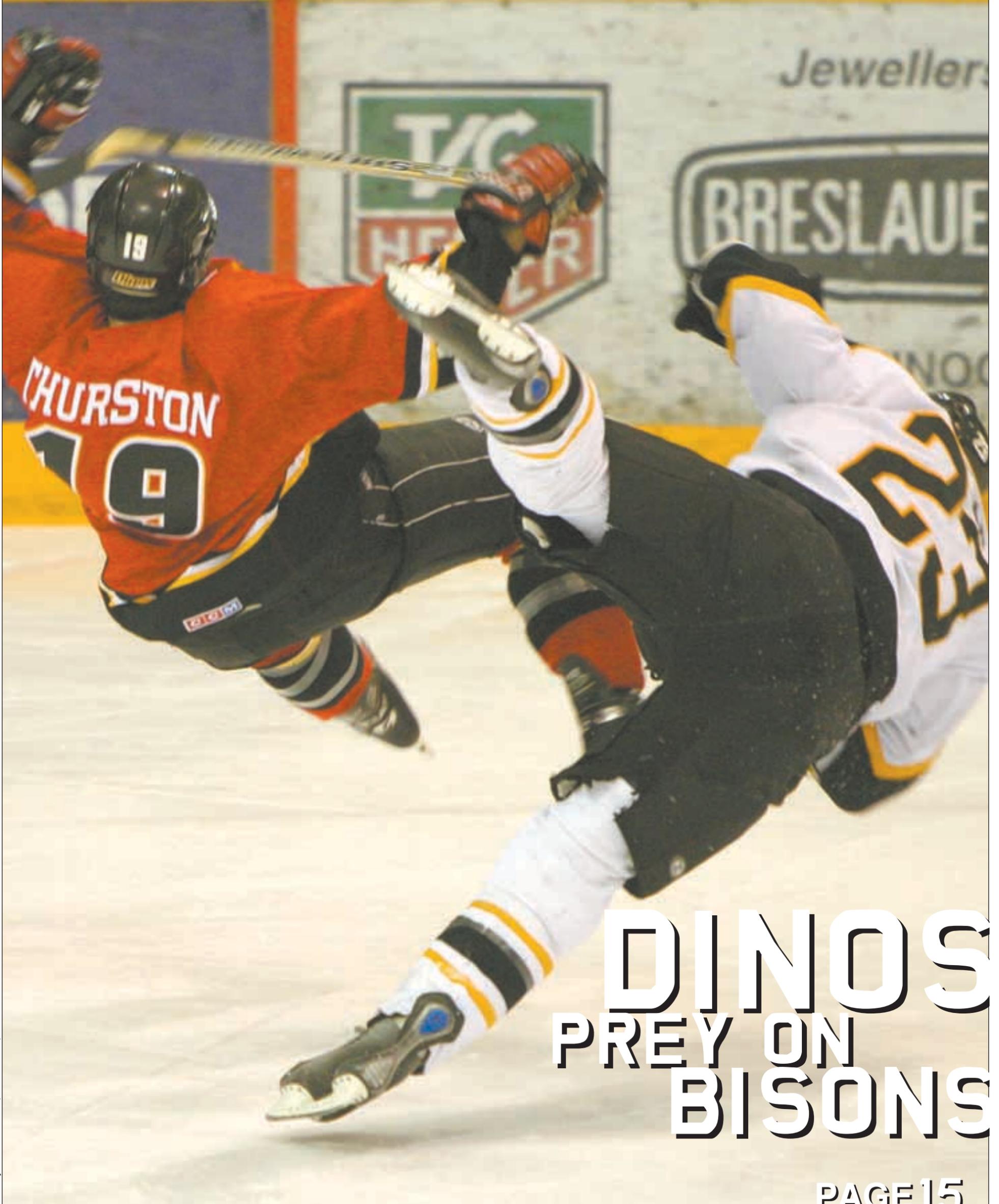


UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

gauntlet

VOLUME 46 • ISSUE NO. 28 • FEBRUARY 2 • 2006



DINOS PREY ON BISONS

PAGE 15

CALENDAR OF CURIOSITIES

www.su.ucalgary.ca

MUCH DOES CALGARY

FEBRUARY 25, 2006

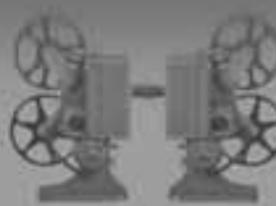
den bottle shop

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with guests
Novillero

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Tickets available at Ticketmaster, Megatunes and SU.

ticketmaster, SU

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An Evening with

Avi Lewis

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STUDENTS OF THE WORLD UNITE



A former MuchMusic Political Specialist, host of *The New Music*, and host/producer of CBC Newsworld's counterSpin, Avi Lewis recently directed his first feature film, *The Take*.

Public Lecture, Wednesday, Feb. 15
8 pm, MacEwan Ballroom

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SU, FIT, Foundation for the Arts

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SU

Students' Union Weekly Schedule of Events, Feb. 6 to 11, 2006

Monday, Feb. 6	Tuesday, Feb. 7	Wednesday, Feb. 8	Thursday, Feb. 9	Friday, Feb. 10	Saturday, Feb. 11
CINEMANIA 10:30 AM - 12:00 AM kiss kiss bang bang	YOUR TIME TO SHINE KARAOKE IN THE BLACK LOUNGE den	den REGGAE Every Wednesday night	Feeling unappreciated? Thursdays are Student Appreciation Nights at the Den! den	THE RETURN OF ELLIOTT BROOD DISPOSABLE CARS The Empty Space!	Geology Rock for the Gallagher Cabaret den

STUDENTS' UNION

FULL OF SELF-IMPORTANCE SINCE 1967





Walter Ash/the Gauntlet

Shackter up, cowboys ENTERTAINMENT
And watch some French stereotypes feel each other up

4 EDITORIAL/LETTERS

Allah Ackbar, hypocrites

Find out how democracy bit the hand that fed it, and read a plethora of letters. Well, two.

5 NEWS

Vuskocil for SU-lifer

Nominations for SU politician-wannabes are mostly closed. We salute our new phony, loudmouthed, over-ambitious overlords. Plus, don't shack up with your old-lady or the government will fuck you.

12 SPORTS

Don't stop believin'

As regular seasons near the end of the road, some Dinos teams look forward to the post-season curves, some drive off a cliff and others must hit the nitrous oxide to stay in the race.

18 ESCAPES AND PURSUITS

Blood dungeon is playing

I haven't heard of them either, but what does that mean? Do they play in a dungeon of blood? Is the blood of the musicians so virile that the cells are like tiny dungeon keeps?

19 ENTERTAINMENT

playRites goes totalitarian

ATP's festival turns the corner to tyranny, the Thurston Revival are in no need of revival. People dance about, (working title) works hard for their money and... Orgasms!

26 FEATURES

Underdog

When does the indefensible become defensible in film?

27 OPINIONS

Karla Homolka...

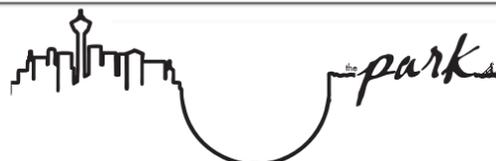
And a completely unrelated piece pertaining to morality.

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Golden Spatula: Simon "looking-for-a-social-life" Jackson for penning over 1,800 words on a topic few care about: the SU. Kudos.

The Gauntlet

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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.

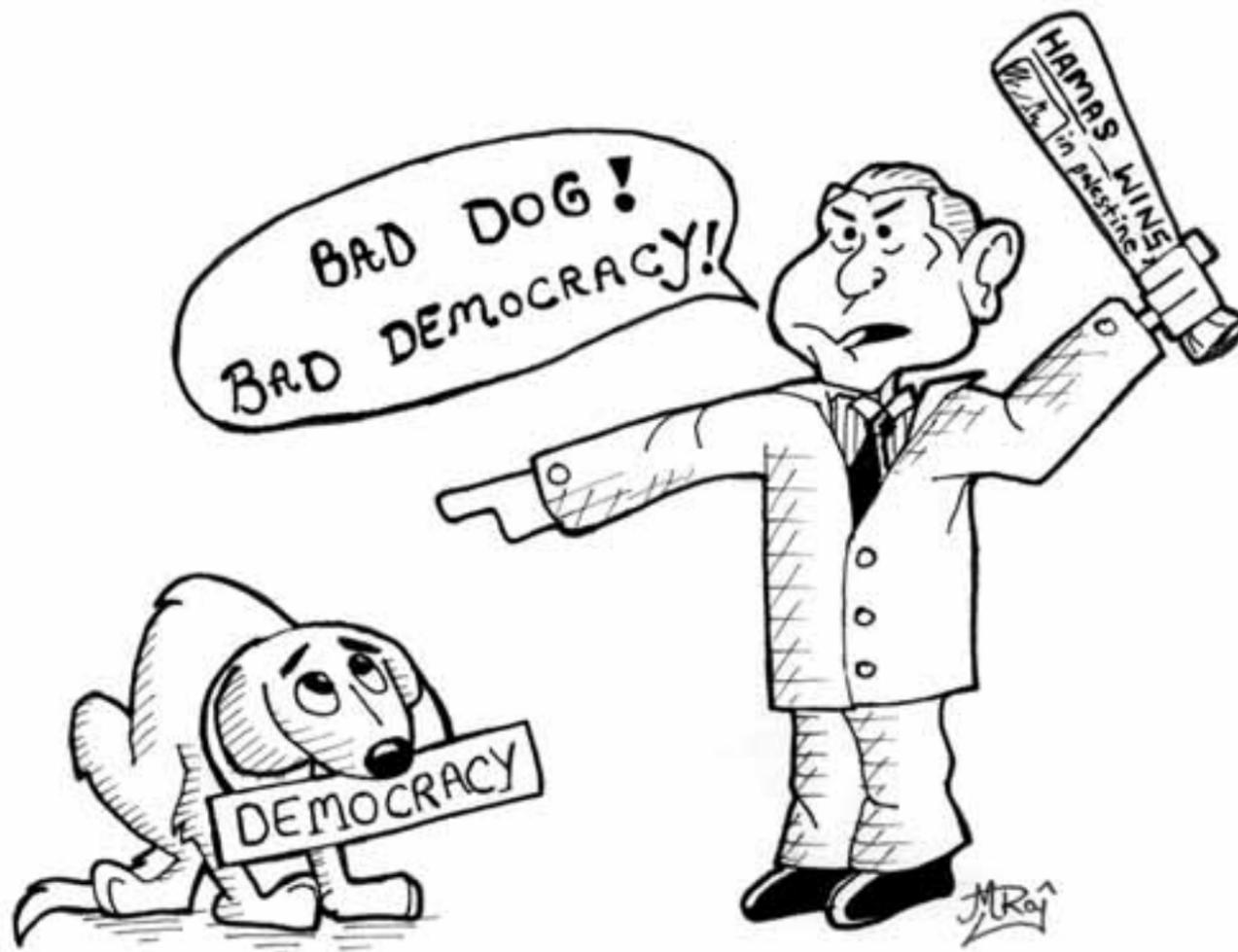
The Gauntlet is a forum open to all U of C students but may refuse any submission judged to be racist, sexist, homophobic, libelous, or containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. We reserve the right to edit for brevity. Grievances regarding the Gauntlet follow a three-step process which requires 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 blowjob queen based ink. We urge you to recycle/mummify 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.



Democracy gets kicked in the Hamas

Dear Bush Administration,
[Re: Palestinian Election]

We are writing first to express our gratitude for the actions taken throughout your ruling terms to the end of promoting democracy in the Middle East. We feel that, had it not been for your actions in recent years, we would have neither the hatred necessary to institutionally legitimize our goals, nor would the burgeoning Middle-Eastern democratic scene have the respect it needs to make us a force to be reckoned with on a global scale.

Consider for a second: if you weren't already in the process of constructing democracy in Iraq, the world might not be looking to us already implemented Middle-

Eastern democracies to be leaders in your new order. But it is too late for that, hindsight is 20/20, as you Americans say, and nothing will change the fact that you have painted yourself into the corner.

Which brings us to the real concern behind this letter; you have recently demanded that we change our attitude towards Israel and disarm before you will accept us as the new leaders of Palestine. Are we to believe that is how a democracy should work? People elected us on our campaign, is it not our duty to deliver on our promises? Is this not how democracies are run in your neck of the woods? I would strongly advise you to consider the ramifications of having your cake and eating it too.

If you really, truly believe the circumstances that lead to our legitimization are not just, then what does that say about your belief in your own methods? The American Way is maybe not so powerful when its comrades-in-arms Truth and Justice are out to lunch.

We live in a brave new world, a world that is predicated on distaste towards the actions of so many administrations over so many decades on our little peice of it. If it's not fair to be elected on a platform of hatred, why has party platform rhetoric worldwide been slipping from "these are my goals" to "I'm not the other guy?" Think of this next time you run a campaign attacking your opponents' credibility or decisiveness.

As for your criticism that our campaign platform misrepresented our true goals—that our campaign focused on quality of life while our true platform is war—you above all others could hardly begrudge us some shifted focus in our election campaign; after all, your own 2004 election motto was hardly "Oil, and let's get that bastard Hussein," when, really, there isn't a whole lot more to your government.

So please think of these words when you give your state of the union speech. Remember us here in what you would call "squalor" and we would call "righteous anger." Remember, before you say "democracy is strong," that democracy now includes Hamas.

Sincerely,
Hamas

Editor, the Gauntlet: Aborting Ralph bucks

Ralph Bucks a vote grab? No!

Editor, the Gauntlet
[Re: Ralph Bucks]

Experts with the Investors Group have estimated that if Klein would have put these funds into investments for a period of two years, we could have doubled if not tripled the amount of our return.

If Klein isn't going to think about Alberta's future, maybe we should think of our own. Instead of falling for the offers out there to "double your return" with minimum purchases, we need to invest this money or open a

business with these funds. Some companies out there are offering us just such a chance. Could this be a better solution... letting our money work for us, for our future? Or should we simply succumb to the offers and let major corporations capitalize on our contributions in strengthening our province?

Chris Lautischer

People care about abortion

Editor, the Gauntlet:

Weekly, I continue to read about the ongoing pro-life/pro-

choice debate, and I believe we are missing the point.

"The point" is not about being pro-life or pro-choice. It is not about whether women have the right to choose what happens to their bodies, nor is about protecting the sanctity of human life: the issue goes deeper than being right or rallying around a cause.

We are vindicated when we choose to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, including the unborn. However, we must consider that maybe being "pro-life" extends beyond birth and encompasses how we choose to act in our dealings with people. Are we pro-life in how we regard mothers faced with incredibly tough choices? When

it comes to helping the student community? Is this something that is consistent throughout our lives?

What if "pro-life" was about a willingness to "do life" with people: to listen to them with our hearts, not our morals; to put ourselves aside, enter into their situation, and walk with them every step of the way; to do whatever is required of ourselves to provide a woman with the option of not aborting in her circumstance. If we spent half of the time trying to do right as we do on trying to be right, maybe we would no longer have difficulties deciding what "right" looks like—we would know it because we see it.

Christine Henshaw

NEWS

A student loan nightmare

Application disagreement leads to lengthy appeal and repo man

Eric Klotz

Gauntlet News

Getting less money than expected from Alberta Student Finance may be a slice of heaven compared to being forced to pay back your entire student loan within 90 days.

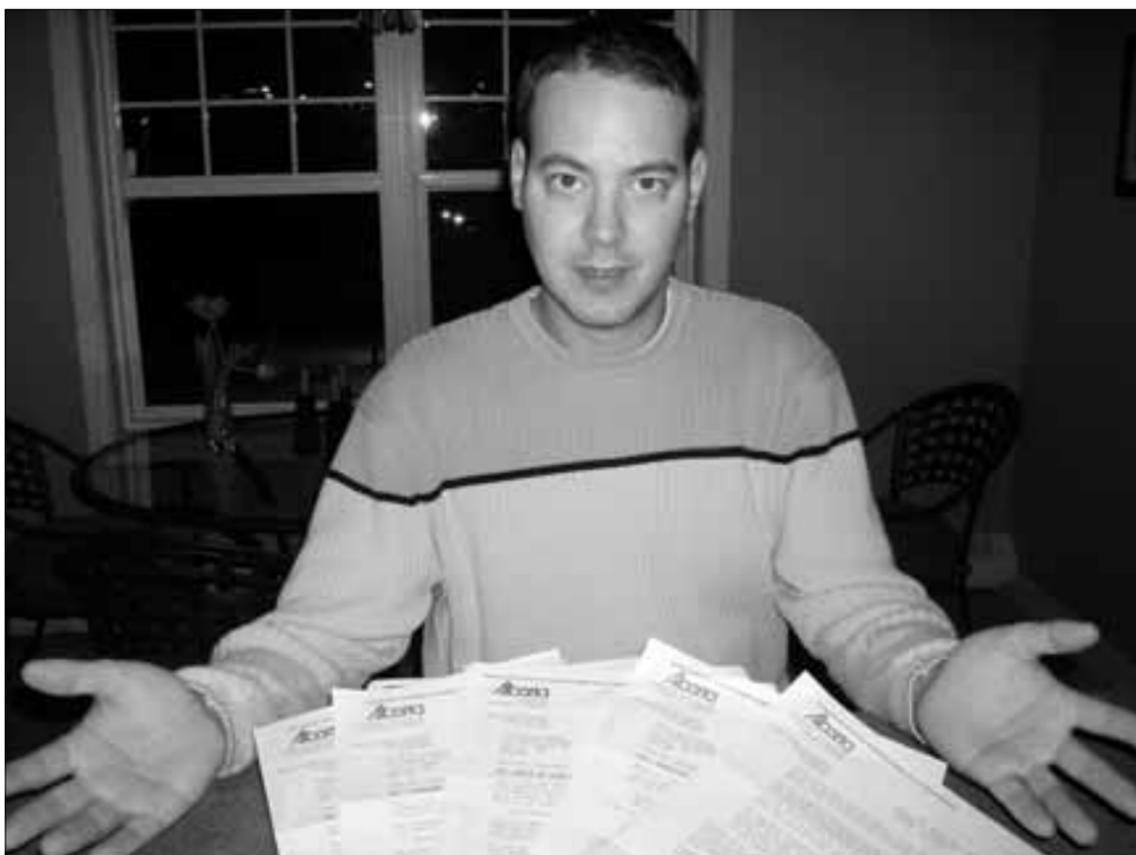
Calgarian and 2005 Devry graduate Tyler Gislason is facing that possibility after coming into conflict with Alberta Students Finance. ASF accused Gislason of misrepresenting information on his student loan application and claim he owes close to \$36,000, the entire amount of his loan.

ASF randomly audits debtors to ensure validity of application information. In the event discrepancies arise, ASF enlists the support of Program Compliance and Investigations to pursue those suspected of fleecing ASF.

ASF claims Gislason should have been able to access resources from his then-girlfriend, also a full-time student receiving student loans.

"They felt I had access to funds I did not have," said Gislason. "They wanted money for my entire loan and the only option I had was to write a formal appeal."

Gislason, who earned a 3.8 grade-point-average in computer science,



Courtesy Tyler Gislason

Gislason's story illustrates the dangers of relationship commitment.

took ASF to task and compiled a comprehensive 13-page appeal.

"I was 100 per cent confident I would win, because I am right," he said.

The point of contention was that Gislason had not claimed com-

mon-law marital status on his loan application.

"Because of a cohabitation agreement signed by me and my partner we relinquished the rights of common-law for our situation," said Gislason, adding the cohabi-

tation agreement stipulates both parties will not at any time seek financial support from each other and cannot claim mutual liability for debt.

Unfortunately for Gislason, ASF does not interpret a cohabitation

agreement as justification for separate finances.

"Our policies are based on the expectations they will support each other financially," said ASF communications representative Cam Traynor.

"[The cohabitation agreement] has no impact on our rights, in accordance with the regulations, to consider your common-law partner's financial resources when determining your financial assistance," said ASF in a Nov. 2005 letter to Gislason. Understanding ASF was not interested in his own legal obligations to his partner, Gislason researched the legality of common-law, as ASF understands it.

In 2003 Alberta law changed the rules of common-law living to a more contemporary Adult Interdependent Relationships Act. The new legal code declares an adult interdependent relationship ensues when two individuals have been living in an interdependent relationship for a minimum of three years, or living in an interdependent relationship with some permanence where there is a child by birth or adoption, or when the couple has entered into a written adult interdependent partner agreement.

see LOANS, page 9

SU election announces candidate selection

Chris Beauchamp

News Editor

Nominations are closed on three of five Students' Union executive positions in this year's SU General Election.

The presidential race is closed, with current Residence Students' Association president Emily Wyatt

squaring off against two-time SU vice-president events Alex Vyskocil, current operations and finance commissioner Andrew Lahey, and newcomer Mark Armstrong.

The 2006 VP events position will be a slug-fest between Dino wrestler Beamer Comfort and current events commissioner Eric Jablonski. Meanwhile, current

external commissioner Mike Soron and humanities faculty representative Julie Labonte will spar over the VP external position.

The VP positions for academic and operations and finance were still open at press time as only one candidate had applied in each race.

The commissioner races for academic, external, and events are also

all closed with over 20 candidates vying for the positions. There are four commissioner positions for each executive portfolio.

su president Bryan West will be competing against newcomer Jordan Besouw for the University of Calgary Board of Governors student rep position. The races for a number of faculty representative positions,

the senate rep spots and operations and finance commissioners are also still open.

A complete listing of candidates will be posted on the doors of the SU offices in MacEwan Student Centre Thu., Feb. 2. Polls will be open Feb. 14-16.

All-candidates forums run Feb. 6-10 in the MSC North Courtyard from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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John Eisler
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Mark Mullin
Conrad Ouchi
Bill Rodgers
Laurel Smith
Mary Shannon Will

series pam king
collected memories



Opening Reception
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Quality money update

Simon Jackson
Gauntlet News

A look at how the SU is spending U of C money

At the Dec. 2003 University of Calgary Board of Governors meeting, the Students' Union and Graduate Students' Association successfully proposed they be given \$1 million in 'quality enhancement' money so students would see benefits in the face of continued tuition increases. In 2004, the initiative continued and the SU and GSA were given \$1,645,880. The GSA, having 17 per cent of the total students, were allocated that percentage of the money, with the SU getting the rest.

The SU held a plebiscite during last year's general election to canvas student opinion on how the money should be spent. Students were asked to prioritize options on a three-point scale based on importance. A joint committee representing the Students' Academic Assembly and the Students' Legislative Council made the final decision. The following is an update on how that money is being spent.

Student Commons: \$344,400

The Student Commons project aims to transform the open air courtyard adjoining the MacEwan Student Centre into an indoor student space, allowing year-round use and providing study areas and a potential for retail space.

The project is currently still in the design stage, as Joel Lockwood, SU vice-president operations and finance openly acknowledges.

"We still hope to break ground by April before we leave office," said Lockwood. "We are having difficulties getting this thing going, but nothing we didn't expect. I have made this project my priority for the next few weeks. Gaining consensus with so many stakeholders involved is slow going."

Lockwood noted the SU will meet with architects and designers soon to form a number of plans and ideas for the upcoming commons. These will be posted in msc.

According to the plebiscite results, the Student Commons scored the lowest number of high-priority votes, giving it the least support among students. However, it was given full approval by the committee and 25 per cent of the funds.

Lockwood took time to point out that despite the initial lack of enthusiasm, the university is now undertaking its 40th Anniversary project

to provide a larger number of student spaces on campus.

"Student space is a recurring request," he said, "and the Student Commons helps address that."

Students' Union Undergraduate Research Endowment: \$344,400

Many of the quality money initiatives are existing projects. The Undergraduate Student Research Program in Health and Wellness, the beneficiary of a further 25 per cent of the SU funds, was originally the brainchild of Dr. Aaron Tubman, who modeled it on a program at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"The program was formerly known as the USRP in Bone and Joint Health," said Dr. Tubman. "I started the program in 2002. It provides both studentships and research grants. Its purpose is to allow undergraduate students to find a mentor in their faculty and for the two of them to propose a project for funding. The studentships provide a stipend, money for the student to live on, while the research grants are for the purchase of equipment for the project."

The SU funding has helped the growth of the USRP which will provide 20 studentships/grants in 2006, growing to 30 the following year. The funds allocated by the quality money account for two-thirds of the total.

Dr. Tubman acknowledged the support of SU president Bryan West, who was instrumental in pushing the initiative forward, but said the completion of the process took longer, as West needed to finalize support within his committee.

"It's pretty much like giving a student a pay check and allowing them to improve the research they do here at the U of C," said West.

Campus Improvement Fund: \$206,640

The Campus Improvement Fund is a pool

of money designed to pursue smaller projects, according to SU VP academic Paige Forsyth. It accounts for 15 per cent of the money.

"We allocated this in response to work done by previous members of the Students' Academic Assembly in determining issues within their respective departments," said Forsyth. "To gain approval a project must have a sponsor within the SAA who submits an application to the committee."

Medicine representative Renee Lee, the only current recipient of money from this pool, used the money to found scholarships.

Class Size Reduction Program: \$206,640

Class size reduction was the number one priority for students who voted in the plebiscite. It also attracted the attention of the SU who approached the U of C administration for a joint solution.

VP academic Paige Forsyth said addressing class sizes is a complex issue.

"I worked closely on this issue with the provost Dr. Ron Bond, and with the registrar who provided details on class sizes, numbers of subscribers and details of other available facilities," said Forsyth. "The university also added

\$125,000 to the scheme. We looked at certain key features: reducing large classes, breaking down some of the senior classes to improve their quality and space and adding new classes in over-subscribed subjects."

The results were 33 new sections or classes for 2005/06. Forsyth acknowledged that money wasn't the primary focus in achieving results in this area.

"We put on as many classes as we could but then simply ran out of space," she said. "Between the prime times of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. there are simply no available classrooms to add anything more. The U of C would need new facilities before we could do anything further."

Student Awards

(Dr. Peggy Patterson Awards): \$110,208

Eight per cent of the quality money went to increasing the number of awards available to students in the name of former associate VP of student affairs Dr. Peggy Patterson.

Forsyth stressed the importance of creating awards rather than scholarships.

"We wanted to make these awards, because scholarships are far more about academic merit and usually require a grade-point-average of 3.2 or better. These awards will be available to students in their second-, third- or fourth-year, with a GPA of 2.7 or more

see QUALITY MONEY, page 7



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

"We put on as many classes as we could, but then simply ran out of space."

-Paige Forsyth, SU vice-president academic



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CJSW Episode IV: A New Hope

Chris Beauchamp
News Editor

An anonymous donor has stepped up to pledge support for the relocation of CJSW, prompting hope that construction may resume on the station's new space.

"A private donor has moved forward where he or she's in a position to help CJSW financially," said Students' Union vice-president operations and finance Joel Lockwood, noting the help would not be a donation, but rather a loan for the station. "It's a big surprise. It's definitely positive."

Tensions have grown between the station and the SU after the SU halted construction on CJSW's new space in early January, citing a lack of funding on the station's part. CJSW maintains the SU has not provided the station with enough information to sign off on the costs.

"This isn't the end to all ends," said CJSW station manager Chad Saunders. "Ultimately we need to understand the costs of building a radio station on campus and we need it to be affordable."



Dominic Fabrig/the Gauntlet

CJSW programmer Ramin Yazdi would love to see the station move into a new studio.

Saunders said the next steps will be negotiating the terms of the loan and finalizing an agreement. He also mentioned there have been other potential donors who have stepped up as well.

"There's a few members willing to pony up money for the space, or lend us money, but they also want to know what the costs are," he said.

The project would move the campus radio station from its

long-time home in the bowels of MacEwan Student Centre to the third-floor, along with NUTV and a new prayer space.

The decision to halt construction came after CJSW asked the University

of Calgary to conduct an audit on the SU, who are acting as project managers. The audit concluded the SU was charging 10 per cent more for construction costs than the auditor deemed necessary, but Lockwood said the result was within industry standards.

The station hoped to get help from the U of C or the SU in securing a loan, but Lockwood explained that by-laws restricted the SU from lending money or co-signing to lend. Saunders said the university was also unable to help directly because technically the station is a service to students, not a necessity.

"It's unfortunate we don't really have a lot of options in financial support from sources at the U of C," he said. "But this shows CJSW is continuing to find support from the community for this project. I'm told there's a lot of money in this town, it's just a matter of us getting a hold of it."

Lockwood is planning to meet with the donor this week to negotiate terms for the loan. Construction on new space for NUTV and the prayer space is continuing.

Quality money cont'd from page 6

who demonstrate a financial need."

The money given by the SU has gone into a pool from which two awards per year of \$3,000 will be given out.

Teaching Excellence Awards Program: \$110,208

Many existing students will have heard of the Teaching Excellence Awards. The SU decided to expand the program in an attempt to encourage higher standards of teaching, to train better teachers and to reward good faculties.

"Teachers given awards benefit from their standards but we also place emphasis on the faculty to encourage improvements in teaching," said Forsyth. "Teachers can be sent to the Learning Commons for more training and the money we provide the faculty can be used for this. Alternatively the faculty can give the money to the library to improve student resources. Either way, we felt this program was something positive that helped raise standards of teaching on campus."

The extra money helped raise the awards'

total value to \$20,000 per year. Each winner receives \$500, and \$1,000 goes to their faculty. Those given honourable mention receive \$250 and \$500 for their faculty.

Library Improvement Grant: \$55,104

The SU provided four per cent of the money to the library to provide improvements. Librarian Ada-Marie Atkins Nechka said the library decided to spend the money on a new online E-brary program.

"We presented a proposal to the SU for funding our E-brary," said Nechka. "This online program allows our users to access over 30,000 titles online, and includes search and note taking facilities. We pay a subscription of \$50,000 a year for this program and the SU has effectively paid for that this year, which has allowed us to use our money to expand

that subscription. We hope to keep adding to the number of titles we can access."

Nechka was keen to stress the value of the relationship with the SU.

"We already receive around \$100,000 from the SU via the Library Fee Levy," she said. "We hope to maintain this and to expand our resources to provide a better student experience and quality of learning."

Conclusion

Students will have another chance to rate their choices for spending this year's quality money. The question will be on the SU General Election ballot.

Both the SU and U of C administration feel the initiatives have been a success.

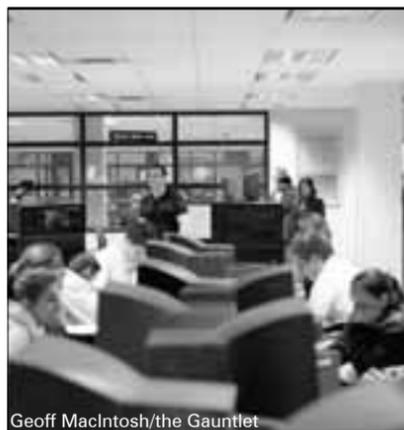
"We feel the whole thing has gone extremely well," said U of C VP external Roman Cooney. "No other university in Canada has given

money directly to students in this way. The results speak for themselves, and the Board of Governors just voted in December to not only continue the project but to increase the level of funding this year to around \$1.6 million. We don't agree on everything, and nor will we ever, but we have found this SU remarkably focused and action-oriented."

SU president Bryan West also expressed his surprise at how well the quality money initiative has gone.

"When we first asked the university for the quality money, it was because we wanted to give students a tuition rebate," he said. "We expected the Alberta government would increase their level of funding to the university, but didn't expect that the university would pass any of this on to the students. In the end though, students highlighted to us through the plebiscite that their concerns weren't in getting a rebate but in reducing class sizes and providing for improvements in other ways. All of this has come from that."

Students can rank their choices by voting in the SU General Election Feb. 14-16



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

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Calgary unsustainable? No, really?

Andrew Rininsland
Gauntlet News

Over 40 students met in MacEwan Hall Thu., Jan. 26 to discuss the future of the city at Sustainable Calgary's Citizens' Agenda workshop.

The workshop, attended mostly

by urban studies students, focused on how to make Calgary more sustainable within the next five years. Among the ideas presented were the reinvestment of government energy revenues into renewable energy, a cap on public transit increases, tax incentives for environmentally-friendly building practises and the

reallocation of 65 per cent of city transportation spending to public transit and active transportation. Much of the discussion was related to Sustainable Calgary's 2004 "State of Our City" report, which gave Calgary a positive grade on only 11 out of 36 indicators.

"We're really struggling and if we

keep going at the rate that we are right now, it's going to have detrimental causes to us, our children, our society; it's going to have long-term impeding effects," said project coordinator Maryam Nabavi. "Our sense of community, our natural environment, how we function as a city, the gaps between the rich and the poor and various other aspects we really don't see are going to be suffering and all the problems in the report seem to be increasing. The only way to change that is to have a paradigm shift and get people thinking in a different way so that the kind of reforms we're hoping for right now can happen."

According to the "State of Our City" report, Calgary is promising on several fronts, especially the attitudes of its citizens towards volunteer work, citing a study by the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy showing that Calgarians volunteer more than people in any other Canadian city. However, Nabavi's optimism is curbed by environmental practises showing Calgarians also use the most resources in the country per capita.

"One of the most harrowing things we've seen is that the land we use and the resources we use are greater than anywhere else in Canada or arguably the world," noted Nabavi. "If everyone in the world lived like Calgarians do, it would take eight planets to make the world sustainable. We're damaging the environment, but it's having social and economic effects on us, and we don't really see that."

The workshop was one of 25 consultations held by the group across the city. Later this spring, the group plans to compile the findings of the workshops into a report to be presented to city hall and the community in time for the April municipal elections.

"The trend's been that we haven't been moving toward sustainable practices, but what I think hasn't been acknowledged is that there's a very large counter-culture and it has a really large voice," said Nabavi. "People want to speak about these issues and they want to be heard."

To learn more go to www.sustainablecalgary.ca.

VOTE
in the
SU GENERAL ELECTION

Voting days:
February 14, 15 and 16

Candidate Forums

February 6th - 10th
MSC North Courtyard
11:30am - 1:30pm

Commissioner's VP's		Board of Governors & Senate Forums Monday, February 13 11:30am - 1:30pm MSC North Courtyard
11:30am - 12:30pm	12:30pm - 1:30pm	
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Tuesday	External	
Wednesday	Events	
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Questions? Contact the Calaway Park Human Resource Department at 685-6118 or email humanresources@calawaypark.com

Part-time status can get you too

Loans cont'd from page 5

"None of these criteria apply to my situation," said Gislason. "In fact my partner and I made a concerted effort to opt out of any common-law obligation with our cohabitation agreement."

According to Gislason, ASF promised no action would be taken towards outstanding debts during his appeal process. However he has since received a phone call from a collection agency.

"My otherwise perfect credit

history has been thwarted," said Gislason. "I now have a collection showing \$6,000 for my millennium scholarship. I tried to obtain a consolidation loan to end my government liabilities but was denied because of a collection automatically initiated by [ASF]. How can someone fresh out of university cover these expenses?"

When he inquired about the collection, Gislason was told the part of the system respon-

sible for repayment of millennium scholarship was initiated before recognition of the appeal could halt the process.

Gislason is still in the midst of his appeal. The process has been underway for two years and Gislason said he is now doubtful of a favourable outcome.

University of Calgary alumni Brock Balog had a similar problem when ASF sent his account to collec-

tions for the entire \$2,000 given to

him as a millennium grant. "I got a letter from a collection agency demanding \$2,000 in the next 90 days," said Balog.

Balog had dropped one course and went into part-time student status. Unfortunately his application for financing stated he was full-time. Extenuating circumstances kept Balog from having the time to facilitate a full-time workload.

"In retrospect, I should have reflected more pensively on my loan application," he said.

U of C Students' Union vice-president external Jen Smith agrees.

"If a student has a change of circumstances they can go see an advisor, that's what they are there for," said Smith.

Smith said the province is involved in making the appeal process better, but in the mean-time students should make use of U of C Financial Services next to the library.

"Bring your application to Student Finances and make sure that everything is accurate."

Library picks up Amazon ads

Diana Lyuber
Gauntlet News

The University of Calgary Library has recently entered a partnership with the online bookstore Amazon, prompting questions about advertising in the academic environment.

Students searching the library catalogue now have the added option of expanding their search into the Amazon databases. If they purchase anything from Amazon, the library earns a small percentage of the revenue.

"It's a partnership opportunity that Amazon offers," said Library Client Services assistant director Darlene Warren. "Our development officer identified this as a potential source of added revenue, and the Information Resource Council approved it."

Warren said profits will go to acquisitions like book endowments.

"Depending on the volume of sales we would earn from 5 to 8.25 per cent of the purchase price on completed sales based on a sliding scale," explained Warren.

The official information technologies policy classifies the use of "university computing or network facilities for personal business purposes" as unethical.

U of C chief information officer Harold Esche agreed advertising on university web-space is usually inappropriate, but said it can be acceptable under certain circumstances.

"We don't want people setting up a business on the side, but at the same time the World Wide Web is not as black and white as it used to be," said Esche. "I think there is some room for interpretation in terms of hav-

ing appropriate ads in the context of the website."

Although the library website does have Amazon banners, Warren said they are not advertising.

"I don't see this as advertising *per se*," she said. "It's more of a fundraising partnership. Amazon has an engine that we can interact with, so this is an extra place to search."

Another searchable database, one headquartered a fair bit closer than amazon.ca, is our very own University Bookstore. Currently the library site does not have any links to the bookstore.

"I can understand their need for the Amazon site, but even a link to the bookstore would be nice," said bookstore manager Brent Beatty, stressing he wouldn't want to replace the Amazon link, just be included alongside it.

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www.grad.uOttawa.ca



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An alternative rating system

Condemnation or praise: rate your profs for all the web to see

Andrew Barbero
Gauntlet News

Students have been given another voice, although professors may not like what's being said.

When the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction moved online last semester the response rate plummeted to less than 35 per cent. With such low usage, some students are looking elsewhere for information on which professors to choose.

The website ratemyprofessor.ca allows students to anonymously rate professors' performances, provide comments on instruction

and even decide whether the prof is "hot or not." The site has proven a popular choice among students and a controversial subject with professors.

"[The Students' Union] has conflicting views of the site," said su vice-president academic Paige Forsyth. "It's a sounding board, and like any open forum you can't take it at face value."

Forsyth credits the students who provide meaningful comments and believes the University of Calgary may benefit from examining the results.

"I thought it was good that students were taking the time to write

things like, 'this prof is good if you're a visual learner,'" said Forsyth. "But it's dangerous when students start making personal comments about teachers."

The U of C Faculty Association echoed Forsyth's concerns.

"Anyone can sign on and make a comment, you don't even have to be a student in the class," explained TUCFA president Anton Colijn, who is rated 2.6 out of 5 on the website. Colijn questioned the validity of the comments being made by students.

"Comments can be nasty, hurtful and irrelevant," he said. "Some faculty members have seen their surveys and been devastated by them, especially when students make comments about the appearance of a professor."

Ratemyprofessor.ca has been around for six years and boasts millions of hits each year as students across the U.S. and Canada search for

information about their instructors. The site is free, but includes extra reviews for paying members.

"Any teacher knows what their strengths and weaknesses are," said communications and culture professor Dr. Max Foran, who

independent of the university.

"There's no 'Big Brother' effect [with the site]," argued Patrick Nagle, chief operating officer and co-owner of the site. "Students don't take the university rating system seriously. They don't see where their information is going or where it would make a difference."

Nagle insisted the ratings accurately reflect professors' performances.

"We get a lot of feedback from professors who love the site and use it as a gauge," he said.

Students seem to appreciate the site, citing the advantages it holds over the USRIS.

"It's more helpful than the information on the Infonet," said fourth-year accounting student Brendan Drew-Brook. "You only get numbers there. I think this site is a much better gauge."

USRIs can be accessed through the infonet, or be a rebel and check out www.ratemyprofessor.ca.

"These comments don't really focus on the teaching process."

-Dr. Max Foran,
communications and culture

earned 4.6 out of 5 on the site. "You need to look for consistency in the comments. You get those who really like you and those who hate you and they make comments with a lot of emotional baggage."

"These comments don't really focus on the teaching process," said Foran.

The website claims their evaluations are more valuable to students and professors than university sanctioned ones because they are

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WHY DON'T WE VOTE?

Increasing youth voter turnout in Canada

Elections Canada and Canada25 invite young people to participate in a unique roundtable on youth voter turnout. The aim of the roundtable is to develop concrete recommendations for increasing voter turnout among young people (ages 18 to 30).

The roundtable will consider issues under four broad headings:

- 1. THE CAMPAIGN PERIOD:** election advertising; voter registration; the role of political parties
- 2. ELECTION DAY:** the mechanics of the "perfect" voting process; online voting; in-person registration
- 3. BETWEEN ELECTIONS:** the role of educational institutions; online voter registration
- 4. SPECIAL OUTREACH:** reaching non-voters and marginalized groups

Recommendations from the roundtable will be assembled into a special report for Elections Canada. Representatives from Elections Canada will be present to speak at the event and to meet with participants.

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

TransAlta Place

110 - 12th Avenue SW, Calgary

5:00 PM - 10:00 PM

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Registration is limited to 125 people.



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Wind-power more than hot air

Sara Hanson
Gauntlet News

The University of Calgary spends millions each year on energy, and although recent moves like the U of C's partnership with Direct Energy promise to lower costs, some students want to see something more radical happen.

The U of C EcoClub is highlighting a sometimes overlooked source of energy: wind-power.

As part of their campaign, the EcoClub is showing three award-winning documentaries about the negative impacts of oil and gas on the environment. Although admission is free, the club will be asking for donations to support their main initiative—purchasing sustainable wind-power from the Pembina Institute, a non-profit environmental organization.

"The more wind-power that you



Courtesy Pembina Institute

The answer my friend, is blowin' in the wind. That's deep man, now pass the reefer.

support, the less fossil fuel you need to burn," said EcoClub president Stephanie Ferguson. "We're still pursuing dirty forms of energy,

and we must emphasize alternative forms instead."

While the wind energy would not be directly returned to the univer-

sity, Ferguson noted the amount of energy required for the three hours of film will be transferred into wind power.

Pembina Institute development associate Tina Barzo said when organizations purchase wind-power from Pembina, the money is used to help purchase turbines that generate electricity on a nearby wind farm. The energy produced at the wind farm feeds into the main grid for the entire Calgary area, thus reducing the amount of fossil fuels used.

Barzo said there is some public concern about the ecological impact that these enormous windmills have, but stressed that any disturbances are minor compared with the damage done by oil and gas lines.

"While reactions to wind power may be controversial, in the long term we need to go with the renewables," said Barzo.

Between Midnight and the Rooster's Crow, the next film in the EcoClub series screens Thu., Feb. 16. *Oil and Ice* screens Tue., Mar. 7. Both films begin at 6 p.m. in ST 145.

Nurses seek summer U-Pass

Emily Senger
News Assistant

Taking the bus could get a whole lot cheaper for some nursing students this spring and summer.

If a Students' Union proposal is approved by Calgary Transit, students in the fast-track nursing program will have their U-Pass extended to include the spring and summer semesters. According to SU vice-president academic Paige Forsyth, this could save hundreds of dollars for undergraduate nurs-

ing students who attend classes or work in unpaid clinical placements for two years straight.

"We're just starting with nursing students because it's a requirement of their program," said Forsyth. "Internships are by choice. Nursing students have to get back and forth to school on campus."

Forsyth said the SU may consider extending the pass to other undergraduate programs if the nursing students' pass is approved.

Like in fall and winter, the spring/summer U-Pass will not have an

opt-out option. All fast-track nursing students will pay for it, whether they use transit or not.

Second-year nursing student Gail Sorenson said she approves of extending the U-Pass for nursing students, who spend at least part of their summer working in clinicals without pay.

"You pay for the clinical—it's like another course," explained Sorenson. "The fast-track program is intense. It's school year-round."

The SU will know if the proposal is approved late next week.

What you need to know about

career opportunities in local government

The Government of Alberta's Municipal Internship Program in partnership with Alberta municipalities provides recent post-secondary graduates with career opportunities in local government.

- Interns gain experience in municipal administration, finance, human resources and recreation and receive a salary during placement.
- The program helps individuals progress into full-time positions after their internship.
- Internships run from May to April.

For more information or how to apply call 780-427-2225 toll-free by calling 310-0000 or visit the website at www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/ms/internship/

Hurry - deadline to apply is February 10, 2006




LAURENCE DECORE AWARD

in recognition of post-secondary students demonstrating outstanding dedication and leadership to fellow students and to their community

The Laurence Decore Award for Student Leadership is intended to recognize post-secondary students demonstrating outstanding dedication and leadership to fellow students and to their community.

Nominees for this award must be Alberta residents, as defined by Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund Regulations, and currently enrolled in a minimum of three full-time courses at a designated post-secondary institution in Alberta in the year of application. Nominees should display commitment in one or more of the following areas: 1) student government at the local, provincial, or national level; 2) student societies, clubs, organizations or non-profit community organizations. In addition, candidates must be recommended by the Selection Committee within the candidate's institution.



Award Value: \$500
Nomination Deadline:
Tuesday, February 28, 2005
Pick up and submit nomination forms to the Students' Union (MSC 251).

For more information, call the Students' Union at 220-6551.

WolfPack weally warge wosers

Carly McKay

Gauntlet Volleyball

The Dinos men's volleyball team's coming out party was held in the Jack Simpson Gymnasium Jan. 27-28. While it's unfortunate it came around so late in the season, the squad is happy it finally happened.

"It just proves my theory," beamed head coach Greg Ryan. "We finally have a healthy setter, we were more consistent in assists—it has a direct effect on our kill percentage."

And kill was the name of the game for the Dinos Friday night as they destroyed the Thompson Rivers University WolfPack in three straight sets (25-13, 25-20, 25-21).

There was a solid team contribution to the attack. Blake Adair and Eric von Engelbrechten shared the lead in kills with nine each, von Engelbrechten chipped in eight

digs as well. The team played with more confidence than they've shown all season, and although the victory came against the last placed team in the conference, every tally in the win column is a building block for next season.

"We can take a lot of things and learn from them," commented up-and-coming offside hitter Stephen Gotch. "It gives us a little momentum for next year."

Momentum was in good supply over the weekend as the home side rolled into Saturday's rematch with even more determination to take their first sweep of the season on their own court. With Adair again pacing the offense with seven kills, the Dinos easily defeated the hapless WolfPack in straight sets (25-22, 25-16, 25-22).

This improves their record to 4-14 heading into their last matches of the season: a road date with the University of Winnipeg Wesmen Feb. 11-12.



Paul Albert makes sure not to upset the frozen crowd.

Ryan Link/the Gauntlet

As Dinos pick up steam, playoffs appear on horizon

Samantha Attaway

Gauntlet Basketball

Watching Dinos men's basketball lately has been like launching a slinky: upon first observation, it seems flimsy and full of kinks, but when you finally let go the whole thing gains momentum and slowly but deliberately progresses. The whole process becomes mesmerizing to observe. The more it inches forward, the more uneasy you are that it will all come tumbling down.

Well holy pickle garnish Batman, the Dinos pulled through their third straight game, beating off the Thompson Rivers University WolfPack Jan. 27-28. As they approach their most crucial game of the season, the Dinos now carry a big stick of confidence. Batteries not included.

Of course, none of this comes as a shock to head coach Dan

Vanhooren. Prior to the matches in Kamloops, he was collected and determined, seeing each game as a challenge.

"If we pull through these games, that will be the confidence and momentum we need for Lethbridge," he said.

And pull through they did, coming 'round the mountain and winning both games by more than 10 points.

"It's their first year in Canadian Interuniversity Sport," Ross (Rosco) Bekkering pointed out. "So they were pretty talented for a college team. But they had some difficulties in the post position. They were a team that played hard. But all-in—all we were the better team."

Despite the WolfPack's efforts, the Dinos' carried momentum from the previous weekend to continue their winning streak.

In fact, Josh Feist arguably played his most electric games yet.

On Friday, he was the firecracker that could, hauling in 22 points and six assists while teammate Brian Finnis donated another 20 points and four assists with more silkiness than a Pantene Pro-V ad.

"We had to treat them like playoff games because it's so close right now," Finnis said of the positive weekend results. "Every game is pretty much a win for us."

Chris Wright followed up the cavalry as always with 15 sharp shots. A rebound here, a steal there and the Dinos slaughtered themselves an 89-70 victory.

Saturday seemed to be all about self improvement—a warm up for the weeks to come. As the Dinos sealed a lead from the very beginning, the only thing casting doubt over the weekend sweep was James Frey's account.

As TRU players Greg Stewart and Brent Taxel fouled out of

the pack, the Dinos painted the points on thicker than oil in Iraq. Yet, in typical Dino fashion, Finnis saw ways the team could improve.

"We gave up 52 points in the second half," he admitted, "which is not where we wanted to be at the end of the season. But, a W is a W right now."

Finnis stirred in a leading total of 20 points and four assists, while Rosco, now third in Canada West for rebounds, added 18 points and 14 rebounds to the mix. Cooked with 17 points and eight assists from Feist, you get a piping hot 98-85 victory. Mmm-mmm-good.

The Dinos' season has improved to 7-9, making their Fri., Feb. 3 away game against the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns the heart of the season. Blood pressures will be high as the Dinos desperately chase a playoff spot. The Pronghorns are 6-10 this season, making a win

vital for them as well. The teams meet again Sat., Feb. 4 in the Jack for what could be senior and captain Wright's last home game.

Despite the loss of Wright as a top post player and leader of the team, Vanhooren is confident about the seasons to come.

"The team is just going to build from here," he foretells. "By the time Ross is in his third year, we'll be a golden team."

"I'm still focused on this season" said Bekkering. "Doing the best we can is all we can do right now so, hopefully, our season ends how we want it to end."

But for right now, Mr. Vanhooren just wants his players back and healthy. This will be essential as the Dinos go after the University of Alberta Golden Bears for the second slot in their division and a shot at making playoffs. The glass is only half-full.

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PHOTO OF LAUREN PERRY BY PABLO GALVEZ, CANPROPHOTO.COM

100 points easy Not just splashin' around

Sean Nyilassy
Sports Editor

What happens when you cross a pack of wolves with a Dinosaur? Apparently, you just get a Dinosaur that is a little less hungry. The Dinos women's basketball team paid a visit to the Thompson Rivers University WolfPack Jan. 27-28 and came home with a belly full of laurels.

"I really like where we are right now," head coach Shawnee Harle explained. "But I still think that we've got a little bit more improvements left in us. I would expect to see those coming out in the next two to four weeks."

The Dinos came out with the vigor of the sun on Friday, jumping to an 8-0 lead in the first two minutes of the game. While keeping the WolfPack to no points would be almost impossible, the Dinos did continue to expand their lead. By halftime, the Dinos were up 48-32. The domination continued in the second half, putting the final score at 89-64.

Michelle Willson shot 72.7 per cent from the field for a game-high 20 points and added nine boards while Tanya Hautala added 18 points and four steals. Courtney Coyle amazed and astounded the crowd with a double-double 10 points and 12 rebounds. Katherine Adams added 10 points.

"It's a great group of people to work with. And not just the girls, everyone associated with the team," said Coyle of the Dinos, noting that their hard work is paying off.

If Friday's game was impressive,

you'd better take a seat before you continue reading. Saturday's match saw the Dinos more than double the WolfPack's halftime score at 59-27. However amusing it would have been to see them keep up that pace for a 118-54 win, the stars were just not properly aligned. But the Dinos did continue to out-score TRU for a 101-63 blow out.

The Dinos shot 61.4 per cent from the field to the WolfPack's 39 per cent and 56.5 per cent from beyond the arc to the Pack's 22.2 per cent. The Dinos also proved how deep the team is, with Lindsay Maundrell and Brianna Orr scoring 26 and 23 points respectively. Hautala continued to shine with 16 points while Coyle posted another double-double with 10 points and 11 boards.

"It was nice to play and contribute," said Orr.

The Dinos attempt to continue their domination on the road as they visit the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns Fri., Feb. 3 and return home for a rematch Sat., Feb. 4. The home game takes place in the Jack at 6 p.m.

"We're expecting to play like we've been practicing," Coyle explained. "Hopefully it will work out like it should."

The following weekend, the Dinos visit the University of Saskatchewan Huskies, the division leader. Harle is one who has high hopes for the upcoming games.

"It's in our own hands. We can still finish first without help from anybody," she said without any hint of doubt. "At this point in the season, with first at stake, we'll be ready."

Sean Nyilassy
Sports Editor

The Dinos swim team was drenched by a perfectly executed University of British Columbia Thunderbirds cannonball at the 2006 Canada West Swimming Championship Jan. 27-29. While the T-Birds dominated like the only able-eared kid in a deaf kids' game of Marco Polo, the Dinos were certainly second.

The UBC men were a tsunami hitting the third-world. They cleaned up with a 948-point total to the Dinos' 569.5 points. The Dinos were, however, an easy hundred points ahead of the third-place finishers—the University of Alberta Golden Bears—who had 458.5 points.

Individually, Chad Hankewich earned the Dinos some major credit. He edged out a UBC competitor by 0.04 seconds to win the 100-metre freestyle in 50.11 seconds. He earned a second gold in the 200-metre freestyle and proved an oil-based spread can still fly with a second-place finish in the 50-metre butterfly.

Michael Dredlger, too, was amphibious enough to steal some fire from the T-Birds. He was mere molecules ahead in the 400-metre individual medley, winning by 0.04 seconds. He also won the 1500-metre freestyle and took bronze in the 400-metre freestyle.

Other notable individuals included Kevin Gillespie, who placed third in both the 100- and 50-metre freestyle events, Kyle Sorrenti, who swam to third in the 200-metre IM, and Michael Derban, who was third in the 1500-metre freestyle.

As for the Dino's relay teams, like the World Trade Centre, some flying objects brought them down. In the case of the Dinos, it was T-Birds, not airplanes. The Dinos placed second to UBC in the 400-metre medley relay and 400- and 800-metre freestyle relays. The Dinos ladies' relay teams suffered an identical fate.

Our individual ladies too were trounced by the UBC swimmers. Final point tallies put the Dinos behind the T-Birds 864-507, but well ahead of the third-placed University of Victoria Vikes' 366-point total.

Laura Grant was the ladies' shining star. She won the 50- and 100-metre freestyle events and took bronze in the 200-metre freestyle.

Kim Hirsch snagged a triplet of medallions as well, with a silver performance in the 50-metre breaststroke and bronzes in each of the 100- and 200-metre breaststroke events.

Hanna Kubas made the right

backstroke to claim third in the 50-metre with a time just over 0.7 behind the winner. Katy Murdoch bronzed herself in the 200-metre backstroke.

To the Dinos' credit, these results were incredible considering their dominant competitors. The T-Birds have had the Canadian swimming scene in their grasp for ages and appear to be tightening their grip. Their point totals in both the men's and women's categories were the highest in CW history, and the win margins the largest. Proof that these stats are not just due to lacklustre competitors comes with the new records set at this meet. Swimmers from UBC broke 12 and tied one CW record. Wowie zowie.

The Dinos swimmers dive back into competition Feb. 24-26 for the 2006 Canadian Interuniversity Sport Swimming Championship at Université Laval. While chances of drowning the T-Birds are slim, the Dinos have a great shot at retaining second place nationally.

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Lady hockeysaurs record second win



Ryan Link/the Gauntlet

Taller, more blue and white, but not necessarily better.

Sean Nylassy
Sports Editor

The Dinos women's hockey team has not exactly had the hottest streak of wins this year. In fact, it has been somewhat of another disappointing year. However, things are beginning to look up like tourists beneath an erupting volcano.

Our ladies met the Mount Royal College Cougars Fri., Jan. 27. They proved to their doubtful fans that, though playoff hopes have been demolished, they definitely have something left in them.

They played like monkeys in captivity on Friday night, taking the Cougars by surprise. The Cougars were 10-3-2 going into the competition, while the Dinos sat at a meagre 1-15-0. If this wasn't enough, Cougars are a predatory creature while Dinosaurs have been extinct for some 60 million odd years.

In any case, Krista Larson and Dianne Ikeda scored the first two goals of the game. In contrast to the usual course of events, these

ladies were both dressed proudly as Dinos, giving our ladies a 2-0 lead.

As the first 20 minutes came to an end, the Cougars stepped it up and realized they'd have to bring their A game to bring this one home.

Kelsey Lund of MRC scored the only goal of the second period, proving that Cougars are not the type of lady you want to mess with. With the gap now down to one, it was anyone's game.

Kirstin Johnston tied the game for the Cougars just over half way into the final frame. But instead of wetting their panties, the Dinos kept the pressure on. Veteran Jennifer Mansell snuck a puck past the Cougar tender with just under three minutes remaining in the game.

While three Dinos had their moment with a goal each, the true star was Natalie Gerstmar, the goalie. She took 40 shots for the evening and put 38 of them to bed.

This combined effort gave the Dinos their second win of the season, 3-2. Hopefully, they will continue to prove their skills as they face the Cougars again Sat., Feb. 4 at Centennial Arena at 8:30 p.m.



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Grinding Manitoba into Bison meat

Crystal Wong
Gauntlet Hockey

After a slow start to 2006—losing four games in a row, including a game where they gave up five short-handed goals—the Dinos men's hockey team desperately needed a win. Fortunately, thanks to “monster performances,” as TSN's Pierre McGuire would put it, by Alex Lalonde and Brett O'Malley, the team finally found the win column Jan. 27–28 hosting the University of Manitoba Bisons at Father David Bauer Arena.

“We really dominated Saskatchewan in the 6–4 loss,” head coach Scott Atkinson commented on the Jan. 13 game. “But we basically lost that game in 30 seconds. Three short-handed goals in 30 seconds was virtually unheard of before.”

The Dinos fought hard for the win in their first game against the U of M, something they hadn't done in quite a while. After going up by two goals in the first, it seemed like the Bisons carried the Calgary Flames' “two-goal lead curse.”

In the second period, Andre Blanchette pulled the Dinos to within one less than five minutes in. Shortly thereafter, forward Jarret Lukin scored a short-handed goal to tie the game. However, the Bisons regained the lead less than a minute later on the same powerplay.

Despite being out-shot 8–12 in the third period, the Dinos dominated scoring. Lalonde netted two goals while Wes Reid added another, with all three coming at even strength. The Bisons had their chances but



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Drew Campbell almost slips one by as the Bisons goalie realizes, “oh, the puck's over there.”

simply couldn't get the puck past goaltender Scott Talbot. The goals went unanswered and the 5–3 final score won the Dinos their first regular season game since defeating the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds on Dec. 2.

Talbot was once again solid in net the second game, allowing just two goals on 38 shots. Drew Campbell

opened the scoring for the Dinos with a short-handed goal (yes, another one) and they never looked back. Nine penalties were called in the first period, but neither team could solve the goalies before the first intermission.

After regaining focus, former Calgary Hitman Brett O'Malley scored for the Dinos on a powerplay

that carried over from the first. The shots in the second favoured the Dinos 13–10, but the U of M's Warren McCutcheon scored late in the frame, making up for his

penalty that led to the O'Malley goal earlier.

Unfortunately for the Bisons, the Dinos knew they couldn't afford to lose another game, and it showed. Instead of playing a defensive game by trapping and hoping to keep the lead, the offense continued. O'Malley scored the game-winner, his eighth goal of the season, just a minute into the third.

The Dinos and Bisons each scored a goal, making the score 4–2. This inspired the Bisons to pull their goalie, a plan that backfired when Lalonde put in an empty netter for his third goal of the weekend. This competed the Dinos' sweep with a score of 5–2.

“Manitoba is a very good team, with great goaltending,” Atkinson said following the game. “We were able to dominate them, but it was still not our best game. I didn't think we played all that well.”

The Dinos, who were once first in the Mountain Division, have dropped to third behind the University of Alberta Golden Bears and UBC. They have also dropped to a 9–11–2 record and are 14 points behind the division leader. They hit the road to take on the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns Feb. 3–4. Lethbridge is the only team ranked lower than the Dinos in the standings with 10 points. However, the Dinos have had some trouble playing against this team, with a 1–2–1 record so far this season.

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off the page

Life is the crummiest book I ever read. There isn't a hook, just a lot of cheap shots. Pictures to shock and characters an amateur would never dream up.

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email offthepage@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca or just send us some fiction.

Volleysaurs look for clutch, not crutch players

Sean Nylassy
Sports Editor

If injuries were spots due to melanin buildup beneath the skin, the freckle-prone Dinos women's volleyball team has spent too long basking in the glory of the sun. They went into a pair of road games against Canada West's top team, the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds, Jan. 28-29, short four players.

Joanna Niemczewska has been out all season, with damaged meniscus in her right knee taking longer to heal than expected. While the decision to bench the two-time Canadian Interuniversity Sport Women's Volleyball Player of the Year was made in early January, the loss of other players has left too many empty shoes on the court.

Brittany Hutton, one of the team's two setters, has been out for about three months with a stress fractured femur. She is currently easing back into practice, but won't be game-ready until at least a week before nationals begin in early March.

Holly Harper, a second year who was having an incredible season, will undergo surgery at the end of February for injuries to her ACL, MCL and meniscus suffered in

December. Following the surgery, her recovery is expected to take six to eight months.

Finally, Willemina Stikker-Breemhaar, a transfer to the Dinos from the University of California Riverside who had just begun to play and was having a positive impact on the team, went under the knife to repair her Achilles tendon Tue., Jan. 31. Her injury, suffered two weeks ago, is expected to have a recovery period between six months and a year.

Janelle Findlay will likely sit out games Feb. 3-4 with a bruised foot. Head coach Kevin Boyles hopes to see some improvement in the next few days, which will rule out the possibility of a break.

"Overall we have stepped up and handled so many challenges this year," said fifth year Natalie Schwartz. "There have been so many low blows. And just when we catch our wind, we get sucker punched

again. But this is a team that makes no excuses and still believes they can win nationals."

With a group of nine players, the Dinos made their best efforts to pose a threat to the dominating UBC squad, but were preyed upon like cute little bunnies. Saturday's game saw the Dinos quickly down two sets (25-18, 25-22). The game was gaining momentum towards an early demise as the T-Birds led the third set 24-23. But the Dinos managed to win the scraps for the following three points for a 24-26 win.

However, the T-Birds got their stride back in the fourth set, earning a 25-19 match-winning set. Having beaten the T-Birds in straight sets in both of two pre-season match-ups, this became the first time the Dinos fell to the T-Birds since they were knocked out of contention for the national championship title in the semi-final

round in March of 2005.

Carolyn MacDonald and Lauren Perry led the Dinos in kills with nine each. Neda Boroumand posted a match-high 18 digs while Schwartz added 10 digs and 35 assists.

Sunday's game was a virtual repeat of the previous evening's match. The Dinos simply couldn't get the ball through the UBC blockers, but couldn't thwart their attack either. Our ladies were out-blocked 14-2 on the night. The T-Birds again dominated the first two sets (25-17, 25-15), stumbled with a 22-25 third set loss, then finished off the job with a 25-16 fourth set.

"We were beaten up so badly on Sunday, it was a pretty big accomplishment," Boyles said of the third-set win. "The problem now is maintaining that for a full match."

MacDonald and Perry again led the Dinos' attack with 10 and nine digs respectively. Boroumand had a

match-high 25 digs and was joined by Raynell Lavertu who had 16.

The Dinos return home to take on the Simon Fraser University Clan in the Jack Simpson Gymnasium. Games are Fri., Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. and Sat., Feb. 4 at 4 p.m.

The Dinos have a free ride to nationals as the hosts. This means Boyles' goals have not changed.

"Fortunately, our goal has always been to win the last three games of the year," he explained. "[The losses] just changes how we have to approach it."

He knows that with a weakened team, it will be more difficult, but has faith in the remaining players.

"At this point, with the resources we have, [UBC] is probably a better team," he admits. "They'll beat us four of five games. But we'll make sure that one comes at nationals."

"We have to remind ourselves every day: the players we still have are quality athletes."

Why flog the horse when you can kick it?

The *Gauntlet* has two tickets to Kicking Horse, good from now until the end of the season, to give away. All you have to do is jump through our ridiculous hoops. Bring the following to MSC319 on Fri., Feb. 3 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

-someone else's class schedule
-a book that includes the word 'Face' in the title
-three hairs of different colours
-an issue of the *Gauntlet*
-your student card with a mustache drawn on your face
-a sock that has a face drawn on it which talks when worn as a puppet.
No, seriously, we do want to see these things. Without them you are shit out of luck.



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All Canadian provinces and territories, apart from Quebec, are governed by the common law tradition from England and it is this very basis of common law that may permit the holder of an English law degree, LLB (Hons) to progress to the Canadian Bar.

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Entrance to the Holborn LLB is not subject to LSAT, nor are there limits on the numbers of students accepted each year. In fact as the degree is supported with on-line tutorials there are no limits on the number of students accepted for the three intakes each year. Many students may also be eligible for OSAP as Holborn is an approved institution.

Further details on the above may be found by visiting: www.flexible-learning.co.uk and www.osap.gov.on.ca.

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Alright, fine. Nobody wants to share their chocolate with the one person whose hard work and dedication brings them their favourite *Gauntlet* section every week. I get that. But for the love of all that is good in this world, send in more TLFs! *Please* bring your TLF to MSC 319 or email them to 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. That is all.

Hey Pretty Ladies: Does this rag smell like chloroform to you?
-The count of uncouth
(Think you'll enjoy prison, uncouth?)
-kate ed.)

To the girls: You are approached by a male. Should he: A) Ask for your number; B) Give you his number? Your thoughts?
-The arguing Liam and Mariana

For Sale: 1988 Honda CRX. Red, 5spd, 235K, CD, p/sunroof, tinted, custom interior blue lights, new tires, mag wheels \$2,100 obo. Call Ryan 829-9197.

Looking for work? Beddington Heights Community Center is looking for young, enthusiastic workers who enjoy working with children to work in their before and after school program, which means no evenings and no weekends and still up to 25hrs a week! Wages start at \$9.00/hr. Interested? Call Heather at 295-8837.

Dear FLC: Thank you for being open such great hours, but you shouldn't need to close the track more than once a week, tops.

Kate... You have my virginity and I want it back (jk).
-The Cuntess of York (aka Cunter)

First, I just want to say I don't want to see abortions becoming popular and people just doing it because they're lazy, but sometimes it's necessary. You pro-lifers sometimes forget that the people who agree with abortion don't like death but want to see children and parents not be forced into bad lives. In general, a fetus has the same chance of being the next genius or athlete as a murderer like Hitler, or homeless. But when a child is born into an unwanted, uncaring family it has a much higher chance of being on the bad side of life. To me that is no life at all.

-CCCC-LLAAARKE IN THE HIZ-HOUSE B*TCH (Pro Good Lifer)
(Oooh... hitting back with the Hitler card!)
-kate ed.)

Dear advisor, I NEED to get laid. I really, really NEED to get laid. How can I GET LAID? Yours Sincerely (Aroused),
-Obviously desperate

Dear obviously desperate: Stop playing World of Warcraft. Sincerely, the advisor. PS. If you do, please send all your equip to Advizr69, I'm on Dark Throne server. Also if you're a girl all you have to do is ask. Go to the Den on Thursday (cheap pitchers=drunk men), and take your pick.

Lost: My blue MEC backpack, somewhere between Scurfield 284 and getting drunk. The passport is useless as I'm banned from most republics of good repute. If found, please email me at ilosestuffwhenimdrunk@hotmail.com.

They are putting in little league rules for the World Baseball Classic. I wonder if the players who go to Dairy Queen after the game in their uniforms will get a free sundae. This thing just keeps getting more and more lame.

(There is nothing lame about free sundaes. You're just jealous.)
-kate ed.)

Question: What do you get when you take a BSc, subtract all structure, student rights, and factual learning?
Answer: A BHSc
-Disgruntled BHSc Student

Good thing A-Rod decided to play for Team USA at the World Baseball Classic. They are for sure gonna win now.
-All of A-Rod's World Series Rings.

To the tall girl with green shoes on the treadmill Tuesday mornings at 9 a.m.: Who needs Aussies? Want to be my Valentine's date? Respond via TLF.

I love MB.
-Chuck Norris

Chuck Norris' tears cure cancer. Too bad he never cries.
-The Yellow Dart

They once made a Chuck Norris toilet paper, but it wouldn't take shit from anybody.
-The Yellow Dart

Interview participants wanted for MA thesis research: Third year women engineering majors. \$25 compensation for your time. Please contact Michelle at 239-1843 or by email at sporesgirl@hotmail.com.

Join us for a free showing of *Between Midnight and the Rooster's Crow* on Thu., Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. in ST145. It's a film that documents EnCana building a pipeline in the Amazon. The event is hosted by the Ecoclub as part of our Film Series and powered by wind. As an added bonus, bring a mug to enjoy FREE organic coffee or tea.

Frank Zappa: I was away the Trimedia cab weekend. If you want to talk to me, talk to me in class.
-The redhead in coms201

Is procrastinating a problem? Sign up for the counselling centre's seven week workshop and learn strategies to overcome procrastination (\$5 registration fee). For more info, visit www.ucalgary.ca/counselling or call 220-5893.

(Meh, you can always sign up tomorrow.)
-kate ed.)

Are you a woman who voted in the election on the 23rd? If so, thank a feminist! For more info visit www.ucalgary.ca/~fire/.

One time they tried to make Dion Phaneuf brand toilet paper, but it wouldn't take shit from anybody.
(The joke is dead. It didn't work for Norris, and it doesn't work for Phaneuf. Just let it go.)
-kate ed.)

Wouldn't it be great to be a kid again? Having someone look after all your needs and being able to do anything you want. You can stare at strangers and they won't say, "get away from me you creep."
-thedrewskii

Looking for Stars ticket for Feb. 4th. Will pay more than face value. Email appetit3_for_destruction@hotmail.com

Xinyi ("Heart and Mind") Kung Fu! Ongoing adult classes at the Banff Trail Community Association, Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. Please email Sean at xinyiliuhequan@yahoo.com for more info.

Social smokers and casual smokers wanted for participation in a focus group. 1-1.5 hr questionnaire/open discussion, \$20 cash for participants. Email ssyho@ucalgary.ca.

Cancellation: Illusions and Reality show for Fri., Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. in MacEwan Hall has been cancelled.

Dear Kokanee: Thanks for the free beer. Too bad we couldn't make your media call.

-Dale Miller, EIC

Not only is abortion unspeakably evil, so is jerking off and using a condom! Every sperm is sacred, you heathens!

-Monty Python

Dear Deb: Not sure if you check *Gauntlet* TLFs for news stories, or just *Gauntlet* news, but you should know the SU is about to have a big election. Just a tip.

-Your adversary

For your information, the Lvl 52 NE Druid is my fourth alt char. I also have a 60 Dwarf Pally, 60 Human Mage, and 60 Orc Shammy. I may have a social life, but that doesn't mean I can't hold my own in WoW. I'll see you guys in Alterac Valley.

-Lvl 52 Night Elf Druid

A sign you may be a gay cowboy: Your saddle is Versace.

To the Gilmore Girls: Keep rocking my man-gina!

To the bendy man in my yoga class: I'd like to try the downward-facing dog with you sometime.

-Bendy girl

Marcia-Dawn Victoria McCune: You are the hottest bitch I know.

-That guy

The only thing worse than a little white dog peeing in front of your bedroom door is stepping in it... in bare feet.

-Better be cleaned up when I get home

"Life is a disease—sexually transmitted and fatal."

-Depressed

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CONCERTS

Sonata Arctica and **Destiny Calling** will be shaking the very essence of time and space at the Warehouse **Feb. 3**. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster for \$25. The

doors will be opening at 8 p.m. No minors please.

Dragon Fli Empire and **Curtis Santiago** rock That Empty Space **Feb. 3**. As usual the shindig runs from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and admission

is free. This is an 18+ event.

Abortion Grenade, Hostility, Katabasis and **Deadneck Fury** will playing hard at The Distillery **Feb. 3**. Tickets are \$5 at the doors, which open at 8:30 p.m.

Stars and Thurston Revival interwine with sound **Feb. 4** at the MacEwan Hall. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster for \$18. The doors open at 7 p.m.

Sixgun, Monstrus in Animo and **Power of Murder** play hard at The Distillery on **Feb. 4**. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Doors open at 8 p.m. and the show starts at 9 p.m.

Knucklehead, The Martyr Index, As Astraea Falls and **more** play The Underground **Feb. 4**. Tickets at the door for \$8. The show starts at 6 p.m. This is an all ages event.

Larry the Cable Guy will be spewing redneck rhetoric **Feb. 7** at the Pengrowth Saddledome. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster for \$35-\$49. He'll be git'n-r-done around 7 p.m.

Gogol Bordello and **Blood Dungeon** play at the Liberty Lounge at Mount Royal College **Feb. 8**. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster for the amazing discount price of \$12.50. The doors open at 8 p.m. This is an 18+ show.

Great Big Sea will wash away your boredom **Feb. 8** at the Jack Singer Concert Hall. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster for \$39.50-\$49.50. The show begins at 8 p.m.

more information on these and other upcoming plays, check out www.atplive.com/playRites.html.

SPORTS

The **Calgary Flames** take on the **Vancouver Canucks** **Feb. 3** at the Pengrowth Saddledome. Tickets would be available from Ticketmaster for \$23.50-\$175, if the game weren't already **SOLD OUT**. The game starts at 7 p.m.

Dinos women's volleyball will be bashing SFU at the Jack Simpson Gymnasium on Feb. 3 and Feb. 4. The game on Feb. 3 starts at 7 p.m. and the game on Feb. 4 begins at 4 p.m.

Dinos basketball will be dribbling around **Lethbridge** **Feb. 4** at the Jack Simpson Gymnasium. The women play at 6 p.m. and the men play at 8 p.m.

The **Calgary Hitmen** take on the **Kootenay Ice** **Feb. 4** at Pengrowth Saddledome. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster for \$16.75-\$35. The game starts at 7 p.m.

The **Calgary Roughnecks** will be rocking the **Toronto Rock** **Feb. 5** at the Pengrowth Saddledome. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster for \$25.46-\$32.95. The game begins at 1:30 p.m.

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THEATRE

Theatre Calgary presents **Saint Joan**, by George Shaw and directed by Neil Munro, which runs from **Jan. 24-Feb.18** at the Max Bell Theatre. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster for \$25-\$62.50. For more info visit www.theatrecalgary.com.

Hippies and Bolsheviks by Amiel Gladstone, **Picking Up Chekhov** by Mansel Robinson, **The Blue Light** by Mieko Ouchi and many more are being presented by Alberta Theatre Projects this coming week in support of the playRites Festival 20. For

MISC.

The Biological Students' Association and Rock for a Cause present the **Life's a Beach Cabaret** **Feb. 4** at the Den. Tickets are available in advance from the BSA office (SA 117) or at the doors for \$5. Proceeds go to the Children's Hospital.

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No good commie hippies

THEATREPREVIEW

Hippies and Bolsheviks

Ryan Pike

Gauntlet Entertainment

The mention of two guys and a girl in an apartment conjures up images of the short-lived and delightfully clichéd '90s sitcom, *Two Guys, A Girl and a Pizza Place*. Time-warp back to the '70s, make two of them ex-hippies and the other a draft-dodger and you'll have a faint idea of what *Hippies and Bolsheviks* is all about.

The play kicks off the 20th edition of Alberta Theatre Projects' Enbridge playRites Festival and features three young people faced with a lot of tough choices in 1972. Former flower-child, Star (Daniela Vlaskalic) picks up Jeff (David Beasley), an American draft-dodger, at a Led Zeppelin concert and invites him back to her Vancouver apartment for a little fun. Their rendezvous is interrupted by the unexpected arrival of Star's ex, Allan (Shaker Paleja), armed with a plan and determined to win her back. Then things get interesting.



Geez, stop gaping. Give the poor things some privacy you pervert.

Drew Waldorf/the Gauntlet

"You're meeting three people who are at a real crossroads in their lives," director Rachel Ditor explains. "They don't know what to do. Their government has failed them. Their hippie ideals have failed them. Their parents have failed them. Their relationships have dissolved. And they have to figure out, how do you move forward?"

Despite its retro setting, Ditor points out parallels between *Hippies and Bolsheviks* and the present day. Social and political unrest spurred on by controversial wars makes the story very poignant.

"The context is almost identical, which is chilling," Ditor remarks. "You just think this is a whole gen-

eration later, and what are we doing wrong? Why are we here again?"

The play is the fifth collaboration between Ditor and playwright Amiel Gladstone. Because of this history, Ditor was the obvious choice to direct the professional debut of the playwright's latest work.

"I got involved because they

start with the playwright and the play," she explains. "They talk to the playwright about who do you want to have come and work on this. It's very focused on serving and facilitating the work of the playwright. [Amiel's] a great spirit of fun. There's a lot of material that's written for younger people that's really angry and not that there's anything wrong with that, but it's so unusual to find a man that's writing about relationships and the kind of struggles with identity with such warm humour."

If love triangles, shirtless men and a story about growing up aren't enough to pique your interest, Ditor has an ace up her sleeve.

"I think it's a pretty truthful play, and it's a pretty sexy play," she reveals with a mischievous grin. "A lot of ways in which they try to problem-solve have a lot to do with having sex and smoking pot."

Needless to say, *Hippies and Bolsheviks* promises to be a fun-filled, thought-provoking, cliché-free night at the theatre.

Hippies and Bolsheviks runs as part of ATP's playRites Festival until March 5. Visit www.atplive.com for show times.

No good arty Nazis

THEATREPREVIEW

The Blue Light

Garth Paulson

Entertainment Editor

Think of the most innovative filmmakers of the 20th century. Chances are, adjusting for cinephile credibility, most people's lists are going to look similar, consisting almost exclusively of white, American men. The name Leni Riefenstahl, however, will probably be absent from most lists though she is more than deserving.

The dancer-turned-actor-turned-director is responsible for some of most technically stunning films of the 1930s and is the innovator behind countless camera techniques still used today, like putting a camera on rails. The reason she is unknown to most and deliberately omitted by others lies in one fact: she used her filmmaking prowess to make Nazi propaganda.

"This was a woman in the 1930s, there were no female directors at the time," Ron Jenkins, director of Mieko Ouchi's *The Blue Light* explains. "Women were treated like housewives. [The play is] about what she did because she wanted to be an artist. There really isn't a modern analogy I can think of for her. She wanted to make films so badly that she was willing to get in bed, so to speak, with the devil. She claims a lot

of naivety because she says she was off making films in the mountains but there are photographs of her and Nazi officials as well as letters she wrote to Hitler."

Needless to say, Riefenstahl's life was a controversial one. Her films *Triumph of the Will* and *Olympia* are heralded by those who can see past their content as masterpieces of cinematography but are vilified by those same people because of their glorification of the Nazi regime. *The Blue Light* seeks to explore Riefenstahl's life without either crucifying or apologising for the filmmaker.

"I think the character of Leni Riefenstahl in this play is exactly the character of Leni Riefenstahl in life," Jenkins remarks. "I think that's why the play is so good and so interesting. This woman learned to scuba dive when she was 90 years old. She lived this incredible life but I don't think she's a hero and I don't think she's a villain. You need to look at her as she was in life, and in the play I think she's represented quite accurately. Kate Hennig, who's playing Leni, isn't about making the sympathetic choice, she's about playing that woman to the hard core."

Though the play may seek to present Riefenstahl as the ambiguous character she was in real life, Jenkins has his own opinions of the woman, her films and the controversy surrounding her. Respecting her work



The Nazis are coming! Or at least they will be after they're done with their tea.

from a technical standpoint, he does not find her omission from most people's lists a tragic one.

"I don't think it's tragic at all," Jenkins states. "Whether she knew or not what the Nazis planned, whether she was politically aligned with them or not, I think she should have known. I guess the [only] tragedy was that there were some filmmakers who made the same sort of propaganda films [who kept work-

ing]. With her, I think it's because her films were good. Those films in 1935-6 were touted as the best films of the year and not just in Germany but in Italy and France. *Olympia*, which is, I think, her best and most innovative film, won the Grand Prix in Paris for filmmaking that year. I think it was because her films were good that she was judged more harshly."

Premiering at Alberta Theatre Projects' Enbridge playRites Festival,

The Blue Light promises to be a challenging play demanding audiences' attention and also their opinion. A biography, a time-piece, a cautionary tale and a catalyst for debate all rolled into one, *The Blue Light* is a sprawling, ambitious production, but, considering its subject matter, how could it be anything else?

The Blue Light runs as part of ATP's playRites Festival until February 25. Visit www.atplive.com for show times.

TOP OF THE VOX

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TOP 20 FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 30.06

* Denotes Canadian Artist
** Denotes Local Artist

1. **ARAB STRAP**
The Last Romance
Transdreamer
2. **SYLVIE***
An Electric Trace
Smallman
3. **ANIMAL COLLECTIVE**
Feels
Fat Cat
4. **CINISTER CEE****
Cinstrumentals
Neferiu
5. **THE VERTICAL STRUTS***
The Vertical Struts
Pop Echo
6. **CLAP YOUR HANDS SAY YEAH**
Clap Your Hands Say Yeah
Independent
7. **BRANDON JAN BLOMMAERT****
Untitled 6
Independent
8. **BECK**
Guerolito
Interscope
9. **MEREDITH BRAGG WITH THE TERMINALS**
Departures EP
Kora
10. **THE HARDTAILS****
The Hardtails
Independent
11. **AARON BOOTH AND WOODPIGEON****
Pigeonbooth
Independent
12. **SEÑOR COCONUT**
Coconut FM
Essay
13. **THE GOSSIP**
Standing In The Way Of Control
Kill Rock Stars
14. **PLASTIC CONSTELLATIONS**
Crusades
French Kiss
15. **VARIOUS**
To: Elliot From: Portland
Expunged Records
16. **PORTICO***
Shape To Form
Hinge
17. **THE MELIGROVE BAND***
Planets Conspire
V2
18. **BLOCKHEAD**
Downtown Science
Ninja Tune
19. **THE RAKES**
Retreat
Dim Mak
20. **RYAN BOURNE****
Ryan Bourne
Independent

LOUD

1. **CANNAE**
Gold Becomes Sacrifice
Prosthetic
2. **CHIMAIRA**
Chimaira
Roadrunner
3. **LAMB OF GOD**
Killadelphia
Epic
4. **NOCTURNAL RITES**
Grand Illusion
Century Media
5. **ANIMOSITY**
Empires
Metal Blade

FOLK/ROOTS/BLUES

1. **ABIGAIL WASHINGTON**
Song Of The Travelling Daughter
Nettwerk
2. **STACEY EARLE AND MARK STUART**
S&M Communion Bread
True North
3. **RYAN BOURNE****
Ryan Bourne
Independent
4. **SUMMER****
Summer
Independent
5. **STRONGHORN STRING BAND**
Weiser Sunrise
Nettwerk

Thurston revives gospel

Vancouver band seeks Prince-like excellence

MUSICINTERVIEW

The Thurston Revival

Jon Roe

Gauntlet Entertainment

The Secret Cult of the Thurston Revival isn't some new, juice sipping, cloud worshipping religion. Instead, it's the former extended name of a Vancouver based band, who recently slimmed down their moniker to just The Thurston Revival.

"The full name got ditched pretty fast," says O'Connell, lead singer and multi-instrumentalist in the band. "I was still actually finishing the recording at that point. The name is in honour of a band from Washington State from the late '60s. This guy got badly wounded and blinded in Vietnam. He came back and he started a gospel band to tell the world about the miracle of God giving him back his sight. I thought it was such an interesting story that I named my band after him. I don't know how the story ends, I don't know if the guy ever got his sight back and actually quite



O'Connell shows off his bitchin' rock and roll hair. Seriously, I'd do him.

"What I do is if I'm recording, I'll go and I'll rent a few instruments that I've never played before and teach myself very quickly."

—O'Connell of The Thurston Revival

frankly, I don't want to know either. I'd rather live with the little mysteries of life."

Calling them a band is probably a misnomer as there are really only two core members. Fraser Mackenzie played guitar and piano on their debut EP while O'Connell played just about everything else. In fact, the number of instruments he plays for

them," admits a modest O'Connell. "I don't play [the instruments] very well. I've always approached music where it's most interesting when things are fresh. What I do is if I'm recording, I'll go and I'll rent a few instruments that I've never played before and teach myself very quickly. Whenever things are fresh and new, it's an amazing feeling because you

assembled a crew to fill the rest of his musical army. Reporting in for the touring incarnation of Revival are Rob Chursinoff of Tegan & Sara on drums, Wes Regan of Speed to Kill on synth, Joel Myers who plays with Holly McNarland on bass and Mary Ancheta on organ, joining the aforementioned Mackenzie on guitar.

don't know what to expect." When one band member mans so many instruments it can be hard to tour, but O'Connell has

"Basically when I decided it was time to put together a live band, I poached them from other bands," says O'Connell. "Some of the people I had already played on some of the recordings [and some of the] people I had seen in other bands, like Wes Regan and Rob Chursinoff. I had seen them in a band called Speed to Kill and they were just phenomenally intense. I thought, 'If I were to put a live band together, I would ask those guys because they're amazing.'"

The list of guests grows even longer when you consider the separate cast who contributed to the EP, including Brian Minato of Veda Hille on bass, and Pat Stewart of Matthew Good fame on drums, among others.

"I basically twisted the arms of some of my talented friends see THURSTON REVIVAL, page 22



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Courtesy Dark Arts Gramophone Company

Chekhov perfect escapism

THEATREPREVIEW

Picking up Chekhov

Janice Tran
Gauntlet Entertainment

When audiences walk through the doors of the Martha Cohen Theatre and enter the world of Alberta Theatre Projects' Enbridge playRites Festival they choose to escape reality. For a moment in time they open their minds to an entirely new perspective on life and maybe even themselves. Director Mansel Robinson's entry in the festival, *Picking Up Chekhov*, offers exactly the kind of escape audiences yearn for.

The story begins with a family in the midst of falling apart. In an attempt to flee from their problems the father Skiokski and daughter Stevie take a road trip, embarking on a gripping adventure. Robinson puts a creative spin on the classic road trip narrative—you won't just get one perspective of the road trip, but 32 of them.

"Each character has a different take on [the situation]," Robinson explains. "Eventually if you can triangulate all of that stuff you might get a clearer picture. It is still partial, but it will lead you to a better understanding."

To tell the story succinctly through the many different characters, Robinson uses roles many audience can relate to.

"They're ordinary people, firemen, waitresses, cops on the road, librarians, all very down to earth people," he explains.

One of these characters is Chekhov, a hitchhiker and playwright who leads the father and daughter to various places on their journey. With so many characters, *Picking Up Chekhov* sinks or swims depending on its cast. Robinson doesn't have any apprehension about the quality of actors filling the roles.

"We were able to cast two 16-year-old actors, which is great because it is not an adult playing kids, it is kids playing kids," he says. "The relationship between the father and the daughter is very believable and authentic because [it accurately reflects] the age."

Chekhov is lighter in its political ramifications than some of Robinson's other works. His piece *Spitting Slag* was shut down at the beginning of production because of its political agenda.

"I wrote one a few years ago that was apparently so testy the audience spent the evening trying to decipher my political message instead of watch-



Walter Ash/the Gauntlet

Even the most godless communist needs some love now and then.

ing the characters," says Robinson. Fortunately, the experience hasn't inhibited Robinson's writing.

"It was kind of flattering actually," he responds. "It was an interesting eye opener to see that kind of fear of idea."

Picking up Chekhov delivers more

tame and less controversial themes. Dropping the overtly political messages, the play's central themes are the struggles of family, communication and perceptions.

"I won't mind if you find something political in this piece," Robinson comments. "But I'm really

not sure what that might be."

Whether audiences get something political from *Chekhov* isn't important. What they will get is an entertaining piece of escapism.

Picking Up Chekhov runs as part of ATP's playRites Festival until March 4. Visit www.atplive.com for show times.

CJSW On-Air Guide

	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun
Morning Jazz	6 am morning joy	6 am something jazzy	6 am lush life	6 am jazz mistress	6 am pussycat dues	6 am late night continued	6 am late night continued
	7 am BBC WORLD SERVICE NEWS weekday mornings at 6, 7, 8 and 9 am					7 am counterspin talk back africa	7 am alternative radio
	8 am insurgency broadcast	8 am canadian music centre presents	8 am bella musica	8 am airport bison radio	8 am the two and a half hour coffee break	8 am bunte welle german	8 am wings
	9 am local revolutions - calgary talks	9 am writer's block	9 am alternative radio	9 am cjsw news counterspin	9 am who shakes city calendar	9 am calgary vietnamese radio	9 am bagong pagasa filipino
	10 am el moustacheo mysterio	10 am red squares sponsored by the drum & monkey	10 am a house fell on my sister	10 am aphasia / pillage the village	10 am punk up the volume	10 am helenic melodies greek radio	10 am buscando america latin america
Radio Mix	11 am cloud pleaser	11 am meow mix	11 am nerd beat / strange and beautiful	11 am the audible smile	11 am my allergy to the fans	11 am fantastic plastic sponsored by bird dog video	11 am mehfil-ee-sangeet south asian
	12 pm welcome to flava country sponsored by the hi fi club	12 pm jane & tasya's guide to everything sponsored by broken city	12 pm full disclosure sponsored by liberty lounge	12 pm alternative to what? sponsored by palomino smokehouse	12 pm road pops sponsored by fwd weekly	12 pm schultzie / bikesheviks	12 pm level the vibes
Afternoon Mix	1 pm french transe en danse	1 pm mezza l'una	1 pm so SU me students' union	1 pm off the page gauntlet	1 pm musiquarium everything from jazz to jungle sponsored by giant 45	1 pm voice of ethiopia	1 pm under the influence
	2 pm south louisiana gumbo	2 pm artslink	2 pm the blues witness with reverend ron sponsored by calgary dollars	2 pm folkcetera	2 pm full moon funkalicious the latest & greatest in breaks & house	2 pm oh africa!	2 pm beyond beads & feathers
	3 pm reverb	3 pm tombstone after dark	3 pm lift the bandstand	3 pm film clips	3 pm dirty needles the best in funk, soul & hip hop	3 pm the nocturntable	3 pm speaking in tongues world music
	4 pm yeah, what she said womyn's programming	4 pm honey, i punk the kids	4 pm speak sebastian / urban sex	4 pm noise experimental music	4 pm remote emissions hard hitting jungle & drum n bass	4 pm megawatt mayhem metal	4 pm the many fables of joe and hanna
	5 pm tangential workout	5 pm rack power	5 pm good character requirement / happy medium charlie	5 pm fat beat diet	5 pm dna hardcore techno	5 pm the sarcastic triangle / attention surplus disorder	5 pm technicolor jukebox
	6 pm katharsis	6 pm what would the neighbors think?	6 pm incidental tracks	6 pm the beat down / funk tank	6 pm sound champion showcase	6 pm sunlight theory	6 pm translucent dreams ambient, trance etc.
Late Night Mix	7 pm downtime	7 pm dead air	7 pm pants-free radio	7 pm rage cage	7 pm	7 pm	7 pm scrum-diddy-umptious
	8 pm bass ackwards / music for beginners	8 pm fabergé bacon	8 pm	8 pm	8 pm	8 pm	8 pm straight on 'til morning
	9 pm	9 pm	9 pm	9 pm	9 pm	9 pm	9 pm
	10 pm	10 pm	10 pm	10 pm	10 pm	10 pm	10 pm
	11 pm	11 pm	11 pm	11 pm	11 pm	11 pm	11 pm
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Thurston Revival cont'd from page 20

to come in and play on different songs depending on what the mood of the song was," states O'Connell. "I would get someone very intense like Pat Steward, the drummer from Matthew Good [who is a] fabulous, amazing drummer [then] try and find someone who would bounce sparks off him. Really my approach to recording was to experiment as

much with personalities as with music." The result is a strong first release for the band, which has been sonically compared to the likes of Prince. O'Connell, however, mentions other influences.

"Growing up listening to my parents' Beatles records, I would say, has given me the strongest grounding in

how to write a song and how to challenge yourself to the way you approach music," he says. "I take [being compared to Prince] as a compliment. I'm a major early Prince fan."

The man formerly known as the man formerly known as Prince's influence is evident on songs like "Want," but others like "Cool song" take the band in a different direc-

tion. Some have classified the band as gospel, a label O'Connell has little problem with.

"There's a heavy gospel influence," he admits. "I've always been into old Memphis gospel from the '50s and the early '60s, [as well as] Memphis soul from the '60s. I love the feel of gospel music, [like] the really intense, somewhat wild, early gospel music of the '50s. I would call [The Thurston Revival] gospel-influenced rock. There are definitely some of my songs that have a gospel feel."

Being a new band, The Thurston Revival has yet to get the full spectrum of fan reaction, such as being on the receiving end of a beer bottle to the head.

"[Getting a beer bottle thrown at you] is kind of a right of passage, especially when you start playing in England," laughs O'Connell. "They're so supportive; they go absolutely mad if they're into you

[but also] the audiences there are pretty ruthless. I think sooner or later most singers get hit in the head by a bottle."

O'Connell appreciates the audience having a strong reaction rather than none at all. Barring a beer bottle induced concussion, the band wants to generate a response when they come to MacHall in support of Stars.

"When you're standing on stage you can actually see, when the lights are right, almost every face in the room," says O'Connell. "Some of them [in Vancouver] were really into it. Some of them there was a look of shock on their face. To me that's a good sign. It means you're doing something that people haven't seen before. The audience was really cool and we got a really great reception there. I'm sure there were a few people that absolutely hated us as well. I'd rather be hated and loved rather than just have people say 'Oh yeah they were okay.'"

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Flamenco Forms

DANCEPREVIEW Flamenco Forms

Garth Paulson
Entertainment Editor

Let's get something straight right away: this story is about dance. Yes, dance, that devilish series of body gyrations some people do for a living, more people submit to at the bar and everyone does in front of their mirror behind closed doors. Even though we all flail a leg to a good beat if no one's watching and find ourselves inexplicably doing the robot from time to time, dance still has a hefty stigma attached to it, leaving many befuddled and the rest hesitant to approach it in the same way they would other art forms.

"My approach is that I know it can be intimidating to someone who has no clue what a dance performance is all about," explains Rosanna Terracciano, co-producer and headlining dancer of *Flamenco Forms*. "The main thing is to get people to understand that education doesn't mean that you have to come

to this performance and understand everything we're doing. All that you need is to have an open mind and let yourself experience. Ultimately, it just comes down to basic human emotions, and everybody has them."

Terracciano's words are more than mere theorizing, she has discovered dance's emotional resonance first hand. A few years ago it would be more common to find Terracciano's contemplating the structural integrity of bridges while studying to become a civil engineer at the University of Calgary than mulling over the intricacies of movement. As soon as she took the leap and enrolled in dance classes she was hooked, to dance in general and to flamenco in particular.

"I was always drawn to it, it was always in my household," she remarks. "My parents are from southern Italy and there's always been a fascination of flamenco culture with them. I always had that influence so I always knew I wanted to do it. Once I actually started studying [flamenco] it was just an art form I could really connect to in terms of expression. I was

really able to relate to it. It's a very emotive and sincere art form."

If you've been to university for more than 13 seconds you're probably scratching your head in bewilderment right now. Engineers aren't supposed to say words like emotive and sincere and they're certainly not supposed to be coordinated—much less physically fit—enough to dance at a professional level. Terracciano recognizes the somewhat bizarre position she occupies and thinks she's all the better for it.

"The thing that I always say about myself in terms of my left brain and my right brain [is that] I'm sort of right in the middle," she says. "Most people are dominant in that they have access to one side or the other but I'm quite balanced that way. Some days I think it's a good position to be in. I'm in a unique position to help inform people from one side of the world what it's like on the other side. When I'm among engineers I can [try to] get them to come out, promote the arts and see what culture is all about in Calgary. Whereas among the arts community I can try to open some eyes about



Courtesy Graziella Terracciano

Rosanna Terracciano laments the death of hitchhiking.

how maybe engineers don't always fit into a certain stereotype."

See, accepting dance as a legitimate art form and pursuit isn't too hard. If Terracciano can unite such disparate fields as engineering and flamenco surely you shouldn't have

much trouble slipping into the robot in front of a few more people and appreciating someone putting your robot to shame on stage.

Flamenco Forms takes place Saturday, February 4 at *Cité des Rochues* Theatre. The performance begins at 8 p.m.



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A prayer for Alexander

Sometimes film makers make mis-steps. And sometimes, some argue, they are not mis-steps at all. Gauntlet features editor RG Scherf makes the case for Oliver Stone's (brilliant?) flop *Alexander*.

I will not confess to liking Oliver Stone's film *Alexander* upon first viewing. Taken strictly on its own merits, it is an unwieldy, improperly dense film, the kind that gets made by directors with too much passion and not enough discipline, which is a charge fairly levelled at any given Stone flick. But *Alexander* was, at least for that first viewing, especially bad. Long, boring, full of wooden performances and some most unpleasant characters, the film seemed unredeemable. But with more than a year of steeping in my mind, and one \$500 university class to teach me Stone's background as a film-maker, it is now my solemn belief that *Alexander* is not a misguided, ill conceived vanity picture, but a surprisingly subtle, beautiful journey into the mind of one of Hollywood's most acidic personalities.

This essay will explore the construction of foreign places, cultures and peoples in Oliver Stone's film *Alexander*, as they are shifted through the mental lens of the film-maker. I will explain these constructions mainly in the context of how they relate to Stone's earlier filmic statements on ethnicity, and try to give an impression of exactly how unique and significant *Alexander* is in the greater scheme of Oliver Stone's career. Oliver Stone is known for making his opinions known through film, and that is especially true in his suite of films about white heroes making a journey to foreign lands—specifically when it comes to the uniform ideological opinion Stone holds of these journeying experiences. Stone has a tortured personal history with the foreign, and so he harbours a definite caution toward his characters' interactions with it. With *Alexander*, however, Stone experiments with an alternate vision of the foreign, one which is pleasurable and appealing. To do so, however, he must confront his grounding in an over-ruling white-American situation and exorcise his ethnically myopic demons. Both *Alexander* and Oliver Stone make the same significant emotional journey in the film, to find a new self which transcends the bounds of the original self. In this way, the film is a deep reflection of Stone's journey through his life and career, intensely personal even as *Alexander* is his most commercial film. In the end, however, the film is ultimately a vindication of Stone's traditional situation-specific viewpoint.

First, I will start by defining some of the vague terms which will appear over and over again in this essay. The first has to do with "situation" or "situation specificity," referring to one's personal past: the collection of environments, experiences and learned biases that contribute to each person's unique standpoint. Stone's situation, as I see it, has two major parts for the purposes of this essay: the formative experience of the Vietnam War, and an upbringing in a wealthy, almost exclusively-white environment. Oliver Stone's views on race and ethnicity as presented in his films are obviously products of his specific mental situation, but it is important to make clear that those two factors contribute by far the most to that situation. Another term I will make heavy use of is "alien," to describe geographic, mental or emotional spaces which are so entirely new, different and unfamiliar that they can be considered totally removed from any known sets of rules or expectations: these are wild, untamed and uncertain places. Finally, I will be drawing analogues between Stone's white-American-centrism and the centrist view of *Alexander*, which I will take to be the same as Stone's, despite technically being a Greek perspective—the Greek actors are all white, speak in American and European accents, and are mostly well-known Hollywood actors. Additionally, *Alexander's* conflicts and setting are not directly tied to any specific historical place; with the amount of unreal spectacle injected into the film, it could have taken place anywhere, perhaps even at any time. It is for these reasons that I make the assumption that the film can be viewed in a modern North American context.

Oliver Stone is a white man who makes films almost exclusively about white men, for white men. Having grown up in privilege, it is obviously not much of a concern to Stone to represent the voices of the unrepresented. To Stone, race is an issue to some people, and certainly racism is one of many blights which affect our modern culture, but it is in no way a topic of interest for him personally to address with any sense of commitment in his films. In fact, Stone's films feature almost exclusively white casts, and it is notable that the few characters of colour in Stone's films act and speak exactly like their white peers. And even *Talk Radio*, the Stone film which most directly discusses issues of race and racism, only offers a simple acknowledgement of those issues' impact on our culture. It can be confidently stated, then, that up until the release of *Alexander*, Oliver Stone's filmography was almost entirely monochromatic. It is important to stress



here that Stone's ethnic myopia is not the result of racism, but simply that issues of race and ethnicity have never particularly interested him; like Spike Lee, he simply concerns himself with writing about and for a specific ethnic audience.

Parallel to Stone's use of race and ethnicity in his films is his experience as a soldier in the Vietnam War. There, Stone developed a keen notion of the "alien," describing a place so foreign to the individual experiencing it that the place is *beyond* foreign-ness, and beyond simple different-ness. At that point, these places take on a quality of total unfamiliarity and uncertainty, that is "alien"-ness. Because of Stone's particular experience of place, in the wholly confusing and uncertain Vietnam War, it is easy to imagine how the situation might have coloured his later thoughts about the meaning of being outside one's cultural and physical comfort zone. For Stone, then, when there is a sense of the "alien" at work it is always in an upheaved environment and informed by a cognitive dissonance of place: wanting to escape, or the feeling of not being in the right place. These are the hallmarks of Stone's pre-*Alexander* exploration films, most importantly *Platoon* and *Salvador*.

Strangely, Oliver Stone has chosen to reverse both of his fundamental biases about race, ethnicity and culture for *Alexander*. It is a film which, for the first time in Stone's career, celebrates and embraces cultural difference, as well as makes the "alien" desirable. This is a key shift in Stone's assumptions about the outside world. By giving the character Alexander a sense of romance for discovery, it is both he and Stone who are undertaking a journey to explore the limits of the world outside the personal comfort zone, and find a self which transcends the limits of the original self. Alexander is driven in his quest by ambition, but as for Stone—who knows? What is important is that with *Alexander*, the film-maker is finally self-critiquing his body of work, and addressing a major ideological weakness in his filmography thus far. At this point in his career, it almost seems silly to say that Stone has matured a great deal with the release of this film, but his new willingness to experiment with and simply experience the *positive* "alien" world outside of his situation is a big step toward incorporating a diverse multicultural perspective in future films. More importantly, it is an opportunity for Stone to exorcise his white-American-centrism standpoint and confront it head on.

Stone's most powerful ideas in *Alexander*, and the ones which create the most inner conflict for him, have to do with his recurring theme of the "alien," and the different meaning it holds in this film as opposed to every previous film Stone has made. The alien in *Platoon*, for example, was mysterious and deadly; in *Alexander*, it is seductive and beautiful. Here, the alien drives us forward—we always want to see more and more of it. The alien environment in this film, then, is a total reversal of what we've seen before from Stone. But the change in attitude goes even further than that: where he was fearful of it before, Stone is now in *awe* of the alien. There is immense spectacle in the far-off lands and peoples of *Alexander*, from vibrant colours to exotic dancing to horrific monsters to wild natural photography. Stone himself seems to be devouring the scenery and sensory pleasures right along with the audience. Interestingly, Stone's awe again exposes his artistic specificity: a film-maker with a more diverse palette of cultural experiences would take the spectacle of *Alexander's* distant lands, even in the context of an epic adventure film, at something closer to face value. Stone, however, coming from (and still film-making for) an exclusive and insulated background can *genuinely* be in awe at his own creation: the film's subject is so outside his normal situation that even he can be enthralled

by it, and the result is a land and mindscape of Persia and India that is larger than life by several orders of magnitude.

Stone illustrates his awe with the alien world by developing two intertwining themes: exoticism and eroticism. Every new conquest that Alexander's army makes seems to yield a reward of greater sexual pleasure, whether it's the infinite harem in Babylon or the ridiculously sexual atmosphere of India. Stone is obviously playing on the audience's voyeuristic pleasures here to build a sense of renewed anticipation with every stop along the army's path. What keeps us interested during the army's march are the splendid exotic locations Alexander leads his troops through; places so beautiful and so unreal that they define the concept of *alien*. The army also meets strange creatures along the way, whether monkeys or large cats. As well, Alexander's personal sexual voyage shadows the development of the greater theme of sexuality. In each of the film's three primary geographical chapters, Alexander gains a new partner, each one more scandalous than the last. The sexual drama along the spectrum of gay and straight which Alexander finds himself trapped within is another way Stone is representing the alien: never before have such (Western) forbidden sexualities been so prominently featured in one of his films.

Some tension develops later in Alexander's campaign which drives to the very heart of Stone's statement with the film. Alexander's senior companions feel that he has led them too far into Asia, too far away from their wives and for too long. They gasp and bemoan every flamboyant risk and statement Alexander makes. It becomes a running source of conflict for the rest of the film. Again, if Alexander and Oliver Stone are sharing the same journey, then this sub-plot is very telling. Alexander's officers are a part of Stone, perhaps his conscience or perhaps a manifestation of his uncomfortability with stepping outside of his self. Either way, they are a chorus urging him to go back to his old ways of seeing. Stone is defiant for some time, urging the audience along with ever more tantalizing images of India, and the promise that Alexander might even eventually lead his army to the end of the earth. When Alexander is struck down by the Indian king, however, his ambitions, and those of Stone, melt away. It is a shameful trip back to Babylon for the both of them. In confronting the shackles of his situation, Stone finds that he can't move beyond its boundaries. Stone cannot sustain an optimistic quest into the alien forever; to do so would be disingenuous and lacking in "the Truth," something Stone is always questing *for*, not *against*: it's too much to believe that a white man who makes films almost exclusively about white men, for white men would become a multiculturally sensitive auteur in the space of one Hollywood movie. Still, in the end Stone stays true to his agenda, even if his white demons stay intact. His and Alexander's moral is a sad one: we cannot ever fully step outside and reinvent ourselves, another disappointing but recurring motif in Stone's work. Alexander's ultimate defeat is tragic, while Stone's can only be taken with a measure of disappointment.

And with that, we have a clear outline of the additions *Alexander* brings to Oliver Stone's suite of films about white heroes making a journey to foreign lands—specifically when it comes to the uniform ideological opinion Stone holds of these journeying experiences, and how that ideological opinion was altered (however ultimately unsuccessfully) in *Alexander*. The film, and Stone's relationship to it, confirms again that Stone is who he is: a steadfast auteur who will not bend to what is perceived as "right." This means that there is no redemption for idealism, either in him or his characters.

OPINIONS

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Does Bush walk the walk... on water?

Adam R. Ramsay
 Gauntlet Opinions

"Religion has never had a big problem with murder. More people have been killed in the name of God than for any other reason. All you have to do is look at Northern Ireland, Kashmir, The Inquisition, The Crusades, and September 11th, to see how seriously the religious folks take thou shall not kill."

—George Carlin

President Bush often speaks of religion as his guiding influence, citing unconfirmed reports that God talks through him. If so, I am becoming a little worried about God's grammar. It all struck me as obvious to see whether or not the world's Christian-in-Chief follows the rules spoken to Moses on Mount Sinai.

I am the Lord thy God, you shall have no other Gods before you

Like the tragedy of Narcissus, Bush gazes into the pool of presidential self-love and sees a second God. When he prays he is praying to God, but also to himself. Self-worship is heresy, Bush has been a bad boy.

You shall not take the Lord's name in vain

President Bush doesn't seem to abuse the Lord's name nor use it in any context but the fanatical, but overuse can be abuse too. I'm not sure Mr. Bush clears his uses with the Christian copyright board or uses

proper citation when giving his work the stamp of God's approval.

Observe the Sabbath Day and keep it holy

Mr. Bush is not known for being industrious and I am quite certain he takes more than enough Sabbaths throughout the year. Vacations for Mr. Bush are cultural retreats, thinking times and opportunities to choke on pretzels.

Honour your father and your mother

In circles of plutocrats Mr. Bush shines with the star of envy, entitlement and nepotism. When you are handed a presidency as an inheritance how could you not honour the father that gave it to you? Bush honours his father and mother insofar as they can deliver favourable outcomes for his future. Like a spoiled preppie school boy who resents dad for getting him the BMW and not the Porsche, but he wouldn't do anything to jeopardize the transfer of the trust fund.

Thou Shall Not Kill

While Bush cannot be credited with killing anyone directly, he is guilty of the law of unintended consequences. Sending confused and desperate American men and women on a proverbial death march deep in the Middle East causes his guilt to flow down the Euphrates.

Thou Shall Not Commit Adultery

I am going to hold out on this one. While Laura is surely an attractive woman, I am not sure Mr. Bush will be able to resist post presidential charisma once he is out of office and

out of the public eye. Mr. Bush saw what happened to President Clinton's adulterous ways and probably realized he doesn't need that kind of stress. Like a child being burnt once from the stove once is enough. For now he will keep his hands in his Texas coveralls.

Thou shall not steal

Aside from stealing the election in 2000, Mr. Bush and his team of nincompoops have been guilty of continually stealing from the poor and giving to the rich. His tax cuts exclusively benefit the top five per cent of the population and he regularly steals civil liberties and personal freedom via The Patriot Act.

Thou shall not bear false witness

If Bush is talking he is lying, whether he knows it or not. Lying is one of the critical success factors to the job. Stare at a liability long enough and surely it can become an asset. The budget is a swindle, the war in Iraq is a fraudulent IPO and his speeches could have been written by P.T. Barnum.

Thou shall not covet thy neighbour's wife

As aforementioned, Laura is not a bad looking lady and Lynne Cheney is not much to covet.

Thou shall not covet thy neighbour's property

Like the spoiled trust fund baby he is, Mr. Bush is proof positive of what unfettered ambition and opportunity can cause. When I first saw him run for election I could hear him scream "Dad said I could have it" and I have not heard him say anything else since.



While his net worth exceeds \$20 million U.S., the only thing Bush has left to covet is more power.

When looking at the 10 Commandments, American comedian George Carlin proposed an alternative version saying the list was padded, redundant and silly. Carlin, always thinking highly of organized religion, proposed the following list of three new commandments:

1. Thou shall always be honest and faithful to thy provider of thy nookie.

2. Thou shall try really hard not to kill anyone unless of course they worship a different invisible man than I do.

3. Thou shall keep thy religion to thyself.

I think Mr. Bush should try to follow this list—he may do much better.

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Karla Homolka not as bad as once thought



Kenzie Love

Gauntlet Opinions

Coming on the heels of *Saw II*, the \$20 million opening of *Hostel* proves that there's a new trend afoot in Hollywood these days. Gory, low budget horror movies featuring no-name stars have reaped huge profits as of late, and the trend appears likely to continue.

Lionsgate, the studio behind those two films is releasing the similarly themed *See No Evil* in May, and the ending to *Saw II* was ambiguous enough to leave room

for a third entry. I've seen both these films, and I don't think I'm any more likely to lock a bunch of strangers in a crack house filled with nerve gas or set up a torture chamber in Eastern Europe than I was before. I'm mystified that the implications of these movies' success have been largely ignored while scorn has been heaped on a far milder spectacle: the soon to be released film *Karla*.

As most Canadians probably know, *Karla* tells the story of our nation's most notorious female serial killer. Though it's unlikely to dethrone *Citizen Kane*, the movie is supposed to be quite good; well

acted, serious, and free of gratuitous violence. Everything, in other words, that movies like *Saw II* and *Hostel* are not. Thus the question arises of why it's the movie that's generating all the controversy.

The stock response is that *Karla* inappropriately deals with a real-life murderer. Be that as it may, however, the film makers have changed her victims' names and don't show any of the actual atrocities committed against them. A movie like *Saw II* is hardly realistic—most serial killers don't have grand moral designs like *Jigsaw*'s—but the events that occur within it aren't completely unfathomable as real

world ones either. The people behind it may have been inspired as much by Karla Homolka's crimes as those behind *Karla* were.

There the two groups part. It's unlikely the people behind the *Saw* films and *Hostel* had any motive for making them other than the financial. They're certainly not *auteurs* interested in film for its own sake, and they're not trying to impart any moral that I can discern (with the possible exception that travelling Americans should be wary of Eastern European women). I imagine that the people who made *Karla* probably anticipated the hostility they would encounter and soldiered

on nonetheless. Maybe they did so because they really do have a message to reveal about the folly of plea bargains, or the need to provide more support to battered women... or something.

Now that's only a "maybe" and whatever the case, most—if any—of the people who go to see *Karla* will feel a renewed sense of urgency about those problems upon leaving the theatre. But I don't think that anybody will feel a desire to duplicate Homolka's deeds after seeing it either. If its critics genuinely believe that movies can influence people to do such things, they're focusing on the wrong film.



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