direction."

Lockwood said the timetable to end tobacco sales in the bars was set in part because of an existing sales agreement with Benson & Hedges set to expire Sept. 15, 2006. The agreement gives exclusive sales rights to Benson and Hedges in the bars and also includes more prominent advertising space for the company in the su-operated Stör. He said the agreement is worth approximately \$80,000 each year to the su, but stressed a renewed sales agreement exclusive to the Stör would maintain most of that revenue. He said tobacco sales in the Den/Black Lounge amount to only \$8,000 annually.

Staff in the Den were pleased to hear the news.

"It means when I'm working here, when I hang out here, it's nice to know I don't have to breath second-hand smoke," said Black Lounge server Rumi Jaffer, adding the campus bars are already some of the cleanest in the city.

Patrons are of course divided on the issue, but at least one won't be back.

"I will be taking my business elsewhere," said a self-described long-time patron who asked not to be identified. "The Den is one of the last smoking places on campus, but I suppose it was just a matter of time before it too became politically correct."

## Welcome to Canada, now pay up

### International students must pay government and U of C fee increases

Katy Anderson  
Gauntlet News

International students may have to get a few more part-time jobs next year.

Although the Alberta government has confirmed it will once again pay the cost of tuition increases next year for Canadian students, the tuition hold will not apply to international students—and starting next year it will cost them even more to attend the University of Calgary.

The U of C Board of Governors voted last month to increase the international student differential tuition ratio from 2.5 to 3 times what Canadian-born students

pay—meaning average international student tuition and fees will cost nearly \$15,000 per year, according to International Student Centre Director Glynn Hunter.

"Personally I don't think it's fair to differentiate between someone from Ontario and someone from China, it goes against equality," said Hunter. "But because of the increase in demand for international education, numbers are growing every year. The university's decision to charge more than the provincial minimum will not effect growth. International students look to price as a benchmark for quality. Quality perception is that more money means better."

Hunter noted the increase will

only apply to new students as of September 2006. Current international student rates have been grandfathered at the 2.5 level. He also said the increases will move the U of C into the "middle of the pack" compared with other Canadian universities.

U of C Vice-President Finance and Services Mike McAdam explained that because international students are not paying taxes there is more of a drive to recover some of that cost.

"The university raised international student costs for three reasons: market demand, the cost of the program and market comparison," he said.

A Czech Republic student who

came to Canada not only for the adventure and the challenge, but to be close to her family, said she was ecstatic when she heard the province was paying for tuition increases because for her the tuition increase will mean a difference of \$600 a year. She was disappointed to hear the tuition hold will not affect her.

"It had never occurred to me that we would be excluded," said the third year nursing student, who did not feel comfortable revealing her name. "I'm not trying to complain about paying tuition, it's just the way they excluded us which makes a big difference in our day to day lives."

Alberta Advanced Education Ministry spokesperson Angela Balec

said international students should pay higher tuition because they are not citizens of Alberta.

"Neither they nor their families contribute to the provincial tax base, so paying higher tuition is one way to ensure that international students pay a reasonable share of the actual cost of their education," she said.

According to Statistics Canada, in 2004 there were 10,976 international students in Alberta who on average spend between \$20,000 to \$30,000 on tuition, fees and living expenses.

"International students bring global diversity to the classroom and serve as ambassadors to our  
*see INTERNATIONAL, page 8*

### CAMPUS QUIPS Does your vote count?



"I voted green already, so not really. But it brings the party closer."  
— Chris Popoff, fourth year engineering



"Absolutely. If you don't vote you can't complain."  
— Linda Kostecky, third year kinesiology



"Yeah, yeah it does, because the Conservatives have a chance."  
— Scott Haffner, fourth year economics



"Not going to vote, but it would count because it's going to be close."  
— Janay Magowan, fourth year history

# Something to meditate on

**Emily Senger**  
News Assistant

“Close your eyes. Now focus on your breath. Breath deeply in and out, in and out, feeling your diaphragm rise with each breath. Each time your thoughts wander come back to your centred place, and focus on your breath moving in and out.”

These are the instructions given by June Churchill as she leads a group of students and staff members on a weekly guided meditative journey to escape the stresses of everyday life and find their peaceful inner selves.

“We’re realizing that the Chaplain’s Centre wants to become interfaith and meditation is a nice thing that goes across all cultures and spiritual practices,” explained Churchill, who has meditated for five years and has taught meditation workshops based on the Protestant faith for two years.

Even though the meditation

workshops are run by the Chaplain’s Centre, Churchill stressed they are non-denominational and open to students of all faiths, including atheists. The workshops are taught by four instructors on a rotating basis and include both eastern and western religions. The instructors teach a variety of styles of mediation, including walking meditation, breathing mediation, visualization, and mantra or chanting meditation.

Churchill has some advice for people who pass off meditation as mere daydreaming and think they are too busy to incorporate quiet time into their day.

“What makes meditation different from daydreaming is that you are intentional about it,” said Churchill. “Once you are able to incorporate some kind of quietness you can carry that over into other activities. It can only be two to three minutes and busy people are

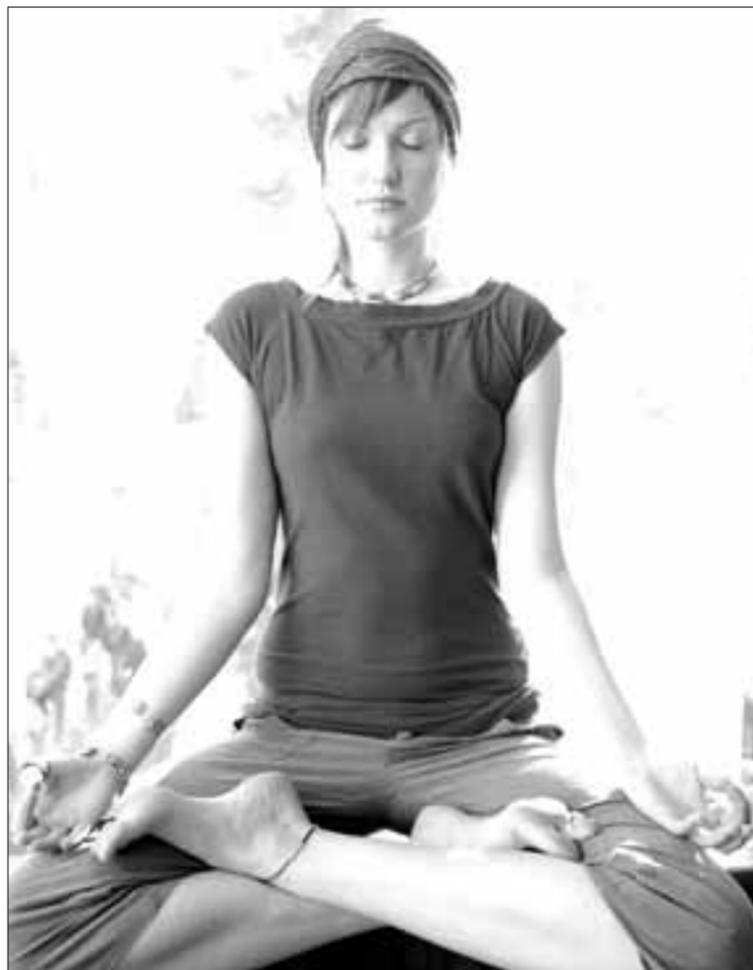
often taking time to slow down by having a smoke or getting a coffee or a tea.”

Presbyterian and United chaplain Tim Nethercott said he discovered meditation in his early twenties as a way to heal himself, to deal with depression and to feel closer to God. Nethercott has been meditating for many years, and sees it as a way for people of all faiths to find peace and fulfill spiritual needs.

“In our culture there’s a kind of non-religious spirituality arising—the church doesn’t always know what to do with it, but we like it,” said Nethercott. “It’s a kind of nature spirituality, opening your heart in awareness and awe.”

Nethercott admits, after all his years of practice, he still has random thoughts enter his mind during meditation.

“You enjoy it but you watch it like bubbles going up through the water—there it goes,” said Nethercott.



Dominic Fabrig/the Gauntlet

Your inner self needs attention too.

The free workshops run Mondays from 12:10 p.m. until 1 p.m. in the Native Student Centre Board Room MSC 391.

## NOTICE OF NOMINATION DAYS THE STUDENTS’ UNION, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Notice is hereby given that Nomination Days are Monday, January 30 to Thursday, Feb. 2, 2006 and that nominations for the election of candidates for the following offices will be received at the Students’ Union, MSC 251 between the hours of 8:30 am and 12:00 noon on Nomination Days.

Offices Available:	Number of Vacancies
President	1
Vice President Academic	1
Vice President Events	1
Vice President External	1
Vice President Operations & Finance	1
Academic Commissioners	4
Events Commissioners	4
External Commissioners	4
Operations & Finance Commissioners	4
SAA Faculty Representatives (Education, Engineering, Fine Arts, Communication & Culture, Haskayne School of Business, Humanities, Kinesiology, Law, Medicine, Nursing, Science, Social Science, Social Work)	13 one for each faculty
Board of Governors Representative	1
Senate Representatives	2

Chief Returning Officer: Mike Brown  
Students’ Union, MSC 251 (220-7771)

Dated at the University of Calgary in the City of Calgary, Province of Alberta, this 12th day of January, 2006.



*M. Brown*

Chief Returning Officer  
U of C Students’ Union

As of Jan. 16, nomination packages will be available online at [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca) or at the SU main office.

# IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL STUDENTS

## THE 2006 SPRING/SUMMER GUIDE TO CREDIT PROGRAMMING

Will be available for *FREE* at the Office Of The Registrar and the U of C Bookstore Tuesday, January 24, 2006 for pick up.

Or see it on the web at:  
[www.cted.ucalgary.ca/degreeprograms](http://www.cted.ucalgary.ca/degreeprograms)

Registration for degree/diploma students begins February 8th; registration for degree holding unclassified and visiting students begins March 1st; registration for unclassified non-degree students begins March 15th.



CONTINUING EDUCATION | UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
DEGREE PROGRAMS



## It pays to talk!

Be a Student Caller with the University of Calgary Annual Giving team!

- One of the best wages on campus: **\$9/hour**
- Great working hours – minimum 6.5 hours a week (6.00 - 9.15 pm, Mon - Thurs)
- Pick your own shifts
- Leadership opportunities
- Meet new people, be part of a fantastic team and make a positive contribution to the U of C
- Improve your communication skills
- Expand your resume

For more information contact Kim Allen at (403)220-7760



GET INVOLVED!

# The crisis of cheap labour

## Sweatshops abound in Mexico, dialogue abounds at U of C

Nisha Patel  
Gauntlet News

Look at the label on your shirt or jeans. Is it Levi Strauss, Gap, or Roots? Some of us may not have any qualms about following the fashion trends and designer brands so important in North America. Yet those three corporations and many more have been accused of violating local and international labour laws in their factories during the last decade.

With working conditions reminiscent of the pre-Industrial Revolution era, sweatshops are recognized for ignoring both labour and human rights standards. A sweatshop often subjects workers to physical, mental and sexual abuse, long hours, and low wages in unsanitary environments. Primarily found in developing nations in Asia and Latin America, the global sweatshop system has reached crisis proportions.

Apparel, textiles and footwear are the most global of any manufacturing industries and employ the largest workforce in this category in the world. Over two million people work in garment sweatshops in 150 countries. It is unusual for a retailer to own factories and many often use this reason as a defense for the conditions that exist in sweatshops. But these companies do control where their products are produced and how much they cost, which in turn will affect how the factories are run. The problem that arises is rooted in economics. A company will subcontract its goods to countries with the lowest wages and developing nations will keep their wage rates low to attract foreign investment from multinationals. The workers themselves are trapped in

this arena to choose between unemployment and sweatshops in a life where survival becomes day-to-day.

The issue of sweatshops in the global economy was debated in a lively forum at the University of Calgary on Wed., Jan. 18. *Accounting for Maquiladoras* was hosted by the Centre for Public Interest Accounting at the Haskayne School of Business and the Latin American Research Centre. The event brought together academics, politicians, and activists to stimulate discussion on the topic. *Maquiladoras* are the assembly plants in Mexico which often operate under sweatshop conditions, and account for 54 per cent of Mexico's export industry. Social sciences dean Dr. Stephen Randall delivered some of the historical context of *maquiladora* growth. He described the Border Industrialization Program which in 1965 introduced a 20 km zone along the U.S.-Mexico border. The BIP created jobs for Mexican workers producing goods, which were then shipped back to the U.S. In 1972, the program was expanded to include all of Mexico. The agenda was to increase industrial development and the transfer of technology, as well as foreign investment. In 1994, Canada, the United States and Mexico launched the North American Free-Trade Agreement. NAFTA aims to increase free trade by decreasing tariffs for member countries.

Proponents of NAFTA believe it is the perfect example of a win-win situation, with Canada and the U.S. able to produce low cost goods

while creating much-needed jobs and industrialization in Mexico. In an increasingly global economy, NAFTA supporters claim the interconnectedness of different markets results in political stability between states in addition to economic benefits.

However, sweatshops such as *maquiladoras* have also become the centre of anti-globalization

biggest concentration of *maquiladoras* in Mexico. In 1996, stories of terrible maimings and murders began to emerge from aid workers who visited this city at the U.S.-Mexico border. Seventy per cent of the hundreds of victims killed to date were young women, some of whom worked at the *maquiladoras*.

"In addition to narcotics and perceived gender superiority of men, the atmosphere of corporate irresponsibility from the *maquiladoras* diffused throughout the city," she said. "The companies don't pay taxes or contribute to the society and this creates an impunity that lets the murders go unquestioned."

Comparing the terrible conditions of Mexican *maquiladoras* with the goals of NAFTA, Randall agreed that a problem does exist.

"The disparity between reality and rhetoric is quite striking, and shameful," he said.

In addition to the important role that non-governmental organizations play in containing corporate irresponsibility, Randall said the solution to the *maquiladora* crisis must begin with the enforcement of labour laws by Mexican officials. This may lead to some corporations leaving Mexico for a country with less-stringent rules, but Randall concluded this is unavoidable.

"As long as we have a global environment for investment, capital will move when it finds itself in an unfavourable environment," he said.

Vice-Consulate of Mexico Sergio Pichardo said his country takes care of the *maquiladora* problem year by year.

"If Canadians want to help, they should invest in Mexico," he said. "Open your industries to our workers and accept degrees from our universities."

Pichardo insisted Mexico would not allow *maquiladoras* to turn into sweatshops.

"The labour rules and regulations are there to be used by the individual," he said.

Activist Estelle Kuzyk challenged Pichardo's position and that of his government.

"[The Mexican government] has labour laws in the country, but the breaking of them is much more common than their enforcement," she said.

Kuzyk represents the Calgary No-Sweat Coalition, a grassroots organization which raises awareness of ethical consumerism. The group operates on the thought that public institutions purchase far more apparel than an individual consumer.

Thirteen municipalities and 13 universities across Canada have adopted a "No-Sweat Policy." The U of C isn't one of them, but Kuzyk has high hopes for the future.

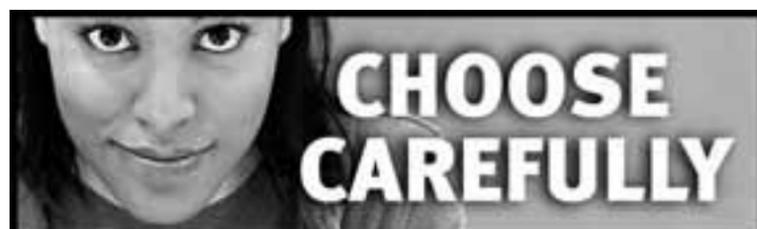
"It's not a great upheaval, but at least it's a start," she said.

**"The disparity between reality and rhetoric is quite striking, and quite shameful."**

—Dr. Stephen Randall, social sciences dean

and anti-NAFTA movements. Labour rights activists claim the growth of industry is good, but dignity and respect for workers are just as important as creating new jobs. Developing countries will often keep minimum wage low to attract foreign investment. Corporations can then claim they are displaying responsibility by paying minimum wage, which is sometimes set at or below the poverty level.

Marie-France Labrecque, professor at the Université de Laval, suggested *maquiladoras* not only foster harsh working conditions within the plant, but negatively affect the surrounding community as well. She described the example of Ciudad Juarez, where the 400 *maquiladoras*, which employ over 200,000 people, make the city the



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**Students:**

**Thank You**

for your patience

Some difficulties were encountered during the introduction of the Alberta government's new, online student loan application system this fall – the first system of its kind in Canada. We apologize to students who experienced delays or inconveniences while having student loans processed. Your cooperation, understanding and input during this time was appreciated.

Your continued feedback is welcome as system improvements and new features are added in the months ahead. We invite you to keep working with us as we strive to improve our services. With your help, we'll make it easier for Alberta students to apply for and receive financial assistance.

  
Honourable Dave Hancock, Q.C.  
Minister of Advanced Education

  
Dr. Doug Nelson  
Chair, Students Finance Board

**Alberta**

# Come, come Kamala

Sara Hanson  
Gauntlet News

Interested in learning about a different culture? Want to know how to help women and children in Nepal? If so, then attend *A Night at the Bazaar*, the Kamala Foundation's official

launch party, Sat., Jan. 21. While working in Nepal, University of Calgary alumni Zachary Barton witnessed the problems that Nepalese women and children face first hand. After returning to Calgary, Barton founded the Kamala Foundation for Women and Children in July of

2005. The foundation works specifically with women in prison or with HIV/AIDS and their children who are affected. Barton partnered with World University Service of Canada and the Development Studies Club for a few events on campus last semester, and has been working hard to get people

involved with the foundation, but it still has a lot of growing to do.

"We want to start building an organization and engage people to get involved," he explained.

Admission to the party is completely free and includes food,

drinks and entertainment, such as *Mhendi* (Nepalese body paint) artists, masseuses and dancers. There will also be a silent auction and raffle to help raise money for the women and children supported by the foundation.

The party begins at 7p.m., Sat., Jan. 21 at the centre court of Eau Claire Market.

**\$3.25 for Anything Almost Anything**

Domestic bottled beer  
Hi-balls  
Draught Shooters  
From 4-Close

Prizes from the Source

2 for 1 plus \$1 entrée specials 6-9.  
Dance to the beats of DJ Grimes and Phatty

**den**  
bottle shop  
est. 1982

**FRIDAY NIGHTS**



Dominic Fabrig/the Gauntlet

**International students** will have to do more than work for Chartwells if they plan to pay for increases in both U of C tuition and exemptions from provincial government help.

## International cont'd from p. 5

province when they return home with a network of friendships and experiences," said Balec. "Marketing Alberta as an educational destination of choice in the world builds on our international reputation as a world class provider of educational goods and services."

Balec denied the possibility that since international students can't vote the government may feel less accountable to them.

"I feel it is our responsibility as students to say what needs to be said," the anonymous student explained. "Although we will be finished in a few years time, every year gets harder

and 10 years down the road it will be even less realistic for a student to come to Canada."

There have also been concerns that international students are not able to work off campus in Alberta. The federal government ran a pilot program in three provinces giving students the opportunity to work off campus in 2004 and deemed it a success. The government of Canada and the provincial government signed an agreement in September to give students that freedom here in Alberta, but plans are now on hold because of the election.

## Make Some REAL Money This Summer

The average APEX ALARM employee earned \$25,000 US last summer.

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Then you may be the person APEX ALARM is looking for to join our sales/marketing team for summer 2006 in beautiful Tampa Bay, Florida.

- No sales experience necessary
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APEX ALARM International is a multimillion dollar company based in Provo, UT and has been employing summer students in the marketing and sales industry for 15 years. APEX ALARM has unparalleled sales, growth, training, compensation and experience development in the industry. The average compensation for the summer of 2005 was \$25,000 US for sales reps and \$150,000 US for sales managers!

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**Application Deadline: January 28, 2006**

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Recruiting Managers:  
Adam Larsen: 403-388-4104 • Lane Heggie: 403-380-0253

# Tap a vein for your fellow humans

**Andrew Barbero**  
Gauntlet News

For the third straight year, they're out for blood.

Beginning Mon., Jan. 16 and running until Fri., Feb. 17, The Youth Donors of Canada and Canadian Blood Services will team up for the inter-faculty Bloody Cup Challenge, as well as the Western Canada Blood Competition. Both events are encouraging university students to donate and help save lives.

The Bloody Cup is a donation race amongst the faculties of business, science, engineering, social science/humanities and health sciences/kinesiology/nursing.

Although the challenge is still a priority for the YDC, the big picture involves all of Western Canada.

"We're trying to promote the inter-city university challenge," said YDC Vice-President External Lionel Li. The Western Canadian event, which is in its first year, is a challenge among the U of C, the University of Alberta and the University of Saskatchewan to see who can donate the most.

"From September to April, we're always looking for new people," said Canadian Blood Services Community Development Coordinator Ingrid Cook. "We're hoping to get 250 units from the U of C, with a unit being about one



Drew Waldorf/the Gauntlet

pint. A cancer patient will use eight units a week, and one unit can save three lives."

Everyone seems to understand the importance of giving blood, although Cook said few make the time.

"Only 2 per cent of the university population donates," said Cook. "Most blood comes from our regular donors, who are in their 40s and 50s. They're getting old and will be needing blood themselves."

Donating is an easy procedure. "From walking in to walking out, the process takes about a full hour," said Canadian Blood Services Charge Nurse Trish Stuhlsatz. "The process is very safe; there is no chance of catching something from donating."

Stuhlsatz said 135 units were collected at the U of C Mon., Jan. 16.

Students who regularly donate are aware of the benefits. The blood will be used for emergencies, surgeries, treating cancer patients and hemophiliacs, and even for women during labour.

"It's an easy way to give," said Jeff Clemens, third year English major. "It doesn't take anything from me... except blood."

Students who wish to donate can also use the 'Lifebus,' a program which takes students right from MacEwan Student Centre to a donation clinic.

For more info contact the YDC at [www.ucalgary.ca/~ydonors](http://www.ucalgary.ca/~ydonors).

## Enough space for at least two more campuses

**Simon Jackson**  
Gauntlet News

West side is the best side, as Ali G would say, and as they kick off their new forums and consultations on how to develop the west campus, the University of Calgary certainly seems to think so too.

The west campus land, given to the U of C by the province in 1995 and measuring 183 acres, remains for the most part undeveloped.

U of C President Dr. Harvey Weingarten said the university must develop the land in accordance with the university's principles.

"There are many things we could do with the west campus" said Weingarten. "We're holding this open house and having consultations

to make sure that any decision we make is an informed decision."

The university began its project for the west campus with a two day open house and invited students, faculty and a few select outsiders to come in and listen to presentations, and to give their ideas and feedback as to what should be done with the land. Presenters included the Advisor to the President on Strategic Initiatives Tony Myers, and Dean of the faculty of environmental design Brian R. Sinclair.

"When you are given a gift you have a responsibility to take care of it and the people who gave it," said Myers. "In part this has already started. So far the west campus has had the Alberta Children's Hospital built on it, which has enabled us to have the land serviced, connected

to the highways and has produced a fantastic building both for the community and also for the university in terms of the research facilities, and opportunity for work and study in the fields of medicine and social work."

The presenters discussed a 50-year plan for the development. The timeline factors around the

existing land available for development on the main campus, which the university has calculated will provide for its needs over the next 50 years.

"We can therefore act with this in mind, and build the west campus to enhance the reputation of the university, perhaps creating a mixture of things like accommoda-

tion, retail space, research facilities, offices, and a whole host of others," said Myers.

The university expects to engage in talks over the next couple of months before drafting a document for planned development of the campus. Myers stressed this will be a living document and subject to future changes.

LOU LEVENTHAL PRESENTS

## ILLUSIONS & REALITY

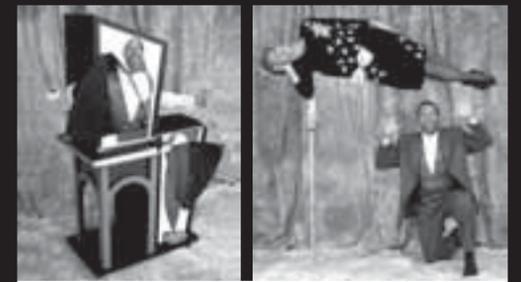


Internationally acclaimed illusionist Lou Leventhal will be presenting his fun and highly entertaining program, ILLUSIONS & REALITY. This is a show that you and your friends won't want to miss!

Unbelievable stage illusions, live animals, audience participation, original music, infectious humor and inspiring spiritual truths are orchestrated into an exciting and fast-paced show.

ILLUSIONS & REALITY is a family oriented program for children age five through adult.

From the outset of the program Leventhal makes it clear that he doesn't possess any special powers, nor is he involved with the occult in any way. He shares that his personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ is the foundational reality in his life. Near the end of the program he shares a brief testimony of his Christian faith. Although this is only a relatively small part of the program, many have said that this portion made a positive and dramatic impact on their lives.



**Friday, Feb. 3**  
**7:00 pm**  
**MacEwan Hall**

Tickets: \$10 available at Campus Ticket Centre: 220-7202 or email [illusionsandrealityuofc@yahoo.ca](mailto:illusionsandrealityuofc@yahoo.ca)

For more info, visit [illusionsandreality.com](http://illusionsandreality.com)

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Questions? Contact the Calaway Park Human Resource Department at 685-6118 or email [kim.rushoway@calawaypark.com](mailto:kim.rushoway@calawaypark.com)





# Media bias mapped

Resource discloses ownership and influence of mainstream media

Chris Beauchamp  
News Editor

A new on-line resource is giving Canadian voters insight into the influence of advertising and media coverage on voting decisions.

The "Mapping the Media in the Americas" project launched at the University of Calgary Tue., Jan. 17 with the unveiling of the Canadian portion of the 12-country project. The resource compiles official data into an interactive map that visually demonstrates the location and ownership of Canadian media in relation to the demographic profiles of the electoral districts they reach.

Although the technology uses the same software as complicated geographical information systems, developers stressed the aim was to create a tool that will help voters understand the issues behind political finance reform.

"The website is designed to be as simple as possible," said senior GIS analyst Chantal Hansen. "Obviously a lot of people are not geographers. The beauty of GIS is you're actually able to view a pattern right away without having to view columns and rows of data."

Canada is the first of 12 countries in the western hemisphere to be mapped using the GIS software. The GIS software organizes vast amounts of data into layers which can be turned on or off and searched for specific correlations. Hansen said Canada was unique because of the quality and quantity of available data, noting the next step will be similar launches in Peru and Guatemala.

"Canada was chosen because it is an exemplary model of how campaign financing and media has been working well," she said. "GIS is still only developing in Latin America."

The project is a collaboration between the University of Calgary Latin American Research Centre, the Canadian Foundation for the Americas and the Carter Centre. The difficulty behind the political finance issue is ensuring wealthier or more influential interests don't have unfair access to media coverage,



Click on the above photo and very little will actually happen, however if you do the same on-line you can learn who owns your favourite TV channel, what broadcast reach they have and how people voted in their area.

said U of C Latin American Research Centre Chair Dr. Stephen Randall.

"We don't want to draw conclusions with this," said Randall. "We want to provide a tool. Any individual who wants to look at this will find a tremendous amount of information."

Both Hansen and Randall said several Latin American countries are unique in the scope of their problems with issues such as the conglomeration of media into fewer hands and

unequal access to media resources between the ruling parties and opposition.

"The quality of data in Latin America is much less satisfactory and much less available," said Randall. "But we have some of these issues [in Canada] too."

The Canadian site includes visual maps illustrating the last election results colour-coded by region, the location, range and ownership of television and radio broadcast

towers throughout the country, newspaper offices and a variety of demographic information. Layers can be compared at will and the site provides links and query functions to further information. The project began in August 2004 and Randall hopes to have full autonomy for each country involved by the completion date of July 2007.

Check [www.mediamap.info](http://www.mediamap.info) to see how it all fits together.

# Apathy killed the electoral process

Katy Anderson  
Gauntlet News

A wise man once said, "Get up, stand up; stand up for your rights. Get up, stand up; don't give up the fight."

In the 2004 election only 60.5 per cent of Canadians voted. After the startling 2000 election when only 25 per cent of eligible 18-24 year olds voted, a report was commissioned by the Canadian government.

The results showed the decline of electoral participation in Canada over the past 15 years was largely due to an unprecedented drop in turnout among the youngest age groups. Even with an increased awareness of the need to get more

youth involved, just over 35 percent of youth voted in 2004.

"When you can't see the impact, it becomes rational not to vote," said University of Calgary political science professor Dr. Anthony Sayers. "People used to vote because they saw it as a chance to change the world around them. Now, with the move to pragmatic parties, all are becoming variations of one theme. The left is worried about the market and the right is interested in social welfare."

Sayers argued the low turnout rates were not primarily caused by apathetic youth. Not only do youth not have as much invested in the system, but many attend university and are staying at home longer, growing up later.

"If voting decided policy, if it actually manifested a difference in youths' lives, youth would vote," said Sayers.

Calgary West NDP candidate and U of C student Teale Phelps Bondaroff said voting is just one aspect of political engagement. Running for office, writing letters, calling and even visiting your MP are other effective ways to get your voice heard.

"Canada's system is based on representation, so if you want your MPs to represent you, you must give them your views and hold them accountable," said Bondaroff.

Bondaroff's campaign team boasts the youngest age in Canada with the average volunteer just 17.

"Youth voter apathy is a catch-22,"

said Calgary West Green Party candidate and U of C student Danielle Roberts. "Youth don't vote because issues don't concern them, but issues aren't brought up because youth don't vote."

Many think the problem lies in Canada's current electoral system. Instead of votes being translated directly into seats, it is split into constituencies where the winning party gets the seat and the rest of the votes are discarded.

"Although our system does promote regional representation," said Roberts. "Lost votes can lead people to feel that their voice is being ignored."

Although Bondaroff and Roberts both want your vote, they agreed that

just getting out to the polls is the most important thing.

"With voter turnout decreasing in most western democracies, this is not just a Canadian phenomenon," said political science professor Dr. Doreen Barrie. "Britain's turnout is about the same as us, and the U.S. is even lower."

Barrie said although changing our system would probably help, the same system produced high voter turnout in the past. She points to other factors like youth not feeling they have a stake in the political process and a decline in viewing voting as a civic duty.

"Sometimes people are just happy with the status quo and don't feel the need to take action," said Barrie. "Silence means consent."

## The real leadership debate

There can be only one

Every good party needs a leader. Hell, even bad parties have a fool with a lampshade on his head intent on impressing people with his drunken limbo skills. Even though none of the big national political parties has anyone that cool at their helm, the Gauntlet has extensively researched each leader's skills, drawbacks and other important things, like fashion sense, to give you a personal profile of your future ruler—whomever he happens to be.



Jack "The Moustache" Layton



"Little" Stevie Harper



Paul "who me?" Martin



Jim "just plain who?" Harris

Most obvious signs of integrity

Nothing says integrity like supporting the Liberals until they screw you, then switching allegiance.

Well, he didn't lie about bringing down the Liberals.

Keeps repeating, "It wasn't me!"

It's easy to maintain integrity when nobody knows anything about you.

Sense of style

Can totally pull off a cowboy hat.

Has been known to look like Opie in a cowboy outfit.

Looks best in Giorgio Armani paid for by you and me.

Sticks to certified organic fair-trade blue dress shirts made of hemp.

Ultimate moustache

Hands down, the ultimate.

Would look like Chuck Norris.

Would be great to hide behind.

Would cut down his fuel efficiency.

If he was a beer...

Pilsner. The workin' man's beer.

Budweiser, imported from the U.S.

Poplar Grove Pinot Noir, paid for with tax dollars.

Organic homebrew.

If he was Prime Minister...

Free welfare state for all!

Free business opportunities for some! Free water for Vegas!

Free handguns for Haiti!

Free zero-emmission hovercars by 2050!

## Voting 201: A how to guide for dummies, students and the infirm

Andrew Rininsland  
Gauntlet News

It's no secret voter turnout among the 18-20-year-old demographic is pretty low, with the most commonly used statistic being the 22 per cent in 2000 from a survey commissioned by Elections Canada. The same survey also lists "apathy/lack of interest" and "attention turned elsewhere" as a reason why 30 per cent of those voters didn't go to the polls. "Lack of knowledge and information" accounted for five per cent. So, in case you missed the enormous posters plastered all over the MacEwan Student Centre detailing how easy it is to vote, here is what you need to do in order to cast your ballot on Mon., Jan. 23 with as little effort as humanly possible.

The first step is to decide which jurisdiction you want to vote in. If living away from home, you can vote in either your home riding or the riding you reside in. For those in residence, that would mean Calgary West. Unfortunately, if you're reading this article, it's too late to register to vote by special ballot in your home riding since you must do so six days prior to the poll. However, never fear, Calgary is home to a wide range of candidates from many political parties, so it's likely one will appeal to you.

Next step is to find where you need to go. Elections Canada's website [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) has a place where you can enter your postal code. If you're in rez, it's the Dining Centre, so you can vote when you start to get hungry and not lose any extra calories walking to some

church way out on Urbana or something.

It only follows the next step is to actually go to the poll and vote. Make sure you bring valid ID and a proof of address, which can be obtained from the residence services desk if you're in rez. That's even on the way to the Dining Centre, so you can do everything in one fell swoop. If you haven't registered yet, you'll have to do that, which is a process involving no more than showing the two pieces of information mentioned above and signing your name. You're then able to get a ballot, mark an X by your candidate of choice, and drop it in the box.

Utterly painless, and you can enjoy a beer (or several) afterwards (or before), basking in the knowledge you've done something socially responsible.

### The other guys

While the major political parties try to appeal to as many voters as possible, some parties offer a different approach: appeal to a tiny special interest group and hope to get your voice into the debate, regardless of how many votes they earn. It's the non-mainstream parties to the rescue!

**The Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada** is a group that is beginning to become better known on campus through their involvement in the debates. According to their website, they want better funding for social programs, withdrawal from NAFTA, NORAD and NATO and electoral reform. Not bad, but try selling that to professionals downtown.

Also becoming better known is the **Canadian Action Party**. Running under the premise "Medicare is not the issue, the survival of Canada is!", they wish to prevent so-called "Deep Integration," or the absorption of Canadian sovereignty by the United States. They think we're likely to become "captives of a U.S. police-state." Sounds kind of paranoid to us.

In other excerpts from the web, **The Christian Heritage Party**, believes "Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God," the **Western Block Party** wants to see Western Canada as a "free and independent nation" and the **Marijuana Party** are still wishing you a "Merry Cannabis and a Happy New Leaf." Guess they're too stoned to update their website...

-Rininsland and Beauchamp



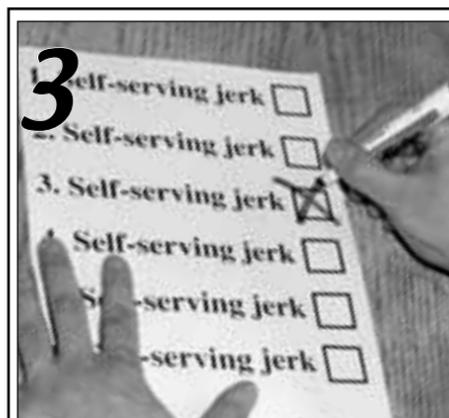
1

Bring I.D. and proof of address.



2

Get off your ass and hop/walk/scooter to polling station.



3

Choose your own destroyer. (kinda like in Ghostbusters)



I am satisfied with the number of TLF submissions, therefore, the panda is safe for another week. Next week however, your TLF must include a chocolate bribe, or the panda will be gored with a shiv. So bring your submission to MSC 319 or email them to [tlfs@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca](mailto:tlfs@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca) All submissions must include your name, ID number, phone number and signature. Submissions judged to be sexist, racist, homophobic or attacks of a personal nature will not be printed.

You: The person who dropped their chequebook; Me: The guy who found it. Thanks for paying my rent. If you don't want to pay for rent next month, write me—[Feyor@dkrealities.com](mailto:Feyor@dkrealities.com).  
-Gratefully Rich

For Sale: Two Flames tickets. Feb. 1, 2006. Calgary vs. Columbus Blue Jackets Section 112. \$300 OBO. [Flamestix@yahoo.ca](mailto:Flamestix@yahoo.ca) or call 614-6502.

Want to get involved? Interested in academics, philanthropy, friendship, networking and improving your overall university experience? The ladies of Alpha Omicron Pi would love to meet you. <http://aoiikappalambda.moonfruit.com>.

Australia Day—Jan. 26. The Flying Emu Pub has drink specials and no cover.

To the girl who saw me coughing up a lung into a tissue paper in MFH 160 on Jan. 12: I'm really sorry for grossing you out. Manners and common courtesy tend to go out the window around engineers and computer scientists.  
-Software engineer with a bad cold.

Found on LRT: Two engineering books (with receipt) and three outlines for courses enci451, engo343 and enci423. Please contact Brent Beatty at the U of C Bookstore to identify books and method of payment used to claim.

8 Cylinder presents the Ultimate Nirvana Tribute at the Rusty Cage (1690 37th St. S.W.) at 9 p.m. on Jan. 22.

Thanks to the person who found my purse at the train station on Jan. 16—but can I please have my iPod? It has my name on it.

The second annual Sexual Awareness Week is cuming soon...  
(Here comes trouble...  
-AdjudiKate ed.)

Lvl 52 Night Elf Druid: Please tell me you haven't been playing since release and are only lvl 52. Sweet mother of all that is good and true, come by sometime and I'll show you how to lvl, and how to tie your shoes.  
-Guess what lvl I am

To everyone who tells me my physics degree from Queens is impressive: Thank you. You're right. Also, this one time, I found a marble that was like, sooo smooth. Totally. I'll show you some time.  
-Head is getting huge

To the know-it-all in FILM 200 Lec 01 with the Nano and the iced caps: When you get your degree, I will gladly pay money to listen to your bullshit. Until then, stop wasting our precious time and leave the lecturing to the prof. And for the record, 'ambiotic' isn't even a word.

Dear LaFonda: I have this little problem. My fetish is that I like being tickled by left handed women. Is this odd?  
-Orlando

Despite not entirely agreeing with Rob Anders' stance on issues such as Neslon Mandela, I'm still voting Conservative because my Canada includes a government that doesn't steal money from Canadians!  
-The Non-Conformist

Hey Noobzer! 12 months and no level 60? You better have a 4.0 or a damn good social life.

-B- and no girlfriend  
Textbooks found in Craigie Hall C205. To identify and claim please contact Brent Beatty, Manager, U of C Bookstore at [bbeatty@ucalgary.ca](mailto:bbeatty@ucalgary.ca).

Interview participants wanted for MA thesis research: Third year female engineering majors. Please Contact Michelle at 239-1843 or [sporesgirl@hotmail.com](mailto:sporesgirl@hotmail.com).

To the cute redhead in coms201, I think you're cute... Now that we've got that out of the way, please meet me at the Trimedia cabaret this Saturday night. Tickets are only \$5 and they've got three awesome bands to check out. We'll also be able to meet the sparkling personalities behind CJSW, the Gauntlet and NUTV.  
-Frank Zappa  
(I hear they're exceptionally attractive, too! ...At least at the Gauntlet.  
-AdjudiKate ed.)

Here's a new definition to add to the starving student's vocabulary: Farc-tate (FARK-tate): Full (as from eating) to the point of bursting; completely satiated.  
-Belligerent Bonobo

Pitcher of beer = \$7.00; double Rum and Pepsi = \$6.50; not standing in line at the Den for the first Thursday back = PRICELESS!  
-Football Jo Tits Castle

There are 1898 courses this semester. iUofC.com has a message board for every single one of them...  
-The iUofC.com guy

TLFs endorses both the Marijuana and Christian Heritage parties. It's easier to believe in God when you're stoned... And what a party in Parliament!

To the anti-choice moron: Yes. An 8-cell fetus is 100 per cent human in the same way that a skin cell is 100 per cent human. We'd better mourn for the millions of those we lose a day. Why do people like you insist that our society has children whose parents are unprepared or unable to take care of them? Freedom of conscience is a fundamental part of being free, and part of that freedom is being able to decide for oneself what is moral or not, not having medieval moral philosophy forced down our throats by those who still wish for the strict morality of the Dark Ages.

Game: LuLu MacHall. Standard Black=1pt, White=2pt, Bag=1pt, Body Suit=2pt, Cameltoe=3pt, Ill-fitting=-1pt, Plus size=-2pt, Panty Line=-1pt, Male=Expulsion. Happy Hunting!  
-Master of His Geologic Domain

Mr. Pibb + Red Vines = Crazy Delicious.  
-Samberg

To my sweet friend Mary, with your big smile: Learning about the southern U.S. was fun, but wouldn't have been without you! This one's for you!  
-Your newest friend Robin

The Youth Donors of Canada has made appointments to go donate at Canadian Blood services on Jan. 23 and Jan. 26. The Lifebus will meet you at 4:30 p.m. at the north entrance of Mac Hall (the bus loop adjacent to the Nickel Arts museum) with round trip transportation and cookies. For more information, visit our site: <http://webapps2.ucalgary.ca/~ydonors/index.php>.  
-YDC

Ever notice how the C-train has lots of handles in-between the seats but almost none by the doors. So while the middle of the train is safe, the people by the door have nothing to save them if the door were to suddenly open.  
-thedrewskii

I love how all these Liberal supporters like to buy into everything that Paul Martin and the Liberal party claims. Just like "Stephen Harper wants to put soldiers with guns in every Canadian city!" Hmm... that's odd, that's what Pierre Elliot Trudeau did in October 1970 in response to the FLQ crisis! Nice use of supposed "scare" tactics!  
-The Non-Conformist

To thedrewskii: That smell must be me... I've plucked my unibrow, shaved my moustache... Are you saying I have to buy perfume, too?  
-Shydragonfly

I'm not gay, but I fucking love Henry."  
-The Corruptor

J-Dawg: How I miss your prof. gawking and hilarious comments. I especially miss the sexual tension. Steve doesn't do anything I say, except let me ride him like a cheap grocery store pony! Too bad you can't make with the Cock Block. "Wendy" is back, the stupid questions have started already. Did you get any Sea Coconuts??  
-M-Dawg

Non-Conformist, those with loud stereos are also non-conformists. If they deserve to have their stereo equipment stolen because it's expensive and annoys you, then you also advocate people pilfering all of your supererogatory belongings. Childish idiot.  
-dresden\_k

RAWR to the cute panda with the TLF ad: are you free this Saturday? I know a great bamboo place by Eau Claire. Lemme know if you wanna get off that endangered species list: [ohtheirony@non-conformity.com](mailto:ohtheirony@non-conformity.com).  
-Gadzillar

Question of the week: When it's cold outside, you can see your breath. So why can't we see farts?  
-Amused by Flatulence

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# In and Out

## Why don't we treat teen movies as educational filmstrips?

Since *Rebel Without a Cause* was released in 1955, films aimed at teens have been an extremely popular and profitable genre both within Hollywood and on the world stage. These films are fun and easy to digest, but their real box-office strength is playing to the empathies of millions of teenagers. Characters are created so that audiences might see themselves on-screen; they deal with the same problems, have the same sort of friends, and, audiences are made to hope, they can resolve problems and succeed in just the same way. But in aiming teen films at teens, film-makers must be, at least in part and perhaps unconsciously, aiming to instruct their audiences in the proper way to “do” teenagerhood. Film-making always has a secondary goal of imparting knowledge, but the unique qualities of a teenaged audience, foremost its self-uncertainty and desire to find a proper and mature self, makes that educational agenda all the more important for critical review. In examining teen films, we find that they share a great many of the same lessons across the board, even across generational and ideological divides. These lessons range from the common-sense (“violence never wins”) to the mixed and confusing (“good-hearted sabotage always wins”) These lessons are also very often based in gender typing and education: boys act like this, girls act like this; and even when not directly addressing gender issues, teen films push prejudices which are deeply associated with gender assumptions and role-taking in the intuitive mind. We can only conclude that there are other factors at play in the thematically unified conception of these films than the personal biases of the film-makers—there are definitely hegemonic subtexts at work. It is the goal of this essay to identify some of those educational devices and the main themes that they attempt to impress upon the audiences of teen films.

It would be helpful at this point to make some clear definitions of the concepts we will be discussing. Firstly, I will often refer to “teens” and “boys” or “girls.” These terms mean the same thing. I choose not to call the singular genders of “teen” “young men” and “young women” because the adult threshold of growth is something that for both the characters and audiences of teen films is still a goal to work toward. In my view, these people are still children; to apply an adult label to them would destroy the reason that teen films have to exist.

As well, I will use some terms of my own invention. Perhaps the most confusing is the idea of the teen’s “internal/external self,” which refers to the two major anxieties of teendom: the questions of “who am I?” and “where do I fit into society?” The characters in teen films struggle with both problems separately, and it is only by coming to terms with both that they can make the transformation into adults. I will also talk about “power structures,” which are especially important in the self-contained fiefdoms of teendom. These power structures can refer to those teen-only hierarchies or (especially in the case of *Heathers*) the outside, “adult” hierarchies which drive our entire society. These two forms of power structures often mirror each other in teen films.

Teen films construct teenagerhood as the intersection and interaction of three factors: conflicts and confusion of the internal/external self; the power structures which exert pressure upon those selves; and the construction of teendom as the most powerful formative experience in one’s life. To deconstruct this phenomenon, I have selected three teen films, each from a different era and school of film-making thought, to illustrate the universality of these themes in all teen films. These films, *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, *Heathers*, and *American Graffiti* each focus on a different aspect of the teen-film thematic triad, but also depend heavily on the assumptions of the triad’s other two elements.

*Fast Times at Ridgemont High* is a film all about the uncertainty which exists for teenagers in the internal/external selves. The characters find themselves at confusing times and places in their lives: unable to hold jobs, or looking for love in the wrong places, or presenting a false image.

Bradley (Judge Reinhold), for example, is perhaps the most “normal” of the characters who suffers from a teenage self-confusion. He’s an average boy with a job at a burger bar and a steady girlfriend—that is, until he tests her patience for the last time. When she leaves him, Bradley becomes destructive both by destroying his social capital (getting fired from his prestigious burger flipping job) and debasing his self-esteem to the point where he must use self-guided affirmations to maintain his grip on his own confusion. Bradley later has two epiphanies, one internal and one external: during a sexual fantasy, he imagines



Jeff Spicoli (Sean Penn) is *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*’s iconic lame duck.

himself in a position of control, and more importantly, wearing a powerful suit. It’s in Bradley’s fantasy that he allows himself to regain control of his internal self-doubts, which is the catalyst for his final act of externally self-affirming rebellion at the end of the film, when he shirks the responsibilities of his menial job to drive off into the sunset. That Bradley’s self-esteem was set in motion by a newfound control of his sex drive is extremely significant to the development of his character; conquering his biologically determined confusion is his rite of passage into adulthood.

Meanwhile, *Fast Times at Ridgemont High* also entertains two entirely different characters. Mike (Robert Romanus) and Lisa (Amanda Wyss) are two gendered sides of the same coin, both their social group’s know-it-all sophisticates. Lisa insists she has a 25-year-old fiancée on the other side of the country, while Mike runs a one-man bookie operation and claims he can scalp any tickets for any concert at any time. Both characters are suffering from teenage confusion, although they hide it better than others. They have all the external capital they need right now, but their internal selves are fearing the moment when their carefully constructed house of cards will collapse. Eventually when the collapse does occur it shatters both characters, both internally and externally, and they are no closer to adulthood for it.

With a brief overview and understanding of how the internal and external selves affect the characters within teen films, we can now turn to the other half of the main teenage balancing act: the survival and growth necessary within (from the teen’s point of view) oppressive power structures. And from the teen’s point of view, he or she *is* oppressed, being caught in a double-bind of inaction: acting out how one feels is a breach of the traditional authority structure, and to comply is to be chastised as a nerd by one’s peers. And this is where the pressing structures of both the teen and adult hierarchies intersect. *Heathers*, by Michael Lehmann, is such a study of the way power is used within the territorial vacuum of teendom. Veronica (Winona Ryder) and JD (Christian Slater), two almost-in members of the highschool cool clique, essentially devise a plan to kill the kids at school who hold more power than themselves, but both characters have differing reasons for doing so. Veronica is fed up with the clique’s iron fisted despotism in the lunch room, while her boyfriend JD simply lusts for social power. Veronica and JD soon find out that every time they orchestrate the murder of a lunchroom monarch, another quickly takes the vacant spot and resumes the unfair reign. At the same time, a secondary motivation is forming within Veronica and JD: the uncaring authority of the older generation. As both characters are struggling for a better way of life within the “teen sphere,” the parents and school administrators around them exert pressure that neither can cope with.

In this way, both Veronica and JD are pushed toward one of two extremes, either a fundamentally disruptive break from every cultural moray (as JD chooses), or powerless complacency (as Veronica chooses.) When Veronica goes back to her original social position, she tries to reconnect with high-school’s lower class—the nerds—she is still branded as a popular girl; another double-bind.

Veronica and JD’s navigations of their interior/exterior confusions are significant in the face of their destructive relationship and the horror they create around them. Structural pressures

exacerbate these problems, and at the same time restrict those characters’ freedom to solve their problems. The lesson, then, is that when compounded with urgent pressures of society, the road to adulthood is further complicated for teen characters.

The third part of the teen film’s educational agenda is that which sustains the strong myth of the teen experience. Teen films cultivate an air of wonder and nostalgia; wonder for peer-aged audiences, who are in awe of these characters’ incredible lives, and nostalgia for older audiences, who are aware of the missed opportunities in their own teenage pasts. Perhaps the most effective western mythmaking teen film is *American Graffiti*, George Lucas’ star-packed early directorial effort. The film centers on the night before a group of high-school pals break up and go their separate ways after their last summer together before college. We get to know the boys and their girlfriends, crushes, acquaintances, rivals and perhaps most importantly, cars, as we rapidly switch between their personal narratives about the best (or worst) night that ever was.

The most striking feature of *American Graffiti* is its soundtrack, a collection of music which, as Quentin Tarantino would later learn the secret to, perfectly represents Lucas’ expressed time and place, not just in the concrete world, but the confused emotional world of his character’s internal and external selves. The key is that the film takes place at the most critical time in nostalgic memory, the last summer before the teenager’s metamorphosis is complete. As film critic David Schumway put it, “this time is a last moment of freedom from the responsibilities of adulthood.” And so the resonance of the soundtrack is that much more powerful for those looking back (or forward) to that specific moment in time.

Music, however, is not the sole reason that *American Graffiti* can claim that it builds a strong sense of nostalgia. Even putting away the romance inherent in the film, expressed toward a certain period of time and social situation, it is a dislocation from the film’s specific temporality and an intimacy with the character’s personal sense of time which adds the extra weight of expectation to the characters’ lives. John (Paul LeMat), one of the many main characters, is a burn-out who has been “cruising the strip” for the five years it’s been since he left high-school. He constantly refers to times that the other protagonists don’t know or don’t remember, and refuses to move on with his life. Or consider the bookish Curt (Richard Dreyfuss), who can’t make up his mind on whether or not he’ll really leave tomorrow—he’s not sure he’s ready to set the rest of his life into motion.

In the end, it’s the intermingling of these major factors that give teen films their special effectiveness and intimacy with their audience. These films speak to the pressures and anxieties of each new generation, and their understanding is universal. Through the conflicts of the internal/external, the reflection of the power structures we are trained to live within, and the reinforcement of these times and experiences as perhaps the most important formative and pivotal in our lives, teen films are not just devices of social training for boys and girls; they can be devices of powerful nostalgia as well.

Written by RG Scherf

Together, Timothy Shary’s book *Generation Multiplex: The Image of Youth in Contemporary American Cinema* and David Schumway’s essay “Rock ‘n’ Roll Sound Tracks and the Production of Nostalgia” formed much of the basis for this piece.

# Top seven or so WTF situations of 2005

Don't you ever just want to puke because you see something so bloody frustrating and ridiculous? Well we did, about 7 or 8 times because of what we found. Well, there was 10 but space permitting you're getting the pick of the litter. Seriously you'll never believe where we got this crap.

## 7 Martha Stewart

Let's see here: insider trading scandal, slap on the hand jail sentence, and an afternoon television show. Fucking ridiculous, I agree. Only in North America could you be convicted of insider trading and be made into a martyr six months later. Let's just step back for a second here. Any normal citizen would've served years for this. So while everyday Joe Schmo is in a federal 'pound me in the ass' prison, Martha is baking fucking brownies in a quiet get-away that isn't much different than a weekend at Camp David (minus the Bush twins, depending on the weekend).

## 6 MP3 and Swapping

The battle over pirated material has turned out much like a really bad rash: you keep scratching it, but it only gets worse. The record industry shuts down Napster, a huge win right? Wrong! All that happened was a influx in downloading programs where movies and multimedia of all sorts are available at the click of a button. Today movie studios fight piracy by trying the exact same thing. The problem is people only try harder when someone pisses them off and regardless of popular belief, nerds can find a way to fuck your shit up. They thought there was a problem a few years ago, but now it's at the point where file transfer will probably never end.

## 5 NHL Lockout

"We're not making enough money, wah, wah, wah." Are you serious? Yeah, hockey was put on hold because a few people were worried that they wouldn't have enough to pay their Ferrari payments. These clowns get to do something they love everyday and be adored for it. How the hell can you be pissed if changes are being made so this can continue? The majority of Canada felt betrayed, let down and pissed because they didn't have a reason to get drunk on winter nights. Well hooray for hockey again and finally we won't feel as guilty drinking every night of the week. Wait a second, drinking and guilty for a Canadian just don't collide in the same sentence. Ever!

## 4 Tom Cruise loses his mind.

Where do I start with this? Scientology speculations, outbursts, a much-publicized relationship with Katie Holmes and a handful of weird antics that really make you wonder how 'Maverick has sunk so low.' Jumping on Oprah's couch, jumping on Katie Holmes's parents' couch and diagnosing Brooke Shields' mental illness are just a few exciting things he has been up to. Now if this was me and some guy was jumping on my furniture I would be kicking him the junk while escorting his crazy ass outside. Can you say fucking random?



## 3 Canadian political scandal

Wow, a Canadian scandal! Interesting, right? Well really, not so much. The Gomery Reports surrounding the sponsorship scandal were of the highest political highlights this year but no one really seemed to care. It simply became tiresome and frustrating for all of us to watch. Having to watch Paul Martin deny endless scandals is like watching a stripper for eight dances, it gets boring (I'm sorry, that's untrue, it never gets boring). A funny side to this was that there were reports out of the United States calling the Canadian government 'a mess' and troublesome in dealing with these problems. In no way can we fault the U.S. for their comments because our government tends to

spend more time putting out fires than actually focusing on real problems. Seriously though, do we really want to play the blame game (remember a certain invasion on a small Middle Eastern country)?

## 2 50 Cent vs. The Province of Canada

As if we hadn't already found a way to piss off the US, we also have to look like a bunch of prudes too. Now I will be the first one to say 50 Cent's music and the drama surrounding him is less than favourable but we can't simply outlaw certain individuals because of personal vendettas. The thing is, shootings have taken place at other concerts and to say keeping one concert out will keep violence down is ridiculous. Someone getting shot at a concert is not usually because 50 Cent is up rocking in "Da Club" and some guy figures blasting the dude next to him to that anthem would be cool. It's the same garbage we seen when church groups were trying to keep Marilyn Manson from playing; artists don't play god, they just take all the bullshit and act as easy scape-

goats for stupid ass people with too much time on their hands.

## 1 Michael Jackson

Oh my, where to start with this clown. Not unlike Martha Stewart's situation we see how money can go a long way. Michael Jackson was able to not only transform his face into an image that will forever scare children and adults alike, but he found a way to squirm out of a extremely high profile molestation lawsuit. For anyone who has followed the occurrences in the past and present know his actions and wild behavior have done little to help his situation. Many ask how he was able to pull a not guilty verdict in this with the undeniable amounts of evidence against him. Personally I think the inmates pledged to keep him out because they were scared of what he might try to pull while behind bars. Can you imagine Doctor Dementia himself sneaking into your cell, half nose and all for a special late night glass of Jesus juice and spoon session? I think I just puked in my mouth three times. Yup, I did.

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# SPORTS

## Dinos and b-balls and bears, oh my!

Samantha Attaway  
Gauntlet Basketball

Weather reports indicate there was an excessive amount of heat radiating from the Jack Simpson Gymnasium Jan. 13–14. The Dinos men's basketball team rubbed sneakers with the University of Alberta Golden Bears for the second time this season.

This time the friction took place on home soil. The finished product was an electric weekend capped off with the best hometown basketball game this season, and 3,116 fans who immediately had to confer with their cardiologists.

Brian Finnis was the first Dino to put digits up for Calgary on Friday night, hitting a three-pointer. Dino claws continued to come out in a beautiful play at the end of the first as Ross Bekkering blocked a Golden Bear shot, guard Josh Feist took the ball down-court and Chris Wright sunk it home. If you blinked, you missed it.

In spite of this, the Bears continued to lead throughout the first half, shooting 20 per cent better than the Dinos and defending more like Grizzlies. The Bears refused to give up their stronghold, sealing a 45–33 half time lead and keeping a sizable gap the entire second round.

Though the Dinos fought back in the last five minutes with renewed energy, they couldn't overturn the 19-point deficit. The game went to the Bears, 84–65.

But Saturday night all the Dinos' fans' wishes came true. The potential energy of this team became kinetic... or maybe thermal, I hate science. From tip off, the Dinos were aggressive and thoroughly attached to the ball—as Feist demonstrated when he followed the wayward rubber into the crowd.

The tall kept going up with the ball, resulting in a block each for Bekkering and the team's Yoda, Wright. Cody Darrah, played 30 minutes, continuously jumping for the ball and scoring a team-high 20 points that demonstrated the Dinos' well thought out plays.



Ryan Link/the Gauntlet

**Wowie zowie.** The Bears try to give the ball a high-15.

A string of three-point shots in the first 15 minutes and a beautiful dunk from Robbie "The Chief" Sihota just contributed to the Dinos' fans' Bear bloodlust. Sihota, who continued his post-Christmas hot streak and was named Player of the Game on Friday, attributes his stretching abilities to more confidence.

"[When you lose] you can't take it personal," he said. "You can't get down on yourself or you're no good to the team."

The Bears punctured the last moments of the first half for a slim 51–47 lead. However, the Dinos got right back into the second round, showing they wouldn't let the Bears get to the heart of the team.

Bekkering drew charges and ordered a dunk with a side of a conversion—just the sorts of things that won him Husky Player of the Game. Breakaways from guard Dalbir Dosanjh and Darrah left the U of A pawing at the Dinos' tail, but lacking the firm grasp they had Friday night.

Huge strides were made in free throws, three-pointers and under the net as the Dinos brought down 35 rebounds to the Bears' 29. The last five minutes of play were all about getting foul shots when it counted. And as Golden Bear player Andrew Parker fouled out of the game, the Dinos stepped in even harder.

The rest was simple math. A critical three-pointer from Finnis with two minutes left plus a rebound from Wright plus a tidy put away from under-the-net-Darrah plus a conversion and game sealing foul shots from Bekkering equalled a 92–87 Dinos win.

"Friday night we were kind of disappointed," said Feist. "We knew these were really important games, so we were a little bummed because we can't really afford to lose them now. We knew on Saturday we had to come out big."

"[I'm] just kind of going out there and making every minute count," he said of the key to success. "I try and have a little leadership out there too, just make the best out of it; keep the tempo up, keep the pressure off, taking shots when I'm open, that kind of thing."

As the Dinos push through their remaining games, fresh faces seem to be popping up everywhere. Newcomer to the team, guard Tony Dhaliwal hopes to bring speed to surprise the offense.

"We didn't hang our heads," he said of Saturday's game. "Most teams would have hung their heads, but these were our rivals so we knew what we had to do."

Another newcomer to the team won't be playing for a few years yet. Head Coach Dan Vanhooren and wife Kara welcomed baby Wyatt to their family Sat., Jan. 14.

The Dinos have a weekend off before taking to the road again. They travel to Kamloops Jan. 27–28 to challenge the Thompson Rivers University WolfPack, a new team to Canadian Interuniversity Sport who are currently 2–11.

"All the games from now on are super-important. I think everyone knows that on the team," Darrah pointed out. "The Lethbridge Friday night game will be really huge, one of the biggest of the year because we'll be battling them for the last playoff spot. And then I think the last series against Saskatchewan is always tough to play."

If the Dinos continue to play like they showed they could this weekend, the west will thaw.

## Short-handed Hockeysaurs

Crystal Wong  
Gauntlet Hockey

How can a hockey team with a 4–0 advantage manage to blow the lead as if they had fallen asleep? Better yet, how does a team allow five short-handed goals in a single game—three in all of 35 seconds—to basically hand the game to their opponent?

Just ask the Dinos; they encountered this scenario against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Fri., Jan. 13.

Head Coach Scott Atkinson has asked his men's hockey team to be consistent all season long. While it was apparent that they just couldn't seem to find consistency from game to game, it now seems hard to accomplish even within a single game.

Not much could be said about their performance Jan. 13–14 without using the word 'breakdown,' and a major one at that. On Friday, after jumping to a four-goal lead, it looked as though the Dinos were on their way to their first victory against the Huskies this season. But the game turned sour early in the second period when Husky Dean Beuker scored on a two-man advantage, pulling his team within three goals. They added a short-handed goal before the period was over, cutting the deficit down to only two.

After that, everything became a disaster for the Dinos. With the exception of the last five minutes of the third, the Dinos stayed away from the penalty box in that period. But it didn't matter. In fact, the Huskies did themselves a favour by taking penalties.

At the 4:02 mark of the period, Stephen Mann went off for two minutes for interference. The Huskies' special team went to work while the Dinos were missing in action. Three short-handed goals were scored, all during the same Dinos powerplay, at 4:39, 5:02 and 5:14.

The Huskies added yet another short-handed goal three minutes later to secure their comeback. They totalled six unanswered goals, five of them short-handed, for the 6–4 come-from-behind victory.

Beuker recorded a hat-trick for Saskatchewan, earning himself Canada West Hockey Player of the Week honours. Travis Friedley, Daniel LaPointe, Jevon Desautels and Colin McRae were the Dinos' goal-scorers. Once again, the plus/minus stat proved pointless; the Huskies were –15 on the night while the Dinos were +15.

Unfortunately for the Dinos, not only did they let the game get away, but they will also be in the record books for the wrong reasons: Saskatchewan now holds the record for the most short-handed

SEE RECORD BREAKERS, page 17

## MacEwan ladies grant Dinos their first win

Andrea Poupart  
Gauntlet Hockey

After a fairly successful tournament Jan. 6–8—with at least a point in all but one game—the Dinos looked prepared for their first league games of the new year.

Friday, Jan. 13 was a fast-paced game played at Grant MacEwan College on smaller ice than our ladies are accustomed to. Although they fought a solid game, the Dinos couldn't buy a goal.

They hit a few posts and had some great opportunities, but

just couldn't capitalize. The GMC Griffins got lucky when the puck bounced off of a Dino player's stick and into her own net. The Dinos worked hard the whole game, but the Griffins came out on top 2–0.

At home for a rematch Sat., Jan. 14, the hard work and perseverance paid off for our Dinos. Jen McLean opened the scoring with her first goal of the season on a wrap around. The second goal was hard-earned by Dianne Ikeda, who crashed the net to score on her own rebound.

After playing a great game with tight D-zone coverage, the women's hockey team almost posted their first shutout of the season with a 2–0 lead going into the third period.

However, heavy pressure by the Griffins during the last few moments of the game earned them a goal with just 32 seconds left. Thankfully, it was not enough to spoil the Dinos' first win of the season and they are happy to get that monkey off of their back.

"It's great that the hard work and five o'clock mornings finally

paid off," gushed forward Felicia Fletcher. "It was a great game and all lines were firing!"

The win doesn't surprise Assistant Coach John Castrillon.

"We stuck to the plan, performed well and [goaltender] Natalie Gertsmar came big," he explained.

Hopefully the Dinos can take this consistency and newfound confidence into their games against the first place SAIT Trojans. The Dinos play at SAIT Fri., Jan. 20 at 7:30p.m. and in the Olympic Oval on Sat., Jan. 21 at 7 p.m.

# Volleysaurs bring Panda-monium to E-town

Sean Nyilassy  
Sports Editor

“In the year 2006, the Dinos women’s volleyball team will finally defeat the University of Alberta Pandas for the first time this season.”

This prediction, while broadcasted widely throughout the nooks and crannies of my brain in late 2005, was never publicly announced. But I stand by my word: I can see into the future. The Dinos split a series with the Pandas Jan. 13-14 in Edmonton.

Having lost a pre-season contest and two regular season games to the Pandas while winning all of their other games, the Dinos were out for revenge on the bamboo-chewing sissy bears. However, Friday’s match began with a disheartening blow.

Both teams were not performing to the best of their abilities, with unforced errors and inconsistent game flow dictating the first two

sets. The teams were point-for-point towards the end of both sets, but it was the Pandas who hung on for two 25-23 wins.

“We were in there and in control, but made too many unforced errors after 20 points,” admitted Dinos Head Coach Kevin Boyles.

The Dinos managed to regroup and fire out a 21-25 third-set victory. They followed this up with a 15-25 missile that would have any team reaching for the eject button. But the Pandas—dumb as they are—stuck out the tailspin and wound up leading the deciding fifth set 11-5. This deficit was too much for the Dinos to overcome and the match was lost with a 15-10 set.

Willemina Stikker-Breemhaar led the Dinos in kills and blocks with 11 and eight respectively. Carolyn MacDonald added 10 kills and nine digs. Janelle Findlay stuck it to the Panda with three service aces while setter Natalie Schwartz put in 43 assists. On the

defensive side, Neda Boroumand and Julie Young had 18 and 10 digs respectively.

“They’re very tall girls,” summarized MacDonald of the Pandas while failing to identify any superpowers they may or may not have.

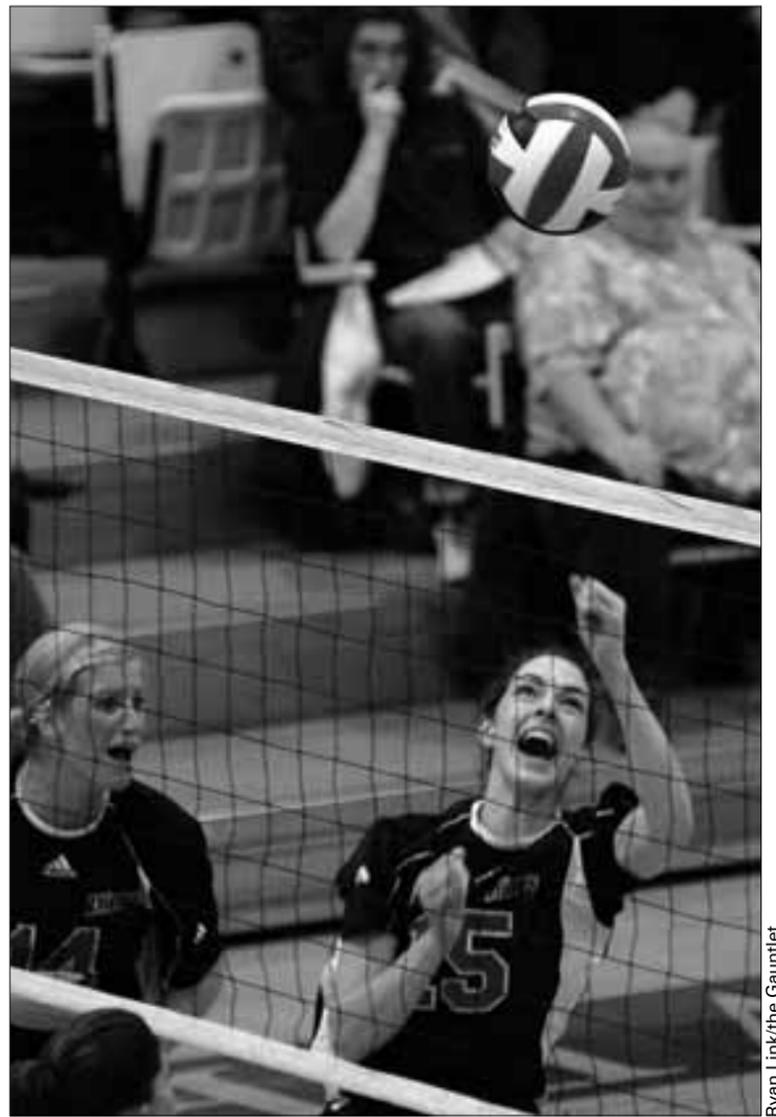
On Saturday the Dinos turned things around and finished what they couldn’t the night before. The first set remained close until an 8-2 Dinos’ run made the score 22-15. The Pandas’ comeback attempts were futile and the set went to our ladies, 25-21.

The herbivorous bears came on strong during the second half of the second set and squeezed the Dinos to submission, 20-25. In contrast, the third set was a work of art. The Dinos trailed for much of the game—from a 1-1 tie to an 11-18 deficit. They would not make the mistakes of the previous evening however, clawing back to a 24-21 lead. After a brief stumble, the Dinos sealed a 26-24 deal.

“That’s the first time this season they’ve really dug deep like that,” said Boyles of the ladies’ comeback. “It’s a good sign.”

The fourth set was a similar story. The Dinos followed the Pandas from a 9-9 tie to a 21-24 deficit before going on the attack for the next five points to win 26-24 once again and finally beat the Pandas. What kind of ‘bear’s’ diet consists primarily of bamboo anyway? Not a gnarly kind, that’s for sure. They deserve to be endangered.

“We were determined,” MacDonald said. “Kevin mentioned taking one swing at a time and that helped.”



Ryan Link/the Gauntlet

Deanna Delisle shakes her fist and yells at the ball.

Schwartz had 44 assists, 12 digs and five kills on the eve. MacDonald and Stikker-Breemhaar had 13 and 10 digs respectively and Lauren Perry had nine kills and 16 digs.

“Overall, the weekend was a good success,” Schwartz claimed,

adding that the Pandas are a good opponent because they “bring a different game.”

The Dinos take a week off to think deeply about the election before heading west to take on the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds Jan. 28-29.

## DINOS GAMES THIS WEEK



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# Streak: broken. Hopes: still truckin'



Ryan Link/the Gauntlet

Despite the Pandas yelling "I'm open," Jamie Morck shoots.

**Sean Nyilassy**  
Sports Editor

While the Dinos women's basketball team may not have played to the best of their abilities Jan. 13-14, the University of Alberta Pandas lacked the ability to snag both wins. The Dinos were 11 games into a winning streak, and improving each weekend, before the Pandas paid their

annual visit to the Jack Simpson Gymnasium.

Friday night's game, while in the books a success, saw a less inspired Dinos team than fans have come to expect. The lead changed hands like money in a drug ring during the first half. Though the Dinos managed a 38-37 lead at the half, an 8-0 Pandas run early in the second half swung things back the other way.

Each team was ahead a couple

more times before the Dinos seized the lead for good with just over eight minutes to play. But unlike past Dinos performances, they didn't run away with this lead. The Pandas managed to stay close, with the final score of 80-74 not making any statement of the Dinos' true superiority.

"We won on Friday and didn't feel we played as well as we should have," commented Lindsay Maundrell.

"We gutted it out on Friday and found a way to win," echoed Tanya Hautala. "But both nights were not great."

Maundrell drained 24 points for the Dinos, hitting 10 of 14 from the field. Tanya Hautala added 17 points and three steals while Michelle Willson led in rebounds with nine. As a team, the Dinos shot a solid 50.9 per cent from the field, besting the Pandas' 40 per cent.

The teams traded the lead again on Saturday, although the pattern this eve was more similar to young kids trading Pokémon cards than drug money changing hands. How? Don't ask questions, just believe. While the Dinos sat atop a comfortable 24-31 throne with less than seven minutes to play in the first, they were overthrown by an 11-0 Pandas run. They managed to regain consciousness early enough to recover to a 35-37 halftime lead.

This was to last as long as an impatient teenaged boy's first time. The Pandas snatched the lead back in just over a minute, lending it back to the Dinos just once for the remainder of the second half. The Pandas finished ahead 82-72. Just to clarify, I meant an impatient teenager's first time trying to solve a Rubik's cube, invented

by Erno Rubik in the 1970s.

"We won 12 games in a row. That's pretty darn good," smiled Head Coach Shawnee Harle despite the loss. "But such is life. That's the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat."

Maundrell again led the Dinos with 18 points, adding three steals. Courtney Coyle and Hautala netted 15 and 13 points respectively in the losing cause. The Dinos dropped to 38.7 per cent from the floor while the Pandas improved to 47.5.

The Dinos get a weekend to rest before heading west in a quest to test the Thompson Rivers University WolfPack, Canada West's newest, in a two-game contest Jan. 27-28. The Dinos have more practice time to invest. But who is the best and who is a pest? Who has the most zest? Who brushes their teeth with Crest? Are the Dinos a welcome guest in their nest? Will their gym be repossessed? Do you get my jest? Lest we forget, this paragraph is messed.

In any case, the Dinos will look to get back on the winning side of the coin against the 2-11 WolfPack.

"We're going to keep getting better," said Harle of the plans for the weekend off. "It's a great group of players. They're all committed to getting better."

Despite the WolfPack's record, both Dinos coaches and players expect a tough fight.

## Record breakers, cont'd from page 15

goals in a game (five) and in a period (four) in Canada West.

While the Dinos were hoping to avoid a late-game collapse in Saturday's game, it turned out that they had nothing to worry about; they never got off their feet in the first place. The high-flying Huskies came out with the momentum they gained from Friday's thriller and out-shot the Dinos 17-2 in the first. Goaltender Scott Talbot was solid in net, giving up two goals with virtually no help from the defense.

Although the Dinos narrowly out-shot Saskatchewan for the last two periods, Thomas Vicars was simply unbeatable in goal. Saskatchewan kept the offense going and added three more goals, making the final score 5-0. This is the Dinos' second shutout loss of the season; the first being against the University of Alberta Golden Bears Oct. 21.

The top-ranked Huskies improve to 14-3-3 for 31 points this season while the Dinos drop to 7-11-2 for 16 points.

The Dinos resume play against the University of Manitoba Bisons Jan. 27-28 in the Father David Bauer Arena at 7 p.m. The teams split their previous series in November. The Bisons are currently 2-6-1 at home, a record they're looking to improve upon with these next two games.

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# Playing for pride not working

Carly McKay

Gauntlet Volleyball

Returning from an unfortunate encounter with the University of Alberta Golden Bears over the weekend, the Dinos men's volleyball team saw their season from hell come one step closer to its conclusion. With the playoffs firmly out of reach, the team is playing for experience and pride through the last few matches.

Facing the number-one-ranked Bears was perhaps a good measuring stick for the team in preparation for next year. That being said, the crew

from Edmonton took that measuring stick and beat the Dinos all over the court with it.

"It was a very challenging weekend," power-hitter Ryan Lenz commented diplomatically. "They are hard to play when they're at home. They have a great crowd."

Nine hundred screaming fans packed the U of A main gym Friday night as the home team swept the Dinos 25-17, 25-16, 25-18.

The Dinos struggled to string together their attack, although Stephen Gotch led the stats with 11 kills. Rob Ellis contributed four digs

in the match, but the defensive unit was just no match for the firepower of the veteran Bears squad.

"It was a little frustrating," admitted Head Coach Greg Ryan. "But U of A is a tremendous team."

Saturday's result was no better. The Dinos again dropped three straight (25-16, 25-14, 25-19). Blake Adair proved to be the bright spot, posting eight kills and the team's only service ace, while several players chipped in with three digs apiece.

"U of A is the best team in North America," concluded Lenz.

"It shows us the level we need to be at."

"It's unbelievably annoying," said Ryan about the trajectory of the season. "These guys have worked hard, and in a year or two we'll be really good. We've just had the goofiest couple years of injuries. I don't like excuses, but I don't like losing."

Hoping they have picked up on something from their experience, the Dinos take to the court Jan. 20-21 to host the Trinity Western University Spartans in yet another Canada West David-meets-Goliath match-up.

# Fancy football

Dino Dan Federkeil will dress for the 81st East-West Shrine Game, held this year at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas Sat., Jan. 21. The game features the best of the U.S. college footballers along with the occasional Canadian.

Federkeil, joined by Andy Fantuz of the University of Western Ontario Mustangs, will be Canada's 43rd representative at the game since we first appeared in 1985.

Federkeil, a defensive end, is the ninth Dino to receive the honour.

The game will be televised on ESPN at 2 p.m.



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- At least six months of related driving experience.

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- Preference to applicants with Class 3 Alberta Operator's Licence with air brake endorsement (no more than six demerits).

**Labourers/Truck Drivers (Water Services Field Operations (formerly Waterworks))** Reference #101376

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# A monstrous future

## THEATREPREVIEW

### *History of the Future*

Janice Tran

Gauntlet Entertainment

Ten years ago, Ryan Gladstone was a fine arts student here at the University of Calgary studying drama. Fast-forward to the present and Gladstone is a well-established writer, performer, and director. In addition to these titles, Ryan, along with partner Bruce Horak, founded the drama group Monster Theatre, allowing them both to write and act in all their productions. The two took their name from one of more endearing characteristics of monsters.

“Monsters like Frankenstein are twisted and bizarre on the outside, yet tender and loving on the inside,” explains Gladstone, drawing a parallel to his theatre group’s skill at entertaining audiences using bizarre, comical dramatic techniques, while at the same time addressing serious issues. Their most recent production is particularly ambitious.

“We’ve been writing a whole series of plays that are about history,” expresses Gladstone, describing their latest play, *History of the Future*. “[It’s about] the history



Monster Theatre demonstrate the progression of balding men.

Courtesy Monster Theatre

of mankind’s perception of the future.”

In *History*, Gladstone and Horak along with Gladstone’s brother Jeff, play themselves as scientists who build a time machine and journey through time and space in search of answers to humanity’s most pondered questions. The play

explores what the future could be like through the views of science, science fiction and religion. From Nostradamus to aliens from outer space, the trio address deep philosophical questions like “what is at the end of it all?” and reveal the answers through puppetry, singing and other creative dramatic techniques.

“We came up with the idea with Michael Green from One Yellow Rabbit to do a history of the future and it sort of spawned from there,” Gladstone comments. “This idea itself is about two years old and it takes that long for it to germinate. We needed to find a venue for it and get the personnel together. We

have directors from New Mexico to designers from Toronto. Some of us are living in Vancouver and some of us are living in Toronto.”

In addition to co-ordinating the production team, the writers also devoted their time to research. After all, writing a story heavily based on facts requires large amounts of studying.

“We put a lot of thought into it and didn’t just try to think of funny stuff,” Gladstone explains. “We hope to bring up some issues that [the audience] hasn’t thought of before. We live right now on the threshold of the most fascinating period in the history of the world. The internet has increased the access to information and the newest one that is coming is the mapping of the genome, which is going to change everything.”

*History of the Future* promises an exciting, prophetic and often scientific adventure that is anything but ordinary. We can’t tell what the future holds but Gladstone and the rest of Monster Theatre are eager to show you their predictions. Who knows, you may even experience the apocalypse and return to tell about it.

Monster Theatre performs *History of the Future* January 23–25 in the Big Secret Theatre.

# Theatre in your jammies

## THEATREPREVIEW

### *Stop Not Going*

Ryan Pike

Gauntlet Entertainment

Pajamas aren’t typically considered very exciting. The Bananas in Pajamas—the peak of pajamas as a form of entertainment—were pretty damn annoying. With their absurdist style of sketch comedy, the Pajama Men aim to be anything but typical. After performing in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, the United Kingdom and countless dates in the United States last year, the Pajama Men make their performing debut in Calgary with a pair of shows as part of this year’s High Performance Rodeo.

“We’re really excited about coming to Calgary,” says Shenoah Allen, one-half of the pair. “I’m really excited that [High Performance Rodeo curator Michael Green] and the gang are having us out.”

Though now making waves, things didn’t start off so smoothly for the nightwear attired troupe. Allen and collaborator Mark Chavez met in high school as members of a short-lived improv team.

“We both got in and we performed one show at the air force base for the officers’ wives club and the improv team was disbanded,” he recalls.

Despite the auspicious start Allen and Chavez continued to perform together, eventually becoming writing and performing collaborators. The pair donned their jammies with their debut tour in 2000 and quickly established the look as their trademark.

“It works really well because it provides a neutral costume that is pretty subtle and can be any character,” comments Allen. “We don’t perform with sets or props or anything, so it’s nice to have the pajamas as kind of a blank canvas. It leaves a lot up to the imagination of the audience, which I think is really fun. Our work really engages the audience’s imagination because all the worlds that we create on stage, they’re kind of doing half the work and we’re hinting at what we’re doing and they fill in the blanks. We’ve written five shows in the style that we’ve developed, a sort of absurd comedy style that’s very non-linear and is comprised of a lot of different characters having bizarre interactions with each



The Pajama Men eye potential hook ups at the local watering hole.

Courtesy Pajama Men

other. It’s very visceral and spontaneous.”

This style involves a fair amount of swapping between the pair to avoid typecasting either of them. In doing so they aim to keep audiences on their toes. So far the approach has met with success, as awards at

Edinburgh’s Fringe Festival this past August and a new producing partnership with Chicago’s Second City Theatricals indicate.

With plenty of recent success and an innovative act—including such diverse characters as a father whose daughter loves a monster, a

pair of salty spinsters, and an aristocrat with a murderous talking horse—the Pajama Men continue to push live theatre in exciting and bizarre directions. Better yet, they’re doing it in their pajamas.

The Pajama Men perform *Stop Not Going* on January 22 and 23 in the Big Secret Theatre.

# TOP OF THE VOX

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TOP 20 FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 16.06

\* Denotes Canadian Artist  
\*\* Denotes Local Artist

1. **ANIMAL COLLECTIVE**  
*Feels*  
Fat Cat
2. **BLOCKHEAD**  
*Downtown Science*  
Ninja Tune
3. **AARON BOOTH & WOODPIGEON\*\***  
*Pigeonbooth*  
Independent
4. **RICHIE HAWTIN\***  
*DE9: Transitions*  
Minus
5. **LUC**  
*Peaofthesea*  
Aagoo
6. **VARIOUS**  
*Le Pop 3*  
Lr Pop Musik
7. **ALEXISONFIRE/MONEEN\***  
*Split EP*  
Vagrant
8. **BECK**  
*Guero!lito*  
Interscope
9. **BODUF SONGS**  
*Boduf Songs*  
Kranky
10. **KNUCKLEHEAD\*\***  
*The New Black List*  
Stumble
11. **THE PANTS SITUATION\*\***  
*The Ugly Man*  
Lukes
12. **BOOKS ON TAPE**  
*Dinosaur Dinosaur*  
Alien8
13. **INDUCE**  
*Cycle*  
Wondersound
14. **THE HUMMERS\***  
*Modern Entrance*  
Sisyphus
15. **LAMBCHOP**  
*Hands Off The Cuba Colab*  
Merge
16. **SHALABI EFFECT\***  
*Unfortunately*  
Alien8
17. **TWIN FANGS**  
*Street Sweeper*  
Rectangle
18. **PSYCHE ORIGAMI**  
*The Standard*  
Arc The Finger
19. **CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH**  
*Clap Your Hands Say Yeah*  
Independent
20. **THE TWIN ATLAS**  
*Sun Township*  
Trappersize

## ELECTRONIC

1. **BLOCKHEAD**  
*Downtown Science*  
Ninja Tune
2. **BECK**  
*Guero!lito*  
Interscope
3. **THE HUMMERS\***  
*Modern Entrance*  
Sisyphus
4. **INDUCE**  
*Cycle*  
Wondersound
5. **ANOTHER ELECTRONIC MUSICIAN**  
*.Use*  
NSMD

## INTERNATIONAL

1. **ANOUSHKA SHANKAR**  
*Rise*  
EMI
2. **CELSO MACHADO**  
*Capivara*  
Suruca
3. **FJ & LIVING SOULS**  
*Ambient Africa*  
Eagle
4. **VARIOUS**  
*French Playground*  
Putumayo
5. **SEGUN AKINLOLU\***  
*Where Rivers Sing A Song*  
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# Murley cool in the sax



Courtesy Occhipinti Music

Mike Murley (right) and Dave Occhipinti (left) look in directions perpendicular to each other. Isn't that cute?

## MUSICINTERVIEW

Mike Murley

Darren Young

Gauntlet Entertainment

On the list of cool and charismatic jazz figures, one name is unfortunately missing. The name belongs to none other than Canadian jazz saxophonist Mike Murley. Murley is a cool, confident character whose personality makes a perfect match for his playing style. A quick look at his idols like Sonny Rollins, Lester Young, and Wayne Shorter makes where he got both style and personality obvious.

"I've been influenced by [Lester Young's style]," says Murley. "It doesn't mean that I necessarily play exactly in that style. [Lester] actually helped me in playing in a group called Metalwood."

Metalwood is a Juno Award-winning group featuring Murley on sax, along with contemporaries Brad Turner (trumpet), Ian Froman (drums), and Chris Tarry (bass). Though the group is about as far away as possible from Lester Young's playing with the Count Basie Band, Murley insists his performance in Metalwood's jazz-funk hybrid owes a great debt to Young.

"Just the concept of playing less

notes than you might otherwise have to in certain situations," he explains. "Sometimes less is more."

Murley is no stranger to the less is more concept. In addition to playing with Metalwood, Murley also has a duo with guitarist David Occhipinti. The nature of this project is perceptibly based on the minimalist concept Murley references.

"The duo presents challenges none of the other groups have," he remarks. "[There is] more of a dialogue with the person you are playing with. It can be rewarding if you're with the right person, and we really love playing together. [The duo] allows you to have more

of a conversation; it's just the two voices."

Together Murley and Occhipinti have captured this musical dialogue on two records, 2003's *Duologue*, and last year's *Duologue Vol. 2*. These albums effectively demonstrate the power of Murley and Occhipinti as a duo, as well as accentuating each of their individual strengths. The challenge of being vulnerable and exposed in the limited setting is overcome by Murley's delicate and calm demeanor. With any luck, Murley won't be left off hepcats' lists for long.

The Mike Murley duo performs Mon., January 23 at the University Theatre.

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# Ryan Belleville vs. squirrels

## COMEDY INTERVIEW

Ryan Belleville

Kyle Francis  
Opinions Editor

“Not everything has to end with me taking a shit on a squirrel,” says Ryan Belleville, a young Canadian comedian, actor and writer imparting his philosophy of comedy and disappointing readers everywhere. “I believe in strong imagery, but I don’t believe everything has to be scatological.”

Belleville lost his comedic virginity on the Loose Moose stage in Calgary at the young age of 15, when he started volunteering with the improv troupe. Going on to garner more success than something only moderately successful, Belleville continues to work his comedic mojo all over Canada and the United States. After countless tours—including some with the Just for Laughs comedy festival—a feature-length MTV movie and several notable television guest appearances, Belleville is coming back to Calgary to revisit his hometown and improv roots, as well as show off a new stand-up routine.

“There’s a definite edginess to my comedy; it’s not for old people,” says

Belleville, sniggering at the prudish senior citizens of the world. “I think better comedians are funny people, but the ones that stay popular are also funny writers. You’ve got to be prolific enough to churn out enough material about your life or your opinion or your point of view. That’s kind of what comedy is. You’re stating your opinion or your take on the world, and the punch line is that universally funny thing that people can get behind.”

Critics of stand up comedy may be quick to dismiss Belleville’s point of view or lump it in with those of other comedians. In the congested profession, it’s easy to group comedians together according to their particular brand of humour. Belleville insists this attitude is folly.

“I think the person I’m most like is me,” glows Belleville, undoubtedly thinking of snowflakes and how they’re all beautiful and unique. “I do love Patton Oswalt, though. Patton is a good example of a comedian who is just himself. He’s just a total nerd who loves hyperbole. And midgets. He’s got a real edge to his act.”

Like Oswalt, Belleville promises a certain enthusiastic irreverence in his act combined with an ‘off the cuff’ style born of years on an improv stage. Despite the respect gained for good writing from work-



Courtesy Loose Moose

Ryan Belleville mimes his own suicide. Hilarious!

ing in film so often, Belleville hasn’t lost his appreciation for a good ol’ fashioned tangential rant.

“It’s always great to see a comedian go off on a tangent,” says Belleville. “You don’t get that with some comedians. Take Bill Maher for example. He’s

a great comedian, but he basically just reads a 100-page comedic essay. He’s very married to the material.”

As a comedian who prides himself on distinctive acts every time you see him, the Loose Moose stage—noted for its anything goes attitude—is the

perfect venue to return to Calgary in. Belleville’s performance promises to be a glorious orgy of irreverence, sly wit and maybe, just maybe, squirrels.

Ryan Belleville performs at the Loose Moose Theatre January 19–21.

# CJSW ON-AIR GUIDE

	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun
Morning Jazz	6 am morning joy	something jazzy	lush life	uncle casey's jazz mistress	pussycat dues	late night continued	late night continued
	6:30					counterspin	alternative radio
	7 am	BBC WORLD SERVICE NEWS <small>weekday mornings at 6, 7, 8 and 9 am</small>					talk back africa
Rocks Mix	7:30					bunte welle <small>german</small>	eritrean radio
	8 am						hvratski radio <small>croatian</small>
	8:30						bagong pagasa <small>filipino</small>
Afternoon Mix	9 am	canadian music centre presents	bella musica	airport bison radio	the two and a half hour coffee break	calgary vietnamese radio	buscando america <small>latin america</small>
	9:30	wake up, carly! wake up!				helenic melodies <small>greek radio</small>	mehfil-ee- sangeet <small>south asian</small>
	10 am					fantastic plastic <small>sponsored by bird dog video</small>	level the vibes
Late Night Mix	10:30						
	11 am	local revolutions - calgary talks	writer's block	alternative radio	cjsw news counterspin	who shakes <small>city calendar</small>	
	11:30						
Mixed Block	12 pm	el moustacheo mysterio	red squares <small>sponsored by the drum &amp; monkey</small>	a house fell on my sister	strange and beautiful / aphasia	punk up the volume	
	12:30						
	1 pm						
Specialty Music	1:30						
	2 pm	cloud pleaser	meow mix	nerd beat	the audible smile	my allergy to the fans	mental illness
	2:30						
News / Spoken Word	3 pm						
	3:30						
	4 pm	welcome to flava country <small>sponsored by the hi fi club</small>	jane & tasya's guide to everything <small>sponsored by broken city</small>	out of service express <small>sponsored by liberty lounge</small>	alternative to what? <small>sponsored by palomino smokehouse</small>	road pops <small>sponsored by fwd weekly</small>	caribbean link-up
Multicultural	4:30						
	5 pm						
	5:30						
Specialty Music	6 pm	french transe en danse	mezza l'una	so SU me students' union	off the page <small>gauntlet</small>	musiquarium <small>everything from jazz to jungle sponsored by giant 45</small>	voice of ethiopia
	6:30						
	7 pm	south louisiana gumbo	artslink	the blues witness <small>with reverend ron sponsored by calgary dollars</small>	folkcetera	full moon funkacious <small>the latest &amp; greatest in breaks &amp; house</small>	oh africa!
Specialty Music	7:30						
	8 pm	reverb	tombstone after dark	lift the bandstand	film clips	dirty needles <small>the best in funk, soul &amp; hip hop</small>	the nocturntable
	8:30	yeah, what she said <small>womyn's programming</small>	honey, i punk the kids	good character requirement / happy medium charlie	noise <small>experimental music</small>	remote emissions <small>hard hitting jungle &amp; drum 'n bass</small>	speaking in tongues <small>world music</small>
Specialty Music	9 pm	the sound of music	rack power	pillage the village / less junk more punk	fat beat diet	dna <small>hardcore techno</small>	the many fables of joe and hanna
	9:30						
	10 pm	katharsis	what would the neighbors think?	sonic headphone transmissions	the beat down / funk tank	the sarcastic triangle / attention surplus disorder	technicolor jukebox
Specialty Music	10:30						
	11 pm	bedtime boogaloo	dead air		rage cage	mental brain thoughts / global sunrise	translucent dreams <small>ambient, trance etc.</small>
	11:30						
Specialty Music	12 am						
	12:30						
	1 am	bass ackwards / down time	music for beginners				scrum-diddly-umptious
Specialty Music	1:30						
	2 am						
	2:30						
Specialty Music	3 am						
	3:30						
	4:00						
Specialty Music	4:30						
	5:00						
	5:30						

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# Elections for all!

## GAMEREVIEW

*Prime Minister Forever*

Kyle Francis  
Opinions Editor

Anyone who says they haven't wanted to unduly influence a federal election is a god-damn liar. Now, thanks to 80soft, any aspiration you may have had about leaning on the media so they'll imply Stephen Harper is a pedophile can finally be realized.

In *Prime Minister Forever*, you take the role of your favourite (or least favourite) political party and attempt to get them into office. The game is a simulation in the strictest sense, allowing you a great deal of freedom in dealing with media, advertising campaigns and debates. Given this, it's not surprising the game is missing something traditionally associated with video games: fun.



Players are presented with a fully-featured set of political tools and asked to manage the political campaign of their choice party down to the minutest detail. You can spend capital to spin media stories, manage many different kinds of ad campaigns and do public surveys to see what the people are concerned with. The problem *PMF* runs into is that politics are about as exciting as collecting used nicotine patches and

it does nothing to reward players for their struggles.

Political simulators aren't a new idea, and video-game visionary Sid Meier has proven it's possible time and again with his *Civilization* series to create a game dealing with dry material like politics and make it more addictive than heroin-soaked grapes. If *PMF* had used a more engaging interface than the bare bones charts-and-graphs style it did, or even allowed players to do absurd or drastic things in their political campaigns, it may be easier to call this a real video game. As it is, it's just a political calculator.

The idea's a good one, and *PMF* may very well be the first Canadian political simulator, but without some kind of payoff or reason to continue playing, the only people *PMF* will appeal to are hardcore political science students or people who live with over five cats and can't handle too much excitement. It might surprise you how many fall into both categories.

To test your election skills visit <http://80soft.com>.

# Crude not too crude, dude

## BOOKREVIEW

*It's the Crude, Dude*

Ryan Pike

Gauntlet Entertainment

Oil, black gold, Texas tea, no other substance has a larger impact on our lives, either in terms of quality of life or how much money it can make us. However, dwindling oil reserves have come to shape the foreign policies of oil-consuming nations like the United States, a phenomenon examined in detail in Toronto Star journalist Linda McQuaig's sixth book, *It's the Crude, Dude*.

While McQuaig's focus is on American involvement in Iraq—the war is all about oil, hence the title—she also takes time to examine other factors in the conflict and how things got to where we are now. In doing so, McQuaig connects seemingly unrelated events. You'll learn how tariffs on frozen chickens aided relaxed fuel consumption standards for sport utility vehicles, how the energy lobby has hindered the efforts of United Nations scientists studying global warming and more about Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez than you ever needed to know. Despite these frequent detours, McQuaig never lets us forget the whole thing is about Iraq and emphasizes how these events influence others.

As is often the case with books about hot-button topics, the enjoyment you garner from this book will obviously vary depending on your

stance on the issue. If you love oil companies, American foreign policy and think Dick Cheney is the most wonderful man in the history of the world then this book may serve you better as a means of leveling an uneven chair or table.

Even if you agree with McQuaig's stance on the issues, you may just plain hate her writing style. This is not a purely academic read and McQuaig takes her time to provide some context and uses anecdotes and jokes to prevent things from getting too heady. However, this may leave impatient readers foaming at the mouth.

Another minor frustration occurs whenever a topic is briefly mentioned in connection with another, then brushed off for the time being with a promise it will be covered later on. While these promises are always kept, it becomes tiresome to have to wait.

Despite these flaws, *It's The Crude, Dude* stands as an intelligently-written look at our current situation with a decidedly cynical tone and foreboding message: while those tied to the oil industry acknowledge oil reserves are dwindling, they're not really doing anything about it right now because there's money to be made and they may actually be hindering the efforts of others. Regardless of whether you agree with its politics or not, *It's the Crude, Dude* offers a lot to think about.

*It's the Crude, Dude* is available in fine bookstores everywhere.

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THEATRE JUNCTION GRAND

# Sex, drugs and twang



Courtesy Odeon Films

Yup, that's a scarf clad midget smoking a doobie lit by a \$50 bill.

## FILMREVIEW

### The Life and Hard Times of Guy Terrifico

Rachel Betts-Wilmott  
Gauntlet Entertainment

The short days of January are the big leagues for clichés. It's always during the first few lectures when profs pull out their dusty ol' colloquialisms and use them anew. Meanwhile, every student is heard spouting the same old resolutions about better study and sleeping habits. But not even the most blow-hard history prof could beat *The Life and Hard Times of Guy Terrifico*. The film is to the cliché Olympics what Kenyans are to marathons.

Director and writer Michael Mabbott's faux rockumentary depicts the life of the greatest, drunkest, ugliest-but-Bob-Dylanly-beautiful country singer the world has ever seen, the amalgam of every music stereotype and cliché rolled into one—rarely standing—individual. The movie tracks Jim Jablowski

(Matt Murphy) from his childhood in northern Alberta, to his dubious death as Guy Terrifico in Vancouver, through the recollections of country music stars and aficionados like Kris Kristofferson, Ronnie Hawkins, Merle Haggard and Rob Bowman. The interviews with Terrifico's friends and at times enemies, bandmates, manager, wife and entourage piece together the unbelievable story, giving form to the clips of footage, recorded for posterity by the singer's friend, the midget.

The movie's ridiculousness is simultaneously its greatest strength and its downfall. *Terrifico* is a sequence of hilarious situations, making it an extremely entertaining 85 minutes of film to watch. However, the absurdity and implausibility of this dream musician's life story might be a harder pill to swallow for the less light-hearted audience member.

Mabbott is admirably consistent in his first full-length movie. With so much silliness *The Life and Hard Times of Guy Terrifico* teeters on the edge of irrelevance, yet Mabbott dives further in with

the quirkiest score since Disney's *Aladdin*, giving the movie a theme of folly, rather than making it an incongruous farce. Mabbott set out the guidelines for *Terrifico*'s repertoire, which was then fleshed out by Murphy into songs like "Perogie Blues." The resultant great songs of the collaboration between the director and the first-time actor but long time musician are so pleasing, as are the performances by Murphy, they give the movie its strongest pretense toward truth.

*The Life and Hard Times of Guy Terrifico* is the embodiment of every music story you've ever heard. It combines the myths about Hank Williams, the attitude of Kris Kristofferson, Johnny Cash's girls, the drugs of the '60s and '70s with horses kicking, midgets flying and family jamborees gone awry. The film manages to be quintessentially country. The features making it great to some are the same ones making it annoying to others.

*The Life and Hard Times of Guy Terrifico* opens Friday, January 20 at the Uptown Stage and Screen.

# The best of 2006

## TIMEREVIEW

### The wonders of the future

Garth Paulson  
Entertainment Editor

When you write for a small publication, 'best of' articles are a dubious beast. No matter how awesome your tastes may be, and no matter how many pins you have clipped to your shoulder bag, people will always accuse you of ripping off larger publications. In an effort to counter this dastardly reality, the *Gauntlet* decided to use its finest time travel technology—easily the third finest time travel technology available to U of C students—to beat all those "legitimate" rags to the punch.

The tail-end of 2006 was a scary place. The Conservative majority soon to be elected had effectively revoked suffrage to everyone save white men over the age of 40 who possess no more than four cats

and no fewer than two. Also, U.S. President Bush, tired of being the brunt of jokes regarding his rather hilarious lexicon, passed a bill stating English will furthermore be defined by him. In addition to these intriguing developments, the music scene took some exciting turns. Without any further delay, here now is the *Gauntlet*'s five best albums of 2006.

1. Outkast - *Idlewild*. Who would have thought Outkast would catch Michael Jackson's skin disease and start playing bluegrass?

2. Buckcherry - *Fifteen*. They now prefer their paint thinner.

3. Danielson Famile - *Ships*. Christianity finally becomes popular in '06, and in a big way.

4. ArcticMoneys - *Whatever people Say I am, that's what I'm Not*. Yup

5. Prince - *3121*. Prince wisely opted to eschew proper music in favour of an album composed entirely of the sound of him checking himself out in a mirror.

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# SPUN

album reviews

this week • Notorious B.I.G., We are Scientists, Beck

## The Notorious B.I.G.

*Duets: The Final Chapter*  
(Bad Boy)



The music of Notorious B.I.G. and Tupac Shakur has influenced a generation and paved the way for a booming rap industry. Unfortunately, those around them have found it essential to make money off their tragic deaths through endless remix, unreleased and tribute albums only focused on cashing in. *Duets: The Final Chapter* bucks this trend.

P. Diddy, Diddy or whatever the hell he is calling himself these days has actually put some work into this project. With a wide array of high profile artists including Eminem, Nas and Ludacris to name a few, the album offers up more than enough B.I.G. material and works quite well with today's select powerhouses

Powerful, well planned and overall a descent album, the crew at Bad Boy records must have been doing something right when they came up with this. If you're a fan, the album is definitely worthwhile and it takes a much needed step in the proper direction for tribute albums.

..Logan Niehaus

## Various Artists

*This is Metal*  
(Magick Records)



Metal music reached its zenith in the '80s, but has remained a vital element in the music scene ever since. However, it has become increasingly difficult for metal bands to get mainstream recognition. With a hope to counter this trend in mind, Magick Records created the three-disc compilation, *This is*

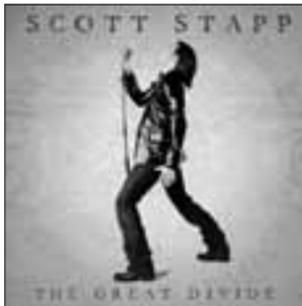
*Metal*. With solid artists like Icarus Witch and Opera IX the compilation shows there are new bands making great metal today, even if they aren't being talked about much.

A wide variety of metal is presented, adding to the richness of the compilation and helping anyone new to the scene to find what they like. The first two discs on *This is Metal* offer some of the best work being produced today while the third disk is a fitting tribute to the genre's forefathers in the form of covers. While metal is no longer in its prime, its artists are still producing solid work and inspiring new generations of metalheads. Nothing makes this more clear than *This is Metal*.

..Jason McKay

## Scott Stapp

*The Great Divide*  
(Wind-up)



It's been almost four years since Creed's last album hit the airwaves. While the band has indeed broken up, former Creed front man Scott Stapp has released his solo debut, *The Great Divide*. If you have a deep hole in your heart only more Creed music could fill,

consider it filled, because this is essentially another damn Creed album.

Stapp starts off strong with harder-edged offerings "Reach Out" and "Fight Song" but rapidly degenerates into the same old shtick he used in Creed. The first single off the album, "The Great Divide," sounds like every hit he had with his former mates. Fans of Creed will rejoice, for the band's music lives once more, but the rest of the world is left to wonder what the point of the whole break-up was in the first place.

..Ryan Pike

## Beck

*Guerolito*  
(Interscope)



What's the best way to make the most money with the smallest amount of creative input? Remix albums. By remixing his 2005 release *Guero*, Beck actually managed to squeeze a little more blood out of the stone. *Guerolito* isn't a bad collection of songs by any means, it's just nothing you haven't heard already. Well, not really.

..Kyle Francis

## We are Scientists

*With Love and Squalor*  
(EMI)



Listening to We are Scientists' debut album, *With Love and Squalor*, you can only feel sorry for them. It's a good album but it's sadly about three years too late to make any significant impact.

The noble Scientists' plight is a tragic one because they deserve better than they're going to receive from *Squalor*. Unless the band can drastically alter their sound they are destined to become an also-ran mentioned in passing when future scholars skim over the Strokes/Killers/Bravery/Hot Hot Heat/Franz Ferdinand/Maximo Park somewhat dancey, fashion conscious, guitar rock craze of the early to mid oughts. They will become to suit jackets, tight pants and scarves what the Stone Temple Pilots were to flannel and ripped jeans, it's a shame.

*With Love and Squalor* is, over all, an appealing listen. The band distills the sounds of the bands it will be endlessly compared to into a tight three-piece and comes out all the better for it. The dance beats are blatant, the hip-sway inducing bass isn't buried behind questionable synthesizers and the ironic, entendre-laced lyrics are easy to pick out and delightfully catchy. The band's true strength, however, hangs around Keith Murray's shoulders and boasts six strings. Murray's guitar skills are simply astonishing. Shying away from the typical trio slap-you-in-the-face power chord riffery Murray composes deft, intricate riffs both infectious and head scratching. Yet, *With Love and Squalor* can't escape the bare facts stacked up against it. There is no denying the album is a late addition to a saturated scene already past its best days and isn't able to provide a needed kick in the pants. Fortunately, the band recognizes their predicament, best exemplified on the tongue-in-cheek "This Scene is Dead," so there's still hope they'll amount to more than being remembered as those guys who started wearing pink a few years after it was hip.

..Garth Paulson

### JANUARY 2006

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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If you haven't received this card, you are probably not on the voters list. To be able to vote, all you have to do is go to your polling station on election day, January 23, and present an official document that includes your name, address and signature. If you do not have such a document, you will be given the opportunity to swear that you are eligible to vote at the polling station you are in, as long as you are accompanied by a voter registered in the same polling division who can vouch for your identity.

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# ESCAPES & PURSUITS

## CONCERTS

**The Cape May** and guests will serenade the campus on **Jan. 20** at That Empty Space. The show runs 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and is an 18+ event.

**The Dudes, Beija Flor** and **Life Like Cobra** rock The Den on **Jan. 21**. Tickets are \$5 at the doors and support the U of C trimedia; The *Gauntlet*, CJSW and NUTV. So come out and enjoy.

**Bjorn Again** and **Nearly Neil** present The 70's Show at the Jack Singer Concert Hall. Check out the festivities on **Jan. 21** for the sum of \$45. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster. The show begins at 7 p.m.

**8 Cylinder** presents the Ultimate Nirvana Tribute at the Rusty Cage on **Jan. 22**. Come check out the definitive homage at 9 p.m. Admission is free.

**Jordan Knight** of New Kids on the Block fame will be dazzling audiences with **Jeff Hendrick** at the Tantra Nightclub. You can catch the show on **Jan. 22** at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster for \$12.

**Nickelback** and guests will be rocking out at the Pengrowth Saddledome on **Jan. 23**. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster for \$39.50-\$49.50. The show begins at 7 p.m.

**Zamfir and the Athenaeum String Quintet** stroke their strings like pros at the Jack Singer Concert Hall on **Jan. 24**. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster for \$59.39. The show starts around 8 p.m.

**Comeback Kid, Riviera Heist** and **Far From Skinny** plan on destroying all of you at The Underground on **Jan. 26**. Tickets are \$12 and available at Ticketmaster, Megatunes and Sloth. The doors open at 7 p.m. This is an all ages event.

## THEATRE

**Peter Moller** and guests will be presenting **The Shrine of Impossible Love** at the Big Secret Theatre from **Jan. 18 through Jan. 20**. Tickets are \$18 for Jan. 18, \$20 for Jan. 19 and \$24 for Jan. 20. The Jan. 18 presentation begins at 7:30 p.m. and the Jan. 19 and Jan. 20 presentations will begin at 9:30 p.m.

**Peggy Baker Dance Projects** presents **The Heart Moves** **Jan. 19** and **Jan. 20** at the Vertigo Playhouse. Both shows are at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are \$30.

The **Pajama Men** plan on creating laughter on **Jan. 21** and **Jan. 22** with their presentation **Stop Not Going**, at the Big Secret Theatre. Both shows begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$22 for the Jan. 21 show and \$18 for the Jan. 22 show.

**Sara Bynoe & Buck Assembled Artists** present **Bad Grad** on **Jan. 21** at the Big Secret Theatre. If you're all about teen angst, but no longer actually a teen, check this show out at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$22.

Bradley Beesley's **Fearless Freaks: Watching Party**, a film on The Flaming Lips, will be presented **Jan. 24** at the Big Secret Theatre. Tickets are 'pay what you can,' and

the show starts at 9:30 p.m.

**Monster Theatre** presents **The History of The Future** from **Jan. 23 to Jan. 25** at the Big Secret Theatre. Jan. 23 and Jan. 24 shows will begin at 7:30 p.m., while the Jan. 25 show begins at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for Jan. 23, and \$20 for Jan. 24 and Jan. 25.

**Sheri-D Willson's Adventures of the Trick-Riders: During The Apocalypse** runs **Jan. 25** and **Jan. 26** at the Big Secret Theatre. Tickets are \$20 for both shows. The shows begin at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 25 and 9:30 p.m. on Jan. 26.

## SPORTS

**Calgary Flames** face off against the **Buffalo Sabres** on **Jan. 21** at the Pengrowth Saddledome. The game starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster for \$23.50-\$175, although availability of said tickets is questionable.

**Dinos women's hockey** will be hitting the boards with **SAIT** at the Olympic Oval on **Jan. 21**. The game starts at 7 p.m.

**Dinos men's volleyball** will be bouncing balls at **Trinity Western** at the Jack Simpson Gymnasium on **Jan. 21**. The game begins at 7 p.m.

## MISC.

**The Kamala Foundation** presents **A Night at the Bazaar** on **Jan. 21** at the Centre Court in Eau Claire Market. The event is a fundraiser for the new non-profit Kamala Foundation which supports women and children's organizations

## THINGS TO DO

1. Come to the Trimedia Cabaret at The Den on Jan. 21! Contribute to the funding of the upstanding publication juggernaut that is *The Gauntlet*, along with our dear friends CJSW and NUTV. Drink and be merry, friends.
2. Go see something at the High Performance Rodeo. It runs for another week, so find something at [www.oyr.org](http://www.oyr.org).
3. For all you smokers out there, The Den is going smoke free in September, and the Black Lounge along with it in January. Get ready to brave the cold this time next year when you need a nicotine infusion.

in Nepal and Calgary. The event begins at 7 p.m. and will include food, drink, entertainment and much more. Admission is free, and for more information contact Zachary Barton at [kamalafoundation@mail.com](mailto:kamalafoundation@mail.com).

An illustrated talk on **The Star of Bethlehem** will be given by Professor E.F. Milone at the St. John Lutheran Church on **Jan. 22** at 7 p.m. For more information contact the U of C Physics and Astronomy Department.



Look for the **SU Election Roadshow and Spin to Win!**

- Monday, Jan. 23  
MacEwan Hall Foyer
  - Tuesday, Jan. 24  
Social Sciences Foyer
  - Wednesday, Jan. 25  
Kinesiology (next to Fitness Centre)
  - Thursday, Jan. 26  
Library (beside escalator)
  - Friday, Jan. 27  
Earth Sciences (beside elevators)
- 10:00 am to 3:00 pm each day

Get info on running for SU positions



[www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

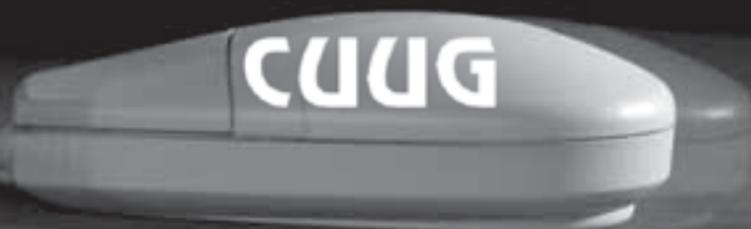


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# OPINIONS

Opinions Editor: Kyle Francis  
opinions@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

## No excuse for apathy

**Kenzie Love**  
Gauntlet Opinions

**T**rudeaumania it ain't, but if the sense of momentum currently surrounding Stephen Harper and the Conservatives holds until election day, it may inspire some previously apathetic Canadians to vote. Conversely, the prospect of a Conservative government may scare previously apathetic Canadians on the other side of the ideological spectrum into voting as well. Whatever the ultimate turnout is, it is unlikely to exceed 70 per cent of registered voters, a mark the past few federal elections have also failed to reach.

Low turnout at elections and cynicism on the part of some of those who bothered to show up predated the sponsorship scandal. But if the coming election attracts a dismal proportion of voters, a perceived increase in corruption will undoubtedly be cited as a cause. The

intense media coverage devoted to the Gomery inquiry may indeed turn some Canadians off voting on January 23. But the revelations exposed within it and their effect needs to be contextualized.

The corruption revealed by the Gomery inquiry may have justifiably shocked and angered Canadians, but there is no evidence that it is part of a broader trend in our nation's politics. It's true that Canada slipped a few notches in the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index over the past two years. But the index only measures the degree of corruption perceived to exist by a given country's public officials and politicians. Given that Paul Martin cancelled the sponsorship program upon taking office, it's entirely possible that corruption actually decreased in 2004 and 2005. But acknowledging as much would have made it a lot harder for the Conservatives to acquire momentum.

While the Corruption Perceptions Index may be an imperfect guide, it's worth noting that Canada still ranks pretty close to the top of it. Suggestions that the country has become, or ever was, a "banana republic" are absurd and insulting. Corruption in Canada is nowhere near as pervasive as it is in Thailand or Bolivia, countries that have repeatedly ranked closer to the bottom of the index. Those are nations that don't possess an auditor-general. The minority of honest politicians that hold offices within them probably don't know the half of the corruption that exists, and it's scary to think what sort of rating such countries would get if they did.

Yet, astonishingly, voter turnout in those two countries in recent elections has been virtually identical to that in Canada. Something's amiss when people who genuinely have the right to be apathetic about the potential for ending corruption still vote in almost as great numbers as we do. If corruption has in fact increased in Canada in recent years, it's probably because politicians lack a fully engaged electorate to hold their feet to the fire.

Thus choosing to vote in spite of the sponsorship scandal isn't taking corruption lightly. On the contrary, it's recognizing it as a serious problem that requires a serious response, as opposed to a bunch of pointless bellyaching.

## Spam is people!

**Joel Klettke**  
Gauntlet Opinions

Spam has once again rocketed launched its annoying foot into my collection of heartfelt emails to Melissa O'Neil. But something has changed. In and amongst my usual plethora of "RX MEDS GUARANTEED TO LENGTHEN YOUR PENIS THREE FEET IN TWO HOURS!" and links to dozens of beautiful Japanese women who want to "Have fun good joy happy bare!" with me, a new sort of e-terror has invaded under the guise of university correspondences.

It's one thing that the U of C and its respective faculties wish to keep students informed, and I'm all for being kept in the know about all the functions I can avoid. It's fantastic that I'm being asked if I can participate in some research, because hey, I'd love to donate my time to write a short paragraph outlining my intimate thoughts about the concept of "unhappiness." Heck, it's even a gay 'ol time to hear from students desperately trying to switch labs and wondering if I'll swap my perfectly orchestrated schedule and in turn help them achieve a C+ in calculus. These bring me much mirth during the early hours of the morning, and for that, I'm eternally grateful. The problem is that I receive literally dozens of these emails within a very short period of time, often crowding my alphabeti-

cally organized system of celebrity restraining order notices.

I can understand that the university and its faculties are not responsible for the vast number of emails I receive because of university related events, requests, etc., but what I don't understand is why this system hasn't been made more efficient. Surely the brains within this university can devise some sort of method for students to find research requests, class update information, and event notices all on one screen that isn't their personal inboxes. Granted I could simply have spent the time I invested in writing this article in hitting the "delete" button next to the messages I desire to be rid of, or even writing nasty letters to those who made tutorial switching requests, scarring them emotionally and hopefully ridding them of the will to use the internet ever again. I'm just not comfortable with the fact anyone out there has access to my email and can throw meaningless crud at it. So I shall fight my lazy war with a tenacity only seen in the giant Asian river turtle.

Look past my sloth and see the genius behind it—if there was one universal message board where everything was organized beautifully and only crucial emails made it to my personal inbox, the world I live in would become a utopia. Unfortunately, Blackboard isn't cutting it.

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Reflection by Lianna Hwang

The University Of Calgary International Student Centre Presents The 13th Annual

## INTERNATIONAL PHOTO CONTEST

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For rules and entry forms, come into the  
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# Cat-a-clysm

Jon Roe

Gauntlet Opinions

Cats are dirty, dirty sluts. A cat out on its own is likely to have sex with every other cat it meets. With this unscrupulous amount of feline fornication come millions of kittens. "Everyone loves kittens, the world needs more kittens," cry the people! Alas, this wish has already been fulfilled. In fact, there is a surplus of cats in the world. There are more cats than there are people who want to care for cats. Some may propose a controlled slaughter is in order. Well, the truth is that such a genocide is already happening. In our city alone, the Calgary Humane Society picks up around 7,000 to 9,000 cats every year. Though many of them are returned to their rightful caretakers, an equal portion of them are euthanized. Though not a problem for people who don't particularly love cats, those who actually like and own cats create this situation.

There's no better reason to be home at 11 a.m. than watching *The Price is Right*. Bob Barker oggles all the young college girls who hope to win a new car only to end up selling it to pay the 50 per cent in taxes they owe to the IRS. Despite his overt attempts to troll for teenaged ass, Bob Barker has a meaningful message. At the end of every show, Bob bestows upon his faithful, "Have your pets spayed and neutered." Regardless of a cultural icon supporting this proposition, people who own cats still don't get

them spayed or neutered. The result is a massive amount of cat sex occurring on our city streets with unwanted kittens being disposed of in many fashions. Assuming most people who own cats are indeed lovers of them, they should show their love for the feline species by dropping the proverbial axe on the not so proverbial genitalia of their own cat.

Some cat owners don't want Fluffy to part with his beloved cat missile, but there is another option. In Calgary, it is a fineable offence for cats to be out on the streets. Besides introducing the feline to many new dangers, city streets are, oddly enough, home to other species that don't have the defences against these domesticated menaces. Songbirds are one of the many examples that end up as Fluffy food, if Fluffy is let out to play everyday. Disillusioned cat owners believe that cats need this open space to thrive and live happy lives, but this is not the case. Cats could live happily destroying the owners' domicile if the owner provides all the things they need: food, shelter, warmth, and a sandbox or houseplant to shit in. If that's not enough to convince cat owners, then consider this disturbing possibility: seeking warmth in the winter, cats often end up getting fricasseed in parked cars' engine blocks when the unwitting driver starts their car in the morning. This possibility is greatly increased when some drivers, not particularly fond of cats, place cat food under the hood. If a loving cat owner would find it unfavourable to donate a cat soup to their neighbour,

perhaps it would be an advisable action to keep the cat inside.

Potential cat owners also have a part in reducing the kitten massacre. Pet stores always have cats in stock—there is an endless supply of professionally bred cats. At the same time, there are equally cute and fluffy specimens doomed to wait on kitty death row for the lethal injection at SPCAs around the city. For a potential cat owner, the choice is obvious: pick up a cat from the SPCA who is equally adorable and does all the same cat things, like ignore you and meow randomly at all times of the night, rather than buy a new cat. Working on the principle of the three R's, picking up unwanted SPCA cats reduces the demand for new cats and lowers the amount that are bred in the long run, reuses and recycles a cat who would've otherwise been dust in the wind. Hell, new cat owners should pick up two if they want, as long as they don't starve them and force them to fight each other. The SPCA frowns upon that.

Kittens are great, but very few people want to care for the inevitable evolution of kittens: cats. The group that actually likes cats has the unenviable job of behaving responsibly when it comes to their feline's welfare. Avoiding fines, unwanted offspring, and ground feline *à la car* are some of the many tasks that a cat owner must undertake. Fortunately, all these things are easily avoidable problems by removing the cat's doodads and keeping them inside the house. Now if only human children were so easy to control.



219 - 16 Ave. N.E. 277.2747

# SU View: Mmm... Votes!

Canadians are in the midst of a federal election, with our final opportunity to vote fast approaching on Monday, January 23.

Ways that the federal government affects university students include bankruptcy legislation on student loans, GST on textbooks, the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, and the registered education savings plans. Student lobby groups are calling for a dedicated transfer to post-secondary education, and a pan-Canadian accord on post-secondary education, as well as student financial assistance that reduces student debt. You can find information on the stance of each party on these issues, plus information on how to vote, by visiting some of the following websites; [www.elections.ca](http://www.elections.ca) [www.voteeducation.ca](http://www.voteeducation.ca) [www.thinkeducation.ca](http://www.thinkeducation.ca) [www.howdtheyvote.ca](http://www.howdtheyvote.ca) [www.fairvotecanada.org](http://www.fairvotecanada.org)

[www.edibleballot.tao.ca](http://www.edibleballot.tao.ca)

There are many groups out there dedicated to getting youth to vote, as well as groups dedicated to changing Canada's electoral laws, and even groups who think you should eat your ballot to protest what they view as an overall lack of democracy in Canada!

While voting is a great way to participate, by no means is it the only way for you to influence the government. Democracy is a process, not an event. Staying informed on the issues, asking questions, making suggestions, and keeping your elected officials accountable is something that you can do every day!

We have the power to make a difference. Politicians can't hear you bitch to your friends, or yell at the TV, but come January 23rd they will hear the results of your vote.

Jen Smith

Vice-President External

Postgraduate

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