

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

gauntlet

VOLUME 46 • ISSUE NO. 29 • FEBRUARY 9 • 2006

See News,
page 5

CALENDAR OF CURIOSITIES

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MUCH DOES CALGARY
FEBRUARY 25, 2006
den bottle shop
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VAILHALEN
STRADA
THE PANTS SITUATION
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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
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Doors at 7:30 pm. Student's \$5, non-student's \$8. Tickets available at Megatunes and Campus Ticket Centre.



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her acoustic band

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Sexual Awareness Days

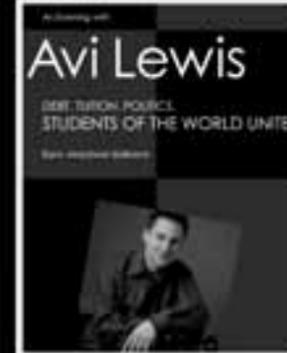
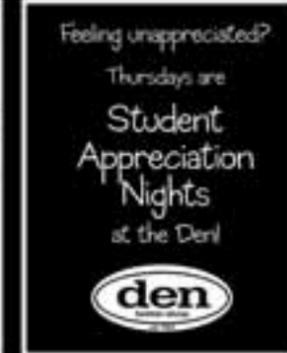
"Let's Talk About SEX!"

Feb 28 - MAR 2
MACEWAN HALL

Special Guest
Sue Johanson
 Thurs, Mar 2 - 6pm
 in the Ballroom



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

Monday, Feb. 13	Tuesday, Feb. 14	Wednesday, Feb. 15	Thursday, Feb. 16	Friday, Feb. 17	Saturday, Feb. 18
					

STUDENTS' UNION

FULL OF SELF-IMPORTANCE SINCE 1967





Aaron Suffletoski/the Gauntlet

Have a LuciDream ¹³ ENTERTAINMENT

Mine are usually about hookers, Pepto Bismol and heroin-soaked grapes

4 EDITORIAL/LETTERS

Scatology 201!

This week we discuss the place of shock value in journalism. It's like where's Waldo, but with irony.

5 NEWS

George Strombooctopotamus waz here!!1!

If you work in the U of C printing services, I hear Tim Hortons is hiring. Oh yeah, we also have more SU election coverage than you can shake a miscarried unicorn fetus at.

10 SPORTS

What do track, basketball and puns have in common?!

The *Gauntlet* sports section! The editor wrote something for me to qualify this with, but I lost it and he left, so I guess you're actually going to have to read it, you lazy jerk.

PULL OUT ELECTION SUPPLEMENT

Vote or die!

In case you haven't noticed the election posters coating the campus, there's a Students' Union election happening from February 14th to 16th. We sat down with nine of the candidates and made them feel small. Watch them squirm in this week's pullout.

13 ENTERTAINMENT

Local band can control their dreams!

That's right, and get this, instead of having countless orgies while flying through walls they use their powers for good! Also, more playRites than you can write a play at, an annoying ape and exclamation points galore!

20 OPINIONS

Marriage and game shows!

Why you shouldn't get married. Or watch game shows.

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Michelle Viegas,
Pharmacy Technician

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.

C. Hutt



Poking a bear in the face with a stick

Early Wednesday afternoon the *Gauntlet* received a call from a CBC reporter. This usually means one of two things, either the reporter needs some information she can't get anywhere else (not very likely) or we did something to piss somebody off (more likely). This time, however, she was calling under the assumption that we were going to do something to piss somebody off. Apparently, an eastern Canadian student paper re-printed an infamous cartoon of the Prophet Muhammad, originally printed by *Jyllands-Posten*, a Danish newspaper, earlier this month, earning themselves a campus-wide ban from the university president. The CBC reporter thought other

student papers might be doing the same thing. Have we become that predictable?

This reporter was right about one thing, we had intended to discuss censorship and the limits of good taste in this week's editorial. Okay, she was partially right about another thing, we had also discussed running a religiously offensive editorial cartoon. As you can see above, we chose not to because, well, that would be like poking a bear in the face with a stick. Yeah, you can do it, but does your reason justify getting your arms ripped off?

Now, to those of you who have payed attention in the past, you know the *Gauntlet* is no stranger to printing content that is offensive to some people. Sometimes

a lot of people. However, we like to think that we have good reason when we do. Such is the beauty of free speech.

The Danish editors of *Jyllands-Posten* no doubt felt they were publishing something worthwhile when they first printed the cartoons. What that might be, we're not entirely sure. Yes, Islam has been linked to terrorism, but are you making the best use of your editorial column inches by lighting up in a fundamentalist refinery like the Middle East?

Often what happens when overzealous editors overstep the bounds of good taste (and the *Gauntlet* has been guilty of this more than once) is that the message gets trampled by the outrage.

There is a very fine line between getting it right and shocking people just enough to ponder and undercutting your own ideas with heavy handedness. The line is thin, but it's also very important. In order for progress to occur in journalism, the opportunity for those decisions must remain intact.

As journalists get more experienced, they get better at making the distinction between poignancy and bad taste. The CBC reporter assumed that student newspapers would be more likely to err on the side of scat, and for a paper out east, she was correct.

Looking at the editorial call made by *Jyllands-Posten* it's nice to see that the big boys can make the same mistakes too. And maybe—just maybe—next time we'll both get it right.

The SU election acclamation proclamation

Taking a look at this year's Students' Union General Election, one can't help feeling pride to be a student at this institution. Not the status quo sense of pride students at other schools take in their universities, mind you. Nope, it's the kind of pride that can only come from knowing one is part of a unique and long-held U of C tradition: The pride of not caring about anything but classes, part-time jobs and the daily commute.

This year, two of the five senior su positions have been acclaimed due to lack of competition. That means student apathy just handed two of the most-influential su positions to applicants who only had to fill out a few forms to get the job. They'll get the \$32,000 salary for their year, even though nobody reviewed their resumés and qualifications. They didn't need to do a job interview, and they certainly didn't need to get out there and earn student votes.

As far as the average undergraduate knows, our new vice-president academic is a painted rock, and our new VP operations and finance can't balance his own checkbook. Luckily for all of us, both Shannon O'Connor and Cody Wagner have su experience and seem genuinely interested in using their positions for good rather than evil. They're both qualified as well, but that's just a lucky break. In the past, this has been the exception rather than the rule.

Last year a painted rock *did* run for president, and candidates have often bordered on the bizarre. From campus icon 'sign-guy,' who ran last year, to Phil Barski of 2004 Barski's Cabinet fame, there have always been people more notorious than knowledgeable. In most instances an acclamation would have been a disaster, but this time we dodged the bullet.

Well done U of C students! That's a unique pride indeed. So unique that it almost feels like shame.

Editor, the Gauntlet: Sports teams offended

Hockeysaurs offended!

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,
[Re: "Lady hockeysaurs record second win," sports article, February 2, 2006]

As editor of the *Gauntlet* I'm confident that you understand the impact of words and metaphor on society.

Therefore, I was extremely disturbed to find the phrase, "But instead of wetting their panties, the Dinos kept the pressure on," in the article mentioned above. It is no secret that

women are struggling to establish their legitimate place in athletics; they face difficulties with funding, discrimination, and a myriad of other challenges; so, to throw such a demeaning, sexualized, and unnecessary metaphor as "wetting their panties" into a game's description is offensive.

I would have believed that a socially

conscious university newspaper would be acutely aware of discrimination, in all forms, and guard against being the perpetuator of base generalizations. Thank you for your time on this matter and please put more consideration into the words that you choose to print.

Union clashes with admin

Andrew Rininsland
Gauntlet News

The Alberta Union of Provincial Employees held an information picket in front of the University of Calgary administration building Wed., Feb. 6. The AUPE Local 52 is concerned about the university's plan to sign an agreement with Xerox, which threatens current jobs in U of C Printing Services.

"These people have a demonstrated pattern of behaviour against employees," said AUPE president Dan MacLennan. "The university should be held accountable for their—pardon my French—bullshit accounting that puts people out of work."

Support staff from across the U of C walked in a line in front of the administration building for over an hour. The group is hoping the protest will raise awareness for their concerns before the U of C Board of Governors vote on the Xerox IMAGinE project later this week. The agreement involves the replacement of machines within Printing Services and the outsourcing of much of Printing Services to Xerox. While Printing Services currently



Nicola Waugh/the Gauntlet

Hell no, we won't go! U of C support staff try to catch admin's ear.

employs only 10 people, there are fears that this is yet another step in a growing trend toward privatization of campus infrastructure.

"There is on-going concern about more and more private contractors taking jobs at the U of C," said MacLennan. "We see a pattern of behaviour from the senior administration."

MacLennan said the union has considered bringing in the Auditor General to examine the university's actions.

Calgary-Varsity MLA Harry Chase spoke at the picket, blaming the current Conservative provincial government for consistently cutting funding to post-secondary education and forcing universities to adopt financial measures such as privatization of infrastructure.

"It's a direct result of a lack of base operating funds from the provincial government," said Chase. "The university is forced to make these controversial decisions and try to pinch pen-

nies, but there's yet to be any evidence that the penny-pinching worked out. The provincial government still hasn't addressed the problem that all faculties have to give five per cent for the next three years to a central pool to deal with various funding crises. Everyone's being hurt by this."

Chase also questioned the merits of the privatization plan itself.

"I have yet to see privatization come in either as more efficient or cheaper," said Chase. "It's a misnomer. It's private profit at public expense."

U of C vice-president finance and services Mike McAdam stressed that the contract is still in the working stages and the university will work with Xerox to prevent jobs from being lost, but wouldn't guarantee job security for Printing Services employees.

"Xerox and others are dealing with the issues of jobs under the new model as compared with the old, trying obviously to segue way as many positions that exist currently onto the new model without any job loss, but at the end of the day, there may be some positions that are not needed anymore and will need to be abolished," he said.

Stroubouloupoulos brings show, lots of vowels to U of C



Sara Hanson
Gauntlet News

Proclaiming Calgary as Canada's new capital, George Stroubouloupoulos made a good impression on fans who attended the Monday night taping of his CBC show *The Hour* in MacEwan Ballroom.

Stroubouloupoulos, who is known for hosting the Punk Show, the New Music and Much News on Much Music, originally began his career as a radio host in Kelowna, B.C. with no expectations of entering the world of television.

"Television was a fluke," he said. "All I ever wanted to do was be a radio jockey and play Led Zeppelin."

After serving as the host for Tommy Douglas on the Greatest Canadian Challenge, Stroubouloupoulos was offered a permanent place at CBC, however, he

was reluctant to take the offer.

"Originally I didn't want to take the job," he said. "I just didn't think it was my thing."

Stroubouloupoulos eventually decided to give CBC a chance and despite his lack of traditional CBC appeal, he felt welcome at the station right away. Now in its second season, *The Hour* has received a lot of positive feedback. Show producer David Freeman explained why he thinks it has been so successful.

"When we created the show there were three things that we had in mind: no bullshit, give people a different take and nothing is sacred," said Freeman. "These are the three pillars that we use to judge each day."

Although *The Hour* concentrates on the news of the day, Freeman stressed they also try to include stories that are not getting much coverage.

"We try to give people something that is going to make them care and think about

something in a different way," he said.

Stroubouloupoulos' years at Much Music and unconventional approach to journalism may be appealing to many young Canadians; however, Freeman insists this is not an objective of the show.

"One thing we have always made clear is that this show never intended to target a young audience," said Freeman. "The audience is split evenly between different age groups. We are trying to bridge the generation gap in news and just trying to do things differently."

Stroubouloupoulos is definitely taking a different approach. From his clothes to his set, everything about *The Hour* redefines traditional news. Although music is still an important aspect in his life, Stroubouloupoulos' favourite topic is people who want to make a difference.

"Anything people can do to make the world a better place, that's a great thing," he said.

Stroubouloupoulos greets fanboys and the ladies at the U of C.

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Academic candidates duke it out

Emily Senger
News Assistant

The Students' Union candidate's forums got off to a sluggish start Mon., Feb. 6 when three of the six academic commissioner candidates failed to show-up and the vice-president's acclaimed status made for an easy debate victory.

The forum began with a show-down between the three commissioner candidates who showed up. Brittany Sargent, Fraser Stuart and Blake Bergener told the 20 people in attendance what each considered to be the number one issue for undergraduate students.

"I think the major issue facing undergraduate students is the de-valuing of undergraduate degrees," said Sargent. Sargent also said she would like to increase awareness of the academic appeal program so students will know where to go if



These people actually showed up for their own forum. Three others didn't.

they have academic issues.

A common theme in the candidate's platforms was the need to address problems with the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction.

Stuart identified issues with

lower USRI response rate as his number one concern.

"There needs to be education of what a USRI is and what it does on campus," said Stuart. "I'd also like to create a teaching assistants' excellence award."

Bergener suggested there could be opportunities for students in

statistics and economics programs to get involved in USRI redevelopment, which is part of his platform to diversify the undergraduate experience.

"There should be more options for undergrad students in things like research and co-op opportunities," said Bergener.



Chris Beauchamp/the Gauntlet

O'Connor.

The forum concluded with acclaimed vice-president academic Shannon O'Connor's message to students. Though she was acclaimed, O'Connor said she would have liked some competition.

"I'm a little bit disappointed about being acclaimed," said O'Connor. "I'm excited but I was ready for campaigning. I had my posters, and my banners were beautiful."

O'Connor said she intends to keep her door open to students and their concerns, despite her acclaimed status.

"I was acclaimed for academic commissioner last year," said O'Connor. "I've shown that I will still be accountable, even though I've been acclaimed."

The academic commissioner candidates who failed to attend were Luke Valentine, Wilma Shim and Ryan Lake.



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Artistic Director: Mark Lawes

External seats up for grabs



Labonte.



Soron.



No, this isn't try-outs for stand-up comedy, although these people are pretty funny.

Andrew Rininsland
Gauntlet News

Tempers flared this week as Students' Union vice-president external Jen Smith lambasted candidate Mike Soron during the open question period of the su external election forum.

"I'm wondering if this kind of attendance will show what your performance will be like if elected vice-president external next year," asked Smith, claiming Soron skipped several key events during a recent conference he attended as an external commissioner. Soron refused to answer Smith directly but said the complaint was unwarranted as he went to the most significant sessions during the conference.

"This forum is not about her, and I'm disappointed she'd ask this question," he said. Smith has come under fire from su staff and elected officials in the past for being difficult to work with.

Besides the infighting from the current external commission, the forum ran smoothly. A large crowd first watched nine candidates vying for the four external commissioner positions present their platforms and

answer some pre-determined questions before listening to Soron and his opponent, Julie Labonte, square off for the position of vP external.

The candidates running for external commissioner all seemed dedicated to lobbying of some form or another, with the exception of James Michi, who wanted to de-emphasize the lobbying portion of the job somewhat and work with the other commissions to do things like examine the su's role in the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. Furthermore, Michi vowed to examine the su's relation to the current student health-plan provider.

"They work for the man, and that man is Gullivan and Associates," said Michi, noting that having a private healthcare group supply students with a prescription drug program may be one of the first steps towards a privatized healthcare system.

All of the candidates said they are opposed to tuition increases, with Renee Lee specifically wanting a fully funded tuition freeze and Natan Albahari advocating for a tuition reduction. All of them wanted students to be more involved in the decision-making process, with

Gil Lewinsky, Jeff Rakebrand and Zena Bailly promising to focus on what the student body wants most. Mike Selnes and Dalmy Baez want to see the quality money better used as indicated by the response to the plebiscite question. Stephanie Ferguson added more environmental responsibility from the su along with the standard campaign promises.

The forum then moved to a debate between Labonte and Soron, who also exhibit remarkably similar platforms. Both performed well,

highlighting their wishes to represent students and be an active voice on both a federal and provincial level.

"Worrying about how your fellow students are going to pay for education shouldn't be your top priority," said Soron. "Worrying about how students are getting turned away because there's not enough seats shouldn't be your top priority, or how your faculty isn't getting enough funding. You shouldn't be concerned about these during your

day, you should be concerned about mid-terms, you should be worried about studying for your class and term papers."

Labonte, while stressing that continued support of CASA is important, advocated more provincial involvement.

"The fact is that we've got a lot of things on our hands right now with the provincial government," said Labonte. "As it stands, spring 2006, PSE review has to be looked at as a major priority."

gauntlet
ELECTIONS

On Wed., March 8, the Gauntlet Publications Society will be holding elections for Tier I positions (Editor-in-Chief and News Editor). All University of Calgary undergraduate students are eligible to run for these positions. Students interested in these positions must declare their candidacy on Wed., March 1.

The hiring process for Tier II positions (Production Editor, Entertainment Editor, Sports Editor, Features Editor, Illustrations Editor, Photo Editor and Layout/Opinions Editor) will begin on March 8. All U of C undergraduate students are eligible to apply for these positions. Applicants must declare their interest by Fri., March 10.

For more information, please contact Chief Returning Officer or Editor-in-Chief at cro@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

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Events hopefuls promise more good times

Sara Hanson
Gauntlet News

Voters heard from 10 commissioner candidates and two vice-president candidates at the Students' Union events forum on Wed., Feb. 8.

The commissioner hopefuls each presented fairly similar platforms revolving around promotion of events, student participation and support for the Dinos.

Christie Docking, who's seeking a second term, would like to bring back Overflow, the official kick off party that welcomes students back in September. Ryan Anderson also proposed having a September version of Bermuda Shorts Day. Josh Sandulak wants to focus on uniting all students, from rez kids to



Jablonski.

campus commuters. He proposed a new open mic night at the Den and pledged to keep focusing on That Empty Space.

Claiming that apathetic students are wandering around the school like zombies, Justin Barrett said he will work to get more students involved in on-campus activities and clubs.

Andrea Dabrensky also pledged to increase student participation through semester long events, such as interfaculty games. Dabrensky also



These keeners think they know how to throw a shaker.

proposed a campus version of battle of the bands. Gareth Dobson said he wants to better utilize resources such as the campus website to promote SU events.

Brianna Butchart would like to combine more campus events with specific charities and increase enthusiasm for the Dinos. Pamela Weatherbee, a member of the women's basketball team, is also dedicated to increasing promotion of Dinos events. Joanna Simpson proposed having pep rallies to get students excited about Dinos games, and Julie Bogle proposed door prizes as incentives for students to attend games.

VP events candidates Beamer Comfort and Eric Jablonski presented their platforms and answered questions from the audience.

Comfort, a long time varsity athlete, pledged to bring what he learned while working in athletics and apply this to the position of VP events.

Comfort said he plans to keep pushing That Empty Space, but he would like to make it appeal to a more mainstream audience. Although he stressed the Dinos are not his only priority, Comfort wants to see more emphasis put on them.

"The rock scene is important, but the level of effort is currently unbal-



Daniel Charlebois/the Gauntlet Comfort.

anced," said Comfort. "We need to move back towards the middle."

Jablonski said his current position as an events commissioner and his role as president of Rock for a Cause gave him experience for the position of VP. He pledged to continue promotion of That Empty Space, as well as events for the Dinos, clubs and the Resident Students' Association.

"I'm really partial to small events," he said. "You get more value out of them and there is more opportunity for social interaction."

Comfort agreed.

"Profit is not an issue," he said. "We need to worry about having events that focus on student life."



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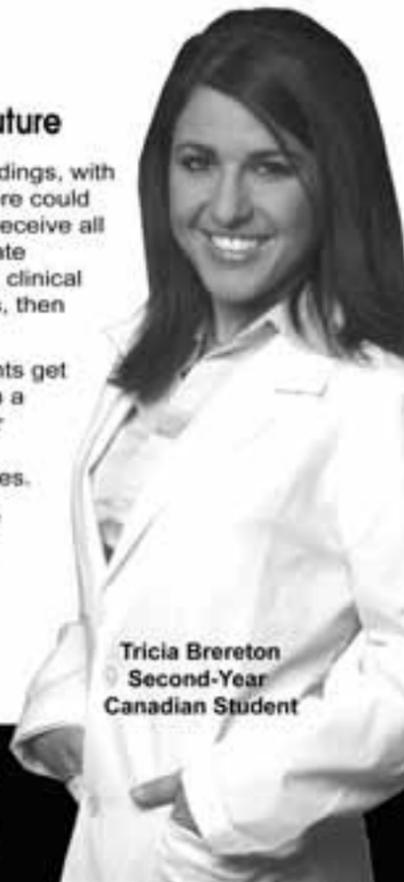
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SPORTS

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

Lady basketballers ready to make their strike



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Courtney Coyle got so far around the Pronghorns' defense they wouldn't even fit in the frame.

Sean Nyilassy
Sports Editor

The Dinos women's basketball team kept hopes for clinching the top spot in their division as alive as Bob Barker with a pair of wins against the University of

Lethbridge Pronghorns Feb. 3-4. The Dinos took control of Friday's game in Lethbridge early and didn't let up. Our ladies were as ferocious as Russell Crowe in Gladiator. They sliced and diced their way to a 60-34 half time lead, shooting a stupefying 76 per cent from the field.

"We were dominant," head coach Shawnee Harle barely blushed. "We made more than three quarters of our shots, Lethbridge didn't know what hit them."

The Dinos held onto their 26-point lead throughout the second half for an almost triple digit 99-73 win. Are you not entertained?

Lindsay Maundrell scored a game-high 26 points, shooting 61.1 per cent from the floor. Becky Heninger and Michelle Willson were 100 and 71.4 per cent respectively from the field for 15 points each. Katherine Adams drained 10 points and provided six assists in the win.

"We were firing on all cylinders," Adams gleamed. "It's fun to go into someone else's gym and put on a show."

The teams traveled to Calgary for Saturday's game in the Jack Simpson Gymnasium. The Dinos decided to make this game a little more of a nail-biter—to keep the crowd's attention of course. After flirting back and forth with the lead—a ridiculous nine times—the Pronghorns jumped ahead 38-42 at the half point.

The lead changed hands another five times in the second half, with the Dinos taking a 70-69 lead with 3:21 remaining in the game. The Pronghorns tied the game at 71 and again at 73 with just a minute to play. After being fouled with 18 seconds left, Dino Whitney Haswell came through in the clutch, hitting one of her two charity points to give the Dinos a 74-73 win.

Adams led the Dinos with 15 points. Maundrell and Haswell added 13 and 11 points respectively while hauling down seven boards each. Tanya Hautala snuck in 11 points and four assists.

"If you look at who we had on the floor and how we were forced to play because of foul trouble, you'd have to say it was a great win on Saturday," Harle beamed. "That kind of game helps us prepare for playoffs better than a 26-point blowout."

"The part of consistency that has improved the most has been the bench play," she added. "That's what's made us more consistent."

With these wins, the Dinos women's basketball team's future is still in their own hands. And despite their stellar record, Maundrell feels no differently.

"It just feels like a regular season with ups and downs," she admits. "But it feels like we've been able to gut it out more."

They enter their final weekend with a 13-5 record—good enough for second in Canada West's mountain division—and have won 12 of their last 13 regular season games plus three non-conference games over Christmas. Their opponent: the 15-3 division-leading University of Saskatchewan Huskies. A pair of road wins Feb. 11-12 would give the Dinos the top spot due to their better +/- points ratio.

"After losing the first four games of the season, I didn't expect to go on as big a run as we did," Harle reminisced. "But when you look at the players we have and their character, they've earned it and worked hard for this."

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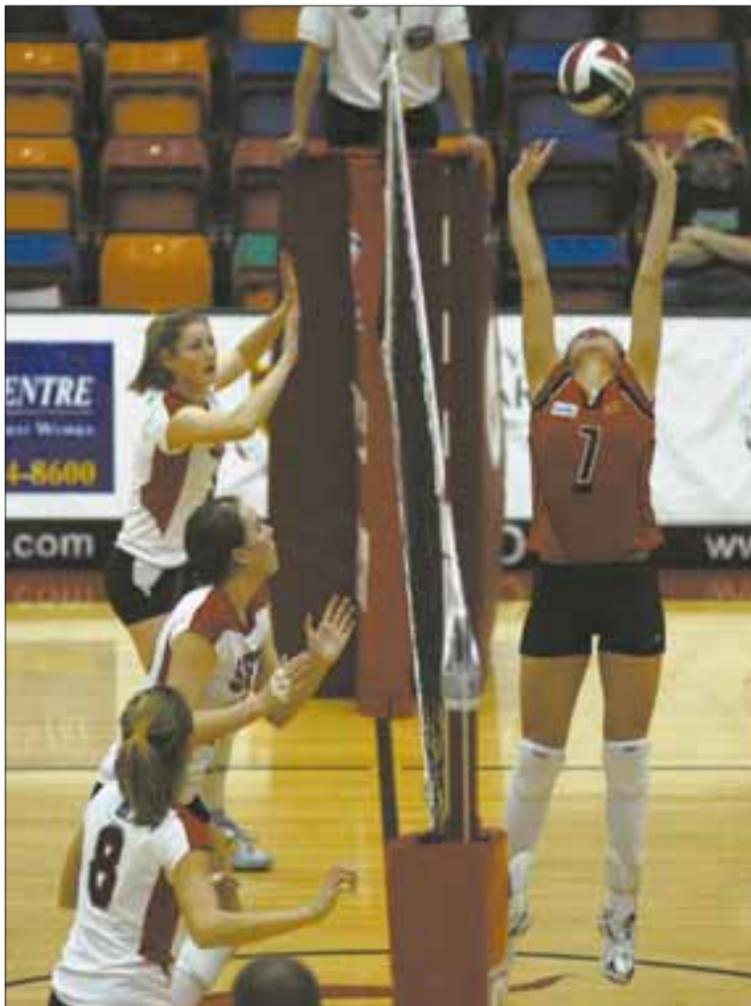
After an unfortunate loss to the Vancouver-based University of British Columbia Thunderbirds Jan. 28-29, the Dinos women's volleyball team had a chance to exact their revenge on all Vancouverites Feb. 3-4. The Simon Fraser University Clan paid a visit to the Jack Simpson Gymnasium and was welcomed with a barrage of spikes and blocks from our ladies.

Although the Dinos, under injury-free conditions, should have a roster of 13 players ready to take to the court at any moment, only eight ladies dressed for the contests against the Clan. Despite this, the Dinos catapulted to a 25-12 first-set win on Friday.

The second set saw SFU snag an early lead and build a moat around their castle that kept the Dinos away. It wasn't until the Clan was up 20-23 that the Dinos sprung into action. They dove on in after an SFU service error and were back on solid ground thanks to a kill from Dino rookie Raynell Lavertu. A Clan kill hit the net, allowing Lavertu to siege their castle with a kill for a 25-23 win.

The Dinos returned to their usual winning ways to take the third set 25-18. Lauren Perry led the Dinos with 14 kills while Deanna Delisle chipped in eight kills, six assisted blocks and a solo block. Setter Natalie Schwartz provided 11 digs and 36 assists.

In Saturday's opening set, the teams were fairly evenly matched



Ryan Link/the Gauntlet

Natalie Schwartz's go-go-gadget arms are unstoppable.

until a tie was reached at 16 points. At this point the Dinos drew their swords and quickly filleted the Clan 25-19. The remainder of the game provided little challenge for our small but talented group of ladies. They took the remaining two sets 25-16 and 25-12.

Carolyn MacDonald had a game-high 13 kills while Neda Boroumand posted 24 digs. Julie Young had nine

kills and 19 digs and Schwartz had 35 assists, 10 digs and three assisted blocks.

The 13-5 Dinos now take to the road for their final regular season games Feb. 11-12. They take on the 11-7 University of Winnipeg Wesmen in a pair of games that could secure them second place in Canada West if the stars align properly.

The bridge: blown over

Crystal Wong
Gauntlet Hockey

The Dinos men's hockey team finally has their mojo. And with playoffs approaching, they couldn't afford to make any mistakes. After struggling against the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns throughout the season, the Dinos went into the enemy's lair Feb. 3-4 and bagged all four possible points—but not without some close calls.

"We dominated Lethbridge in the previous games. We should have won 8-0, easily," head coach Scott Atkinson said of the Dinos' struggle against the Pronghorns. "[Goaltender] Scott Talbot didn't play well at all. We need more consistent goaltending."

And Talbot didn't disappoint his coach on this occasion.

Both teams had their chances in Friday's game. Although it turned out to be low-scoring, there were 62 shots on net. Luck was on the Dinos' side early on; Lethbridge had lots of great chances, with three shots hitting the crossbar. Nonetheless, the Dinos escaped the first period without giving up any goals.

The Dinos drew first blood in the second period when Ryan Annesley put home a rebound given up by the 'Horns' goalie. The 'Horns' answered less than five minutes later when Calgary native Shaun Norrie put the puck behind Talbot. The Dinos gained some momentum back in the third, out-shooting Lethbridge 8-4, but failed to slip one in as the game went into overtime.

When Lethbridge ran out of gas, see SHOWDOWN, page 11

Looking for a chance

Andrea Poupart
Gauntlet Hockey

Going into a game Sat., Feb. 4, the Dinos women's hockey team were hoping they could extend their winning streak to two games. But after being upset Fri., Jan. 28, the Mount Royal College Cougars came to this rematch with their claws bared, ready to fight.

With penalties throughout most of the second period, the Dinos special teams didn't perform as well as hoped, although Beth Nerland and Dianne Ikeda each managed to put a notch on the board for the Dinos. The Cougars, however, were out for blood and sent the Dinos home licking a 7-2 wound.

The Dinos are preparing for their last two games of the regular season

and are still optimistic.

"If we stick to our game plan we have a very good chance," said assistant captain Christina DeSouza about the series with the NAIT Ooks Feb. 10-11. "NAIT brings out the best in us and we have had very close, hard-fought games against them."

The Ooks have lost some players recently due to academic standings, so the Dinos have a good opportunity to end the season positively.

Because the top four teams in the league are still so close in the standings, it is hard to say who the Dinos will face in the first round of playoffs. But if they do well this weekend the Dinos could bring their momentum into the quarter finals. The Dinos play host to the Ooks at the Olympic Oval Sat., Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

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Tracksters take tricky trip

Sean Nyilassy
Sports Editor

With their Pumas tied up tight, numbers pinned securely to their jerseys and sports bras and tightie whities keeping bounciness to a minimum, a group of 20 athletes from the Dinos track and field team traveled to the Cargill Games at the University of Manitoba Sat., Feb. 4.

Although the only gold from the meet came from the Dinos women's 4x800-metre relay squad, who won

by more than seven seconds, there were many other strong performances. The women's 4x200-metre relay team was fifth, just under 3.7 seconds back from the top spot. For the men, the 4x800-metre relay runners were third.

Individually, Ariana Binotto was less than a tenth of a second behind the winner for second place in the 300-metre sprint. Another solid sprinter was Adele Smigelski, who placed third in the 60-metre sprint.

In the running events, Renee

Kaylor and Shannon Popowich place third and fourth in the 600- and 1000-metre runs respectively. Kim Tse hopped, skipped and jumped her way to third in the triple jump.

On the men's side, it was the runners who excelled. Travis Saunders and Madison Theriault were third and fifth respectively in the 1000-metre run. Geoff Kerr placed third in the 1500-metre run, just over 1.4 seconds behind the leader. Finally, Trent Ratzlaff was third in the 600-metre run invitational.

The team next heads north to Edmonton to compete in the Alberta High Performance Meet Feb. 11-12. As the name implies, this meet is not for wussies—it's the last meet before the Canada West Championship.

Showdown, cont'd from page 10

Travis Friedley took advantage of a Pronghorn penalty, scoring with a slap shot on a pass from Jarret Lukin, Atkinson's pick for the team's MVP, and Paul Gentile. This 2-1 win was a first for the Dinos this season—their two previous overtime contests ended in draws.

"We have good players and play a great game of hockey," Atkinson commented on the team's efforts. "But we often struggled to find a way to win."

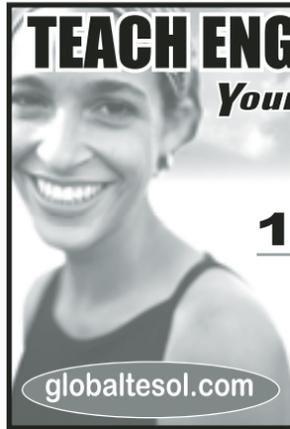
The teams went at it again a day later—and there was even less scoring. In fact, it became the lowest scoring game for the Dinos this season. Despite 14 Dinos' shots in the first period, the game was scoreless after one. Annesley again opened scoring in the second period on a powerplay with only 20 seconds left on the clock.

Before this game, the Dinos had been 6-1 with a lead going into the third. This game continued that trend. With 267 Lethbridge fans in attendance, Talbot shut the door to secure a 1-0 win and his second shutout.

With the win, the Dinos climb back to second place in the mountain division, but won't be catching up to the University of Alberta Golden Bears, who are 14 points ahead in the top spot in the division and Canada West.

The Dinos battle Gerry Festa and the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds in Father David Bauer Arena Feb. 10-11. The teams split their previous contest, played in B.C., but there is more on the line this time around as the Thunderbirds are only three points behind the Dinos.

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Hoopster's hopes happily hovering high

Samantha Attaway
Gauntlet Basketball

While football fans hunkered down with a bowl of Doritos in preparation for the tight, tight pants of Superbowl Sunday, the Dinos men's basketball team stole the Steelers' thunder in another epic battle on the court.

Our men have kept us guessing all season—taking our hopes from the heart of Hurricane Katrina to fish-infested Newfie wharfs—and they dragged us kicking and screaming back to southern Alberta Fri., Feb. 3 to avenge losses to the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns suffered earlier this season.

The 'Horns have traditionally done very well on their own turf. Friday began much the same. But despite the 'Horns' 50-47 half-time lead, the Dinos came back to balance the attack with Chris Wright, Brian Finnis, Robbie Sihota and Josh Feist heading up the gang.

Wright doubled with top billing for points and rebounds, grabbing the hoop and inspiring hope for the Dinos to gain standing on the Pronghorns. The men gained eight points in just a minute and a half during the final moments of the game with enough energy to make the crowd dizzy.

But sudden nausea overcame them as the 'Horns slipped in a jump shot that sealed the game at 76-74. That doesn't hurt so bad—except a loss is *really* a loss right now.

"We got pretty choked right after the game on Friday," Wright admitted. "But, you know, we didn't lose to a team, we lost to ourselves."

Clearly, we were in for a real rumble in the Jack Simpson Gymnasium Sat., Feb. 4, and that is exactly what fans experienced. Drunk on the excitement of Senior's Night and hung over from a near-victory the previous eve, the Dinos played to win.

"The guys were pretty motivated to play," explained a calm Wright.

"In my five years, I've never lost on a Senior's Night."

The first swoosh of the game was a beautiful three-point shot from Cody Darrah, followed five minutes later by a dunk done the Wright way. Ross Bekkering duplicated Wright's high scoring from the previous night, gaining the highest point total with 18 and tying the captain's 11 lion-hearted boards.

Meanwhile, on another part of the court, Darrah arguably played his best game yet, with three-point shots contributing to his offensive domination. With a 41-38 Dinos half-time lead, the beginning of the second half was a defensive final exam for both teams. Each team scored only 15 points in a decisive and sweaty 10 minutes. Darrah pressed the 'Horns' offense relentlessly.

"I just figured I'd better pick it up—play hard defense and just let the offense take it from there," he explained.

The last five minutes of the game showed Finnis fashioning the foul line, giving the Dinos a razor edge, and the last moments were the best the fans could get, with a schooner-sized three-point shot from Darrah.

A domino effect of foul shots brought a 76-71 Dinos victory.

However, the weekend had a hint of bitterness as Wright, the team's captain, faced his last regular season game in the Jack. The only graduating senior of the traditional Senior's Night, Wright leaves his knowledge to an energetic team that he has every faith in. Head coach Dan Vanhooren



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Ross Bekkering (33) says, "Uh uh, I don't think so. Not in my house," and grabs another rebound.

described Wright to a crowd of 1,863 people as a leader on the court and in the classroom who displays an unprecedented commitment to the game and to those he comes in contact with.

The Dinos have won four of their last five games and prospects are rising like yeast. They fight for their playoff spot against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Feb. 11-12.

"I think we have a pretty good chance," promised Sihota, who is recovering from a knee injury. "We've been playing together more as a team and our

defense has gotten a lot better."

As the Dinos meet the Huskies, the Pronghorns meet the University of Alberta Golden Bears. The Bears are currently second in the central division with the Dinos two points back in third and Pronghorns another two points behind in fourth. Although the Huskies have already clinched the top spot in the division, the remaining three teams can still end up in any order. Because only the top three teams go to playoffs, this predicament puts the pressure on all of the teams to succeed. Only time will tell.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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LuciDream looks to inspire change



Aaron Shuffletoski/the Gauntlet

The phantom of the confused tree haunts LuciDream everywhere they go.

MUSICINTERVIEW

LuciDream

Kyle Francis
Opinions Editor

If Socrates ever managed to get over his weakness for teenage boys and start rapping, he would probably sound something like Calgary's LuciDream. Ancient Greece's bad boy of philosophy was

never satisfied with the answers presented to him and attempted to bring about change by questioning the foundations on which people based their knowledge. Several thousand years later, Jordan Dack presents this old idea in a new way: with fat rhymes and killer beats.

"LuciDream, if I had to define it and I guess I do, could be defined by the word 'myutic,'" supposes Dack. "It's a Greek word that

refers to the method of questioning Socrates used that allowed people to give birth to themselves. We don't claim to know anything at all. It's not packed with any assumptions or judgments."

Three of LuciDream's members used to make up the Calgary hip-hop crew Internal Affairs, but left the name behind when they sold all their worldly possessions to finance the creation of *Choose the Madness*,

the band's debut album under the LuciDream name. Where Internal Affairs was a politically-minded rap crew with a clear-cut position and agenda, LuciDream claims to ask only the questions, leaving the answers to listeners.

"LuciDream is about diving into the ground to inspect the roots, not to judge the roots anymore but to observe them and plant new seeds," Dack tends his philosophical garden. "Bands with a political message are needed, but this is just another part that's needed. We would rather just let the individual know that change is possible."

The title of the band's debut album stems from the notion of subtly influencing people's hearts and minds by making them aware of the possibility for change.

"We try and be examples of it ourselves—I like to call it 'powerful vulnerability,'" Dack says. "It's about going out on a limb every day so that other people might do that as well. The biggest changes that have happened through history have usu-

ally been sparked from something extremely subtle."

Rather than attempting to get their epistemological message heard by harassing the citizens of Athens and eventually being asked to drink a cup of hemlock and die, LuciDream has opted to take the far more sensible path of holding a CD release party at a popular night club. While it won't make for any dramatic oil paintings, Dack hopes the spread of the message will spark the subtle revolution.

"We just want to promote choice and promote creativity," says Dack. A lot of this stuff sounds optimistic, and people could label our music as positive, but that's just because everyone's so used to everything being so universally depressing. People hear us and think we're some kind of prozac band, but we really just want to open people to themselves, and whatever they find is absolutely beautiful and perfect."

LuciDream celebrate the release of *Choose the Madness* Wed., Feb. 15 at Coyotes. Tickets are available at the door. *Choose the Madness* is available at fine record stores.

Curiosity should kill the *Curious George*

FILMREVIEW

Curious George

Garth Paulson
Gauntlet Entertainment

Adapting a beloved childhood memory to the big screen is a daunting task. Those who take up the challenge don't generally have much to worry about from the actual kids presently in love with the source material. Quite frankly, these children—the scourge of the earth—are far too stupid to understand when they're watching the filmic equivalent of feces. The growing number turning to 18 page children's stories to transform into a 90 minute movie do, however, have a lot to fear from those who grew up with the books and developed such grand ideas of how great their *auteur* of choice is, nothing could possibly satisfy them.

Curious George, the latest gold mine to be gutted so Hollywood can continue to house the only industry

in the world completely devoid of ideas, somehow manages to up the ante. This film might just be bad enough to get those small, whiny, snot-filled, arguments-in-favour-of-worldwide-sterilization all riled up. At a recent screening even the dreadful children couldn't find much to raise a chuckle at, leaving a theatre full of parents and their demon-offspring fighting over who got to look at the elders' watches in order to see how much more they had to endure.

The film's flaws are many but they begin with the characters. Though adorable and charming in H.A. and Margaret Rey's series of books, on screen the titular simian comes across like much of his audience, namely as an Attention Deficit Disorder-addled, annoying child, the only difference is this one is thankfully mute. George's never ending whims are amusing at first but quickly become tiresome, then infuriating as they needlessly prolong scene after scene.

The rest of the characters don't fare any better. George's foil, The Man in the Yellow Hat (voiced by Will Ferrell), is a nondescript bungling dolt. Needless to say, he is oblivious to the doe-eyed romantic interest's (Drew Barrymore) er, interest and somehow gets stuck in a lot of situations he didn't intend to be in, messes up repeatedly and makes everything work out just perfectly in the end. The problem is, The Man in the Yellow Hat is as unremarkable as his name, leaving Ferrell handcuffed. His only strong points as an actor are his uncontrollable zeal and improvisation, neither of which are possible in an animated feature.

With an engaging story *Curious George* could have been tolerable but it fails to deliver even this. What passes for the film's plot doesn't deserve much mention considering it's only there to give George the impetus to follow his curiosity, which he does in ways anyone remotely familiar with the books will recognize.



Sadly, even the animation falls short, the settings are snappy and eye catching but the actual characters are flat and as boring as everything else *Curious George* has no choice but to boast. The resultant excuse for a film is a wholly unnecessary waste of a sacred childhood tome. The

only people who could possibly find a drop of worthwhile in this bore are the most idiotic of idiotic children, but even they will have to try pretty damn hard and they hate that kind of thing.

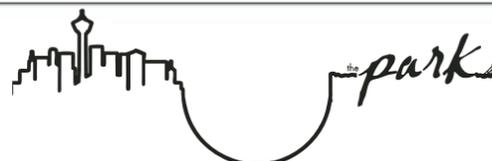
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Black Maria so punk they're not

MUSICINTERVIEW *The Black Maria*

Janice Tran
Gauntlet Entertainment

Critics are always quick to pigeon hole bands into convenient genres. The Black Maria are very often lumped into the postpunk genre while comparisons are drawn to bands like AFI and Thrice. Breaking down this stereotype, vocalist Chris Gray feels these critics have been disillusioned.

"I think we're more of a rock band than a punk or hardcore band," he says, and he could not be more correct.

The band is a result of the break up of two well known bands, Grade and New Day Rising, but the band's previous musical efforts are not an accurate reflection of what they sound like now. *Lead us to Reason*, The Black Maria's first release exudes a solid rock attitude loosely comparable to Muse and Chevelle, although finding an exact comparison is difficult.

"If you look at previous tours

we've been on, it shows that we kind of pop in and out of various scenes with the crossover of music we do," Gray remarks.

This diverse list of tour mates include many high profile bands such as Sum 41, Chevelle, Goldfinger and label-mates Atreyu. The list is impressive for a band who only released their debut CD last year. The band owes a lot of their success to Tony Brummel, the owner of Victory Records.

"We [did] a bunch of showcases with many major labels, but Tony was the only one that really had a game plan right from the start," explains Gray. "We always wanted to surround ourselves with business people that had the same desires and attitudes towards our band that we did."

The Chicago based label is responsible for signing many bands who have shaped different trends in rock for the last 10 years, like Snapcase, Thursday and Taking Back Sunday.

"We're on one of the best labels in the world right now and we're really excited," Gray exclaims. "I'm really proud to be on the roster and



Courtesy Victory Records

The Black Maria demonstrate how rock and roll is all about haircuts and black shirts.

I'm proud to be a part of the legacy that is Victory. There have been so many great bands from the past that aren't around anymore but were on Victory."

With the proper label support, along with the group's talent

and hard work, The Black Maria has quickly garnered a large and diverse fan base in Canada and world wide. The band calls Toronto home and believes the recent rise in popularity of Canadian artists is long overdue.

"I think it is amazing how many bands are breaking out of Canada right now," Gray says. "That just goes to show how much talent is in

Canada. It is an exciting time as a musician," says Gray.

With only a few years together as a band, The Black Maria continues to gather all the support they need to create their mark on the heavily skeptical music scene ahead of them.

The Black Maria takeover the Underground Saturday, February 11. Tickets are available at the door.

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- Juliet Karugaha, University of Toronto, Canada/Rwanda, MRH 2001

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TOP OF THE VOX

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TOP 20 FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6.06

- * Denotes Canadian Artist
** Denotes Local Artist
- 1. JAZZANOVA**
The Remixes 2002 - 2005
Sonar Kollektiv
- 2. ANIMAL COLLECTIVE**
Feels
Fat Cat
- 3. ELLIOTT BROOD***
Ambassador
Six Shooter
- 4. VARIOUS**
Now Sounds Of Brazil 2
Six Degrees
- 5. TWIN FANGS***
Street Sweeper
Rectangle
- 6. TEST ICICLES**
For Screening Purposes Only
Domino
- 7. BRANDON JAN BLOMMAERT****
Untitled 6
Independent
- 8. THE WEATHER MACHINES**
The Sound Of Pseudoscience
Tiger Against Crime
- 9. HUDSON BELL**
When The Sun Is In The Moon
Monitor
- 10. PORTICO***
Shape To Form
Hinge
- 11. ALEXISONFIRE/MONEEN***
Switcheroo
Dine Alone
- 12. AOKI TAKAMASA AND TUJICO NORITO**
28
Fat Cat
- 13. KILL THE LIGHTS***
Winter Asthmatics
Independent
- 14. THE GOSSIP**
Standing In The Way Of Control
Kill Rock Stars
- 15. THE HUMMERS***
Modern Entrance
Sisyphus
- 16. CINISTER CEE****
Cinstrumentals
Neferiu
- 17. ROBERT POLLARD**
From A Compound Eye
Merge
- 18. PLASTIC CONSTELLATIONS**
Crusades
French Kiss
- 19. CATFISH HAVEN**
Please Come Back
Secretly Canadian
- 20. THE APPARITIONS**
As This Is Futuristic
Machine

ELECTRONIC

- 1. JAZZANOVA**
The Remixes 2002 - 2005
Sonar Kollektiv
- 2. VARIOUS**
Now Sounds Of Brazil 2
Six Degrees
- 3. CINISTER CEE****
Cinstrumentals
Neferiu
- 4. THE HUMMERS***
Modern Entrance
Sisyphus
- 5. VARIOUS***
Chez Nous: Montreal House Vol. 1
Mile End

INTERNATIONAL

- 1. VARIOUS**
Africa Calling: Live 8 At Eden
Rhino Entertainment
- 2. LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZO**
Long Walk To Freedom
Heads Up
- 3. MIGHTY SPARROW**
First Flight
Smithsonian Folkways
- 4. BEBE**
Pafuera Telaranas
EMI
- 5. VARIOUS**
Latin Travels 2
Six Degrees

Pink Panther finds its heart

Steve Martin finally scores a success with witty prequel

FILMREVIEW

Pink Panther

Jason McKay

Gauntlet Entertainment

“A woman is like an artichoke, you have to work a bit to get to the heart.”

These famous words were once spoken by France’s “best” investigator, Inspector Clouseau. Thankfully, Steve Martin’s newest film, *The Pink Panther*, isn’t a woman.

The film succeeds for a variety of reasons, chief among them is director Shawn Levy who also directed Martin in the *Cheaper by the Dozen* films. Levy has managed to blend

the structure of the movie nicely, mixing moments of physical comedy in a compelling way. This keeps audiences intrigued and amused throughout until the moments of pure hilarity resurface.

In this latest incarnation of the *Pink Panther*, the bumbling Inspector Clouseau must solve the murder of a national hero and a theft most foul. Martin’s portrayal of the inspector is spot on and truly brings the character to full comedic life. Martin’s performance is similar to his other work in films like *Bowfinger* and *Father of the Bride*. Martin is able to capture the character Peter Sellers left behind with his premature death and breathes new life into a once

dead franchise. Setting the current incarnation as prequel helped eliminate any potential continuity problems between Martin and Seller’s portrayals.

Clouseau’s boss, the egocentric Chief Inspector Dreyfus (played by Kevin Kline), is done well, managing to bring life to a cold and isolated character. Kline pulls off the character flawlessly, creating a perfect target for the works and mishaps of Inspector Clouseau. The sole ambition of Dreyfus is to get the National Medal of Honour, for which he has been nominated seven times, but has failed to actually win. To achieve this goal, Clouseau is assigned to the case, but the move backfires on Dreyfus in unexpected, but hilarious ways.

One the best moments in the *Pink Panther* is a spoof on the James Bond series where an appearance by 006 who is on assignment in a casino of all places added some subtle humour to the middle of the film, helping to prevent it from dragging.

While the plot doesn’t deliver anything unexpected, the film remains a good comedy nonetheless. So while a woman might be like an artichoke, it doesn’t take much effort to get to the heart of this film. And if nothing else, there is always Beyonce Knowles, who always conveniently shows up in something low cut at just the right times.

The Pink Panther opens Friday, February 10 at theatres everywhere. Check your local listings for showtimes.

Hidden Insanity branches out with evening of three one-act plays

THEATREPREVIEW

Prisoner's Dilemma

Fiona McLay

Gauntlet Entertainment

Amanda Chapman’s bio on Hidden Insanity Theatre’s webpage reads: “[Chapman] is currently the artistic director of Hidden Insanity due to the fact that she is loudly opinionated on what is ‘good’ and what is ‘crap’ in theatre.”

This is reassuring considering the ambitious nature of Hidden Insanity’s latest project. The theatre group is pleased to be presenting an evening of three one-act plays; *Prisoner's Dilemma* by Sterling Lynch, *Root of All Squares* by Sam Varteniuk and *Award for Excellence*, a collaborative effort on the part of both playwrights. The

three plays are radically different in nature.

“Each of the playwrights is very good at what they do,” insists Chapman. “What is amazing to me is that two people so totally different in terms of style can find a way to work together.”

Prisoner's Dilemma confronts two kidnapping victims with the difficult choice of betraying one another or staying together. A series of thought provoking consequences result depending on what they choose.

“This is a very philosophical kind of play,” explains Chapman. “It asks questions about the bigger picture. We included an intermission between this play and the next to give the audience some time to think it over.”

In contrast, *Root of All Squares* takes a more comedic approach. Here the nature of property rights

and the value of people are performed against a minimalist stage.

“[It’s] a hilarious example of very fast paced sketch comedy,” Chapman says describing the winner of the ‘Best New Script’ award at the Toronto Fringe Festival.

Award for Excellence looks at what happens when a design company wins an award for excellence, and who at the company is really is deserving of the recognition.

“It is a nice play that ends on a humorous and upbeat note,” Chapman affirms.

Staging such a production isn’t an easy task. Instead of the normal problems though, the biggest challenge stemmed from a pesky virus.

“There were definitely a few challenges along the way, everyone came down with the flu,” Chapman laughs, pointing out it wasn’t the mixing of

material causing her trouble. “The plays are so different, if you don’t like one, wait 20 minutes and the tone will change.”

Hidden Insanity Theatre enjoys promoting local talent. Many of their actors and crew are University of Calgary students and alumni and the playwrights are Alberta locals as well. They also strive to offer the community fresh and diverse theatre selections.

“We enjoy doing something different, and we don’t want to just do shows for the blue hairs,” Chapman maintains.

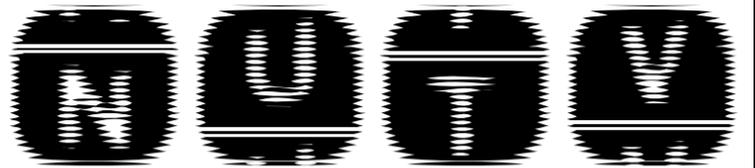
Prisoner's Dilemma, *Root of All Squares* and *Award for Excellence* look like three great excuses to get out and see some up and coming local talent in Calgary.

Prisoner's Dilemma runs until Saturday, February 18 at the Pumphouse Theatres. Call 263-0079 for more information.



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breakin' in
the making of a hip hop dancer

follows three young black women as they compete for roles in hip hop music videos. A 1.2 billion dollar industry in North America, hip hop fuels dreams of instant wealth and fame for thousands of musicians and dancers. As we follow Tracy, Linda and Michelle through grueling workouts and nerve-wracking auditions, they speak candidly about their concepts of beauty and self-image and of a thriving urban culture that makes being Black “cool”. NFB HotDocs 2005

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Heil The Blue Light

films of her time. Too bad they happened to be Nazi propaganda. Switching between actual events Riefenstahl lived through and a fictitious modern setting where an elderly Riefenstahl pitches a new movie to a Hollywood exec, *The Blue Light* could have easily gone awry. Despite the shifting narrative and controversial subject matter, the play succeeds marvelously. In addition to being playRites' serious play it is also likely it's best.

The Blue Light deserves such lofty praise because of the way everything comes together seamlessly. This is possible because the script Ouchi has crafted is truly remarkable. She effortlessly handles the time shifts and larger-than-life characters residing in her work. The play neither condemns nor condones Riefenstahl's actions. Instead, it presents arguments from both sides of the debate, leaving audiences to figure things out themselves. Even when Ouchi's own thoughts creep into the story towards the end, it doesn't become cheesy thanks to a notable lack of soapboxes.

As excellent as Ouchi's script is, a play featuring the type of characters *The Blue Light* does couldn't possibly succeed without an outstanding cast. Fortunately, the production scores again in this department. Kate Hennig plays Riefenstahl

perfectly. Somehow she manages to nail Riefenstahl's character, which is a commendable feat considering Riefenstahl is one of the most ambiguous personalities in film history. Hennig's task is made all the more difficult through having to essentially play two characters. As a young Riefenstahl she is fiery, self-interested, idealistic and passionate whereas the elder Riefenstahl is frail and bitter but still stubborn.

Hennig's supporting cast is equally noteworthy. Duval Long had possibly the hardest job of anyone in playing Hitler—and in a humorous bit of irony, Walt Disney—but he made portraying the dictator's eerie charisma and explosive temper look simple. Natascha Girgis also excels in her role as the Hollywood executive reviewing Riefenstahl's pitch. This character could have easily

been written off as a mere plot device enabling Ouchi to present the various arguments for and against Riefenstahl. Fortunately, Girgis imbues the character with a pragmatic charm and corporate wit turning the most easily discarded character into *The Blue Light's* most well-rounded.

Despite Girgis' mastery of her roll, if one criticism must be launched against the play it would have to be the inclusion of the made up Hollywood meeting. Riefenstahl's life and story is powerful and provoking enough to have stood on its own, without adding elements of fiction to it.

Despite this minor quibble, *The Blue Light* is still an unabashed success. Even though it might be a bit heavier than the rest of the material, it's the must see production of this year's playRites festival.



Courtesy ATP

Kate Hennig gazes into the eyes of Hitler.

THEATRE REVIEW *The Blue Light*

Garth Paulson
Entertainment Editor

production is undeniably the festival's serious offering. Though every play featured this year explores some deep issues, nothing else dives into waters quite so deep as Nazism and the role of the artist in society.

The Blue Light tells the life story of Leni Riefenstahl, a German filmmaker who directed some of the most technically innovative

Mieko Ouchi's latest play, *The Blue Light*, holds a dubious distinction at this year's Enbridge playRites Festival. The

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

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Hippies succeeds where communism failed

THEATREREVIEW
Hippies and Bolsheviks

Ryan Pike
Gauntlet Entertainment

The subject matter in *Hippies and Bolsheviks* could easily lend itself to overwrought clichés, resulting in an unsatisfying theatre-going experience. Thankfully, this wasn't the case. Instead *Hippies and Bolsheviks* lures the audience in with the opening scene where Star (Daniela Vlaskalic) brings young Jeff (David Beazely) back to her apartment for a one night stand. The scene establishes a predator/prey relationship, as Star sees Jeff as a roll in the hay and

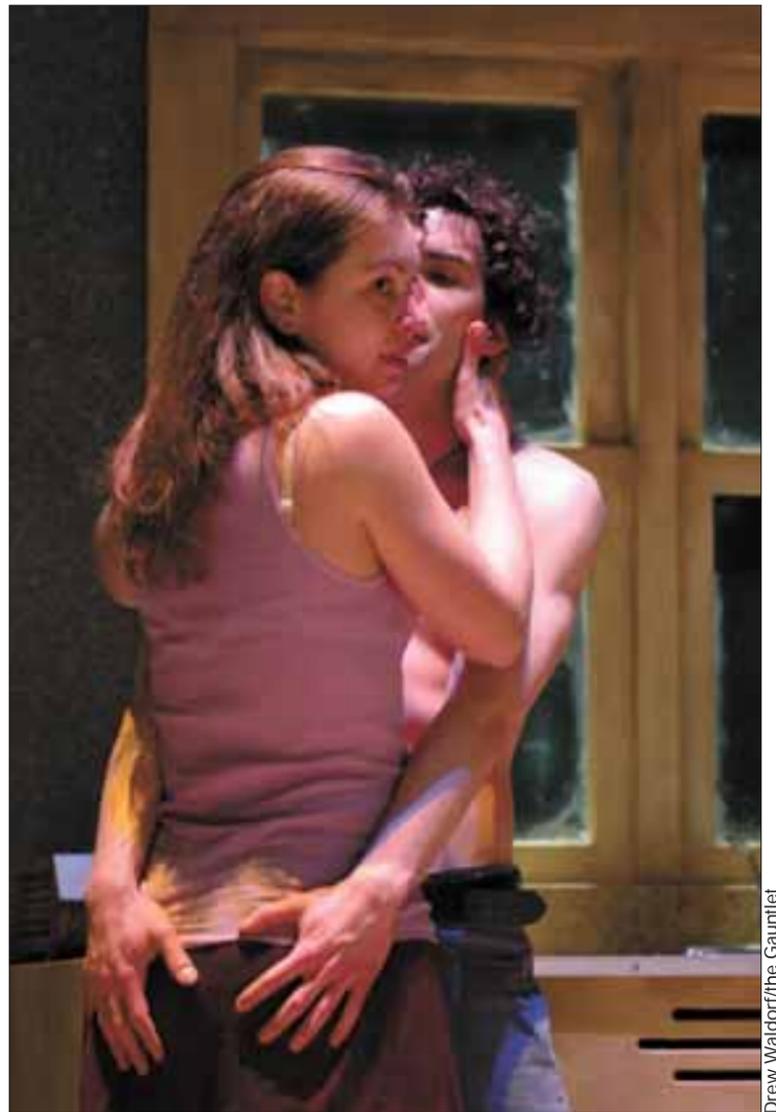
nothing more. The scene evolves the way you'd expect, as Jeff gets as excited as a kid on Christmas morning when it dawns on him that he's about to get busy with a gorgeous woman. The post-coital conversation leads to Star allowing Jeff to sleep at her place, and this one decision leads to a whole ball of interesting scenarios.

The single most surprising thing about this production is how *not* by-the-numbers it is. Despite a story involving draft-dodgers, hippies, pot-smoking, love-triangles, sex, pregnancy and responsibility issues, none of the scenes unfold in a predictable way. Furthermore, writer Amiel Gladstone has crafted multi-dimensional characters and

the various actors have taken great pains to bring them to life in believable ways. Nothing in the resulting play feels like something crafted by a writer. The structure of the play and the setting—an apartment set up so audiences seem inside of it—results in a very intimate environment, where audiences eavesdrop on three lives rather than just watch the play.

This said, *Hippies and Bolsheviks* would be tiresome if the three lives weren't very interesting. Luckily, the three actors all deliver strong performances. Daniela Vlaskalic's portrayal of Star is dynamic. She fills the character with equal doses of ferocity and vulnerability, alternating between the two without the shifts feeling false. Jeff is equal parts wise and naïve, and Beazely delivers both well. Shaker Paleja displays restrained rage and surprising vulnerability as Allan, Star's ex. Director Rachel Ditor should be proud, as the performances are seamlessly intertwined with sound effects, music and great lighting to construct a vivid and engaging world.

Still, *Hippies and Bolsheviks* will not be loved unconditionally by all. While this is not a political play by any stretch, there's one exchange between Jeff and Allan about the direction of American foreign policy—meant to be an argument about the Vietnam War—that sticks out like a sore thumb. Considering Jeff is a draft-dodger the war had to



Drew Waldorf/the Gauntlet

Hehe, he's being paid to touch her bum.

be addressed, but the obvious parallels with present day detract from the insular nature of the play.

The big problem some may have with this play is the ending, or lack thereof. There is some ambiguous symbolism involving a whole lot of umbrellas and then the play is over. While some may whine about the lack of closure, the umbrellas provide a very cool visual and, given

the story, any ending tacked on to give closure would've felt false. Despite the lack of a clear ending, *Hippies and Bolsheviks* is a fun thought-piece on people and their choices, featuring all three leads in their underwear.

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

off the page

Man-eating orchids forgive no one just yet. Cut myself on Angel Hair and baby's breath. Hey! Wait! I've got a new complaint. Forever in debt to your priceless advice.

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The plight of the video ho

Breakin' In documents the misogyny awaiting aspiring hip-hop dancers

FILMREVIEW

Breakin' In: The Making of a Hip Hop Dancer

Sherri Shergill

Gauntlet Entertainment

Trashy and so not very classy are the nicest possible ways to describe video hos these days. The majority of popular hip-hop music videos all share the common thread—and in some cases that is all the girls have got on—of gorgeous girls in smutty clothes who have never caught a beat in their life, but who can bend over into the camera amazingly well. These video hos, other

times referred to as dancers, are aspiring entertainers who appear in music videos in hopes of being discovered.

Maybe the description is a little brutal, but anyone would feel the same frustration towards the hip-hop video scene after watching *Breakin' In: The Making of a Hip Hop Dancer*. This documentary takes you past the glamour and money of hip-hop stars, past the directors and producers, directly to the obscure girls who shake and degrade themselves in the back of these videos.

Breakin' In chronicles the lives of three talented Toronto based young women for one year, as

they each aspire to break into the entertainment industry. Michelle is a kinesiology student who is frustrated with the sexualized portrayal of current dancers and is being pressured by her parents to attend medical school instead of pursuing a career in dancing. Tracy, one of the best hip-hop dancers in Toronto, needs to break into the American industry to make a living from dancing. Linda is a single mother and part of the underground singing group Touche who is hungry for fame and intends to be an inter-

national superstar known for her curvaceous rear end.

Each of the girls are challenged with their own setbacks, whether it's money, time, morals or values. As one music producer in the documentary states, "It's hip-hop. We're looking for ass, titties... we're looking for girls with nice bodies." This reality leads each one to question the worth of being a dancer in an industry focusing more on tits and ass than talent.

Elizabeth St. Philip, the documentary's creator, challenges typical

stereotypes of video hos by showing these dancers as three dimensional people with dreams bigger than wearing a bikini in a video and exposes the misogynist attitude lurking around hip-hop. *Breakin' In: The Making of a Hip-Hop Dancer* is an interesting and entertaining hour delving into all the sex appeal of music videos and showing a talented trio of girls who must ask themselves how far they are willing to go for a chance at an uncertain future.

Breakin' In: The Making of a Hip Hop Dancer airs on NUTV February 13, 15 and 17. Visit www.nutv.ca for more information.

Prisoner's Dilemma
An Evening of One-Act Plays by Sterling Lynch and Sam Varleniuk



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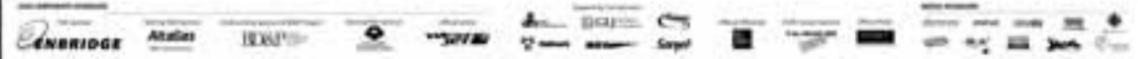
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OPINIONS

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

Marriage: a disease curable only by death

Adam R. Ramsay
 Gauntlet Columnist

"I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury."
 -Groucho Marx

Having long ago become agnostic, I only find myself in church for two unfortunate events: funerals and marriages. Although still at a loss to decide exactly which is worse,

like anything, it depends on the circumstances. If the passing of a 95 year old who has lived a good life speaks less to tragedy than a young bachelor signing his life away until death do him part. Perhaps that is what's so startling about marriage, the institution itself uses bold language whereby your only exit strategy is death. Marriage is a prison, an unnatural tradition that hedges on our ability to remain unwavering in our attraction to one person, in a

constant state, when nothing around us remains constant. It is, for lack of a better term: foolish.

With a divorce rate climbing over 60 per cent in recent years, entering into a marriage is like betting red in a casino. Would you risk so much with only a 40 per cent chance of winning? The answer is people still do, despite the deck being unfairly stacked against them. Over 28 per cent of all divorces are caused by extra marital affairs. How outland-



ish, that someone cannot remain monogamous until they die. It would be fitting if at the altar before anyone said "I do," a coin was flipped to see whether or not the marriage should go ahead and more fairly representing the odds at hand. Can you imagine such poor odds being applied to anything else but a casino? Would you buy a car if there were a 60 per cent chance the brakes were going to fail? Would you take on a job if there was a 60 per cent the company would go bankrupt? Of course not, so why such a push for marriage?

The notion of marriage is grounded on tremendous optimism, and does not reside anywhere near reality. The idea that your passion, your adoration, can remain unchanged indefinitely is simply illogical: nothing remains constant for 50 years. Most people can't even commit to what they will have for lunch tomorrow, and marriage calls upon the parties to state in accordance with the law, who they will love forever. Marriage is an expression and culmination of a

passionate intensity, but that intensity subscribes to the law of diminishing returns. Women marry men hoping they will change, men marry women hoping they will not, so both are inevitably disappointed.

People enraptured by true love resent naysaying as it does not support the fairytale they were told at bedtime as children. The question is not so much whether true love exists, as it assuredly does, the question is whether or not it can last forever, which it assuredly cannot. The expectation to feel for someone how you feel right now is tantamount to you not changing, at all, and the apple of your eye changing even less. It's an impossible proposition, and if you take away marriages of convenience, reducing distress for the kids, embarrassment and religious reasons, I can assure you that the probability of a successful marriage would mimic the odds of a lottery. In his infinite wisdom president Lincoln put it very well: "Marriage is neither heaven or hell, it is simply purgatory."

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SPECTATORS WELCOME

New reality television show plays God

Jon Roe

Gauntlet Opinions

Reality TV has become the most dominant force on network television since the booming popularity of *Survivor*, now in its 12th installment. Shows that detail the makeover of a house, a karaoke contest or the awkwardness of dates are the easiest way for a network to make boatloads of money. The overhead costs of a reality show are significantly less than traditional shows, such as sitcoms, where the whole cast demands \$1 million per episode paycheques. Audiences eat up every minute of reality TV. When they seemed to be on the decline, networks came up with increasingly outrageous concepts. ABC has finally topped the controversy of such shows as the Fox's *Swan*, where "ugly" contestants were made "beautiful" through plastic surgery. In the spring ABC will air *Miracle Worker*, a show where the subjects of each episode will be terminally ill patients, unable to afford the cost of medical care. A team of doctors will perform surgery using new and untested techniques.

A show like *Miracle Worker* raises many moral questions, though a large corporation giving away life saving surgery is not a bad thing ostensibly. When you throw into

the equation the fact that cameras will follow around the subjects for the better parts of six months of their lives—during the process of diagnosis, surgery and recovery—and the entire situation is made into TV, you enter a grey area. One could argue that it's a win-win scenario. The company makes money, the patients recover, audiences rejoice and everyone gains. The world is a better place. On the opposite side, patients and their families are exploited for the "human" aspect of their story. Disney reaps the benefits of another weepy, feel good, real-life story, and some people are ultimately left six feet under because their case wasn't camera worthy.

In a society where we have the technology to save people from certain afflictions and the only barrier is money, it is scary that we are now giving the power to corporations to decide who will get a chance to live. If the show chose entirely based on some sort of devisable system of need, this wouldn't be a problem. Obviously, *Miracle Worker* includes aspects of marketability in its choices of patients. First, the surgery the subject needs has to have a 90 per cent chance of success. It'd be unfortunate for a feel-good show to have an unhappy ending. Second, the patients and their families need to go through psychological

screening before they are selected to be on the show. God forbid someone going through one of the hardest times of their life had some sort of freak out on TV—that wouldn't be good for ratings. Though the list of patients that ABC screens are supposedly recommended to *Miracle Worker* by a team of neutral doctors, it is ultimately up to the *Miracle Worker*'s producers to choose who gets the surgery and who doesn't, and often, without the surgery, the patients find no other means of recovery. This choice is ultimately about who lives and who dies. Bow down before ABC, the God of bad dramas no one else will pick up! Bow!

Of course the ideal scenario would be that none of these patients needed a third party to step in to take care of the operations they need. Government health care, employer insurance or a combination of the two should take care of their fiscal problems. In the United States, there is a greater shortfall of people who aren't adequately covered by either than here in Canada. The next most ideal scenario would be for ABC to just give the money away to hospitals and the health care system, leaving the hard choices to people who have been qualified and trusted by the public. Obviously that's not going to happen because that only makes good one-



time television, where as a show like the *Miracle Worker* will benefit ABC's image until the re-run tapes wear out. Under the current scenario, the few people that benefit from the *Miracle Worker* likely would've been part of the group that fell through the cracks. A reduction in the number of people who are adversely affected by being left out of insurance and government funding is ultimately a better situation than before.

As reality TV and what we call entertainment ventures further into

the obscene, it's up to the audience to question what it's watching and ponder the moral implications. Canada should consider itself lucky, as under current conditions, there isn't a need for a third party to step in and act as a messiah in the name of ratings. If in 20 years we're in a similar situation as the U.S., we'll have to question how we got there and why we're watching Uncle Tom's appendectomy being performed on national TV because it wasn't covered by his HMO.

SU View: SLC, SAA and SALs

All you students out there who aren't elected officials are known as 'students-at-large', a.k.a. SAL's.

All undergraduate students at the University of Calgary are automatically members of the Students' Union but few of you understand how the SU operates, or your power to influence it.

The highest governing body of the Students' Union is Students' Legislative Council. Composed of 16 commissioners, and five executive, the powers of SLC include the ability to pass the political policy that defines what stance the Students' Union will take on various issues, the ability to create and amend bylaws, policies and procedures that describe how the SU must operate, and the ability to direct which initiatives the SU must focus on. During the Fall and Winter Semesters, SLC meetings occur every Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. in MSC Council Chambers.

Students' Academic Assembly meets every second Monday at 5:30 p.m. in MSC Council Chambers and is composed of 13 faculty reps, the VP Academic, and the President. SAA has the power to pass academic policy and to direct academic initiatives, such as De-stress Days. All students are welcome to come and watch both SLC and SAA meetings, and to ask questions during question period.

Every student-at-large member of the Students' Union has a certain degree of power to influence the direction of the Students' Union, and to hold their elected officials accountable. The greater your understanding is of how the system works, the better your chances of successfully getting what you want out of it will be.

For more information, check out the 'Student Government' portion of www.su.ucalgary.ca.

Jen Smith

Vice-President External

PARTICIPANTS WANTED FOR DRIVING STUDY

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There is another way to gain admission to the Canadian Bar

More and more people these days have a dream of becoming a lawyer. A legal career is seen as 'The Profession' by many aspiring students. It is a long and often challenging path and many students will be frustrated trying to gain admission to the law school of their choice. Competition for places at law school is fierce. It is not simply a case of taking the LSAT, as it is not uncommon for a law school to take only one student from ten applicants (National Post, Oct 2005).

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.

As the holder of a bachelors degree from a Canadian university you will be offered a place with Holborn College on our University of Huddersfield LLB (Hons) degree programme and as a graduate entry student you may be able to complete the LLB in less than three years.

Successful LLB graduates of Holborn College are then required to contact the NCA (National Committee on Accreditation) for evaluation of their LLB transcript (www.flca.ca). In many cases the NCA will recommend that a student take a certain number of examinations only in order for a student to proceed to the Canadian Bar examinations.

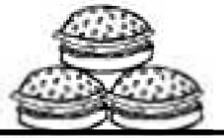
This path of study is now widely recognised as one of the most popular ways for a student holding a non-Canadian LLB to proceed to the Canadian Bar and since 1999 the highest proportion of all NCA evaluations, almost 25%, have come from the UK – even more than from the USA. In the same period (1999–2005) 23.8% of all certificates issued have come from holders of UK qualifications.

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.

Please contact us at: flenq@holborncollege.ac.uk or +44 (0) 20 8317 6074





A letter from your Mayor

Greetings and McSalutations, dear visitor!

We truly appreciate your interest in joining the fast-growing community that is McDonaldland, and I sincerely hope this letter will address your concerns. Though I regret the impersonality inherent in form letters such as these, the sheer volume of inquiries we receive necessitates their use.

Firstly, let me assure you that your investment in McDonaldland real estate is a sound one. Despite some minor market fluctuations, most reputable sources rank us in the top five per cent for both desirability and potential growth, and our recent success in lobbying Governor Nuggetbuddy's cabinet means that our essential services will be second

to none. Schools, hospitals and our numerous McChildhood Trauma Counseling Centres will receive the bulk of the benefits, but we are also dedicated to ensuring local artists and athletes have the resources they need to promote McDonaldland throughout the nation.

Diversity has long been a matter of pride in McDonaldland, and our cultural tapestry is becoming more vibrant with each passing day. As you may be aware, our city has the second-highest concentration of anthropomorphic foods in the tri-state area. This unique position is reflected in our wide variety of civic events, running the gamut from the annual Fry-Guy Coalition Funtacular FUNDraiser each January to the Filet-o'-Ice-Fishing derby held mid-December.

Fewer people realize that McDonaldland is also a haven where

other cultures, from giant purple monsters to grotesque humanoid birds, can live together in peace. Nowhere else in America will you find such a range of people, food products and talking shoes living, working and playing together, and McDonaldland is truly proud of our citizens in this respect.

At this point I would like to respond to certain allegations put forth on the popular newsmagazine show *60 Minutes*. On a segment that aired July 2, 2005, titled "Two All-Beef Patties, Special Sauce, Lettuce, Cheese, Pickles, Onions on a Scandal Seed Bun" it was stated that "McDonaldland has more [sex] offenders on a per-capita basis than any other American city." This is a blatant falsehood, made all the worse by the ease with which *60 Minutes* could have verified the claim.

McDonaldland, as all of our citizens can confirm, is one of the safest, happiest, most magical communities in America. We are not without our share of problems, but what city couldn't say the same? Had the media not made such a farce of the Hamburglar trial, sensationalizing it based on the tastiness of the victims, that case would be no more noteworthy than the thousands of trials going on across the country.

More specifically related to the *60 Minutes* special, I assure you that each and every citizen receives a full listing of registered offenders, as is their legal right. The charge that our registry is the largest nationwide is ludicrous—while it is admittedly quite long, there are surely several cities with comparable statistics.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your interest in one of the friendliest, most diverse and just plain happiest communities in this great nation. As we in McDonaldland often say (if you'll pardon the pun), we can't wait to *meet* you!

**Yours in sesame-seedery,
Mayor Reginald G. McCheese, Esq.**

ps—Please note that our town slogan, "I'm Loving It," has been changed to "I'm Respecting Both It And The Laws Established To Protect Its Interests" and all future correspondences and marketing materials will reflect this change.

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Alright, we all know this is your favourite *Gauntlet* section, but there is some other stuff worth reading in here too. So give the rest a gander before making it into an origami swan, owl or pope hat. Who knows, you might actually learn something. Bring your TLF to MSC 319 or e-mail 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.

Warmth washes over me when I smell your skin/My heart skips a beat when you enter the room I'm in/It's beyond my ability to relate to you the rush...

-5 more days
(Cut! That was just way too long and corny. -VindiKate ed.)

To the girl in amat219 with the "You better make more money than I can spend" shirt: You better cook more than I can eat.

-I hate witty t-shirts

Found: iPod found on Feb. 2 while walking through math sciences. If this is yours, email me at lost_my_ipod_booo_hoo@hotmail.com

To the surprisingly large number of guys who wear short-shorts in the gym: Try something a little less fucking revealing. Your shorts will rise gradually as you age. Enjoy full coverage while you still can.

-Gay, but not that gay

You know you're a geek when you're an undergrad that has published papers in more academic journals than you've gone on dates.

-Needs a social life

Happy birthday to Amanda, Tania and Wrechelle! Love, your sisters,

-The ladies of Alpha Omicron Pi

"Take pride in women who defy, exceed, or trifle with conventional expectations."

-Autumn Summers

To pretty boy in gnst300, Thu. at 11 a.m.: Why did you go and cut your hair? You were so pretty.

-Your admirers from afar

Death threats, burning flags? Grow up! One should be able to distinguish opinion from reality. Young Muslims of the World, break away from the radicals to ensure your freedom in the future.

-Educated Muslim

To the arguing Liam and Mariana: I think B, but only after you actually talk to the girl. Just giving her your number is kinda' egotistical, no? Unless you think you are all that.

-Neo

To the hot but quiet guy in poli225: We'd love to hear what you have to say! Too nervous? Check out Speakmasters, the U of C Toastmasters club. They meet every Thursday night at 7 p.m. in the MSC council chambers. Polish your public speaking: we'll be all ears! www.ucalgary.ca/~speakmst

"Corona Discharge": A physics term, or a golden shower... You decide.

-Confused physics 259 students

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Is ice slippery? One of the many stupid questions you hear while attending the U of C.

I agree pitching rules kind of suck but the whole idea of the World Baseball Classic is still pretty sweet. As for the U.S. winning for sure, have you even bothered looking at the other teams' rosters? Like Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Canada (kidding, hope the best for them though). For local good baseball everyone should watch the Dinos baseball team. Some advertisement from the *Gauntlet* would be nice.

-Knowledgeable baseballer
(Ask and ye shall receive. -VindiKate ed.)

Dear Professor Stallard: This is a personal invite to a birthday party this Friday night at Tequila Night Club. We understand your presence there is a r.v., but we would like to encourage you to make the probability of this event equal to 1. Okay... be good! Oh, by the way, dress code is "fancy"—wear your Levi's. Cya Friday.

Engineering vs. business chess. Engineering move #3: (White) pawn B2 to B4.

Engineering vs. business chess. Business move #4: (Black) pawn D7 to D6.

To the modern guy: Do any of you out there still believe in romance? Go out there this month and do something romantic.

-Old-fashioned gals

Looking for a great V-Day gift? I have \$400 in Fairmont Hotels gift certificates to sell for \$350 o.b.o. Or \$100 certificate for \$75. I have all the receipts for them. Contact alissa_avens@hotmail.com

Dear Disgruntled: What do you get when you take 75 spoiled students with dizzying hubris and put them 10 minutes from campus? Answer: Whiny TLFs about student rights.

-Maybe it's not the program

Why spend time learning when you can be playing beer pong? I bet you wish you were playing right now...

I wanted to say thank you so much to the girl who brought me a cup of water in the bathroom on Thursday. I will pay it forward and hopefully you will receive the same kindness you showed me (but hopefully not in the same situation!).

-Very grateful

Great summer positions with Labatt, Rogers and Coke: Info session Feb. 9 at 4 p.m. in MFH 162. Email Rumi.Jaffer@mosaic.com for more information.

Free movie and free organic coffee/tea. The Ecoclub is showing *Between Midnight and the Rooster's Crow* on Thu., Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. in ST 145! You must supply own coffee mug to receive your free drink. See you there!

Chuck Norris was the fourth Wiseman. He brought baby Jesus the gift of "beard."

-The Yellow Dart
(The Chuck Norris jokes are dead. Get over it. Come up with something original. -VindiKate ed.)

Melissa: Thanks for making university such a great place to be! I love you! Happy Valentines Day!

-Will

We chatted at the end of the Hot Little Rocket show at Broken City last Fri. If you're interested in giving me your number again, drop me a line at tjwolfe@ucalgary.ca. I'll take better care of it this time...

Do you hate swallowing pills? Make \$25 by participating in a psychology student's experiment investigating a new method of pill swallowing. Contact almarsh@ucalgary.ca for more info.

To Disgruntled BHSc student: We all feel so bad for you. You guys get more attention and money than anyone else and you still complain. Suck it up.

-BSc student

JRS (a.k.a. Baby O' Baby): Please decide that your life is better with me and come home. Rideau Hall is a mausoleum without you.

-Adrienne

To the guy who put up posters looking for this lost c-train love on the science doors last week: We must know the fate of your romantic plea!

-From two hopeless romantics

To my stalker: Your presence is requested... because the kitchen elf is going to get it (again)...I've perfected my ninja chop. Ransom: (a combo of course) some homemade chocolate sauce, good tunes, and your time.

Try the new half-calorie diet. Take that piece of cake and cut it in half—Presto! Half the calories. And the best thing is, because it's half the calories, you can eat twice as much.

Come watch the Dinos hockey team lay a beating on the Bears Thu., Feb. 16. Free University of Calgary hockey t-shirts will be given out, a bus ride down to Coyotes, no line and no cover.

I am going to have a non-violent protest of Valentines Day. I will sit at home by myself and refuse to get into any kind of love mood stuff whatsoever. Then I will start a petition to change the holiday, but stop and just drown my sorrows.

-thedrewskii
(C'mon ladies, let's find thedrewskii a Valentine's date! Send him a TLF. -VindiKate ed.)

Religion is mind control for the masses.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

THE STUDENTS' UNION, THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Notice is hereby given that an election will be held for the filling of the following offices:

Office	Number of Vacancies
President	1
Vice President External	1
Vice President Events	1
Academic Commission	4
Events Commission	4
External Commission	4
Operations & Finance Commission	4
SAA Faculty Representative, Science	1
SAA Faculty Representative, Kinesiology	1
SAA Faculty Representative, Engineering	1
SAA Faculty Representative, Medicine	1
SAA Faculty Representative, Social Science	1
Senate Representative	2
Board of Governors	1

Voting will take place on the 14th, 15th, and 16th days of February A.D. 2006. Locations and hours are as follows:

Tuesday, February 14	9 am to 4 pm, MacEwan Student Centre 10 am to 4 pm, ICT and Social Sciences
Wednesday, February 15	10 am to 7:30 pm, MacEwan Student Centre 10 am to 4 pm, ICT and Social Sciences
Thursday, February 16	10 am to 4 pm, all stations

All University of Calgary undergraduate students registered in the Winter 2006 session are eligible to vote. The ballot will contain one plebiscite question. See the election supplement in the February 9, 2006 publication of the *Gauntlet*, or www.su.ucalgary.ca.

NOTICE OF ACCLAMATION

THE STUDENTS' UNION, THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

In accordance with section 26 of the Election by-laws, the Chief Returning Officer declares the following persons elected to the positions to which they were nominated:

Vice President, Academic	Shannon S.W. O'Connor
Vice President, Operations & Finance	Cody J. Wagner
SAA Faculty Representative, Fine Arts	Teri D. Cameron
SAA Faculty Representative, Humanities	Megan M. Martin
SAA Faculty Representative, Law	Josh M. Hill
SAA Faculty Representative, Haskayne	Patrick Oryshewski

The following positions have been declared vacant:

- SAA Faculty Representative, Communication & Culture
- SAA Faculty Representative, Education
- SAA Faculty Representative, Nursing
- SAA Faculty Representative, Social Work

DATED at the University of Calgary in the City of Calgary, Province of Alberta, this 3rd day of February, A.D. 2006.

MBan
Mike Brown
Chief Returning Officer
U of C Students' Union



VOTE

in the

GENERAL ELECTION

Voting days:

February 14, 15 and 16

www.su.ucalgary.ca

Attend the Forums
in the MSC North Courtyard and
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an iPod**



ESCAPES & PURSUITS

E&P Editor: Chris Courtice
eandp@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

CONCERTS

Nine Mile, Matt York and Lynn Olagundoye will keep you busy and entertained at the Liberty Lounge Feb. 10. Tickets will be \$5 at the door. The show will most likely begin at 8 p.m.

FiJ and Beija Flor play some tunes at The Point on 17th Feb. 10. Tickets at the door.

Conniving Cadavers, Our Common Struggle, Pairedocs, The Despised, The Street Ratz, World Class Chaos and Black

Wednesdays cause havoc at the Killarney Community Center Feb. 10. Tickets are \$8 at the door, which opens at 5:30 p.m. The bands start playing around 6 p.m.

The Dudes, The Rocky Fortune and Red Not Evil get

some attention at the HiFi Club Feb. 11. Tickets at the doors, which open at 8 p.m.

E-Town Beatdown, Mary Rose, Where Shadows Lie, Elizabeth Page and Riviera Heist throw down some rock at The Underground Feb. 12. Tickets are \$10 at the door, which opens at 5 p.m. The show begins at 5:30 p.m.

The Cryptomaniacs and The Trophywives play a Valentines Horror show on Feb. 13. Check out the unattached festivities at the Bamboo Lounge. Bands will probably start around 10 p.m. The show is free.

The New Kings and The Awesome Team rock something fierce at the Liberty Lounge Feb. 16. Tickets are \$5 at the door. The show starts at 8 p.m.

information visit www.theatrecalgary.com.

Theatre MRC presents **Dreaming and Duelling**, by John and Joa Lazarus and directed by Jean-Pierre Fournier. The show runs Feb. 9-Feb. 11 and Feb. 14-Feb. 17 at the Nickle Theatre. Tickets are \$10 for students/seniors and \$15 for adults. The show begins at 7:30 p.m.

Pizza Night with Bob, Shackter!, Hippies and Bolsheviks, The Blue Light, Diplomatic Immunities and even a few more are running this coming week in the Enbridge playRites Festival. For scheduling and ticket information, visit www.atplive.com.

SPORTS

Dinos men's hockey takes a good hard look at UBC when they play them Feb. 10 and Feb. 11 at the Father David Bauer Arena. Both games take place at 7 p.m.

Dinos women's hockey size up NAIT with ease Feb. 11 at the Olympic Oval. The game begins at 7 p.m.

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

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Paul Greene, Wetaskiwin, AB



Gordon Ellwood, Vernon, BC



Heather Marks, Calgary, AB

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2006 GAUNTLET SU ELECTION CANDIDATE REVIEWS





CANDIDATE REVIEWS

Despite our best intentions and careful planning, the Students' Union candidate review process always involves late nights, too much caffeine and days of neglected schoolwork. But these are small sacrifices, sacrifices that are well worth it to provide students with an informed overview of just who is vying to represent their concerns and spend their SU fees for an entire year.

The *Gauntlet* panel urges students to remember that the opinions contained within are just that, opinions. Our panel consisted of a group of six undergraduate students, including a first year, and students who have been here long enough to stop counting years. Where we differ from the average student is we had the opportunity to sit down and personally speak with each candidate who is running for an executive position. We had a chance to grill them on the important issues affecting students, like tuition increases and quality money. We also talked about not so important, but equally valued topics like the fate of That Empty Space and how to make the Den a better bar.

Each year, in addition to a serious neglect of sleep and school work, the *Gauntlet* is criticized for using the election supplement to decide the fate of the su election. This is not our intention. While we come from a well-informed position, we are by no means the final authority on su politics.

We encourage students to take this into account and to make up their own minds when it comes to voting.

Go to the forums, which run in MacEwan Student Centre at lunchtime from now until Monday. Read the candidates platform pull-out published in this paper. Check out posters. Visit the su website. Then, when you are informed, vote for the candidate who best represents your concerns.

On a final note, the *Gauntlet* panel agreed that this year was disappointing as far as su elections go. Not the candidates themselves so much, but the lack of choice among them. Three years ago, the su saw a slate of 22 candidates running for executive positions. There was also an election bus, free hot chocolate and plenty of debate among students about who to vote for. That election also resulted in threatened lawsuits against the *Gauntlet*, which was a small price to pay for the highest student voter turn out in U of C history.

This year we interviewed only nine candidates, two of whom were acclaimed. While it made our job a whole lot easier and greatly lessens the chance of a lawsuit, it means students may not have their needs represented.

So, for those budding young politicians out there, or just concerned students who want to see a change, it's time to quit complaining and take action. Vote by logging into the Infonet any time between February 14-16, and consider getting involved in your su the next time around. It just might make U of C a better place to spend your time and money.

-Emily Senger

THE PROCESS

Each candidate was invited into the room and seated in front of our editorial panel. They were told that they would have two minutes of free speech time to introduce themselves and state why they are running for the position and why students should vote for them.

This was followed by a structured question period where candidates were asked a series of standardized questions by a member of our panel. This was followed by a free question period in which all other members of our panel could ask the candidates any question.

Responses were limited to one

minute per question for all candidates and all questions. The entire process was restricted to 15 minutes, after which the panel privately discussed each candidate's strengths and weaknesses.

All candidates were asked to submit platforms and pertinent qualifications. These were considered in the review process. All candidate reviews were written and compiled taking into account the views and input of the entire panel.

The editorial opinions within this supplement were limited to the six panel members who conducted the interviews.

THE PANEL

Emily Senger

News Assistant, Supplement Editor

As news assistant, Emily has covered more su articles in her three years than she cares to remember.

Andrew Rininsland

News Writer

As a new volunteer this year, Andrew provides a slightly less cynical, unbiased viewpoint.

Dale Miller

Editor-in-Chief

Dale has been at the U of C for six years... that's longer than Harvey. He's a bitter, cynical man.

Ryan May

Photographer

This is the third su candidate review Ryan has participated in—and captured on film.

Chris Beauchamp

News Editor

Chris speaks with the su multiple times every week—more than he or they would like.

Stephanie Shewchuk

News Assistant

Stephanie has covered campus events and su forums as a dedicated news writer for three years.

Contributors: Katy Anderson, Ken Clarke, Ryan Pike, Aaron Shufletoski. Photos by Ryan May and Nicola Waugh.



PRESIDENT

As the head of the organization, the president is both a figurehead and a leader. It is the president who speaks to the media, administration and government, while keeping the Students' Union a cohesive team. Any candidate must show effective leadership and innovative creativity to succeed in this position.

Each year there is at least one disenfranchised candidate who runs for su president because he or she is pissed off at the way the university is run, and desperately wants to do something to make things better. Mark Armstrong is that candidate.

After transferring from Mount Royal College, Armstrong said he feels the U of C is ignoring undergraduate students with its dirty facilities, indifferent administration and general student apathy. Armstrong believes he's the "new blood" the su needs. Unfortunately his "new blood," including his lack of experience and blunt manner could leave the su more bloodied than rejuvenated.

The finer details of Armstrong's platform are unclear, but he promises to listen to each and every student on campus. He plans to tell Dr. Harvey Weingarten—in a nice way of course—that he is apathetic to the needs of undergrads and his convocation speeches are boring.

Armstrong also wants to improve facilities across campus by ensuring

washrooms are cleaned, and old classrooms, like the science theatres, get fixed up. What he fails to realize is multi-million dollar projects like renovating old classrooms lay under the jurisdiction of university infrastructure, not the su. This shows a general lack of knowledge of how the university, including the su works. Armstrong also didn't know the su has a general manager and, if he wants to be taken seriously, he should have done his homework first.

Armstrong's goal of listening to students is noble but is overshadowed by his idealism and lack of experience required to keep the su coherent. His passion for change may be better suited to a commissioner role, where he would have a chance to learn the ropes under the careful supervision of a more knowledgeable leader. Then again, maybe someone who openly calls Weingarten's convocation speeches boring, apathetic "garbage" during a recorded interview with a panel of six *Gauntlet* staff should be kept as far away from the su as possible.

Lahey provides students with another strong candidate for su president. As an operations and finance commissioner, he's learned how the business side of the su works, and as an su representative on various committees, he's gained knowledge of operations outside his commission.

Lahey's education in Haskayne means his platform has a distinct business feel to it. He wants to ensure student money is being used as effectively and efficiently as possible, which includes examining the su's role in the federal lobby group CASA, and a renewed focus on provincial lobbying. He also wants to create an in-house lobby group, an idea which has been considered by the su but never implemented. These promises show Lahey's dedication to using student funds wisely at the provincial level, where the majority of PSE decisions are made.

Lahey said he is focused on working effectively with su staff members, including the general manager. While

the desire to work with staff is necessary for the president, Lahey may rely on the directions of his staff, at the expense of his leadership role as president.

The business theme enters again, as Lahey promises to enact performance reviews for elected su officials. Outside of the *Gauntlet's* su mid-term report cards, there is little—short of censure—to hold su officials accountable after they are elected. This is an innovative idea, and could address potential issues within the su before they become major problems, though performance reviews may not go over so well with elected members.

There is no doubt that Lahey could do the job. He's not quite as personable as his competitors, and his answers had a distinct business-like feel to them, but it's not all business for Lahey. Beneath his Haskayne exterior lies a former competitive speed-skater and a dude who's into hip-hop music and break dancing, who would ensure the su runs effectively for another term.

Emily Wyatt knows what's going on. With a year of external commissioner experience and as current president of the Resident Students' Association, Wyatt is aware of how the university works and how to best get things done.

Wyatt admits she isn't a political schmoozer; she isn't concerned with padding her resume or making political connections. Rather, she truly cares about students and wants to provide the strong leadership skills to build upon two years of successful su leadership.

Wyatt is adamant the su should be run as the union it is and not as a business, and her platform reflects this belief. She wants the su to benefit students and her first promise is to fight for increased government funding at the provincial and federal levels, a goal which will be aided by her experience in the external commission.

In addition to political battles, Wyatt emphasizes accountability to students,

with plans to provide better break downs of how the su is using student money.

Wyatt also wants to find new ways to gather input from students-at-large. One plan for doing this is to bring online forums back to the su web page. Three years ago, forums were removed after they became a site for personal attacks and su bickering and it would be interesting to see if Wyatt could develop a way to turn the forums into something useful.

This year Wyatt was involved in much conflict within the external commission, which hindered their effectiveness. This experience with su infighting is not an entirely bad thing. Wyatt said she's learned from these experiences, and has developed new strategies to be more accountable and address conflicts in SLC immediately, before they affect su business. If she is able to stay true to her word, Wyatt would make a fine su leader.

Mark Armstrong

Where do you see the role of the president in relation to other vice-president positions?

"I see the president as the leader. He keeps everyone together and makes sure the su works. In a group of 20 people, not everyone is going to get along and it's his job to make sure that no matter what, everyone is getting along. He provides the common vision and goal."

What are your plans to use the quality money and how will you take student opinion into account?

"I'll talk to the students more. Last time they just made a survey and put five things on it and they didn't really go around and talk to people. You really have to go out and talk to people, and then it disappointed me that they didn't even follow it."

What are your plans for your relationship with administration over your term?

"The role with administration is a tightrope. A lot of people want to be really aggressive and stick it to the man, but that will get us nowhere. But, the su represents students and now the administration isn't working for us. We need to take more of an aggressive stance."



Qualifications:

-Band council member

Andrew Lahey

Where do you see the role of the president in relation to other vice-president positions?

"The president has the same amount of votes as any other member of SLC. It's the president's role to finesse and to work with executive to create one vision to make sure all components of the su can achieve their goals."

What are your plans to use the quality money and how will you take student opinion into account?

"A better step might be to create more visibility on the commissioner basis. Our website can get better. We could allow for feedback on our website. The quality money is a pretty big issue, the three terms people throw around are quality, affordability and accessibility."

What are your plans for your relationship with administration over your term?

"I've done some work with administration over the last year, for example getting free tuition for the refugee student. There are definitely benefits to working with administration when it's done properly. It's about working with them, but also looking after our own interests."



Qualifications:

-Operations and finance commissioner 2005-present
-Refugee Student Board representative 2005-present
-su Budget Committee member
-Redevelopment steering committee member
-Standing nominating committee member
-Former Canadian short track speed skater

Emily Wyatt

Where do you see the role of the president in relation to other vice-president positions?

"The president needs to keep the big picture in mind. They need to support the vps in their initiatives and ensure they're supportive on all levels. They need to have a vision of where the su is going and what can be done to get there."

What are your plans to use the quality money and how will you take student opinion into account?

"We're doing the plebiscite question again. I'll listen to the results of the plebiscite and make sure that money is being spent with the best interests of students in mind because that's what it's for—to increase the quality of education."

What are your plans for your relationship with administration over your term?

"When the tuition freeze was put on, never were we more successful than when we were working with administration. That said, as soon as we differ on views and when I don't feel administration is acting with best interests of the students in mind, that's when we have to stand up and ensure students' voices are being heard."



Qualifications:

-Resident Students' Association president 2005-present
-Students' Union external commissioner 2005-present
-Shinerama coordinator 2005

VP EXTERNAL

The vice-president external is responsible for all non-academic issues relating to students. Along with the president, the VP external must convey student interests and objectives to university administration, the public, and most importantly, the three levels of government. The VP external also administers Students' Union lobbying and membership in federal and provincial lobby groups CASA and CAUS.



Julie Labonte

What do you see as the distinction between the roles of vp external and president?

"President doesn't just deal with advocacy and lobbying, they also deal with leadership as well as dealing with the other portfolios. I think the primary job for the vp external is as an advocator and lobbyist, especially for tuition and student finance issues."

What is the su's role in CASA and CAUS?

"Developing viable policy recommendations, uniting to provide a voice to government and stakeholders as well as organizational, keeping everyone together so we are all working together."

What is your current relationship with external stakeholders and how do you plan to build upon it?

"I've had the opportunity to sit down with Harvey Weingarten and Roman Cooney and hack out some of my ideas and put it on the table and debate the pros and cons of these. All of my relations are positive."

In her platform, Julie Labonte promotes a more affordable, genuinely accessible university education, looking to capitalize on lobbying efforts with the minority federal government and the provincial government. She sincerely wants to use the vp external position to be an effective lobbyist and advocate for undergraduate students.

Labonte has used her time as the su humanities faculty representative to build positive relationships with administration. Her understanding of the workings of provincial and federal lobby groups is comprehensive, and she has first hand experience with student financial problems that she is quite willing to discuss. This experience, along with her personable demeanor, would serve her well in genuinely portraying the plight of students while lobbying the government.

Intolerant of infighting, Labonte sets herself apart with her willingness to work with others, not only within her portfolio,

but across various levels of the su. This isn't to say that she's all hugs and kind words. When education minister Dave Hancock made his way to campus last year, Labonte put him in the hot seat during question period. She'll have to do a lot more of that if she claims the external portfolio.

Labonte's ambitious platform includes plans for supporting student advocacy, using volunteer services to mobilize students and integrating fair-trade and organic products in MacEwan Hall, in addition to lobbying external groups for the students' cause. While these are applaudable goals it will be difficult to pull them all off in a one-year term.

At any rate, Labonte presents herself as confident, ambitious and eager to move forward in a leadership role. If she can bury her nice side and find the daggers to get the job done, there is no doubt she will make a positive impression on stakeholders as vp external.

Qualifications:

-su humanities faculty representative 2005-present
-EcoClub vp fundraising and finance



Michael Soron

What do you see as the distinction between the roles of vp external and president?

"There is a tremendous opportunity, this next year in particular, for the vice-president external to step up and take a dominant role in government relations and relating to the public as well through community outreach. The president has more of a leadership role as the face of the organization."

What is the su's role in CASA and CAUS?

"I personally have a very positive impression of CASA. I think that they can get things accomplished. They do face challenges within themselves. I don't feel that they are a particularly lean organization, I don't feel that they are as efficient as they could be, and they may not be delivering the value that students expect."

What is your current relationship with external stakeholders and how do you plan to build upon it?

"I want to take a good long look at the way we consult with university administration leading up to the tuition decision."

Without a doubt, Michael Soron possesses the qualifications necessary to take on the vp external position. He had a chance this year to get some first-hand lobbying experience on a recent trip to Ottawa as an external commissioner. This background should help him execute his comprehensive platform, which focuses on getting the provincial government to shell out the bucks for the upcoming tuition increase and hold them to their commitment to a holistic review of the student financial-assistance system. He is also looking to review the status of relationships with CAUS and CASA, feeling they have not been acting in a lean or efficient capacity, yet still believing in their power to persuade in Parliament.

Soron is driven and intent on being an effective promoter of undergraduate students' rights. However, his last year as an external commissioner was marred by increasingly bitter and public quarrels with an su executive. Regardless

of who was right and who started it, the in-fighting crippled the external commission this year and was a black-eye for the su. Soron must ensure nothing like this happens again if he is to be a successful vp external.

This incident aside, Soron is an articulate and confident speaker—slick even—and will make a very good impression in Ottawa, Edmonton and right here at home. Soron is a smart guy too, and that certainly comes across when speaking with him, although some may be put off by his confidence.

Soron is definitely the politician in the vp external race. His slick style is a different tactic than Labonte's friendly attitude. It's hard to tell which method will prove more fruitful in the portfolio. Both would be good.

Soron is informed and concerned about post-secondary issues and would make an intelligent and capable vp external.

Qualifications:

-External commissioner 2005-present
-CASA ambassador
-Member of Campus Recycling Board, Standing Nominating Committee, Tuition Consultation Committee

VP ACADEMIC

The vice-president academic is responsible for the academic policy of the Students' Union. The portfolio includes matters such as academic appeals and the Teaching Excellence Awards. This position must ensure that students receive appropriate assistance and representation from the SU concerning matters of academic importance. They must also effectively use the Students' Academic Assembly.



Shannon O'Connor

How will you effectively manage all of your committee obligations?

"I am ready to bring a student voice to those committees. I'm not afraid to pipe up when I have a concern about something or feel strongly. I'd also like to make what those committees do known to SAA and then to all students."

What are your plans to address issues with USRIS?

"I'd like to see them go back to paper, at least until the on-line USRI is fixed. The whole MyUCalgary doesn't really work. I'd like to see on-line USRIS really accessible and really easy to use. I'd also like to make USRI questions more relevant to students."

How do you plan to make use of the Campus Improvement Fund?

"I'd like to encourage faculty reps to start using that money right away. I'll provide the resources for the faculty reps to actually use the campus improvement fund."

Shannon O'Connor is ready to enter her second year as an su representative in the position of vp academic without ever having won an su election. Even though O'Connor was acclaimed academic commissioner last year, and acclaimed again this year, students could not ask for a student better suited to move into the position of vp academic.

O'Connor's term as an academic commissioner has provided her with solid knowledge of the operations of both the Students' Legislative Council and the Students' Academic Assembly. She's familiar with some major on-going issues under the academic portfolio, such as ineffective USRIS, and changes to improve the effectiveness of SAA. She also has some new ideas for projects, notably a plan to increase undergraduate research opportunities.

One new idea which O'Connor will

experience difficulty with is her promise to create an on-line exam bank. The idea sounds good in practice, but has already met much resistance from academic student clubs, which rely on maintaining sole access to previous exams to increase membership and as their main source of revenue. It is important to note that the idea of the on-line exam bank is not new, it was promised as part of the platform of out-going vp academic Paige Forsyth, but she has not been able to complete this promise yet due to the very issues O'Connor will have to deal with.

The criticisms of O'Connor are minimal in comparison with the passion and competence she will bring to her new role as vp academic. Students can be assured that another candidate, elected or not, could not be better suited to the position than O'Connor.

Qualifications:

-Students' Union academic commissioner 2005-present
-Student Initiative Decision Committee member
-Teaching Excellence Awards Committee member
-Residence Students' Association

VP EVENTS

The vice-president events is responsible for the non-academic side of campus life. This means planning and executing both fun and informative events for students. BSD, free concerts in That Empty Space, and Cinemania, as well as informative events like Sexual Awareness Week and political speakers fall under this jurisdiction. A successful VP events ensures there's more to do on campus than just go to class.

Running for vice-president events is newcomer to SU politics, Beamer Comfort. While Comfort is new to the SU, he is no stranger on campus; this year marks his fifth as a Dino athlete, where he is currently serving as the wrestling team captain. Although some would argue his inexperience would be a major hindrance to working as VP events, there is no doubt he has the dedication required to use the position to its fullest, as evidenced by his unwavering commitment to the Dinos. Comfort has no shortage of leadership experience as he is currently president of the Student Athletic Advisory Council and acted as a student leader during U of C 101.

As one might guess, the Dinos have a major role in his platform. Among other things, Comfort advocates increased promotion of athletic events, as well as changing the structure of the Den cabaret

program to increase attendance. Other ideas include changing Clubs' Week to be more participatory by having clubs compete in events and giving more promotion to clubs that promote community service and positive works. Above all, Comfort advocates increased cooperation amongst the SU, Residence Students' Association, SAAC and SU Clubs.

The big question is whether Comfort will be able to foster that cooperation, given his lack of SU experience. Between his time as a Dino and on SAAC, he's made contacts within the groups he wants to coordinate events with. Yet he will need to work hard to gain the cooperation of such groups as well as the SU. His focus is more on athletics and new events than music and while he promises to continue to support the burgeoning indie scene at the U of C, Comfort is sure to bring some new ideas to the portfolio.

Beamer Comfort

What do you see your relationship with your commissioners being?

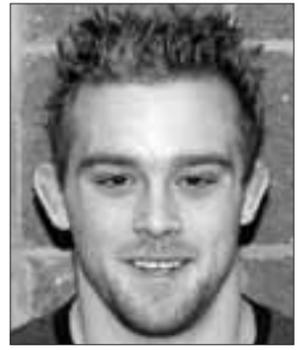
"It gives me four people to draw ideas from. Of course, they're also ground-level people, often commissioners will be doing the dirty work like actually running Cinemania or guiding people in Shinerama."

Outline your ideas for new events.

"I'd like to see something like Rez Wars get brought back. Maybe some sort of inter-university club wars, where we have their debate club come here and we send our chess club, that kind of exchange. I'd like to see an accessibility and participation week for our disabled students; I'd like to bring in some speakers that week to talk about issues that face them, but also some people to talk about the incredible things that people with disabilities can do."

What are your plans for existing events?

"My basic philosophy is I want more things for students, by students on campus."



Qualifications:

- Dinos wrestling team captain
- SAAC president 2005-present
- former RSA member
- U of C 101 leader

Running under the banner of "I like indie rock too!" is VP events hopeful Eric Jablonski. Jablonski is the natural successor to Alex Vyskocil to continue the VP events current focus on concerts and art, and his platform focuses mostly on keeping the good times rolling and improving events such as That Empty Space and Cinemania.

Jablonski definitely has more political experience than his opponent, Beamer Comfort. As an events commissioner and as part of the Budget Committee, he's seen the inner workings of the SU first-hand and knows how everything works already. As such, Jablonski would be able to begin work immediately and he already knows many of the people he would be working with.

Jablonski has exceptional experience in organizing concerts. As well as his experience as a band member, he's the founder of the U of C Rock For a Cause Club, which organizes charitable concerts every year.

That said, Jablonski comes up short on new ideas. His platform can be summed up in two words, "Status" and "Quo," though that isn't necessarily a bad thing. Most of his plans advocate the improvement of existing events and venues such as That Empty Space. The only major exception is his idea for more inter-faculty games, similar to those during U of C 101, except university-wide. He also wants to make Enviropalooza bigger, which isn't surprising considering he was its main organizer this year. Also in the vein of improving existing events, he wants to add options to Bermuda Shorts Day that don't involve drinking. Lastly, like Comfort, Jablonski wishes to increase awareness of the Dinos athletic teams on campus through more promotion, as well as demos in Mac Hall, like the basketball team had earlier this semester.

Similar to how Comfort's focus is athletics and competition, the majority of Jablonski's attention will likely be on art and music—so take your pick.

Eric Jablonski

What do you see your relationship with your commissioners being?

"The commissions are kind of two-fold: It's a matter of working together with them to accomplish their goals because as commissioners, they have projects and things they want to see accomplished, and I think my goal is to help as a liaison with the staff and have the resources to get their projects done. And as well, for the big projects, to use them and get them to help with problems, to get people active, to come out and staff the events."

Outline your ideas for new events.

"Getting an eclectic mix of dance, theatre, visual arts — just getting it into Mac Hall, giving it to students and getting them aware of the cultural groups on campus."

What are your plans for existing events?

"BSD: You're limited by your capacity, but you can definitely have music that caters to everyone and also really push the activities for people who don't want to drink or don't want to go to beer gardens."



Qualifications:

- Events commissioner 2005-present
- Rock for a Cause Club founder
- SU Budget Committee member

VP OP-FI

The vice-president operations and finance is responsible for the financial and business side of the SU. This includes overseeing the budget and dealing with anyone who receives an SU levy. Also under this portfolio are operations in MacEwan Student Centre including redevelopment, student health and dental plans and the SU travel expense budget.

Cody Wagner is acclaimed for the position of vice-president operations and finance so you're stuck with him whether you want to be or not. Fortunately for students, Wagner is both qualified and eager to do the job.

Wagner has spent the last year as an SU operations and finance commissioner, so he has a solid grasp of the inner workings of the SU and should step right into the VP position with minimal growing pains. This is a good thing, especially considering the on-going issues with the CJSW relocation that may or may not be resolved by the time he gets into office.

Getting CJSW into its new location and ending this 11-year embarrassment would be a major accomplishment, and should be one of Wagner's top priorities. However, as of now, Wagner has neither the knowledge nor the

frame of mind to get this done.

Wagner's platform focuses on increasing student services with an eye towards the improvement of the student experience and quality of service. To do this, Wagner plans on searching out student feedback and integrating it into the SU's organizational direction. This integration will involve an incentive program for student friendly businesses in MacEwan Student Centre and increased functionality for the SU's website. These are all good plans, as long as he figures out how to get past most students' apathy to get to some meaningful ideas.

With Wagner we can expect more of the same competence we enjoyed with current VP op-fi Joel Lockwood, and considering Wagner's experience and ideas he'll make a fine addition to the SU executive, regardless of whether he had to work for it or not.

Cody Wagner

What is going on with CJSW? Will the contract agreement and the redevelopment be finished under your term?

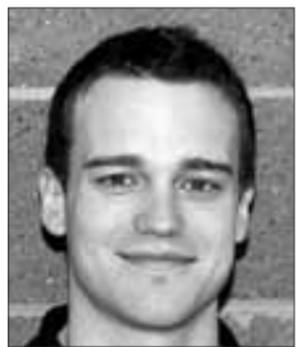
"It's been pretty confidential this far—mostly between Joel and Chad. I'd really like to see CJSW in that spot, but I don't think it should come at the expense of students."

What's your take on exclusive deals with private companies, like the deal with Bell Phones?

"With the Bell Deal, I wouldn't push it much more than Bell. It sucks to have corporate sponsors on campus, but sometimes it means a better deal for students."

What is your plan to use your commission?

"The commissioners can be used to bring more student issues to the operations and finance commission. I'd like to give them projects like the web page redevelopment and a student-lead scholarship program."



Qualifications:

- Operations and finance commissioner 2005-present
- Residence Students' Association vice-president apartments 2004-2005

Gauntlet Endorsements

Every year the *Gauntlet* comes under fire by candidates because we endorsed so-and-so over what's-her-name. This is inevitable, and while we won't please everybody, we don't keep secrets either. This is how our panelists will be voting. **Take it or leave it.**

PRESIDENT

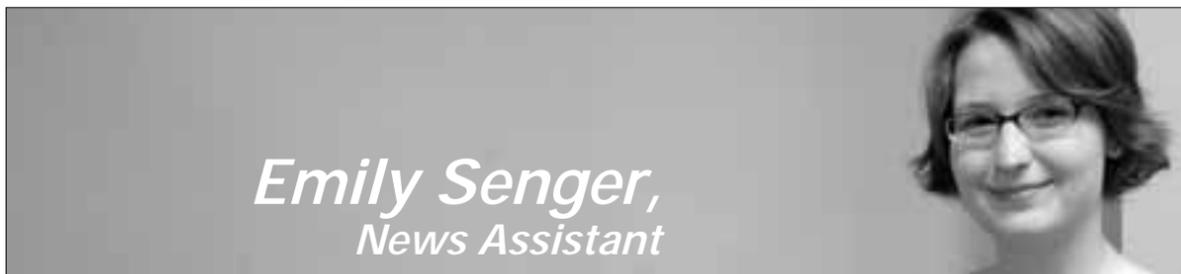
Wyatt, Emily

Lahey would do an adequate job, but Wyatt is willing to take charge and stand up for students, whereas Lahey may be content to keep status-quo and follow the orders of su staff members. Plus, we share the same first name.

VP EVENTS

Comfort, Beamer

He might take a few months to figure out what's going on, but he's got heart and after two years of an indie music focused events portfolio, it's time the Dinos got some support.



*Emily Senger,
News Assistant*

VP EXTERNAL

Soron, Michael

This is another close race where either candidate could do the job, so I'm voting for experience and aptitude over passion. Soron has a year as an external commissioner to his advantage. He comes across as a smooth-talking politician who isn't as personable as his competitor, but would accomplish more for students.



*Chris Beauchamp,
News Editor*

VP EXTERNAL

Labonte, Julie

While Soron clearly knows what he's talking about, I like Labonte's first-hand experience from a lower-income background. I think she knows how tough it can be to get through this place, and will advocate from that perspective. I also have a tough time supporting a candidate who likes CASA as much as Soron evidently does.

PRESIDENT

Wyatt, Emily

This is mostly a tight race. Both Lahey and Wyatt have the chops to get things done, but in the end Wyatt takes it for her sincere passion for students. Unfortunately Armstrong is a little out of his league, and would need to take a serious crash-course on the su if he wants to run it.

VP EVENTS

Spoiled

I just can't publicly endorse either candidate in this race. Both seem like they'd do an excellent job, and since I couldn't make it to the events candidate interviews, I'm in no position to tell you what to do.

PRESIDENT

Wyatt, Emily

One of my biggest beefs with the su comes from watching power slowly slipping away from elected student representatives towards the non-elected staff. This is our student union and it needs to be a union run by students, not a business run by a general manager. I think Emily sees this, and for that, she gets my vote.

VP EVENTS

Coin toss

What Beamer Comfort lacks in experience he makes up for in enthusiasm and new ideas. What Eric Jablonski lacks in me hating indie music he makes up for in experience. Both are good choices, I can't decide. I'm tossing a coin.

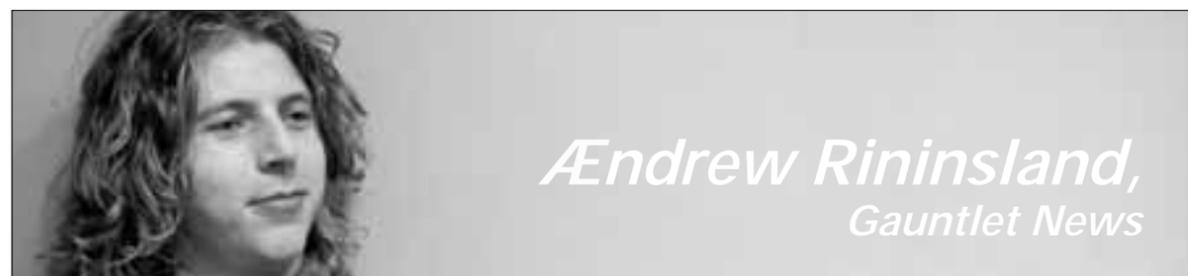


Dale Miller, Editor-in-Chief

VP EXTERNAL

Labonte, Julie

While Soron's smooth personality and political intelligence would get him far with admin and the politos on capital hill, it doesn't go too far with me. Julie Labonte is equally qualified for the external portfolio, but she doesn't act like a politician. For me, sincerity beats slick every time.



*Andrew Rininsland,
Gauntlet News*

VP EXTERNAL

Labonte, Julie

No question. As well as being incredibly passionate about improving the quality of the university experience for students, she's willing to ask the hard questions and stand up for students when few others are.

PRESIDENT

Wyatt, Emily

She'd not only represent the university well, but would represent the interests of the students above all else.

VP EVENTS

Jablonski, Eric

Both candidates are excellent, though I'll probably vote for Eric because I'm more interested in music than athletics. Beamer Comfort would probably do an equal number of positive things, so it's really a toss-up.

Opinions are like assholes, here are a few of ours

*Stephanie Shewchuk,
News Assistant*



VP EXTERNAL

Labonte, Julie

By far the toughest decision in the election, both Labonte and Soron are equipped to handle the responsibilities of the VP external. Labonte edges out Soron by seeming more approachable and earnest.

PRESIDENT

Wyatt, Emily

Wyatt appears sincere and motivated and gives the impression she will work within the university framework when possible, but will not be afraid to challenge administration. She believes the su is a business first, union second and will be a strong advocate for students.

VP EVENTS

Jablonski, Eric

Both candidates are competent and choosing Jablonski over Comfort is mostly a matter of preference. Jablonski wants to continue many of the activities Alex Vyskocil pioneered and his focus on music and the environment appeals to me.

PRESIDENT

Wyatt, Emily

After two years with one president it's definitely time for a change and Wyatt will provide it, while Lahey may simply carry on. Her experience in student politics and an independent spirit are definite assets, but close ties to the RSA may prove problematic.

VP EVENTS

Comfort, Beamer

Beamer may lack experience, but his plans to revamp some of the more tired existing events like Clubs Week and promote co-operation with other on-campus groups have great appeal.

*Ryan May,
Gauntlet Photo*



VP EXTERNAL

Labonte, Julie

Both candidates would do well in the position but Labonte has a broader focus and a more realistic plan. She seems more approachable than Soron which would make her more accessible to students. Her ability to stand her ground and push back when necessary would allow her to effectively deal with outside stakeholders.

