

U N I V E R S I T Y   O F   C A L G A R Y

# gauntlet

VOLUME 47 | ISSUE NO. 22 | NOVEMBER 23 | 2006

## Scrutiny at the stall



Canadian campuses  
explore **gender-neutral**  
washrooms

News **5**  
Opinion **4**



# Calendar of Curiosities

www.su.ucalgary.ca

## INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Students' Union Volunteer Services

### Alternative Alternative Spring Break

This week-long experience is open to undergraduate students attending the University of Calgary. For more information on this exciting volunteer opportunity, come to one of our information sessions in MacEwan Conference Centre:

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3:00pm - 4:30pm  
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December 8, 2006

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The UofC Students' Union  
Presents the

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Your  
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Your  
Turn



used in the annual review of the professors performance  
help students decide which professor and courses to take

Nov 17 - Dec 8

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## Students' Union Weekly Schedule of Events, Nov. 27 to Dec. 2, 2006

Monday, Nov. 27

Tuesday, Nov. 28

Wednesday, Nov. 29

Thursday, Nov. 30

Friday, Dec. 1

Saturday, Dec. 2

**CINEMANIA**  
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**GL & RKS 2**  
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Join the Club.  
Tuesdays are Clubs  
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Night



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That Empty Space

**RSA**  
Get Dressed Up  
to Get Down  
and Boogie  
Cabaret



## Sex and politicians, not together

news page 5

This week our hard-hitting journalists ventured deep inside Sexual Awareness Week and also spoke to U of A staff and students who are in favour of gender-neutral washrooms. In less scandalous news, read about eight strikingly similar men who want to be premier.

## So many problems, so little space

opinions page 11

Cynical optimist Ben Hoffman discusses the idiocy of Québec sovereignty and couch potato Ryan Pike discusses the idiocy of O.J.'s now-kiboshed book deal. Lots of idiots here, folks... er, idiocy.

## This week brought to you by Disney

entertainment page 13

That's right; stories about both Cinderella and Peter Pan, but not the ones you grew up with at all. Also, there's some bands and some comedy stuff.

## The conclusion to The Muslim

features page 19

This week, Sarah Malik wraps up her three-part look at the Islamic world by focusing on her experiences in Oman.

## Gangsta's, hustla's and balla's

sports page 20

The D-nos stood in their B-boy stance, playing b-ball at the B-Jack B-Simpson B-Gym this past weekend. See how they and the women's h-key team did. Plus, read about the upcoming weekend in women's v-ball.

# gauntlet online

## gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

**News:** How to avoid the flu and a U of C prof talks about revenge.

**Entertainment:** *Night of the Living Dead 3D* review.

**Sports:** Rugby season summary.



## photo to the editor

"Silent flourish" by Joyce Wong (Canon Powershot S30)

Clip out this photo and put it in your pocket. You'll need a reminder of the warmth and sun of summer this weekend as the temperature plummets, leaving Calgary in the cold and dark that is a true Canadian winter.

Anyone can submit an original photo to the editor. Drop off your high-resolution photo along with your name, contact information and a brief description including type of camera (around 30 words) to room 319 MacEwan Student Centre or email [photo@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca](mailto:photo@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca)




# The Calgary Party Line

## Dial: 27-Party

Ads \* Jokes \* Stories & MORE!

## Ladies-R-Free!

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# Not every cookie fits the mold

Students had the opportunity to learn everything they ever needed to know and more about anal beads and dildos in MacEwan Student Centre this week during Sexual Awareness Week. The week was brought to students by the Students' Union and included screenings of two documentaries about pornography, *Inside Deep Throat* and *Not a Love Story*, guest speaker Sue Johanson of *Sex with Sue* fame and a sexual trade show filled with vendors hawking their naughty toys.

It's safe to say that most university students know what a dildo is and can use their imagination to understand anal beads, even if they don't want to try them out. But instead of filling MacEwan Hall with people insisting: "you haven't had sex until you've had sex with anal beads," and showing one-sided movies about how women are victimized by the pornography industry, the submitted the opportunity to create a forum to discuss sexual issues that university students are less aware of.

For example, a story in the *Gauntlet* this week deals with another sexual issue the general population on campus is much less aware of: trans-gender washrooms. Though the initial idea is enough to induce a fit of giggles or a lament about political correctness gone awry, for members of the student body who do not fit neatly into the categories male or female, the problem of which washroom to use is a very real one.

The number of individuals who live outside the stringent gender categories of male or female is surprisingly high. According to the Intersex Society of North America, one in 100 births differ from the standard definition of male or female. This includes a host of birth conditions like being born with chromosomes differing from the sexual organs, an enlarged clitoris in females or a micro-penis in males, or even having one ovary and one testicle.

The term intersexed refers to the biological ways people deviate from a "normal" male or female, without taking into account other different-sexed individuals, who live their gender in the way they feel most comfortable, rather than being defined by the genitalia between their legs.

This can include masculine-looking females, feminine-looking males or transsexual individuals.

People who don't fit into societal definitions of "normal" gender have to deal with snickers, questions and even harassment when entering public washrooms. As a result, they may avoid public washrooms altogether, which can lead to bladder infections and other health problems.

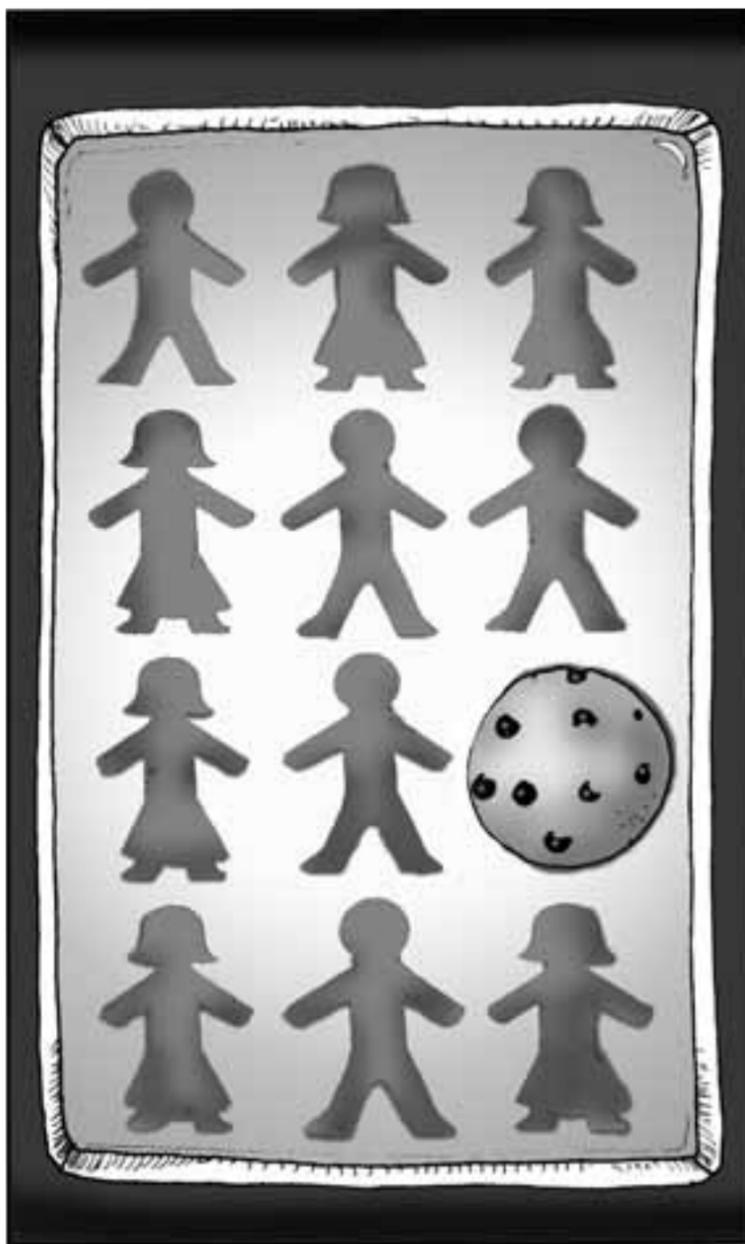
A group of forward-thinking students, faculty and staff at McGill University addressed the issue head-on, and as a result have created a list of gender-neutral washrooms in 15 buildings on their campus. The McGill Equality Subcommittee on Queer People has also added a list of buildings where gender-neutral washrooms are unavailable, with the goal of creating at least one gender-neutral washroom in every building and one on every floor of new buildings.

This debate is not constrained to progressive eastern universities. Students at the University of Alberta are now lobbying for gender-neutral spaces of their own, to ensure everyone has a safe place to pee.

The washrooms wouldn't be strange and foreign territory designated for gender-freaks, but rather, a gender-neutral space, for anyone male, female, or somewhere in between, who wanted to use them. Private, gender-neutral washrooms around campus also benefit shy people who don't like doing their business in a public space, as well as students and staff with health conditions, like diabetics who need a place to inject insulin or anyone suffering from conditions like Crohn's disease, needing to empty a colostomy bag.

After reviewing the facts, finding one gender-neutral washroom space in each building seems like a fairly easy way to alleviate a massive amount of stress for a minority of students. The day-to-day issues different-sexed students must confront also seem like sexual issues students aren't aware of, and should be. It's also a little less clichéd than an unsponsored speaker who was here less than a year ago, and a trade show featuring the same old sex toys.

Emily Senger  
News Editor



## Editor, the *Gauntlet*

### The right is right. Right?

[Re: "Stem cell research needed," Andrew Sedor, Nov. 16, 2006.]

Your article regarding stem cell research included the quote "it's the the age-old story of the fanatical religious right opposing science..."

Since the "fanatical religious right" was not named, presumably it is anyone who disagrees with embryonic stem cell research from a religious point of view. A broad brush with which to paint, but it saves the trouble of looking at the actual points of the argument. In other words, it is an *ad hominem* attack, not a discussion of the real issues.

The Roman Catholic Church is often accused of being part of the religious right for their understanding of the dignity of human nature, which prohibits embryonic stem cell research (along with abortion, euthanasia, torture and pornography). Thus, they are "anti-science fanatics" to those who wish to promote ESC research, a convenient boogeyman.

This, of course, denies historical reality, which is that the groundwork for Western scientific thought was laid by the Church in the middle ages, in no small part by their institution of the university (Paris

and Bologna). While this flies in the face of accepted wisdom, it is well documented by contemporary historians.

To oppose a scientific investigation on the grounds of human dignity is not anti-science, as those who have read the transcripts of the Nuremberg files on human experimentation will testify. The issue is not science vs. anti-science, but, "Where do we draw the line?" *Ad hominem* attacks, such as Rabbi Voss-Altman's, do not further the debate in a rational manner.

Ed Hopfner

### Kudos

[Re: "Stem cell research needed," Andrew Sedor, Nov. 16, 2006.]

I want to express my admiration for the balanced, well-written article that Andrew Sedor wrote about a recent panel discussion on the ethical issues arising in the area of stem cell research. I organized the event, so am aware of both the current issues in this area and the breadth of knowledge and wisdom that each of our three speakers brought to the table. Mr. Sedor is to be commended for capturing the essential messages of each of our speakers.

With appreciation,

Brian Seaman  
research associate  
Alberta Civil Liberties Research  
Centre

Editor-in-Chief: Chris Beauchamp 220-7752  
eic@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

News Editor: Emily Senger 220-4318  
news@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Entertainment: Kyle Francis 220-4376  
entertainment@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Sports: Jon Roe 220-4376  
sports@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Opinions: Kate Foote 220-4376  
opinions@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Features: Garth Paulson 220-4376  
features@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Photography: Chris Tait 220-4376  
photo@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Production: Andrew Rininsland 220-4376  
aendrew@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Illustrations: Danny Kirk 220-4376  
illustrations@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

News Assistant: Katy Anderson 220-4318  
news@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Entertainment Assistant: Rachel Betts-Wilmott  
rachel@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Escapes And Pursuits: Ryan Pike 220-4376  
eandp@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Academic Probation: Ben Hoffman 220-4376  
ap@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

Three Lines Free: Rachel Betts-Wilmott 220-4376  
tlf@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

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

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

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

Network Manager: Ben Li

Typesetter: Joëlle Robichaud

#### Contributors

Todd Andre • Saman Azadbakht • Shawn Carter • Kevin DeVlaming • Jon Gregg • Sara Hanson • Amanda Hu Lisa Huang • Robin Ianison • Kendra Kusick • Andrew Kuzma • Christina Lam • Geoff MacIntosh • Sarah Malik Nick Meehan • Derek Neumeier • Trent Orth • Dan Pagan Alex Ramadan • Rachel Simpson • Natalie Vacha • Tyson Vandament • Erin Wilson • Joyce Wong

#### Golden Spatula

Natalie Vacha, for writing a kickass cover story and then showing up on Wednesday night to proofread, making her the only volunteer to proofread on Wednesday.

#### Furor Arma Ministrat

Room 319, MacEwan Students' Centre  
University of Calgary  
2500 University Drive, NW  
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4  
General inquires: 220-7750  
http://gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

The *Gauntlet* is the official student newspaper of the University of Calgary, published most Thursdays throughout the year by the Gauntlet Publications Society, an autonomous, incorporated body. Membership in the society is open to undergraduate students at the U of C, but all members of the university community are encouraged to contribute. Opinions contained herein are those of individual writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of the entire *Gauntlet* staff. Editorials are chosen by a majority of the editorial board. The *Gauntlet* is a forum open to all U of C students but may refuse any submission judged to be racist, sexist, homophobic, libelous, or containing attacks of a strictly personal nature. We reserve the right to edit for brevity. Grievances regarding the *Gauntlet* follow a three-step process which requires written decisions from the Editor, the GPS Board of Directors, and the Ombudsboard. The complete Grievance Policy is online at: <http://gauntlet.ucalgary.ca>. The *Gauntlet* is printed on recycled paper and uses 99 problem-based ink. We urge you to recycle/kiss the whole asshole of the *Gauntlet*.

#### Letter Policy

Letters must be typed, double-spaced and received by Monday at 4 p.m., and must include the author's name, student ID number, telephone number and signature. Letters will not be printed if they include attacks of a strictly personal nature, statements that discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or sexual orientation, or libellous or defamatory material. All letters should be addressed to "Editor, the *Gauntlet*," and be no longer than 300 words. The *Gauntlet* retains the right to edit submissions. Letters can be delivered or mailed to the *Gauntlet* office, Room 319 MacEwan Student Centre, or sent by e-mail to [gauntlet@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gauntlet@ucalgary.ca).

Photo illustration by Chris Tait  
Cover design by Chris Beauchamp



# U of A considers gender-neutral washrooms

Natalie Vacha  
Gauntlet News

It's hard enough trying to find a washroom between classes, running cross-legged across campus, regretting that extra-large coffee, but it's harder not knowing which one to use once you get there.

For transgender or gender-ambiguous people, this is an everyday reality, and a group of students at the University of Alberta are addressing it by lobbying for the creation of gender-neutral washrooms.

"Everyone, no matter what, deserves a safe place to go to the bathroom," said

Laura Crawford, a PhD student at the University of Alberta.

Crawford joined the campaign for gender-neutral washrooms because of the difficulty

navigating gender-specific facilities on campus. She began a poster campaign on campus to increase awareness of gender politics and decrease the tendency to gender-police such spaces, laugh at people or give them funny looks.

"They think that people choose to be transgender," explained Crawford. "But everyone chooses to express their gender in a different way. Why are some expressions accommodated and rewarded and some not? We're all making choices and we all need to go to the bathroom."

Crawford said there are two main concerns behind the issue of gender-neutral facilities. There is the practical, everyday concern of making non-designated facilities available. But there is also the concern about violence in washrooms, which, argued Crawford, happens

more often than people think.

"Washrooms are fraught places in terms of sexual assault," she said. "If a transgender man is somehow found out not to be quite our idea of a man he faces getting beat up or worse."

Drawing on her personal experiences and those of other students and staff, Crawford outlined some of the problems transgender and gender-bending people face.

"Your day really becomes governed by the inaccessibility of washrooms," said Crawford. "Say you arrive at school, everyone gets a large coffee, but from the very beginning you're planing your day around

bathrooms. 'I can't drink because I'll be at the library later and people don't know me there.' Then there are the bad experiences you have in bathrooms and how those experiences bear on your life."

Crawford insisted that the drive for non-designated bathrooms was not started because transgender and gender-ambiguous students are safe in one bathroom, but wish to use the other. Rather, they often feel unsafe in both.

U of A professors have also joined the gender-neutral washroom campaign.

"We need bathrooms that are accessible to everyone and presumably safe for everyone," said U of A associate professor of sociology Sharon Rosenberg. "Anyone could use them: a father with a small child, a girl child for example, or someone who was feeling ill one day. It's a bathroom that could be useful for everyone, not just transgender people, even though that's how it came up."

Still, Rosenberg does not want

to downplay the need for the non-designated bathrooms among transgender people.

"A father who has a daughter with him one day, someone feeling sick one time, they can figure something out, but a transgender person will have to deal with it over and over again," said Rosenberg. "It's hard. It's a constant problem."

Rosenberg added that the idea of rethinking washrooms on campus is not unprecedented. McGill and Simon Fraser universities already have some gender-neutral washrooms on campus and many disabled washrooms are gender-neutral. However, Rosenberg does not advocate that single-stall washrooms, such as those set aside for disabled students, stand in for gender-neutral washrooms.

Resistance to gender-neutral bathrooms may stem from unfamiliarity with the problems faced by transgender or gender-ambiguous students and staff, or from the idea that all bathrooms on campus would become gender-neutral, noted Rosenberg.

"If you just automatically go to a bathroom you don't think about problems like, 'Am I safe in this bathroom?,' 'Can I use this bathroom?,' 'Will I get out of this bathroom alive?'" explained Rosenberg. "The issue has to be brought to people who don't worry about it or give it a second thought. We aren't saying all bathrooms should be gender-neutral. There will still be gender-designated bathrooms. People have a choice."

Crawford agreed. "This isn't about forcing anything on anyone, but giving choice and deconstructing the binary system of gender," said Crawford.

So far, the U of A administration has not acted on the issue.

U of A Students' Union president



Chris Beauchamp/the Gauntlet

All people need a safe place to pee.

Samantha Power said the su is willing to consider the idea, though she cautioned the proposal was still in its preliminary stages and she has not seen any concrete plans.

"We're always open to ideas on how to make the campus more inclusive," said Power. "We're more than willing to help these interested parties through the governance process, which can be quite complicated. We're for any way, any physical representation, that says people are welcome and they can work here."

The University of Calgary however, has not seen a similar

campaign in its halls—or stalls.

"We have not heard of any campaigns for gender-neutral washrooms at the U of C," said U of C su president Emily Wyatt. "We actually do have a gender-neutral washroom in Mac Hall behind the Stör, so if there are students who wish to use a gender-neutral washroom, they do have that option."

Wyatt said the su would be open to students who wish to bring forward similar proposals.

U of A administration would not comment on gender-neutral washrooms until plans are more finalized.

## campus quips

*What do you think of bringing gender-neutral washrooms to the U of C?*



"Bad idea, 'cause guys spray and girls sit."  
- Michelle Wong,  
NUTV station manager



"Why not? We don't have co-ed bathrooms in our homes."  
- Karen O'Connor,  
Passion Parties



"Might as well. They do it at The Grand [Theatre]."  
- Rob Diaz-Marino,  
Gay Calgary Magazine



"You're talking to someone who wholesales adult sex toys, so yes."  
- Thomas Fogelman,  
Bliss Toys

interviews: Tyson Vandament photographs: Geoff MacIntosh

## THE NICKLE ARTS MUSEUM PRESENTS ANCIENT PERU UNWRAPPED GOLDEN TREASURES FOR UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFTS



The Museum Shop at The Nickle now has custom, exhibition influenced, jewelry along with Peruvian clothing, ceramics, children's toys, books, music and other unique Christmas gift items.



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# Sexual Awareness Week educates students

Emily Senger  
News Editor

Perogies, pornography, sex toys and an old lady talking about orgasms slid into MacEwan Student Centre during the Students' Union's third annual Sexual Awareness Week.

The week ran Nov. 27-29 and featured "Perogies and Porn," a free food and documentary screening Monday, speaker Sue Johanson Tuesday and a sexual education trade show Wednesday.

While the first Sexual Awareness Week was marred with conflict after exotic dancers walked through the MSC wearing only chain mail, this year's event went much smoother according to SU vice-president events Eric Jablonski.

"We're trying to avoid some of the problems that we've faced in the past," noted Jablonski. "We're being really clear with outside groups about what our expectations are."

Though one vendor at the sex trade show was wearing an outfit made of only beads, Jablonski guaranteed she would not venture outside of the MacEwan Hall Ballroom where the event was held.



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet

Students got, ummm, educated during Sexual Awareness Week.

Despite the lack of public nudity, some things about Sexual Awareness Week stayed the same. Feature speaker Johanson, who is well know

for her television program *Sex With Sue*, came to campus during the last awareness week in March. Despite the repeat performance, Jablonski

noted that Johanson still drew a large crowd.

"In my experience, speakers don't go over that well," noted

Jablonski. "You have to book a big name. That's why we doubled up, even though Sue was here less than a year ago. The show is different every time, based on the questions people ask. An old lady talking about sex never gets old."

Jablonski added that relationship comedian Daniel Packard opened for Johanson, bringing another element to this year's event.

The sexual trade show featured vendors who were given table space free of charge to sell toys, erotic photo services and clothing. Campus and community sexual information groups such as the Gay and Lesbian Academic Students and Staff club and the Calgary Birth Control Association also provided information to students.

Of the 25 groups confirmed, some failed to show, leaving noticeable gaps between vendors in the ballroom.

"Because they're not paying like they would at a regular trade show, they really have nothing invested, but there were a lot of campus groups interested so I didn't want to charge anyone," said Jablonski. "Some people think what they're showing is very educational."

## \$69 million to update facilities, train future Olympians

Katy Anderson  
News Assistant

The Olympic Oval at the University of Calgary will get some major renovations after an Alberta government announcement of \$69 million in funding to improve facilities for winter Olympic sporting events, Mon. Nov. 20.

"The facilities that we have here are nearing 20 years of age," said

Alberta Minister of Community Development Denis Duscharme. "They are overdue for refurbishment. The technologies, the training, [have] changed dramatically. We felt it was not only great for our national athletes, but it also gives the incentive for all our Canadian youth—Albertans included—to participate in sport at a younger age and hopefully they'll have that [Olympic] dream."

The project is scheduled for completion by 2009. Duscharme admitted that this would do little to help 2010's athletes, but pointed out that the Canadian Olympic Development Association designed the project so it can be built in stages. The first stage includes a basic complex that will be used for 2010 Olympic athletes.

"The total project is \$276 million," said Duscharme. "The

province has contributed 25 per cent of that amount, \$69 million. The other 75 per cent will be the challenge for the CODA board to work with the federal government, municipal governments, other sporting organizations from across the land, and of course, the corporate sector."

CODA president and CEO Bob Nicolay said he hopes the private sector will support the new facility.

"We have been working with all three levels of government," said Nicolay. "This is also a project that we believe corporate Canada will have a particular interest in. This is an opportunity to honour the flag, honour the country and in a very tangible way make a difference to our athletes."

Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2007. Plans are not yet complete, but there will be four new ice sheets and administrative buildings.

see GOING FOR GOLD, page 10

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# And, the next Alberta premier is...

The next leader of the Alberta Progressive Conservative Party—and the premier of Alberta—will be decided upon at the Tory party convention Sat., Nov. 25. With much of the last few months' debate focusing on healthcare and the environment, post-secondary education got lost along the way. To give students an idea of their new premier's stance on post-secondary education, the *Gauntlet* tracked down all eight busy candidates and asked them three questions to gauge where they stand.

Interviews by Sara Hanson, Andrew Kuzma and Emily Senger. Photos provided by candidates.



**Jim Dinning**

**What is your vision for PSE in Alberta?**

"It's got to be maximum access. For every kid who graduates from an Alberta high school there has got to be a place."

**What are your plans to make PSE affordable?**

"We've got to have a good tuition policy. I think we've started down that track and we've got to make sure we've got a student finance system that increases the number of bursaries and scholarships for all students, especially low income students."

**How do you plan to address the issue of quality in PSE?**

"I want Alberta to be up there—our four universities—to be up there amongst the top in the world. We shouldn't take a back seat to anybody. We're going to invest in 50 research chairs, because if you get smart people to come to our institutions they attract more smart people, research dollars and students. That's how you invest in the quality."



**Victor Doerkson**

**What is your vision for PSE in Alberta?**

"Albertans should be global leaders with global solutions and that really starts with a good base of secondary and post-secondary; building off that we can become leaders, not only in Canada but in the rest of the world."

**What are your plans to make PSE affordable?**

"I think that once you factor in Alberta's scholarships, which leads the country, and our policy towards keeping the debt at a certain level when you graduate, we actually perform very well and are going to continue to do that. My commitment would be to continue to make sure that we have a competitive policy with the rest of the country."

**How do you plan to address the issue of quality in PSE?**

"I actually think we are doing pretty well. I think we are making great progress. We have a great system."



**Dave Hancock**

**What is your vision for PSE in Alberta?**

"We need accessibility, quality and affordability. We need to move on the promise to create 60,000 new spaces and we probably need to move that up rather than stretch it out."

**What are your plans to make PSE affordable?**

"I've suggested that we make the first-year tuition free on a four-year program, and then be able to deduct the cost of your education as a tax credit over three years in rural Alberta, and five years in urban Alberta, after you've lived and worked in Alberta for three years."

**How do you plan to address the issue of quality in PSE?**

"That's about completing our commitment to the \$3 billion in the Access to the Future Fund and then growing it over time to \$10 billion because all the great universities in the world have huge endowment funds. So \$10 billion isn't that huge for our whole post-secondary system."



**Gary McPherson**

**What is your vision for PSE in Alberta?**

"I think we can do a lot more with technology and we can do that through distance education. By hooking universities up with smaller centres, we can get the professorial expertise out into the rural areas so that kids don't have to go to their urban areas and spend a lot more money unless they want to do that."

**What are your plans to make PSE affordable?**

"We definitely have to reduce tuition fees. I think that a 15 per cent tuition fee is a reasonable amount. I think 30 per cent is prohibitive, particularly when you factor in the challenges with accommodation."

**How do you plan to address the issue of quality in PSE?**

"I think technology is the answer. With technology you can get a top-notch professor or lecturer from anywhere in the world and you can feed that person into the classroom."

SEE MORE POTENTIAL PREMIERS, *page 8*

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# More potential premiers

continued from  
page 7

## Ted Morton

**What is your vision for PSE in Alberta?**

"I've dedicated 25 years of my adult life to education, and I have also been a professor at the University of Calgary as well, so education is clearly going to be one of my highest priorities. My vision is to combine quality and affordability with an emphasis on the liberal arts and science. The technical trades are important as well, but it is important for Alberta to have a balance with the arts and trades."

**What are your plans to make PSE affordable?**

"In terms of endowments, Alberta is currently behind. I believe we are ranked 9 out of 10 provinces in Canada for endowments. My plan is to increase our current per cent from 12.75 per cent to 20 per cent, which would put Alberta in first. This stream of income would not be on the backs of students. I'm committed to match dollar to dollar; for every private dollar, we would match it with a government dollar for these endowments."

"This endowment would not rely so much on short term legislation, like it does now. Because when it comes down to making decisions, politicians will always put healthcare and the K-12 system ahead of post-secondary education."

"I would make student loans available to students regardless of parental income. And loan repayments would be based on an income contingent. What this means is that for someone coming out of school with a bachelor of commerce making \$30,000 in their first year, they would start paying off their loans immediately. But for someone in fine arts who might not make as much initially, these students would not have to pay off their debts right away."

**How do you plan to address the issue of quality in PSE?**

"The quality is essentially based on the endowments. Plus, schools in Alberta would get more financial autonomy. And these endowments would help in terms of professors too, which are called endowed professorships. It's not just important to maintain high numbers of professors, but it's also important to maintain the high quality professors, and this would be done through the same endowments."

## Mark Norris

**What is your vision for PSE in Alberta?**

"We need to increase the funding to get the number of spaces we need so that we are not turn-



Morton.



Norris.



Oberg.



Stelmach.

ing away kids. The second thing is that the tuition split right now is wrong, with students picking up 30 per cent and the government 70."

**What are your plans to make PSE more affordable?**

"We are looking at the kids who rack up huge student loans to get that education. We want them to stay in Alberta, so we put a program out that says if you stay in Alberta for five years, we'll forgive you 20 per cent of those five years until it's zero. And you have to stay for five years."

**How do you plan to address the issue of quality in PSE?**

"I know there are Canadian accredited standards and I think Alberta universities are some of the best in the world, so as long as we are following the standards I don't see any problem with it."

## Lyle Oberg

**What is your vision for PSE in Alberta?**

"My vision is to have a system that is accessible, that has more spaces and that is absolutely the highest quality of any system in the world."

**What are your plans to make PSE more affordable?**

"I'm doing three things. First of all, I want to increase the number of spots by 30,000 by the year 2012, which would make it more accessible. I want to make the fourth year of tuition free for high achievers, those who are in the top 5-10 per cent. The third thing is that I want to ensure that student loans are available to everyone, regardless of parental income."

**How do you plan to address the issue of quality in PSE?**

"Quality is directly related to the

students who are going there, and to the professors that are teaching. I would ensure that we get the best professors in the world to come to the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary and all of our post-secondary institutions. I take a page out of Texas' book, who back some 30 or 40 years ago, decided that with their oil money they would hire the 50 best people in the world to come to Texas, and they did. Subsequently, their quality improved significantly. We need to have a concerted effort to go beyond mediocrity and truly into excellence."

## Ed Stelmach

**What is your vision for PSE in Alberta?**

"It's essentially increasing the spaces, but it's also finding people to teach the programs. We are forcing too many people into large centres, like Edmonton and Calgary, to access post-secondary. We now have the capacity in technology to push those programs out into smaller centres. The infrastructure is there."

**What are your plans to make PSE affordable?**

"Focusing on more bursaries and scholarships to reduce the cost for students. I just want to make sure that if we're working towards lowering tuition costs, the benefit goes to the student, not to the university."

**How do you plan to address the issue of quality in PSE?**

"I thought the quality was pretty good. Of course, we do have some issues with high school completion which worries me, but in terms of the quality—both in the universities and especially in technical schools—we have real reasons to be proud of our accomplishments."

# A soldier's life, outside the wire

## U of C prof lives with Canadian soldiers in Southern Afghanistan

Sarah Malik  
Gauntlet News

It isn't very often there are soldiers sitting at the front of a university classroom. But, for Dr. Anne Irwin's presentation on Canadian soldiers' lives 'outside the Wire,' there they were, swiveling in their seats, still slightly sunburnt from their tour in Afghanistan, their berets respectfully set aside.

An anthropology professor at the University of Calgary and the Canadian Defence and Foreign Affairs Institute chair in civil-military relations, Irwin presented her observations on the lives of Canadian soldiers while she was embedded with them on their missions in Kandahar, Afghanistan. She spoke at the U of C Thur., Nov. 9.

"The story I am going to tell today is not the story of the drama and excitement, but of the daily grind of wondering when you are next going to get a chance to change your socks or to sleep for more than a couple of hours," she said. Irwin detailed the daily lives of a select group of Canadian soldiers who spend most of their time in the dangerous, Taliban-infested areas outside the wire of KAF.

Irwin focused on the defence side of Canadian military action, where she was embedded with the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry in the Eighth Platoon of the Charlie Company for eight months.

The Eighth Platoon spent most of its tour outside the wire. She noted that as soldiers prepared to leave KAF, their actions took on a ritualized quality, and through the little things—such as savouring that last cup of Tim Horton's coffee—the soldiers conquered their emotions.

Despite the ritualized aspects, moves outside the base are often unpredictable.

"Often, after rushing to be ready to leave at a set time, the time is changed," said Irwin. "Waiting is the name of the game."

The soldiers leave the allied military compound not only to search out and kill Taliban, but also to cordon off and search areas, provide security for meetings with local leaders and patrol for medical personnel and humanitarian aid groups.

"What is most apparent about daily life outside the wire is that there is no 'daily' about it," Irwin noted. "Of this disrupted time pattern, the lack of regular sleep is probably the most stressful feature. Because of this intense operational tempo, sleep is a rare commodity."

Irwin debunked the myths of rigid hierarchies and cruel superiors portrayed in Hollywood military movies, pointing out that in the time she spent with the soldiers, no one



courtesy Dr. Anne Irwin

Dr. Anne Irwin and Cpl. Christopher Horan in Southern Afghanistan this July.

raised his voice. She said the atmosphere was "nurturing and mentoring" and soldiers advised others to sleep so the incessant tempo of the operations outside the wire wouldn't completely tire out the men.

"Often the chance to sleep only comes during daylight hours, but even this sleep is constantly interrupted by the bangs of artillery, the noise of vehicles starting up, and, at times, the sound of small arms fire," said Irwin.

"Soldiers go to great lengths to structure meals in as normal a fashion as possible," Irwin said, noting she was struck by temperatures in the 60 Celsius degrees range (at one point the thermometer melted)—and yet troops heated up food before consuming it, sometimes by placing the individually packaged meals on top of the light-armoured vehicle for half an hour. "Frequently, meals would be heated and ready to eat, and an order to move would come over the radio, resulting in the meals being set aside to be eaten hours later, or sometimes not at all."

Irwin said that despite the vast desert, soldiers slept within centimeters of each other in tight, confined spaces.

"Social relationships outside the wire take on a particular pattern, which I am beginning to think of as enforced intimacy," the silver-haired former Military Police officer described.

In this atmosphere, kindness and a strong ethic of sharing flourishes. Soldiers hold an implicit assumption that their fellow warriors share treats sent by family. Send gummy bears, not chocolate, Irwin advised.

Animosities and interpersonal

problems were set aside during the mission using humour, as fighting amongst soldiers can interfere with the tour's successful completion. Irwin noted that once soldiers reached the Forward Operations Bases squabbles were more likely to break out.

The FOBS are permanently-manned bases outside the wire in southern Afghanistan for resupply and rest. In contrast to the missions outside KAF, the FOBS have more amenities and beds. Irwin said the first priority is still to ensure all equipment and weapons are in working order. However, the soldiers tend to be more isolated from each other in the FOBS.

"Another stress factor outside the wire is the fact that plans and orders are constantly changing, and it is therefore impossible to plan or to pace oneself," she said. "On any given day, we had no idea how much longer the mission would last. Soldiers were therefore always faced with mundane decisions such as whether to change into that one last clean T-shirt or socks, or to make them last one more day—or two more weeks in one instance—in case we stayed out longer."

The heat, despite the benefits it provides of heating up food quickly, was a constant concern.

"The heat during [one mission] was so intense, reading as high as 64° C, that under their body armor soldiers would be soaked with sweat through their T-shirts and combat shirts, sometimes down to the knees."

Soldiers are forced to sacrifice hygiene and comfort for hydration. On one mission, Irwin—in

solidarity with the soldiers—didn't wash for a number of weeks, and had only baby wipes available for quick cleaning.

"We routinely each drank 10 to 12 litres of water a day," said Irwin. "The water was usually hot. Water cooled to lukewarm would be considered a treat. It was so hot that if you hung your shirt up on the [vehicle] while you slept for an hour or two, the shirt would soon be dry but it would be as stiff as cardboard with dried salt."

Irwin, half-joking and half-serious, referred to herself as another stress factor for the soldiers. Untrained to fight the Taliban and carry out other routine missions, she stayed in the vehicle when the soldiers were in combat so their attention wouldn't be distracted to protect her. Things didn't always turn out so smoothly.

"I had to get out of the [vehicle] once to make room for casualties at the back of the vehicle under light arms fire when the troops were under fire," remembered Irwin.

The lack of privacy during missions outside the wire, the strong social norms of sharing, the banter, humour and danger, all link the soldiers even after they return home to Canada, said Irwin.

"They will stay close forever," she said. On their way back to Canada, soldiers spend four days being debriefed in Cyprus as part of a decompression tour, she said, noting this is necessary to help soldiers deal with common reactions to being in combat such as insomnia, being startled easily, nightmares, and night sweats.

There are more than 2,000

Canadian troops deployed in southern Afghanistan but only about 400 of them regularly leave the KAF. Those who routinely left sometimes spent 90 per cent of their six-month tour outside the wire where the lives of the soldiers, so very different from inside the wire, are mentally and physically grueling.

"While outside the wire, [the] attitude toward KAF is one of longing, and KAF represents a place of safety, rest and relaxation," Irwin said, speaking for the soldiers. As the mission drew to a close, the fear that was replaced with determination and confidence while fighting with the Taliban crept back in, she said.

"There is fear of not returning back to KAF, when one is so close," said Irwin. "The camp looks different [upon return]. The landmarks have changed, the food is not as good as you remembered, you had forgotten the stench of the sewage lagoon."

Irwin also noted that soldiers whose missions routinely take them outside KAF identify themselves differently than those who remain in the camp. They are changed by the experience of being outside the wire, but gain little recognition and acknowledgement for their unique achievements.

"I believe [the resentment the returning soldiers feel] comes from feeling changed and special, but not being recognized for it," said Irwin.

Since her return to Canada, Irwin has been vocal about the need to have these soldiers' achievements recognized beyond the South West Asia Service Medal all troops receive after serving at least one month in Afghanistan, no matter the nature of their mission. Recently, Irwin has recommended Canadians contact their Members of Parliament to grant some special recognition to these troops.

Irwin hangs her silver medal, which has a Canadian sword trans-fixed over a multi-headed serpent representing evil, in her office. Since she was in Afghanistan to research she was not commemorated by the military bureaucracy, but by a soldier who gave his medal to her.

The amity of the soldiers toward Irwin is clear. As she ended her presentation, they rose to their feet, giving her a standing ovation, honouring her for sharing their lives, difficulties, and achievements.

"They get annoyed and angry at the lack of understanding about what they are doing out there," said Irwin, emphasizing the soldiers' desire to be recognized by the public and their commanders. "They are happy when they get a lot of Canadian support."

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# Food for a cause

Lisa Huang  
Gauntlet News

This Holiday Season's spirit of giving will kick-off with the 18th annual Students' Union Holiday Food Drive, Nov. 22–24.

"This is a very important drive for the food bank," said SU vice-president external Julie Labonte. "We raise thousands of dollars [during the drive] and it helps sustain the food bank for the rest of the year, through the summer, until the following food drive."

The Campus Food Bank provides short-term emergency food hampers to hundreds of students, alumni, faculty and campus staff who require unanticipated, urgent support. Individuals use the Campus Food Bank for a variety of reasons, ranging from students running out of student loan money to unexpected expenses and job loss.

"[The Campus Food Bank] is such an important service because when people are really in those needs, it's normally an emergency need," said Labonte.

The holiday drive pits clubs against one another and was won last year by Fijis. This year the SU-sanctioned clubs will once again compete for this honourable title and the accompanying prizes.

"All the activities are club-driven,"



Vivian Leung/the Gauntlet

said Labonte. "They have to come up with their own, based on their creativity."

SU Volunteer Services manager Sue Wilmot explained that the contest works on an intricate point system based on the collection of money, food and creativity in food-collecting during the three-day drive.

Along with non-perishable food donations, the Campus Food Bank hopes to raise \$5,000 worth of cash donations in order to purchase perishable items, noted Wilmot.

Cash or food donation can be made at any food bank drive table around campus, or brought directly to Volunteer Services in MSC 225.



## Going for gold cont'd from page 6



Katy Anderson/the Gauntlet

Olympians will have a shot at the podium, thanks to new cash.

This donation is part of a push towards athletic excellence after the 2002 Olympics. The Alberta government has donated to many projects, including \$25.6 million to Canmore's Nordic Centre and a \$600,000 donation last fall to upgrade the ski jumping training centre at Canada Olympic Park.

The donation allows Alberta athletes to compete against the world's best, explained Nicolay.

"The Olympic speed skating oval is part of this initiative as well," said Nicolay. "We will ensure that we still have the best ice in the world at the speed skating oval when this project is done"

Nicolay explained that the roof of the Oval is a priority, adding that there has been a capital plan for the Oval in place for years.

Three-time Olympian and member of the national women's hockey team Danielle Goyette said the money will help Olympic athletes, women's hockey and the national women's hockey team, and will also create recreational opportunities, promoting a healthy lifestyle for many Albertans.

"If you think about the future it's going to be the young girls and boys that are going to use these facilities and be able to train to one day to go to the Olympics," said Goyette.

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# So you say you want a referendum?



**Ben Hoffman**  
Cynical Optimist

Those of us around for the 1995 Québec Referendum—which math serves to tell would be everybody in the university community except that eight-year-old whatever savant in that one class—will remember being glued to the television that night, awe-struck by so many things: that one's nation was cause for dissociation from them! That an issue could prove so divisive! That supporters on either side could be so passionate! It was a brilliant early lesson in people for this child of 10 and likely many more. Furthermore, it was a fantastic look

at some of the forces holding Canada together and pushing it apart. When the polls rang out what amounted to a dead ringer—50.58 per cent against separation, 49.42 for—the dominant post-vote attitude was one of concern over the eventuality that Québec's split seemed to be.

What didn't seem obvious at the time was the disrepair into which the debate would eventually fall, and fall it did. The concern over the sovereignty of the French in Canada had all but disappeared from the cultural landscape over the course of the next decade, with the brief exception of a spat in the spotlight in the late '90s. It seemed for some time that we were free and clear to contribute to world problems as Canada and not the sovereign nation-states known formerly thereas.

So what is one to think when the



new regime not only resurrects the problem, but fails to properly contribute new ideas to its solution? It is understandable that tensions in the country make the Québec situation slightly more complicated than that, but let's face it, we've dealt with this before—twice, in fact. How can we honestly stand behind a leader oblivious enough to taunt separatists with the statement, "Do Québécois form an independent nation from Canada?"

The answer is no and it will always be no," as Harper did on Nov. 22?

To be fair to Harper, the quote above is not entirely without context. It was said in the middle of a speech offering the province sovereignty as long as it stayed within a united Canada, an arrangement which sounds nice but doesn't seem to mean anything whatsoever. What is a sovereign nation within a united country? The only example remotely

inspirational in understanding Harper's proposal is the case of Scotland and England, but in this case, it could be wagered the deal is more of historical preponderance than actual cultural benefit.

What seems to be the real issue is neither side's awareness that countries don't really matter in the grand scheme of things anymore. Sovereignty of nation and sovereignty of state both amount to the same thing in these modern times: little to no influence on the real balance of power. So to the passionate it must be said: fight on comrades! And to Harper: certainly many people will enjoy crowding around the TV like in 1995, watching our country break itself apart because of your ridiculous assertions while the rest of the world marches into oblivion without us. Not bad for a day's work!

## The Juice gets pulped



**Ryan Pike**  
Couch Potato

When there's money to be made—especially in the entertainment sector—it's unusual to see a project halted on account of social responsibility. With that in mind, the media was stunned to hear Rupert Murdoch, chairman of News Corporation, announce the cancellation of O.J. Simpson's book and FOX special on Monday.

The announcement came after days of accusations hush money was offered to the Brown and Goldman families, threats of boycotts and the outright refusal of several FOX affiliates to air the two-night hypothetical Simpson tell-all *If I Did It*,

*Here's How It Happened*. The book and program were both designed as fictional accounts of how Simpson would've committed the 1994 murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, if he had indeed committed them. The book was positioned high on sales charts, and the television special was expected to be a ratings powerhouse for the struggling FOX network. The stunt was expected to be hugely profitable for both News Corporation and Simpson himself.

So what happened? Likely, Simpson's luck ran out. Despite the evidence displayed against him during the eight-month 1995 criminal trial, Simpson was deemed innocent primarily due to the efforts of his \$4 million all-star team of legal eagles. A subsequent wrongful death civil suit filed by the Goldman family found him guilty to the tune of \$33.5 million, but state laws preventing

the seizure of his NFL pension and Florida home protected Simpson from paying a cent. Somehow, he wrangled a big-money deal to write a book in which he would more or less confess to the crimes. Amidst the media shitstorm that rained down on their company, Murdoch and the board decided to pull the plug. When modern corporate structures are designed with checks and balances to stop bad ideas from getting this

far, it's surprising that Murdoch was forced to step in to resolve the matter.

Despite the kibosh on Simpson's attempt to cash in on tragedy, nothing stands to change. Simpson will still roam free, ostensibly searching for the real killer, although mostly at golf courses and autograph signings. The FOX network will continue to broadcast whatever they can muster—a mishmash of *American Idol*, Sunday night cartoons and *World's*

*Sluttiest Whores Caught On Tape!* But even in the face of accusations that they offered money to the Brown and Goldman families—which may very well be true—the FOX network and their parent company for once had the decency to say to themselves, "We don't need to make money this badly. Our bad," in the face of public criticism. Whether this move is a sign of things to come or merely an aberration remains to be seen.

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# The Askewniverse calls

**Kevin Smith**  
director interview

Ryan Pike  
Gauntlet Entertainment

**K**evin Smith is growing up. The 36-year-old Vancouver Film School dropout burst onto the filmmaking scene with his foul-mouthed, low-budget 1994 indie hit *Clerks*, and parlayed that success into a mainstream career. A decade later, Smith returned to his roots with *Clerks 2*, and admits little hesitation in going back to where he started.

"I never really bought the talk about *Clerks* being a classic film, which I guess allowed me to do another," says Smith. "I've never been one to bow to sacred cows in my career, so why do it for one of my own films?"

The online community, especially fansites, cried foul over the announcement of *Clerks 2*. Smith, however, wasn't phased by the initial negative reaction.

"The Net went nuts," Smith reflects. "But they didn't know what the movie was about. Since they were reacting from a position of ignorance about the movie, I didn't really mind it."

*Clerks 2* is Smith's seventh feature and the sixth to be shot independent of the studio system. Smith says studio involvement with his second film, 1995's *Mallrats*, soured him on working for somebody else, specifically that film's studio-imposed nude scene.

"I'm as big a fan of titties as anyone," Smith admits. "But it's not like we couldn't have told that story without that titty shot. I didn't feel it needed nudity, but the producers said that since it was an R-rated comedy, you've got to have titties in there. I swore after doing that for *Mallrats* that I'd never do it again."

Despite his success as both writer and director, Smith sees himself as a writer who directs his own films rather than as a filmmaker. He sees his next project, an as-yet-untitled horror film, as a challenge

to gauge how much he's learned since his debut.

"I guess I'll get to see if I'm a filmmaker or not," he jokes. "If I can pull this off in a different genre, I guess I am. If I fail, it's nothing but comedies until the end of time."

With the announcement of his new project, Smith notes that *Clerks 2* is likely the swansong for Jay and Silent Bob, citing his age and the feeling of closure from the film as reasons to put the characters to rest. He doesn't discount the possibility of another chapter in the lives of Dante and Randal, however.

"I'm 36 now," Smith says. "So I don't really see myself playing Silent Bob when I'm 40. I'm lucky people have put up with it as long as they have. But since *Clerks* was about guys like me in their 20s and *Clerks 2* is about guys like me in their 30s, I might come back to Dante and Randal in a few years when they're in their 40s."

*Clerks 2* will be released on DVD Tues., Nov. 28. The rest of his films are lined up alphabetically at Ryan Pike's house.



courtesy Alliance/Atlantis

## filmography of a bearded nerd with a beautiful wife By Ryan Pike say what you want, you still wish you could be him

**Clerks [1994]**  
Considered one of the most successful independent features ever, Smith's debut was shot for \$24,000 in the convenience store where he worked. Beloved by fans for its crude and hilarious dialogue and the interplay between slacker clerks Dante (Brian O'Halloran) and Randal (Jeff Anderson). [A-]

**Mallrats [1995]**  
Smith's first (and only) studio film, *Mallrats* was considered both a critical and financial disappointment. While the film features a lot of actors that never reappeared in Smith films (Shannon Doherty, Jeremy London and Claire Forlani), it also introduced Smith to future stars Jason Lee and Ben Affleck. [C+]

**Chasing Amy [1997]**  
Widely considered the best film Smith has made, *Chasing Amy* returned him to his indie roots and re-teamed him with Affleck and Lee. Smith's then-girlfriend Joey Lauren Adams was nominated for a Golden Globe for her role as a lesbian woman who Affleck's character falls for. [A]

**Dogma [1999]**  
This satirical look at the Catholic Church generated controversy and good reviews. It also featured the largest cast Smith's worked with, including big names like Chris Rock, George Carlin, Alan Rickman, Linda Fiorentino, Salma Hayek and Matt Damon—and a monster made of poo. [B]

**Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back [2001]**  
Originally planned as the last "Askewniverse" film, this one put Jay and Silent Bob centre stage as they trekked across the U.S., encountering an array of strange characters. Well-received by fans, it featured scene-stealing performances by Will Ferrell (as Federal Wildlife Marshall Willenholly) and Mark Hamill (as the Cock Knocker). [B-]

**Jersey Girl [2004]**  
Unfortunately released during all the Jennifer Lopez hubbub, *Jersey Girl* ended up being critically panned despite the fact that Jennifer Lopez only appeared briefly. It's also considered the most personal of all

of Smith's films, being centred around the relationship between a single father and his daughter. Despite this, it suffered from an abundance of sap, cliché and Affleck as one of his most annoying characters since *Gigli*. [D+]

**Clerks 2 [2006]**  
Returning to his roots, Smith re-teamed with O'Halloran and Anderson and brought Rosario Dawson into the fold for the (probably) final Askewniverse film. The initial fan reaction was negative but the film got good reviews despite having the climax of a romantic subplot occur during a donkey sex show. [B]

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# Canadians: haw!

**Ron James**  
comedian interview

**Christina Lam**  
Gauntlet Entertainment

They say you can tell a lot about a man by the size of his shoes and the size of his hands, but learn infinitely more from his tour schedule. So what does Ron James' *Full Tilt* tour, which hits the thriving entertainment hubs of Lethbridge, Lloydminster, Fort McMurray, Prince Albert and Brandon, say about him? Apparently that he's a Canadian boy, a hometown favourite and damn proud of it.

"I'm a sucker for the mythology, iconography and cultural touchstones of my country of origin," says James, spoken like a true graduate of history and political science. "And I make no apologies for that. I love writing about and performing and embracing the mysteries of here."

Dubbed the country's best-sell-

ing comedian, the Halifax native has proven himself a man after Canadian hearts through his affectionately cantankerous roasting of Canadian life. With material ranging from unabashed glorification of the "bovine" maidens at Tim Horton's to tongue-in-cheek propositioning of the bears in Banff National Park, James is no stranger to the unique rhythms of Canadian culture. Landmarks in his acclaimed career include starring in several CBC comedy specials and touring extensively coast to coast through major metropolises and rural communities alike.

"It's been a slow discovery," says James. "I think we discovered each other together, the country and I. It's been a wonderful and demanding learning curve, but it feels authentic. One of the things with standup is that your pieces get so much better and much more polished over time. That's one of the virtues of performing for a long time. It gets really tight and worn in like a nice pair of shoes."

As someone who has built his comedic career on glowing reviews and well-researched material, Ron James is a rare breed of comedian amidst a wave of newcomers bottle-fed by Youtube and Myspace. Unlike new favourites Dane Cook and Russell Peters, Ron James fans shouldn't expect to see much of his well-fitting shoes online.

"I'm old-school, baby," he drawls. "I'm a luddite. I never went to the Net to find my funny. Now that I hear about it, my daughter said someone put me on there and I said, 'No shit! Really?' What has worked for me in Canada, over these nine years that I've been doing this, is simply grassroots word of mouth; that and bringing quality product to the people."

It was this commitment to quality that first pushed James towards comedy after cutting his teeth at Second City TV, and now keeps his feet firmly planted above the 49th parallel. Contrary to the popular misconception that every Canadian



courtesy Shantero Productions

Ron James is Canadian! Hilarious!

star yearns for the bright lights of Hollywood, James has no plans to join his counterparts in the land of the rich and famous.

"I moved into acting after being on Second City," he recalls. "But the only time the phones rang was when the parts called for Christmas elves

and the mentally challenged. It was an exponential leap from there to stand up comedy, but when I was down there in L.A., you have no idea the kind of swill that came down the pipe. I sure as shit didn't want to be on a stupid sitcom with

see RON JAMES, page 15

## We've reached defcon four... engage the Killswitch!

**Killswitch Engage**  
music interview

**Robin Ianson**  
Gauntlet Entertainment

Murphy's law states that if something can go wrong, it will, and Killswitch Engage knows this all too well.

Their second album, *Alive or Just Breathing*, was a surprise success and suddenly Killswitch Engage was one of the coolest new bands in heavy metal. The strain of constantly touring to support the album proved too much for vocalist Jesse

Leach, however. He unexpectedly quit Killswitch just weeks before the next leg of their tour, leaving the band in a lurch. Not ones to let a last minute member switch, uh, kill their momentum, they engaged the services of new front man with Howard Jones and went right back to touring for the rest of the year. There's been no stopping them since then. Their last album, *The End of Heartache*, was their first with Jones and went on to sell 400,000 copies and even garner a Grammy nomination for best metal performance.

"We're all still pretty much the same people," says guitarist and producer Adam Dutkiewicz. "The

only thing that has changed is the shows are getting bigger and better. Whenever we roll up to play a show the crowd's always really great no matter where we are."

A graduate from the Berklee College of Music in Boston—whose alumni include John Mayer and Diana Krall—Dutkiewicz has put his degree to good use, producing all of Killswitch Engage's albums. In Killswitch's downtime, he keeps busy producing his friends' bands, which include Underøath, Uneath and All That Remains.

"It's my profession," Dutkiewicz says. "It's definitely a little different when it's your own band and your reputation is at stake. You're worried and you're nervous. At the same time, it's a good feeling because it's such a

creative thing. 'My little baby that I'm so proud of. It's going to grow up to be a big boy.'"

Despite having a bitchin' name and writing cool songs Killswitch would likely be just another talented band no one had ever heard of if it wasn't for the explosive popularity of Metalcore. Named to describe the cross-pollination of hardcore punk with heavy metal, Metalcore has become the latest trend in metal, and Killswitch unexpectedly found themselves being praised as one of the leaders of the genre.

"I don't even get the whole label thing," Dutkiewicz admits. "I think the label thing is something the journalists had to create to describe the sound of a band. All that subgenre stuff is garbage if you really think about it."

Killswitch Engage have come a long way from their humble beginnings as the opening or supporting act. Now they're the headliners and the main draw for a concert.

"To be honest, I don't like going on last because I'm usually a little bit too drunk by then," admits Dutkiewicz. "It's kinda cool because you get up on stage and you're headlining and you see all the people there and it's like, 'Wow. All these people are here to see us.' It's also nice to go out and get your day done and then chill out while the other bands are finishing up. We're just there to have a good time and drink everybody's beer."

Killswitch Engage will be engaging their killswitches in Mac Hall Mon., Nov. 27. Find out what the killswitch does!

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# No glass slippers

**Cinderella**  
opera review

Rachel Betts-Wilmott  
Late as usual

To generations who grew up with Disney cartoons, the Calgary Opera's production of *Cinderella* is an eye-opener. To most, *Cinderella* just isn't *Cinderella* without singing mice, a pumpkin patch and glass slippers, however, 400 years ago when Rossini wrote the influential opera, the story of the girl who swept cinders was unaffected by the need to please six-year-olds. *Cinderella* opened in Calgary Opera's new home, the Jubilee Auditorium, to everyone's satisfaction, despite its complete lack of "bippity-boppity-boo."

The opera follows the more traditional tale of *La Cenerentola*. A girl named Angelina who lives with her terrible step-father Don Magnifico and his two daughters Clorinda and Tisbe. As they've squandered her inheritance, she lives the life of a scullery maid.

The action starts when word comes the prince, Don Ramiro, must find a wife and is hosting a ball to affect that end. The sisters depart, leaving Cinderella behind. However, as must be the case in any opera, the story is not quite so clear—there are arias, a banquet scene and identities yet to be mistaken. It's definitely not the Disney movie.

At the behest of his tutor Alidoro, who's wizardry and match-making hobbies effectively make him the opera's "fairy god mother," Don Ramiro goes to investigate the reported beauties of the Magnifico house disguised as his own valet. He spots the soot-covered beauty and, as the story goes, it's love at first sight. At the ball, the opera takes a detour, making time for mischief while Don Ramiro, still dressed as a valet, and Dandini, the real valet still dressed as a prince, tease the evil step-sisters. An unrecogniz-

able Cinderella appears and leaves Don Ramiro a bracelet, by which to find her.

As a thorough perusing of the program's synopsis suggests, *Cinderella* is an opera heavily reliant on its characters, and Calgary Opera has pulled together a cast that doesn't disappoint. Though Cinderella and the prince, sung by Margaret Lattimore and Matthew Chellis, are portrayed beautifully, their performances are overshadowed—as is often the case in *Cinderella*—by the character actors. Brett Polegato, Taras Kulish, Cheryl Hickman and Mia Lennox-Williams (Dandini, Don Magnifico, Clorinda and Tisbe, respectively) are able to use their vocal skills to create really outlandish caricatures who successfully restore the fairy tale's whimsy. Indeed some of the best moments of the production are a result of Dandini's ability to bait the antagonists while conspiring with the audience. Awkwardly prancing around the stage in their petticoats, the overly made-up sisters create a truly loathsome pair, only outdone by their despicable father.

It is a testament to Cinderella's goodness that she is able to forgive her oppressors, and a tribute to family virtues that all she wants is her father's love. Unfortunately, the "to forgive is divine" moral is sullied by the choice to add a meta narrative. The story of an ungrateful, grumpy little girl fills the stage during the overture, and the story unfolds in her dreams. It quickly becomes just too saccharin, when the little girl wakes up to give her parents a big hug, grateful for their love.

Despite the superfluous narrative and the absence of the fairy god mother, Calgary Opera's *Cinderella* is a strong production, with an impressive chorus behind it. But be quick, once the clock strikes 12, *Cinderella* will go back to its regular life as a Disney cartoon.

*Cinderella* will be playing at the Jubilee Auditorium until Fri., Nov. 24. There will be no faeries in attendance.

## Ron James! Cont'd from page 14

Kevin James, trying to justify that sort of performance weekly. At the end of the day, I'm content with what I'm saying, doing and making. I'm not doing [standup] so I can get somewhere else. Going to L.A. and making money and getting a sitcom doesn't buy you happiness."

With another CBC special profiling Canada's West Coast set to air on New Year's Eve, James is clearly one Canadian comedian

who's here to stay, literally and figuratively. After all, he's got the characteristic self-effacing wit, razor-sharp Nova Scotian accent and the 'ehs' to prove it.

"You show me a Canadian who's not going to be nostalgic for that little cold pickle in the air when September rolls around, eh?" says James. "See—I'd miss that."

Ron James and *Full Tilt* will swing through Calgary Thur., Nov. 30, playing to two thousand lucky hosers at the Jack Singer Concert Hall.

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## spin ALBUM REVIEWS



**Swan Lake**  
*Beast Moans*  
 (Scratch)

Some things sound better on paper than they do coming out of a stereo. Such is the case for Swan Lake and their debut album, *Beast Moans*. Combining three of Canada's most distinctive songwriters—Dan Bejar (of Destroyer and the New Pornographers), Spencer Krug (of Wolf Parade and Sunset Rubdown) and Carey Mercer (of Frog Eyes)—*Beast Moans* could have contended for album of the year. Unfortunately, the album isn't the sum of its parts, though it isn't a complete disaster either.

What's most immediately striking about *Beast Moans* is how bizarre it is. Somehow it manages to sound like the three members are simultaneously on the same page, but are playing completely different songs—one of which is always the theme to the *Contra* Nintendo games. It's a bewildering experience, but after a few listens, most of the songs hold up decently, even though it often seems like every part was written independent of the others.

The vocals of the album really shine through. This isn't surprising as each member of Swan Lake is known for possessing a highly engaging, albeit eccentric, set of pipes. Though most songs on *Beast Moans* feature one member assuming lead duties, the band doesn't shy away from vocal collaboration, with sublime results.

The production falters, however. The album was hastily recorded and self-produced. The effect of this rushed schedule is evident. Many songs sound murky, leaving important elements buried behind less interesting ones.

Though *Beast Moans* doesn't fully live up to its enormous potential, it's an incredibly interesting album. Taken as an experiment where three great songwriters get together, throw their idiosyncrasies at each other and see what sticks, it's fascinating. But as a cohesive work, it doesn't quite hold up.

..Garth Paulson

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**Everclear**  
*Welcome to the Drama Club*  
 (Eleven Seven)

Yes, Everclear are still making music. No, *Welcome to the Drama Club* doesn't have anything new to offer that hasn't already been heard from Art Alexakis & co. before. With *Welcome to the Drama Club*, Alexakis, the only remaining original member, clearly hoped to capitalize on an honest, personal expression of the troubles he's been through since Everclear's 2003 breakup. The album's lyrics read like a *VH1: Behind the Music* episode, covering everything from his conversion from rockstar to washup, to his subsequent divorce and bankruptcy claim. One spin through the album leaves the listener feeling very much as if he or she

was Alexakis' personal therapist, a position not to be envied.

The marketability of Alexakis' misery, however, is in conflict with the sheer redundancy of the music. The catchy pop hooks are still there, as are the ever-present sex references and trademark 'woa-oh's and 'yea-hey's. Nothing has changed about Everclear's music in the last ten years, except that Alexakis' monotone drawl has shifted from being quaint and charming to tired and stale. Unless the name Everclear doesn't ring any bells at all, the indulgence of nostalgia presents the only real argument as to why this album could be worth purchasing.

..Kevin de Vlaming



**Sean Lennon**  
*Friendly Fire*  
 (EMI)

The title of Sean Lennon's second album, *Friendly Fire* is a reference to people on the same team who obliterate each other. Lennon's girlfriend cheated on him with his best friend and the result is a 10 song conceptual album on the theme of betrayal.

The opening track, "Dead Meat" is the most biting of the bunch, being an effective contrast between spiteful lyrics and pleasant melodies. Unfortunately, the remaining tracks have a mellow way of blending into one way-too understanding response from a man who seems to lack any real rage. Coming from someone who's been burned as badly as he claims, the music and lyrics come off as overly sweet.

Not only does Lennon dedicate the album to his cheating friend who died in a motorcycle accident last year, but his now ex-girlfriend sings backing vocals and even makes appearances on the bonus DVD.

The accompanying film is a 45-minute series of video vignettes of songs from the album. The videos are artfully and tastefully shot, featuring Lennon and company acting out the concepts, for a large part in period costume.

While *Friendly Fire* is a sometimes interesting look into Lennon's mind, it would have been more potent if it actually used live rounds.

..Ken Clarke



**Soundbluntz**  
*Blame the Bling*  
 (Awesome)

Whether or not bling was the cause, God knows something has to be blamed for this album. "Blame the Bling" is a compilation of club mix tracks produced by the Soundbluntz, but the vast majority are not sung, played or written by them, and often just mixed or produced by the DJ duo.

The album opens up with the far-from-original choice of "Billie Jean" by Michael Jackson, with the unnecessary addition of some random techno noises. Each subsequent song is just as dance floor-worthy, but how much of this is due to the skill of their producers is up for debate.

Ironically, the funniest track on the album is

mocking the techno genre by bashing how formulaic it is, even though the business of the Soundbluntz is, apparently, creating remixes by introducing the same elements they claim are annoying. Faults of originality aside, the album brings the vitality of the club to anyone's living room or party. Regardless of how much artistic credo can be attributed to the producers, the dance music is mixed well, even if contrived, repetitive techno sounds detract from some of the songs.

..Kendra Kusick

# A magic boy's magical journey of magic

P e t e r P a n  
t h e a t r e p r e v i e w

Kyle Francis  
Entertainment Editor

Full of magic, faeries, aerial sword fights and pirates, the spectacle of *Peter Pan* has made it one of the most popular dramatic performances since its first in 1904. Carrying on the tradition of flamboyance and incredible stunts, Alberta Theatre Projects is bringing the boy in green tights back for one of their most flare-filled shows of the year. Bob White, ATP's artistic director and the director of the show, claims it's still the same Peter, though it might not be the one everyone remembers.

"The adaptation I've chosen has a lot of the subplots pared down," says White. "There's no Tiger Lilly, which I thought would be a bit dicey in these politically correct days we live in, and there's no mermaids, so we focus on the Peter and Wendy story. Essentially the play is still about relationships. You have two characters, and they both just want different things from each other. Wendy's looking for a boyfriend and Peter's looking for a mother. And if you talk to a lot of women, they'll tell you they find that sort of thing all the time."

Even despite *Pan*'s timeless appeal and theatrical history, the most culturally canonized image of the boy who refused to grow up is still the one perpetuated by Disney. While *Pan*'s pop culture is always something to contend with for anyone producing the show, ATP's *Pan* will be recognizable to most people, but still stylistically different enough to set it apart from its many film adaptations.

"We always come back to that god damn Disney thing," says White. "People will be coming in expecting to see certain aspects of the play done a certain way, and when they aren't done that way, they might be surprised. But



courtesy Alberta Theatre Projects

In December, audiences will get hooked on *Peter Pan*.

we're hoping, of course, that the way we did things will be the way everyone sees it afterward."

Taking advantage of the Martha Cohen Theatre's in-the-thrust staging, White was able to extend the heavy stylization well beyond the classic characters. With aerial choreographer Sven Johansson's high-flying stunts and Adrian Young's renowned fight choreography, *Pan*'s more fantastic moments will be performed suspended above the audience.

"We've got some pretty brilliant fight sequences," says White. "There's a bit of a teaser just before the intermission, and then, of course, the big one at the end. The system we use for the wirework was designed by a madman,

so there ends up being actors flying above the audience, swinging swords three feet away from their heads."

Even with its flashy presentation, *Peter Pan*'s lasting power is still due mostly to its extraordinary telling of a simple, relatable coming-of-age story. The cultural cachet that J.M. Barrie's magical adventure holds might raise audience expectations before they even enter the theatre, but conversely, also makes it a tough story to criticize.

"I don't really believe in that whole critic-proof thing," says White. "I mean, if we do a shitty job, people are going to notice. The text has a lot in it about responsibility, making decisions and people growing apart, and [as adults], I think we treat that

differently. I don't think it's solemn, but there's definitely a sadness to that last scene when Wendy tells Peter that she can't go back with him."

The adult perspective offered by ATP's production of *Peter Pan* promises a refreshing enough perspective to be of interest to those familiar with the story, while the intense visual appeal of the performance should hook the audience's younger viewers. As a magic story generations have grown up with, White's interpretation of Barrie's classic invites audiences back to Neverland, and very well could show them something they didn't see before.

*Peter Pan* opens Fri., Dec. 1. There will be select preview showings between Sat., Nov. 25 and Thur., Nov. 30. Visit [www.atplive.com](http://www.atplive.com) for details.

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The 37th annual **Dance Montage** busts a well-choreographed move in the University Theatre Nov. 23–25 at 8 p.m. with a special 2 p.m. matinee Sat., Nov. 25. Students \$10, adults \$15 at Campus Ticket Centre.

**True Life Fiction of Mata Hari** is revealed in Reeve Theatre Tues., Nov. 28 and Wed., Nov. 29 at 7:30 p.m. Students \$12, adults \$15 at Campus Ticket Centre.

Nickle and Dime's **Jumping the Shark** lands in Reeve Theatre Tues., Nov. 28 and Wed., Nov. 29 at noon. Admission is a mere \$2.

Theatre Calgary presents their annual rendition of **A Christmas Carol** in Max Bell Theatre Nov. 24–26. Tickets are \$18.20 to \$42 at Ticketmaster.

ATP brings **Peter Pan** to Martha Cohen Theatre Sat., Nov. 25, Sun., Nov. 26 and Tues., Nov. 28. Tix are \$15 to \$58.50 at Ticketmaster.

Decidedly Jazz Danceworks unveils **Root 7** at the Grand Tues., Nov. 28 and Wed., Nov. 29. Tickets are available online at [www.theatrejunction.com](http://www.theatrejunction.com).

## CONCERTS

The Dears and guests rock MacEwan Ballroom Thur., Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$22.50 at Ticketmaster.

**Tokyo Police Club, the Grates** and **Hot Little Rocket** blast off in Broken City Thur., Nov. 23 at 8 p.m. Advance tickets are \$10 at Megatunes, Melodiya and Sloth.

**Alcaz Duo** plays the Engineered Air Theatre Thur., Nov. 23 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$14.99 at the door.

**Kris Demeanor and his Crack Band** and **Erin Ross** crank out tunes in That Empty Space Fri., Nov. 24 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Check out this free event.

**The Plaid Tongued Devils, Ghosts of Modern Man, Anatta** and the **Hot Blood Bombers** attack Broken City Fri., Nov. 24 at 8 p.m.

**Jeff Healey's Jazz Wizards** jazz up the Jack Singer Concert Hall Fri., Nov. 24 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30.38 at Ticketmaster.

**Big John Bates and the Voodoo Dollz** and **Desmadre** poke and prod the Hi-Fi Club Sat., Nov. 25.

**Jeff Landeen** celebrates his CD release with **Dolly Sillito** at a special show in the Liberty Lounge Sat., Nov. 25 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at Ticketmaster.

**Killswitch Engage** and **Bury Your Dead** engage MacEwan Hall Mon., Nov. 27 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$29.50 at Ticketmaster.

**Concord Dawn** breaks upon the Hi-Fi Club Mon., Nov. 27.

**Cerberus, Ost Est Ima** and **Methodical Breed** burst into Broken City Tues., Nov. 28 at 8 p.m.

**Zuckerbaby** and **Secret Broadcast** infiltrate the Hi-Fi Club with rock Tues., Nov. 28.

**Boca 45** spins tunes inside the Hi-Fi Club Wed., Nov. 29.

**Xavier Rudd** plays the Jack Singer Concert Hall Wed., Nov. 29 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25.50 to \$29.50 at Ticketmaster.

## SPORTS

Your beloved Dinos are pitted against regional rivals! **Both volleyball teams** hope to mangle the **U of Manitoba** in Jack Simpson Gym Fri., Nov. 24 and Sat., Nov. 25, women at 6 p.m. and men at 8 p.m. The men's hockey squad lance the **U of Lethbridge** at Father David Bauer Arena Sat., Nov. 25 at 7 p.m. Not to be outdone, the women's team humbles **Mount Royal College** at Max Bell Centre Sun., Nov. 26 at 2:30 p.m. Admission to all these games is free for students.

The **PBR Rocky Cup Canadian National Bullriding Finals** takes place in the Saddledome Nov. 24–26. Tickets are \$14 to \$40 at Ticketmaster, and that's no bull.

The **Flames** outrun the **Colorado Avalanche** Tues., Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. at the 'Dome. Tickets are \$35 to \$125 at Ticketmaster.

## MISC.

Controversial playwright **Brad Fraser** discusses "How We've Failed the Theatre in Canada" in Craigie Hall's Boris Roubakine Recital Hall Thur., Nov. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Free.

Explore the **Fair Trade Market** at the Hillhurst-Sunnyside Community Association (1302 5th Ave. NW) Sat., Nov. 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cinemanía presents **Clerks 2** in Science Theatres 148 Mon., Nov. 27 at 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. It's free.

**Justin P.J. Trudeau** stops by the Terrace Lounge in MacEwan Student Centre Mon., Nov. 27 at 1:30 p.m. Free.

Check out the **Engineering Design Open House**, featuring toys designed for disabled children, Mon., Nov. 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Tues., Nov. 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. All the showcases are in ICT 219 and are free.

To commemorate the UN's International Human Rights Day, check out a free panel discussion on **Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism** Wed., Nov. 28 at noon in the Moot Court Room in Murray Fraser Hall.

# CJSW ON-AIR GUIDE

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
MORNING JAZZ	6 am morning joy	breaking the tethers	lush life	cold smoke jazz	jazz for quantum cats	late night continued	late night continued
	7 am	BBC WORLD SERVICE NEWS weekday mornings at 6, 7, 8 and 9 am				democracy now!	alternative radio
ROOTS MIX	8 am	canadian music centre presents	bella musica	airport bison radio	the two and a half hour coffee break	bunte welle german	counterspin
	9 am		tangential workout	alternative radio		cjsw news	eritrean radio
AFTERNOON MIX	10 am	so SU me students' union	strange and beautiful	the mutton chop record hop / pillage the village	who shakes city calendar	fantastic plastic sponsored by bird dog video	the good word project
	11 am	red squares sponsored by the drum & monkey	nerd beat / anti-parent culture sound	the audible smile sponsored by melodiya records	my allergy to the fans sponsored by tubby dog	helenic melodies greek radio	level the vibes
LATE NIGHT MIX	12 pm	electric company	the bad arts sponsored by liberty lounge	alternative to what? sponsored by palorino smokehouse	road pops sponsored by fwd weekly	bikesheviks sponsored by cadence coffee	mental illness
	1 pm	welcome to flava country sponsored by the hi-fi club	the blues witness with reverend ron sponsored by calgary dollars	writer's block	musiquarium everything from jazz to jungle sponsored by giant 45	caribbean link-up sponsored by fwd weekly	speaking in tongues world music
	2 pm	off the page gauntlet	lift the bandstand	film clips	full moon funkacious the latest & greatest in breaks & house	voice of ethiopia	desi vibes
	3 pm	artslink	noise experimental music	fat beat diet	dirty needles the best in funk, soul & hip hop	oh africa!	the chit chat
	4 pm	tombstone after dark	good character requirement / tuning radio	remote emissions hard hitting jungle & drum 'n bass	megawatt mayhem metal	the nocturntable	tokyo eye patch
	5 pm	yeah, what she said wainy's programming	charlie / don't throw your marmalade	dna hardcore techno	the sarcastic triangle / attention surplus disorder	let's get baked with mat & dave vegan baking from ckd in halifax	translucent dreams ambient, trance etc.
	6 pm	honey, i punk the kids	post-everything	sound champion showcase	uncle lijjah's whiskey run	speaking in tongues	the chit chat
	7 pm	rack power	incidental tracks	sunlight theory / 31 flavours	mental brain thoughts / scrumdiddlyumptious	the chit chat	the chit chat
	8 pm	what would the neighbors think?	rage cage			speaking in tongues	the chit chat
	9 pm	dead air				speaking in tongues	the chit chat
	10 pm	into the deep				speaking in tongues	the chit chat
	11 pm	corduroy couch				speaking in tongues	the chit chat
	12 am					speaking in tongues	the chit chat
	1 am					speaking in tongues	the chit chat
	2 am					speaking in tongues	the chit chat
	3 am					speaking in tongues	the chit chat
	4 am					speaking in tongues	the chit chat
	5 am					speaking in tongues	the chit chat
	6 am					speaking in tongues	the chit chat

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# The end

When you strike with the sword  
Slain heads fall down  
Imploring help from the Almighty  
—Ahmed Joumari

I was last in Oman in May. At a private beach with my feet in the waters of the Gulf of Oman—which feeds into the Arabian Sea—the reality of the world seemed a dystopian futuristic concoction and history seemed dead.

Oman is a mountainous country, its beauty rugged, stark, jagged and surprising. Invisible animals have drilled their homes into impossible spots in the mountains and between their rocky spikes, the sea shimmers. In the hills at the rear of my home in Muscat, I find lizards larger than my hand and the occasional shrub growing out of the hard, dry ground as if by magic; driving into a seaside village, I sit in my car and look at houses built mere feet from the water's edge, white and stout. Old men, with gray-streaked beards, in thobes smoking shisha, lean against the walls of their humble homes and stare out at the sea, their narrow fishing boats turned upside down on the sand on the beach, fishing nets spread on their surface.

If Lord Cromer, the British Consul-General in Egypt in the late 19th century, was in the car with me, he'd repeat the description of the Oriental mind he gave so long ago.

"Want of accuracy, which easily degenerates into untruthfulness, is in fact the main characteristic of the Oriental mind," he said. "[While] the European... is a natural logician... the mind of the Oriental, like his picturesque streets, is eminently wanting in symmetry. His reasoning is the most slipshod description [and he is] singularly deficient in the logical faculty."

If the Lebanese poet Nadia Tueni were in the vehicle with me, staring at the old men, she'd repeat her couplet: "A Bedouin white against

the background of sand/And the double noise of fear."

The private beach I was on is owned by Petroleum Development Oman (PDO). The Omani government only has a 60 per cent interest in the lucrative company; 34 per cent of it is owned by Royal Dutch Shell. PDO has built a compound along the beach with central air-conditioning, free electricity and free water for its employees, many of whom are Westerners. Employees enjoy free flights to their home country, free relocation from abroad and free education in expensive American and British private schools where the French and American revolutions are taught, but never the indigenous history. Edward Said, a Christian Palestinian-American, called them "elite colonial schools... designed by the British to bring up a generation of Arabs with natural ties to Britain."

Driving out of the camp the income inequalities become clear. When night falls, young Omani men drive into the prosperous community. At night from my window, I watch them light a fire on the beach, golden and mobile against the flickering light. Vulnerable, for when the embers die, their form disappears.

On the beach under the afternoon sun, I think of Edward William Lane's first glimpse of Egypt with its praying Mohammadans as I watch a British woman in a pink bikini rise from the waves. A few minutes later, an Indian man, blackened by the sun, walks to me and hands me lemonade. He is from Kerala I learn; he was a math teacher in India and now works in the PDO club cafeteria as a waiter. Nearly all the waiters and other menial cleaning staff are immigrants from Asian countries.

When Gilles Kepel was writing *The War for Muslim Minds: Islam and the West*, he visited the Saudi Arabian province of Asir where a local tribe—the Ghamdis—had bred many of the 9/11 hijackers.

Sarah Malik wraps up her look at the Muslim by examining her time spent in Oman. Experiencing the changing Islamic world first hand, she ponders what the future could hold.

"I saw few young people," Kepel wrote about his 2004 visit, "because there are no jobs for them. They have all gone to Jeddah, where they scratch out an existence on the city's fringes, along with poor foreigners... Long ago, the Ghamdis were gardeners, cooks, or drivers. They disappeared once [foreigners from the Philippines and South Asian countries] took over those jobs."

The Ghamdi tribe would achieve fame after many of its young men found their way into American skies. Under the unforgiving hot sun, I wonder about the future of the men I have been amongst in Oman and other Mideastern countries.

On the day the Abu Ghraib scandal hit Oman, pictures of the abuse flooded televisions and newspapers like an Indian monsoon. In a country where most women wear a black *abaya* covering their bodies, and the sexiest thing in public view are female faces appearing next to perfumes and other products in store windows, the nakedness of the Iraqi prisoners was a sick shock. The lack of censorship was designed to amplify the sexual humiliation, to sharpen the point this was not the rape of a relatively small group of Iraqi male prisoners, but rather the West's rape of the veiled and 'pure' Muslim society as a whole.

Last year's Haditha incident, after the disgust and anger elicited by Abu Ghraib, again incited passionate rage among many of the world's Muslims.

"That hatred is blood hatred," *Vanity Fair* foreign correspondent William Langewiesche said. "It is the kind of hatred people are willing to die for, with no expectation but revenge."

The victims of the Haditha carnage—a revenge act on the part of the Marines after a landmine killed Corporal Miguel Terrazas—lay on



Prayer at the Tomb, Ludwig Deutsch, 1898

the ground caged by the walls of their homes glistening with wet blood.

"People move among the hideous corpses, wailing their grief and vowing vengeance before God," Langewiesche wrote. "This is my brother! My brother! My brother!" In one of the killing rooms, a hard-looking boy insists that the camera show the body of his father. Sobbing angrily, he shouts, "I want to say this is my father! God will punish you Americans! Show me on the camera! This is my father!"

Addressing the abuses, a weeping cleric I spoke to in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, clutching his *masbahah* quoted a *hadeeth* where the Prophet Mohammad said: "This *ummah* of yours has its days of peace and [security] in the beginning of its career, and in the last phases of its existence it will be afflicted with trials and with things disagreeable to you.

[In this phase of the *ummah*], there will be tremendous trials one after the other, each making the previous one dwindle into insignificance."

This *hadeeth* finds its cousin in the doctrine of *al-wala wal-bara*—Islam is under siege and the Muslim must accordingly become polarized—and is a feeling voiced by the typical Muslim.

That feeling of peril has in turn led to greater *sahwa* (Islamist awakening); another spoke in the cycle that has beheaded the life of the Muslim for centuries.

*Remember us now wandering...  
In the tumult of cities beyond deserts  
and seas;  
Remember us  
With our eyes full of dust  
That never clears in our ceaseless  
wandering*

—Jabra Ibrahim

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# Early divisional split for the Dinos

## men's b-ball

Jon Roe  
Sports Editor

Opening halves were the story of the weekend for the University of Calgary Dinos men's basketball team, as they split a Nov. 17-18 series at home to the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns.

Friday, the team trailed 47-37 at half time, the fourth time this season the team had been down at the half. Coming into the weekend, the Dinos had only led at half time once, Fri., Nov. 10 against the Simon Fraser University Clan, a game they went on to win 84-66.

However, like last weekend against the Trinity Western University Spartans, the Dinos went on to outscore their opponents in the final half for the 91-85 win Friday.

The Dinos were led by Robbie Sihota, who came off the bench and put up 21 points in only 19 minutes of playing time.

Going into Saturday, the Dinos were hoping to come out with a better first half, and they managed to hit the buzzer with a 34-33 lead over the Pronghorns. Unfortunately, the 'Horns controlled the bulk of the play in the half, at times leading the Dinos by as much as eight points.

"We were up 34-33 at the half," said Dinos head coach Dan Vanhooren. "For us, based on the way we've been playing, that's a pretty commanding lead."

"Defensively, to tell you the truth, I don't think we were playing too much defence in the first half," said guard Josh Feist. "I don't know why. It shouldn't have been that close. We weren't there mentally. We had spurts where we were okay, and we just let up. They started hitting

shots, and getting easy ones. That's why it was so close."

Feist played 38 minutes of Friday's game, every minute of the game on Saturday, and currently leads the Dinos with a 34.5 minute-per-game average.

The game remained close in the opening 10 minutes of the second half, with no team gaining more than a four-point advantage. Like the first, the second half was played tight defensively, including a two-and-a-half minute span when not a single whoosh of the basket was to be had.

"They play good D, we play good D," said Vanhooren. "Both teams know each other. It's hard to beat teams twice, that's just the way it goes."

After the scoreless drought, the Dinos caught fire. Feist sunk a three to kick off a 9-0 run for the Dinos, allowing them to build their biggest lead of the game, 63-55. With four-and-a-half minutes remaining, the Dinos were sitting pretty with a nine point lead, and then it all started to fall apart. The 'Horns went on a 10-point run, as the Dinos turned the ball over twice, missed four shots, and were out-rebounded 4-2.

"They got two open threes, and started hitting them," said Feist. "Turnovers down at their end didn't help either. [It was a] combination of things defensively and offensively just not executing. That's kind of how the unravelling came about."

With 1:39 remaining, the 'Horns took a single point advantage. A Pronghorns foul allowed the Dinos to tie it up on a Sihota free-throw, before the 'Horns took a two point lead with nine seconds remaining. The Dinos charged down the court as the clock ticked off, finally securing a 69-69 draw and an overtime session with a lay-up from Sihota.

The five minute overtime session started in favour of the Dinos, as the



Trent Orth/the Gauntlet

Joe Schow drives against a Lethbridge defender. Schow finished with 12 points in 18 minutes on Friday, and 12 points to go with three blocks Saturday.

home squad built up a solid five point advantage with 3:46 remaining. However, turnovers and ice-cold shooting allowed the 'Horns to go on an eight point run, building a three point lead they wouldn't surrender. The game finished in a 78-75 victory for the Pronghorns.

The loss, which evened the Dinos record at 3-3, may hurt them come playoff time, as the 'Horns are a divisional foe, and inter-divisional games largely

determine playoff seeding.

"Everybody knows that our divisional games are huge," said Vanhooren. "For us to lose one to them in our home gym is a tough one. We had them on the ropes. We had a pretty good opportunity to win this game and take a big commanding lead on them. We're still in great position, [at] 3-3. Quite honestly, everybody's going to be in the hunt when it comes down to the crunch at the end of the year anyway."

Feist's 21 points and eight assists earned him the Dinos player of the game award. The 5'9" point guard would've much rather had the win.

"It was good, but I would've liked the win a lot better," said Feist. "We had a pretty good opportunity tonight to set ourselves pretty nice for the rest of the season."

The Dinos play two straight weeks on the road before the schedule breaks for Christmas, returning to the Jack Simpson Gym Jan. 5-6.

# Lady b-ballers win two straight on home court

## women's b-ball

Todd Andre  
Gauntlet Sports

The University of Calgary Dinos women's basketball team boosted their winning streak to three last weekend, crushing the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns in two matches Nov. 17-18. The Dinos' third-ranked offence fired in 75 points Friday, sinking a lethargic 57-point performance by Lethbridge. The 'Horns kept it close on Saturday night, but Calgary snuffed out their last minute life, recording an 80-71 victory.

Saturday, the Dinos scraped by the 'Horns, finishing off their defiant opponents with flawless free-throw

shooting in the final two minutes. Clutch baskets from the line have been a huge factor in all three of the Dinos' wins, and those points have propelled them to first place in league free-throw percentage. Former Lethbridge resident and current Calgary forward Courtney Coyle is the best on the team in that department, leading all league shooters with a sparkling .909 shooting percentage. Calgary has repeatedly punished foul-happy teams by nailing game-clinching free throws late in the game.

"We try to wear other teams down," said Dinos head coach Shawnee Harle after Friday night's decisive win. "It's an attitude more than a skill."

Dino guard Becky Heninger showed off plenty of that win-

ning attitude Friday, stirring up a dull-looking Dinos team with her energetic and colourful play in the third quarter. The red machine gained momentum soon after a play in which Heninger was steamrolled by a Lethbridge player.

"I [missed a shot] but didn't dwell on it right away," recounted Heninger, Calgary's smallest dinosaur at 5'5". "First thing I thought was to get back on D. I knew she was coming, [but] I didn't know she was that close. I just had to stand my ground and take it. It took forever for the refs to call it. [After], everyone was pumped."

Heninger sunk her two free throws to put the Dinos up 54-43, and they never looked back, giving up only three more points on their way to a comfortable 75-57 win.

"She brought some great energy to us," added Harle, chuckling about a play in the third quarter in which pint-sized Heninger won a loose ball by tossing a colossal Longhorn over her shoulder. "We fed off that energy."

Fourth-year kinesiology major Michelle Wilson also had an excellent weekend, leading the 'Saur in the win Saturday with a 21-point, 11-rebound double-double.

After starting the season as zero-for-three herbivores, the Dinos are beginning to grow some teeth just in time to feast on the University of Alberta Pandas Nov. 24-25 in Edmonton. Harle is confident they will be ready for the fifth-ranked Pandas.

"We have to continue to improve, stay hungry, and if we can get it going on defence, we will be right there when it matters," said Harle.

Maybe defence will rub off on the Dinos up in Edmonton. The Dinos offence might be marginally better than the Pandas, but Edmonton is significantly better at keeping their opponents off the board. The Pandas are in the top five in points differential at 12.6, giving up an average of 58.8 points per game while scoring 71.4. Conversely, Calgary manages to outscore its opponents by an average of only three points, as they allow a whopping 73.9 while scoring about 76.9.

"The middle cut is killing us," said Heninger. "If we play defence like we should—by bumping the cutters—we'll be okay."

# Bisons visit Jack for key series

## women's volleyball

Jon Roe  
Sports Editor

The Dinos women's volleyball team faces its toughest test this upcoming weekend: a two game home series against the top-ranked team in the nation, the University of Manitoba Bisons.

The ladies have played the last few weeks on the road in back-to-back series against the Brandon University Bobcats and the University of Winnipeg Wesmen. In four matches, the Dinos lost the only two games they've lost this season against the Bobcats, and swept three of the matches 3-0. The Dinos are first in Canada West with a 6-0 record.

The Bisons are unbeaten as well, but have only played three matches, winning them by a combined 9-2.

"From their point of view, they certainly won't be beat up, they're rested," noted Dinos head coach Kevin Boyles. "From our point of view, we feel like the last few weeks have been good to prepare us for this weekend. I don't see any advantage there for either team."

In the pre-season, the Dinos played the Bisons four times, going 1-3. The Dinos swept them once, lost two matches 3-2, and lost one match on home court 3-1 at the Dino Cup.

"We're not concerned about that at all," said Boyles. "Pre-season is pre-season and we play different than we do the regular season. At that point of the year, you're evaluating players, you're trying different line-ups. It's kind of irrelevant."

The Dinos have yet to be really challenged this season. The teams the Dinos have played have a combined record of 3-15 and all three sit at the bottom of the conference. Over the next two weekends, the Dinos play the unbeaten Bisons and the

University of Alberta Pandas, who hold a similar record to the Dinos at 6-0.

"We've been preparing all fall for this weekend and for next weekend against U of A," said Boyles. "We knew that those two, on the schedule, would be really big weekends. [Against the Bisons,] it's just a matter of who's further along in their year, motivated to play this weekend and fight for the number one spot in the country."

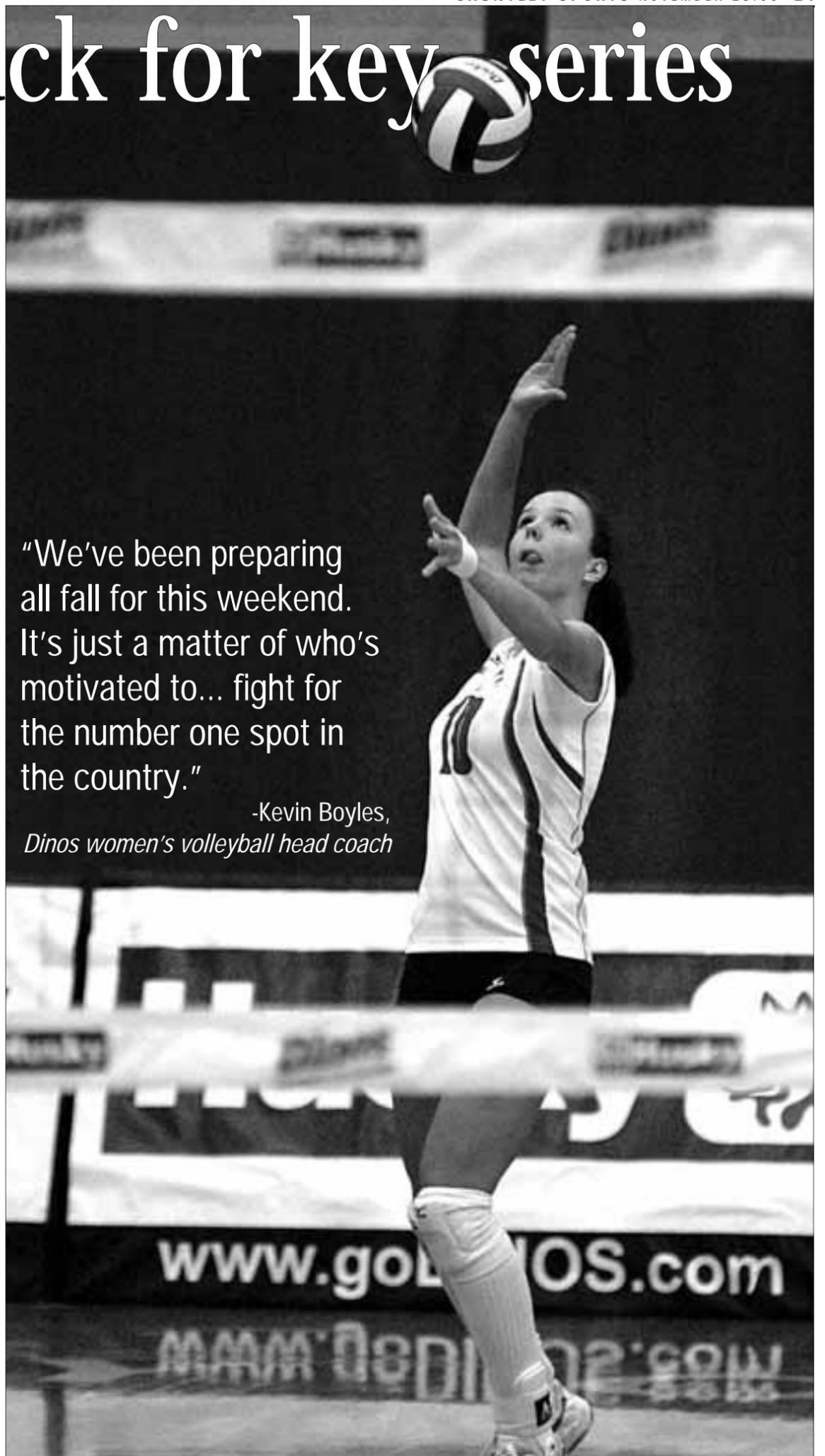
The games against the Bisons will certainly be a test. Despite being a young team—the Bisons have six first-year players on their roster—they show veteran savvy, and are consistent and hard to rattle.

"It's a very solid team, that's the problem," said Boyles. "They play really consistent volleyball. We've been up on them 2-0, and they storm back to beat us 3-2. The key for us is to elevate our level of play and keep it there for a full match, not suffer the ups and downs. We are a more emotional team than they are. They don't care if they're ahead, behind or whatever, they keep playing the same ball."

Whatever the result of this weekend, it'll be key in determining the final playoff seeding. The Pandas, the Bisons and the Dinos are all contending for the top spot and the right to host the Canada West final-four tournament. These next two weekends are the only opportunities for the Dinos to play both the Pandas and the Bisons.

"It's too early to start talking playoffs," said Boyles. "Certainly I think they will be there at the end of the year, and hopefully we are too. Being that we're hosting nationals, we'd really like to host the final four. If either team sweeps this weekend, it goes a long way towards establishing that for either one of us. There's a lot on the line this weekend."

The Dinos play the Bisons Saturday and Sunday. Both games take place at the Jack Simpson Gym, starting at 6 p.m. Entrance is free with a student ID.



"We've been preparing all fall for this weekend. It's just a matter of who's motivated to... fight for the number one spot in the country."

-Kevin Boyles,  
Dinos women's volleyball head coach

Jon Roe/the Gauntlet

Dino Willemina Stikker-Breemhaar lines up a serve.

SCOREBOARD				
<p>DINOS</p> <p><b>3</b></p> <p>women's v-ball</p> <p>The Dinos picked up their fourth sweep of the season.</p>	<p>WESMEN</p> <p><b>0</b></p>		<p>DINOS</p> <p><b>91</b></p> <p>men's b-ball</p> <p>The Dinos won their third game in a row on home court. See pg. 20</p>	<p>PRONGHORNS</p> <p><b>85</b></p>
<p>DINOS</p> <p><b>3</b></p> <p>The Dinos have lost only two games this season in six matches.</p>	<p>WESMEN</p> <p><b>0</b></p>		<p>DINOS</p> <p><b>75</b></p> <p>The Dinos lost a close one in overtime. Dino Josh Feist had 21 points. See pg. 20</p>	<p>PRONGHORNS</p> <p><b>78</b></p>
<p>DINOS</p> <p><b>75</b></p> <p>women's b-ball</p> <p>Dino Jane Meadwell had 18 points in the win. See pg. 20</p>	<p>PRONGHORNS</p> <p><b>57</b></p>	<p>DINOS</p> <p><b>80</b></p> <p>women's b-ball</p> <p>The Dinos picked up back-to-back wins over the Pronghorns, and won their third straight on home court. See pg. 20</p>	<p>DINOS</p> <p><b>3</b></p> <p>women's hockey</p> <p>The Dinos win their third of the season, and their second in a row. See pg. 22</p>	<p>OOKS</p> <p><b>1</b></p>



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

The Dinos outscored the Ooks 5-2 over the weekend.

# Doubling up

## Dinos win two straight

### women's hockey

Derek Neumeier  
Gauntlet Sports

**N**o matter how a game is played by both teams, a win is still a win when it's all said and done.

While it was far from their best-played game of the season, the University of Calgary Dinos women's hockey team still skated away from their Fri., Nov. 17 match versus the NAIT Ooks with a narrow 2-1 win, their second of the season.

Both teams played below their regular skill levels all game long. Plentiful scoring chances and beautiful saves from both sides were overshadowed by sloppy passes, needless penalties and an inability to convert offensively.

"We didn't quite live up to our potential but we gave 100 per cent the entire game," said defender Ali Webb, who was given Dinos player of the game honours. "We just got more bounces and that gave us the win."

"It was inconsistent," added forward and first-year communications student Bret Seaton, who had an assist. "We played down to their level but stepped it up when needed."

The game started off on the right foot for the Dinos. They came crashing out of the gate like velociraptors, jumping on their opponents quickly with a vicious forecheck.

The Dinos' hard work was rewarded with a little luck less than two minutes into play, when captain Beth Nerland threw the puck out from behind the net, banked it off a player in front and past the oblivious Ooks goaltender.

But for every lucky break, there was a setback. Not long after the opening goal the Ooks turned a seemingly harmless dump-in into a goal when the puck came straight back off the boards, hit goalie Katie Urness' skate, and slid into the net, tying the game at 1-1.

The Dinos prevented the Ooks from fully stealing their momentum as they regained the lead on a powerplay late in the first. The puck bounced as the Dinos banged away

in front and eventually found the stick of forward Chelsey Morrill, who put it home. Though ugly like the first two, the goal held up as the game winner.

Both teams created chances throughout the last two periods, but the goalies stood their ground. Urness played with poise after her early folly, making several key saves, including a remarkable breakaway stop late in the first.

The Dinos penalty kill, which went a perfect eight-for-eight, helped special teams play a large role in the victory.

"Our special teams won the game for us," commented head coach Dean Holden. "We denied them goals and generated one for us."

Saturday, the Dinos traveled to Edmonton for the second game of the series, coming away with a 3-1 victory.

The back-to-back wins make three on the season for the Dinos.

The Dinos play two games this weekend, visiting the SAIT Trojans Sat., Nov. 25 and Mount Royal College Cougars Sun., Nov. 26. Entrance is free with a student ID and games start at 6 p.m. on Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

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If money's tight this year you might want to consider getting your friends TLFs for Kwanzaa, but act now, there are only two issues left. So bring your seasonal TLF to MSC 319 or e-mail them to [tlfs@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca](mailto:tlfs@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca). All submissions must include your name, ID number, phone number and signature. Candy canes and Christmas ornaments are the preferred kinds of very necessary bribery. Submissions judged to be sexist, racist, homophobic or attacks of a personal nature will not be printed.

Christ is good! Christ is great! Christ deserves a punch in the face.

-Team Christ Punchers  
*[The Gauntlet does not condone punching anybody's messiah in the face.]*  
 -BaldEd]

French family seeking student for after-school care of two children. 3:45 p.m. to 7 p.m. Garrison Woods SW. Email: [veronique.giry@total.com](mailto:veronique.giry@total.com)

Found purse in SS link to Admin building on Nov. 20 around 2 p.m. Email a description to [mirameri@yahoo.com](mailto:mirameri@yahoo.com)

I wish I could be like Bhudda and hug Jesus. I want to hug all of you.

-sum guy

Drewskii, your mom let me [edited for taste]! Regards!

-JonnyCyo

I wish the elderly couples in those Cialis commercials would buy a damm watch. I'm sick of seeing them turn up late for the opera, dinner parties and the like.

oog boog shnoogy woog doog boog

-Alice

Black wallet with stupid little star lost Tuesday afternoon between the Info Commons and Kines. If you don't return it, how will I get into the Den to reward you with beer?

Wearing "camo" isn't trendy, it just makes you look like an idiot.

To the annoying HO in MDSC403: Shut your fucking trap. Nobody really needs to hear your whiny voice.

WIN \$200!! Help contribute to undergraduate research by filling out a survey at [www.sportsinfluencesurvey.com](http://www.sportsinfluencesurvey.com)

Laplace and his transforms can go back to hell where they so truely belong.

-tired\_geer

To the brown eyed girl with the caddy, you captivate me, and I loves it!

-Moo

thanks to the guy who cured my hiccups. it had been three days straight. meant a lot.

-miraculously cured

P-Unit the Music Guru's Downloads Of the Week: The Knife - "Heartbeats," Voxtrot - "Rise Up in the Dirt!"

Found: four-leaf clover charm. E-mail [esjogren@ucalgary.ca](mailto:esjogren@ucalgary.ca) to describe and claim.

To the tall, not so hot, blonde chick, Did you have a blast with Ed? Too bad you SUCK and LOOSE all your matches.

-From Russia With Love

Happy birthday, Lokki!

Project Serve Canada applications due! Nov. 24 @ 4:30 p.m. Visit [www.ucalgary.ca/ose/projectserve](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ose/projectserve) for more info.

Suburbia is vanity, utterly meaningless—we must at once stop this outgrowth called Sprawl—Cheers for Smart Growth and Sustainability!

-UBST Major

Today, we wipe our asses with the earth. Tomorrow, our children weep at the smell. There's still time to change.

-climatecrisis.net

I like how they put the bread in those nice, durable, sturdy paper bags; yet anything heavy gets layered in the cut through your hands plastic.

-thedrewskii

To BS in MDSC403: I don't care if you make love to the Academic Calendar every night. Put the "shut" in "shut the fuck up." NO ONE CARES!!

-quit your whining

Jon, there's some phonebook in your beard.

-Tugboat Bunglebottom

To white glasses guy in SPAN: I want to have your babies! Though that would require a uterus...

*[I dunno, they can do amazing things with science these days.]*

-BagelEd]

To Lonely Blue Eyes and Pensive Brunette, Will you two just RUB ALREADY?

-gawd

Happy 21st Birthday, Rebecca! Here's to 21 being the best year yet!

-From all the girls

Wilde is my homegirl.

-English Literature Students' Society ([elss@ucalgary.ca](mailto:elss@ucalgary.ca))

Shmoops: Viva Las Vegas Dec 26! You, me and Seinfeld. Can't wait to make this semester up to you.

To all Dinos athletes: If you cannot make group meetings, do not sign up for classes with group projects. Thanks.

Soccersaurs are shutout once again, scoring 0 for cab originality.

-Still Rockin' for the Gallagher

Ethene: Your are SHMO great! I want to interact with your frontier orbitals so that our electrons can shake hands!

-Butadiene

To the people who throw water bottles into garbages next to recycling bins, You are fucking lazy and have absolutely no regard for the earth.

-Not a tree hugger, just a concerned citizen of this planet

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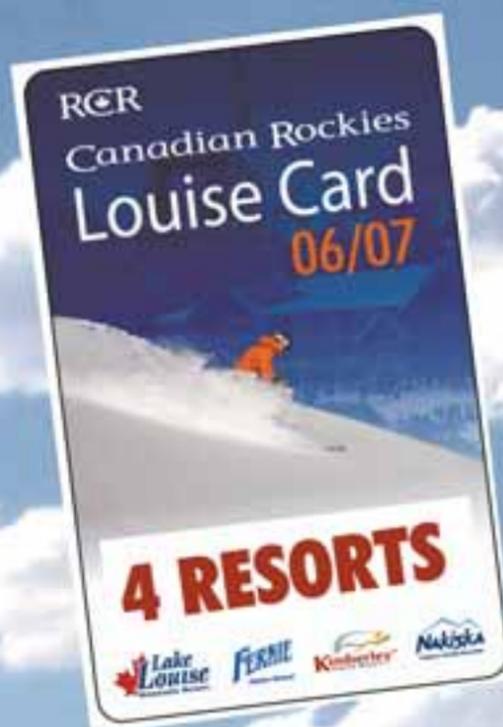


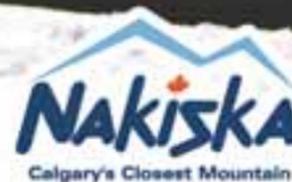
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