

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

gauntlet

VOLUME 47 | ISSUE NO. 30 | FEBRUARY 15 | 2007

The TAO of POW

ski and snowboard pull-out inside



Calendar of Curiosities

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Students' Union Weekly Schedule of Events, February 19 - 24, 2007

Monday, Feb. 19 Tuesday, Feb. 20 Wednesday, Feb. 21 Thursday, Feb. 22 Friday, Feb. 23 Saturday, Feb. 24

Alberta Family Day
(No Cinemania)

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY READING WEEK!

Enough news for two weeks

news page 5

Now, with 100 per cent less SU than last week! This week's news section will sit on stands for two whole weeks so read pages five through 10 for news about construction plans, rez fees and a giant transvestite horse.

Rails and whales

opinions page 11

That's right folks, we've got snuff—I mean stuff—about the university athlete suspended for cocaine use, as well as a commentary on some crazy pirate activists in Antarctica. Also, not nearly enough letters. Get angry, people—and get writing.

Break your cell phone

features page 16

This week Kendra Perry gives up computers, cell phones, television and every kind of technology she can find. Then she talks to a professor and writes her intrepid heart out. Wouldn't giving up technology suck? Just think, how would you make sure that useless Magikarp evolved into the mighty Gyrados in time to take on the elite four? Don't even get me started on what might happen to your fledgling Dragonite without the proper techno-love.

Like sandpaper against a seagull

entertainment page 17

Like a Lotus Child blooming in a frozen, forgotten battlefield. Sweeter than the sound of pop music confused with a storyteller. As though a messiah met a freight train. Like a puppy fighting a cheese grater. *Entertainment*.

It's playoff time... again

sports page 27

The winter teams are entering the knockout rounds, so come see how the basketball and volleyball teams finished in the last weekend of the regular season. Here's a hint, the men's volleyball team won't be around for the big dance because no one asked them, and going stag is lame.

Ski/Snowboard Supplement

supplement starts page 18

We spent countless hours shreddin' mad pow and then took a few moments to write about it. If you wanna know which hills to hit and which to miss, this is it, baby. It's your one stop shop for everything gnar gnar-related!



photo to the editor

"The lion's tear" by Tracey Bong

Look into the lion's eyes... feel the passion, rage or sorrow. It almost looks alive with a tear-like streak down his left eye. What kind of feelings do you get from this inanimate—yet majestic—stone-cold lion?

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 (approximately 50 words) to room 319 MacEwan Student Centre or email photo@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca.

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PHOTO: BRET BEADON

Creating history

The University of Calgary wants to add a bit of community to campus by embarking on a multi-million dollar project to rip out the roads on the south side of MacEwan Student Centre and replace them with sprawling green space.

The Taylor Family Quadrangle is a partner project to the planned digital library and was made possible thanks to a \$25 million donation by Calgary philanthropists Don and Ruth Taylor. The quadrangle will be modeled after traditional quadrangles, which were originally walled gardens at the centre of medieval monasteries. "Quads," like the one the U of C envisions, are commonplace on historic English campuses like Cambridge and Oxford, as well as ivy-league American schools like Stanford and Harvard. They provide a vehicle-free green space for students to walk, sit and be awed by the historic buildings surrounding them on four sides.

When constructed in the centres of classic ivy-covered campuses with hundreds of years of history behind them, many campus quads are indeed the "heart of campus," as U of C planners have dubbed the proposed green space. That said, building a quad on the 40-year-old U of C campus seems an attempt to build hundreds of years of prestige and history into a university where it simply doesn't exist. Sandwiching a quad between the glass-panelled MacEwan Student Centre and the yet-to-be-constructed Taylor Family Digital Library in a city where grass is green only five months of the year will have a much different effect than a quad surrounded by ancient brick and stone.

If the university goes ahead with its built-in-history plan—which is almost certain at this point—a second problem arises in the actual logistics of the quad project. As it is currently planned, the quad requires the removal of all roads on the south side of MacEwan Student Centre, which will be no small feat. This road removal will also require relocation of the busy MSC loading docks from the south side to the north side of the building, possibly in the area where the Nickel Arts Museum currently resides. The MSC docks are the busiest on campus, serving the Den and

Black Lounge, the bookstore and all other MSC vendors. The second loading docks that service the Mac Hall concert venue will also have to be rethought. Though there are no solid numbers yet, the cost of relocating these docks is estimated to be well into the tens of millions of dollars.

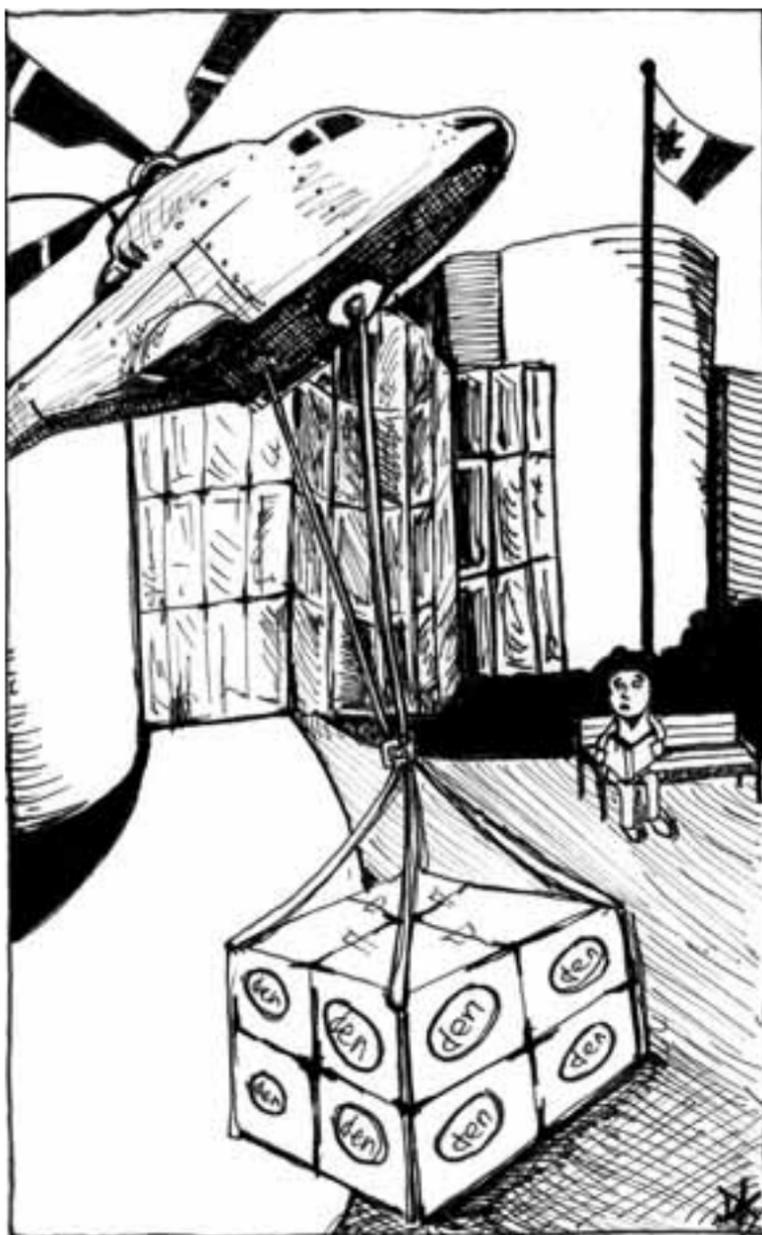
While campus planners argue 18-wheelers driving past students as they walk to class isn't a good atmosphere in which to learn, relocating the docks to the north side of MSC will just transfer the "poor atmosphere" to another location. If and when the docks move, engineers and anyone parking in lots 10 or 11 will still walk past semi-trucks on their way to class. Short of airlifting goods directly onto campus, there is no way to stop them from driving onto campus.

Along with the relocation of the MSC docks, the library loading docks will also have to move. Though plans are only preliminary, the university has brought up the idea of building underground tunnels for the trucks to pass through en route to the library.

Moving the loading docks or building underground tunnels would quite easily eat up the \$25 million donated by the Taylors, before even beginning construction on the quadrangle or the digital library. For the digital library—a project whose opening date has already been pushed back twice, and is well over its initial budget of \$113 million—plans of underground tunnels and road removal do not bode well for the project being finished, or even getting underway, anytime soon.

A major criticism of the U of C is its lack of historical charm, and it's admirable the university wants to improve the campus image. With buildings from the '60s-era Science A, to the ultra-futuristic ICT, nothing matches and the U of C lacks the sense of prestige that accompanies historic architecture on older campuses. But a multi-million dollar project to rip up existing green space to build new green space—based on an historic model not relevant to the U of C campus—may not be the best idea. The university should reconsider their options before moving ahead with such a costly project.

Emily Senger
News Editor



Editor, the Gauntlet

A couple clarifications

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,
[Re: "Gonna have to face it, you're addicted to porn," Fiona McLay, Feb. 8, 2007]

In response to Fiona McLay's article on the Porn Nation event last week, I'd like to clarify a few oversights. She writes, "The posters advertising the event gave nothing away, simply stating the title of Leahy's presentation, 'Porn Nation,' along with the date, time and location." While some posters only gave this information, many also included a description of the event as a "multimedia, live-speaker presentation focusing on the question, 'How does living in a hypersexual culture affect our relationships, and how we see ourselves and others?'"

In response to the student's comment, "I felt as though I had been tricked into a sermon. I enjoyed the discussion, but I would have liked to have known it would be religious," I would like to clarify that Leahy announced a four-minute intermission while also stating that the part of the presentation that would follow would touch on the spiritual side of this issue. As well, the sponsorship from Campus for Christ, Navigators and Victory Campus Ministries was placed

on all of the advertising, so if the student had done a bit of research, s/he would have discovered that it would be (at least in part) a "religious" event.

Carly Kirchmaier

Ineffective requirement

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,

This may seem completely random but I think the policy behind the effective writing requirement is a big steaming pile. Sure, you have to prove that you are proficient enough in English to be here, but come on! Why is it that marks from social studies 30/history 1B do not qualify for it?

To me, it does not make sense to force students to write an essay related to the field of social studies and not have an option for exemption available if you receive an exceptional mark in the high school course. As a student paying roughly \$2,600 per term for textbooks and tuition, I also find it ludicrous to be charged up to \$310 on top of that to fulfill the requirement—if you pass, that is. As a student, it's hard enough to afford to attend school, never mind being charged to write an essay simply to stay in the school regardless of what program you're in. I realize people may not agree with this, but this is just one undergrad's opinion.

Cody Burns

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Golden Spatula

Todd Andre, for busting it out with a killer story on
Fortress mountain for the supplement. Also, honorary
spatula to Sean "Rookie" Nylassy for his role in getting
the supplement off the ground. He is greatly missed.

Furor Arma Ministrat

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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 Kyle's seepy eye goo-based ink. We urge you to recycle/infect 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 libelous 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.

The Cover

photograph by Dale Miller, design by Chris Tait



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Demolition likely for MSC docks

Digital library project to remove south roads

Andrew Barbero
Gauntlet News

The most recent problem with the digital library plans? Loading docks.

The University of Calgary's plans to construct a revolutionary learning centre known as the Taylor Family Digital Library, as well as a green space and pedestrian area called the Taylor Quadrangle are once again conflicting with vital existing infrastructure. Both projects will likely require removal of the loading docks and all roads on the south side of MacEwan Student Centre.

"Those are the busiest loading docks on campus," said Students' Union vice-president operations and finance Cody Wagner. "They are extremely important to this university, not just Mac Hall."

Wagner noted that the estimated cost of moving the docks and the existing library's loading dock is \$50 million.

The docks are the supply line for every vendor in MSC and also provide access for concerts and other events. Their current position forces large trucks into the centre of campus regularly.

"We want to get vehicles out of the central core," said associate vice-

president of campus planning Karen Synder. "Having 18-wheelers drive by you on the way to class is not the environment we want."

Synder notes the university has several studies underway to determine the best place to relocate the docks.

"In hindsight, having loading docks placed at the centre of campus was not the best way to set it up," explained U of C vice-president external relations Roman Cooney. "This might be an opportunity to find a better place. We are not proceeding without consulting with students."

As of yet, no plans are final.

"There was an initial proposal to get rid of the Nickel Arts Museum and create an underground [tunnel] system," said Wagner, stressing that no plans were finalized. "If there are any structural changes, we haven't heard yet."

University administration maintains that the benefits of the quadrangle outweigh the inconvenience of reconstruction.

"It's more than a green space," said Cooney. "It is not simply a nice lawn. This will be the central hub of the university. It doesn't make sense to have a loading dock where the natural centre of campus will be."

The SU is waiting cautiously for finalized plans to emerge.

"We don't know what kind of compromises we'll need to make because the aesthetics of the actual building designs haven't come in yet," said SU president Emily Wyatt. "But I trust the people we have planning this, and they're right to say we don't really have a central hub on campus."

The digital library project has been mired with set backs since it was first announced Apr. 1, 2006. Skyrocketing building costs forced the university to look for private donors to supplement the initial \$113 million investment made by the provincial government. Don Taylor, former head of Engineered Air, and his wife Ruth donated \$25 million to the projects that now bear their name.

Fine arts students were also upset when they learned that Craigie Hall C, home of the Boris-Roubakine recital hall, will likely be demolished to make room for the Taylor Family Digital Library.

The digital library was to be finished by 2008, but that deadline has been pushed back to 2009, with plans to break ground this spring. Building plans and a completion date remain indefinite.



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Future home of the Taylor Family Digital Library?

CJSW one step closer to new space

Students' Union and CJSW to split \$300,000 outstanding fee



Alex Ramadan/the Gauntlet

The CJSW doors on the third floor are currently locked, but the radio station may move next to NUTV during this century.

Katy Anderson and Emily Senger
Gauntlet Extreme News Team

After years of negotiations, pitfalls and hopeful *Gauntlet* headlines, it looks like the Students' Union and CJSW are finally close to reaching an agreement to move the campus radio station into a new space.

A proposal for CJSW and the SU to split a \$300,000 outstanding construction fee was brought before the Students' Legislative Council Tues., Feb. 13, and will go through the first reading in SLC Tues., Feb. 27.

Construction on CJSW's new space on the third floor of MacEwan Student Centre was halted in January 2006 by the SU, who claimed CJSW

lacked funds for the project. Every month construction is put off project costs increase by approximately 15 per cent.

"CJSW strongly feels that it isn't responsible for additional fees and penalties," said CJSW board chair Brian Milne. "[In the past] the SU has suggested that physical work done amounts to \$90,000. We figured we'd just cut our losses, pay \$90,000 and move on. It's taken a long time with little results. The \$150,000 is a compromise for both sides. CJSW can't and won't go any higher than that."

After months of tedious deliberation over previous agreements, Milne and SU vice-president opera-

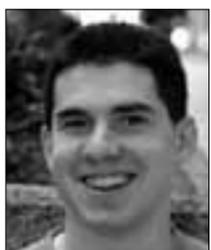
tions and finance Cody Wagner have come to the conclusion there are three viable options to move forward with construction. The first is for CJSW to pay only the \$90,000 they believe is owed for work already done. The second is to have both parties pay half of the contracted amount. The third is for CJSW to pay the entire contracted amount of \$298,000. Both the first and third options would require the two parties to go to court. Court fees would be between \$50-80,000, bringing the total amount for either party close enough to the compromise that it hardly seems worth the trouble, said Wagner in the SLC meeting.

see CLOSE TO AGREEMENT, page 10

campus quips



"I'm actually going to Mexico, to Cancun."
— Katie Pelletier,
third-year community
rehabilitation



"I'd go to Mexico and drive a Ferrari."
— Andrei Ieremia,
third-year engineering



"I'd go to Banff and roam around and enjoy the snow."
— Surendra Mishra,
masters civil engineering



"There is a trip to Banff organized by the international students' centre. I really like the gondola."
— Venkat Lakkavalli,
masters civil engineering

Rez students argue administrative fees

Amanda Hu
Sports Assistant

Students in residence will soon get some financial relief from hidden fees.

Of the total revenue gained from residence fees every year, 5.5 per cent goes to the University of Calgary administration, amounting to approximately \$580,000 a year in addition to the fees already paid by residence students for utilities, insurance, property taxes, campus support services and mandatory allocations to reserve and capital funds.

Student leaders worry that because of the existence of the levy and the rising costs of residence due to renovations, there are fewer and fewer affordable student housing options.

"A lot of other universities don't take revenue in from residence fees," said Residence Students' Association vice-president apartments Julie Bogle. "Universities shouldn't use residence as a money-maker. Rez is unaffordable as it is."

Bogle proposed the extra money could be used towards a much needed facility upgrade for older residence buildings.

"[Current renovation plans] are focusing mostly on the aes-



Amanda Hu/the Gauntlet

Though administrative fees for rez are going down, rent is not.

thetic aspects of the buildings," explained Bogle. "That money could be used to bring all the low-income buildings up to par with

issues like the plumbing."

According to the minutes from a Residence Services advisory council meeting in March 2006, the U of C

is one of the seven out of 16 post-secondary schools in Canada that allocates a portion of residence fees to institutional operating costs.

The only Canadian institutions that assign more residence revenue towards university administration than the U of C are the University of Alberta and the University of Lethbridge, at 8.5 per cent and 7.0 per cent, respectively.

The university is not required to explain where the money is going, as the residence buildings are not just renting the property, but are affiliated with the school.

"All ancillary services at the university are assessed an overhead fee," said U of C vice-president finance and services Mike McAdam. "It's a general levy that is used for maintenance."

Residence Services made a pitch to administration in January to remove the levy, freeing up some much-needed funds for students. McAdam explained that control of residence will move from being under the jurisdiction of Ancillary Services to Student Academic Services, making the levy unjustified.

"The primary purpose of removing the levy is to improve the quality of the student experience," said McAdam.

The levy is being removed over a four-year period and should be completely eliminated by 2008.

Dinos player blows WHL scholarship

Eligibility revoked for positive drug test

Ryan Pike
E&P Editor

A former University of Calgary hockey player's career may be in jeopardy following a positive drug test.

More light was shed on Jarret Lukin's mysterious departure when the Dinos announced Fri., Feb. 9 that Lukin had tested positive for cocaine metabolites and faces a two-year period of ineligibility from Canadian Interuniversity Sport competition. Following the announcement, Lukin was also suspended indefinitely by the East Coast Hockey League, pending an investigation.

The suspensions stem from an unannounced drug test conducted by the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport Nov. 3, 2006 following the Dinos' 3-0 win over the University of Regina Cougars. The test results were provided to the Dinos by the CCES Nov. 28 and Lukin was handed a provisional suspension by the team.

Lukin provided written confirmation to the CCES Dec. 4 that he had used cocaine, but appealed the sanction. The basis of the appeal was that he had not used the substance for performance enhancement and that the punishment for a violation involving marijuana—another rec-

reational drug—was far less severe than for cocaine. Arbitrator John Welbourn denied the appeal at a hearing held Jan. 31.

"Every varsity athlete is bound by documentation to follow the rules of the CCES and [the World Anti-Doping Agency]," said Dinos athletic director Don Wilson. "Only under exceptional circumstances can an arbitrator reduce the mandatory sanction. The circumstances brought forth by [Lukin] were not deemed to be exceptional."

Under the terms of the Canadian Anti-Doping Program, Lukin is ineligible for CIS competition until November 2008. The CIS

adopted the program in 2004 and has been testing since 1990. In that time, there have been 44 substance violations—including only four in ice hockey.

The last doping violation in ice hockey occurred in 2004/05, when University of Alberta player Doug Auchenberg tested positive for ephedrine and cannabis. Auchenberg confessed his use to the team before test results were released, and was handed a four-month suspension by the CCES and CIS.

According to the World Anti-Doping Agency's prohibited list, the basis for the CADP, cocaine is a class S6 stimulant prohibited in competition. While marijuana is on the prohibited list, it is also on WADA's specified substances list, which contains substances less

likely to be successfully abused as doping agents.

"Canada is on record for trying to make the case that [cannabis] should not be on the prohibited list," said CCES communications and marketing director Rosemary Pitfield. "But it is still on the list so there are penalties for positive tests."

Lukin signed with the Florida Everblades Mon., Jan. 29 and tallied two points in three games, but was suspended by the team Sat., Feb. 10 when they learned of the suspension. When contacted, Everblades general manager Craig Brush said the situation has been turned over to the league.

While Lukin withdrew from school to pursue his hockey career, he only faces athletic sanctions, and is able to resume his studies in the future.

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Mac Hall #3 concert venue in Canada



Katy Anderson/the Gauntlet

With H-core shows like this Cradle of Filth performance, it's no wonder Mac Hall is #3.

Stephanie Mamayson
Gauntlet News

Mac Hall rocks! At least according to *Pollstar's* annual ticket sales report, which ranked the University of Calgary's student centre as the third best concert venue in Canada, behind Massey Hall in Toronto and the Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium in Edmonton. The concert magazine also put MacEwan Hall in 82nd place among the top 100 theatre venues in the world.

MacEwan Hall, operated as part of the larger Students' Union confer-

ence and events service, is located in the MacEwan Student Centre and contains various meeting and event spaces. The concert industry magazine *Pollstar* tracks and publishes ticket sales for all concert and performance venues and reports that 51,846 tickets were sold for Mac Hall events and concerts in 2006. However, one side generates more revenue than the other.

"Concerts definitely make more, just by the number of people that attend them in comparison to the smaller events," said su vice-president events Eric Jablonski.

Since the conference and event

centre is operated by the su, much of the income goes back to the student community, added Jablonski.

"Net revenue from concerts all go back to the su account and then get distributed to the various student initiatives and services," said Jablonski, noting that there are many reasons for MacEwan Hall's success.

"There is a really good security team here so you feel safe," said Jablonski. "Ticket prices are reasonable and many people come for the variety of shows and concerts. It's a consistently good experience."

Scooby-Doo, where are you?



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet

The new Residence Students' Association executive was elected last week. From left to right are Shaggy (Scott Sims), Daphne (Natasha Men), Velma (Martha Gallagher) and Freddie (Lance Stewart).

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Students protest poverty on National Day of Action



courtesy Canadian Federation of Students

A student protest, Vancouver style, meaning without snow, and with uh, students.

Protest at ACAD unites local schools

Kay She
Gauntlet News

In an act of solidarity, students united from coast-to-coast in a pan-Canadian effort to protest student poverty and demand government action Wed., Feb. 7.

The National Day of Action was the climax of an ambitious year-long campaign driven by the Canadian Federation of Students, the country's largest student lobby organization. CFS represents approximately 500,000 post-secondary students across the country.

The CFS hopes the campaign will ultimately reduce tuition fees, increase federal post-secondary funding and create a national system of needs-based grants.

Though the University of Calgary Students' Union is not a member

of the CFS, they were invited to participate in the Day of Action alongside students from SAIT, Mount Royal College, Bow Valley College and the Alberta College of Art and Design. The event was held at ACAD and included a discussion panel, workshops and rally.

"In a province where we're brimming with wealth, we're seeing more and more students reject post-secondary education because of financial need," said Edmonton-Calder MLA and panel speaker David Eggen.

First-year ACAD student Teagan Dumpleton explained her situation.

"I do not have a loan, I do not have a scholarship, and I don't have a job," said Dumpleton. "My parents are paying for everything right now—school, housing and groceries, but that doesn't mean I have a free ride. I know my parents are not made of money, and I don't want them to pay for everything and I don't want them to become bankrupt or for them to have debts instead of me."

According to the CFS, high tuition fees are mainly the consequence of tuition hikes made by the government over the past 16 years. Current tuition fees are more than twice what they would be, had tuition only increased at the rate of inflation.

Speakers also discussed how federal post-secondary budget cuts have created a severe gap between the actual funding per student and the required funding.

The discussion panel addressed this issue along with pressing concerns such as student debt and quality of education. The panel discussed universal education and reducing the voting age to 16 to better represent student priorities, but more viable suggestions included pressuring the provincial government to give out non-repayable grants instead of loans and increasing base operating funding.

U of C su vice-president external Julie Labonte represented the U of C on the panel and expressed the need for lobbying as an effective means to achieve these targets.

"The [federal] finance committee recently came out with recommendations for a variety of things, including post-secondary education," said Labonte. "Every point we lobbied on out there, they adopted. On every level [of the government], we've had success."

The panel discussion was followed by an interpretative movement piece by two of ACAD's performing arts students.

In what was supposed to be an artistic demonstration for lower tuition fees, one actor—dressed in drag and a costumed horse head—danced around the stage before he suddenly received a merciless beating by the other actor who was dressed as a pimp.



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Clive will make the draw at the event. You must be present to win!



Engineers put SU hopefuls through the wringer

Emily Senger
News Editor

Students' Union candidates showed off their less-professional sides in a forum charged with water guns and a giant, beer-spewing, burninating dragon Fri., Feb. 9.

The annual engineering SU candidate forum pitted candidates against each other in a battle of wit and drinking prowess.

Each candidate was given two minutes to stand on a table and convince the room full of engineers to vote for them.

Each time the candidates mentioned key words like "I, platform, accountable, commission and communication," a buzzer sounded and they were drenched by an army of Supersoaker-wielding engineers.

The clear crowd favourite was

engineering student and events commissioner candidate Richard "Dickie" Freeman.

"I'm the only real engineer here!" proclaimed Freeman from atop his platform before leading the engineers in an ear-splitting chorus of the engineering song.

After their platform presentations, very wet candidates were forced to drink from a giant beer-bong built to resemble Trogdor, a dragon from the Homestarrunner Internet cartoon series.

"I'm good at this," said presidential candidate Julie Bogle as she readied herself for an impressive chug from Trogdor's bounty.

Meanwhile, other presidential candidates applied their own methods to win the engineer vote. Julie Labonte handed out candy and cookie bribes, while Wilma Shim prepared to get soaked by stripping down to her bikini top.



Chris Tait/the Gauntlet

SU hopefuls get drenched as they pose for a picture around the giant Trogdor beer-bong.

MCATs go online, with a few glitches

Christina Lam
Gauntlet News

Medical school hopefuls can breathe easier now that feedback from the new computerized Medical College Admissions Test has rolled in.

The first session of the new MCAT—which was recently converted from a written to a digital exam—took place in late January. Apart from a

number of minor glitches, the first writing drew an overall positive response from test-takers.

According to a report released by Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions, initial problems included technical problems with passport scanners



Krueger.

and fingerprint sensors at localized facilities. Some writers also received mismatched passages and texts. Regardless of the mistakes, the Association of American Medical Colleges, who administers the MCAT, are confident in fair scoring.

In light of these technical difficulties, Kaplan MCAT program manager Matt Fidler advised students to be cautiously

optimistic about future exams.

"While most of our students reported positive experiences during this first administration of the computer-based MCAT, future test-takers should be prepared for potential glitches," said Fidler.

Closer to home, University of Calgary Students' Union faculty of medicine representative Glen Krueger reported no major errors

following the first exam session. Krueger, however, would still like students to have a choice about whether to write the computerized exam.

"Of course there are going to be people who feel most comfortable with the written exam," said Krueger. "It would be best if the test were offered on both computers and paper, so that people are given a choice."

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Happy year of the pig!

Kris Schmidt
Gauntlet News

Students who have already given up on their New Year's resolutions have another chance: Chinese New Year is fast approaching.

The Year of the Pig begins Sun., Feb. 18. Based on the Chinese lunar calendar, which is based on moon phases, Chinese New Year varies in date from year to year. Each year is also represented by one of 12 animals.

To celebrate, the Hong Kong Students' Association held a festival in MacEwan Student Centre Mon., Feb. 12.

"We have a cultural display and performance like the lion dance," said HKSA president Kalsy Wong. "We also invited some traditional craftsmen. They will sell art."

During the holiday older family members give out red envelopes filled with money. In that light, the HKSA handed out red envelopes as prizes for mini-games such as picking up marbles using only chopsticks and stacking mahjong tiles.

Being such an important and recognizable part of Chinese culture, the display was a fun look at a very special holiday.

"If you want to know the other culture, you have to participate," said Wong.

CJSW close to agreement, continued from pg. 5

"This really points fingers at both parties to accept some responsibility for it," said Wagner. "It keeps us out of court and allows us to move on."

Milne said that an ongoing payment period was a crucial factor in the agreement.

"If CJSW were to pay \$150,000 right now it would put the project in jeopardy," said Milne. "Because of that, a critical piece of the compromise is that CJSW pay it over the term agreed upon. CJSW has to be able to pay this in a way that allows CJSW to still put more money into their new space. The whole purpose of Cody [Wagner] and I trying to work through this is to move CJSW into its new space, which is sitting vacant on the third floor. We'd like to have that space filled as quickly as possible."

As well as getting into the new space, Milne is eager to move on in the relationship.

"It's a compromise for both sides and hopefully it means CJSW getting upstairs and burying the hatchet for the past and what's gone on—on both sides," said Milne. "It's been a messy situation."

Wagner agreed. "This is a very important milestone in the CJSW/SU relationship," he said.

The proposal comes during discussion of the potential relocation of the loading docks in MSC in order to make way for the University of Calgary's planned digital library project. CJSW is currently occupying space that would potentially be needed if the SU loading dock had to be moved to the opposite side of the building.



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Hockey star bites the dust



Andrew Barbero
Gauntlet Opinions



In the immortal words of Rick James, "Cocaine is a hell of a drug."

Just ask Jarret Lukin, formerly of the University of Calgary's men's hockey program. Lukin's been suspended from the collegiate game for two years after testing positive for Columbian marching powder. The suspension, announced Fri., Feb. 9 by Canadian Interuniversity Sport, stems from a positive test result from a sample taken in November. Lukin had since left the Dinos for the greener pastures of the East Coast Hockey League's Florida Everblades, a second-tier minor-league team. Following the news in Canada,

Lukin was also suspended from the ECHL, pending an investigation.

Losing two gigs in one day because of a little snort can't be easy. For his part, Lukin handled the news well.

"It was a mistake off the ice," explained the former Western Hockey Leaguer to the Canadian Press. "I'm just looking to move on and put it behind me."

But what's he moving on from? What's his crime?

Cocaine is not considered a performance-enhancing drug, as no discernable advantage is gained from taking it. If anything, coke makes it harder to play hockey, and yet it appears

alongside steroids and growth hormones as substances that provide an unfair advantage to competitors.

Recreational drugs are banned for one reason: optics. Schools send players like Lukin out as ambassadors. They have the logo on their chests and their actions on and off the ice or field determine a school's reputation throughout the country. Few contribute as much to their school's image as collegiate athletes and few are as scrutinized and regulated. As a community, we want our Dinos to stomp across the sports landscape, dominate the competition and then celebrate with a frosty mug of root beer and a veggie platter before

getting back on the bus for several hours of uninterrupted study.

But in the real world, these are real people, likely pulling the same sophomoric crap as the rest of the undergraduates here. Sometimes that crap includes drugs and sometimes those drugs are cocaine. Sometimes you get tested and sometimes you get caught. Then you get suspended for two years.

But that's just athletes.

Our solar car team represents the university much the same way Lukin did. They haven't faced drug tests.

The Students' Union Executive never pees in a cup to keep their jobs.

Tenured professors represent

the university, but they've never appeared before a tribunal for getting carried away at a party.

Lukin made a mistake, but the consequences are unfairly heightened simply because he's an athlete. Any other student could show up to lectures with alcohol coursing through their veins and a joint stashed behind their ear and not garner more than gawking stares and perhaps misguided applause. Athletes just can't do this.

A university environment is by-and-large a safe and supportive one, filled with like-minded people looking for a good time. It's a great place to make mistakes, and cocaine is one of the biggest mistakes you can make. But while the rest of us can shrug it off, live and learn, hug a toilet and down the ibuprofen, Jarret Lukin and student athletes like him just can't. One mistake has cost him everything—his livelihood and his passion.

Publicity off the port bow



Kate Foote
Opinions Editor

They may not have eye patches or peg legs, but the crews aboard the Farley Mowat and the Robert Hunter officially became a band

of buccaneers when the two Sea Shepherd vessels were deregistered. Without registered flags, the ships are legally classified as pirate ships under maritime law.

Over the past six months, the two ships—captained by controversial marine conservationist Paul Watson—have pursued Japanese whaling vessels in the Southern Ocean Sanctuary.

The six-ship Japanese fleet consists of three harpoon-equipped chaser vessels, two whale spotters and the Nisshin Maru—the world's only factory whaling ship, referred to by Watson as a "floating slaughterhouse." In spite of a moratorium on commercial whaling enacted by the International Whaling Commission in 1986, Japan continues to hunt whales thanks to a

loophole allowing research.

Insisting the slaughter is necessary for their research, the Japanese began to hunt under such auspices in 1987, almost immediately following the moratorium's institution. Due to the IWC's 'no waste' rules, Japan is then 'forced' to process and sell the resulting whale products, generating an estimated \$52 million annually in profit.

Despite killing thousands of whales, Japan's whale research is extremely poor, providing virtually no valuable information. Not only is the research claim merely a cover for commercial exploitation, Japan also seeks to prove that whales consume too much fish and thus compete with Japan's fishing industry. Unfortunately for the researchers,

see PUBLICITY, page 12

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Publicity, cont'd from pg. 11

proving such a fact is moot, since the Antarctic whales eat krill.

Activists with Sea Shepherd have fought for more stringent enforcement on behalf of the international community, preventing the Japanese from using bogus research claims to flaunt regulations. Japan's clout in international trade, however, has made anti-whaling nations hesitant to impose sanctions. With the failure of such diplomatic approaches, Watson led his crew into the icy Antarctic waters to blockade the whaling vessels when the Kaiko Maru—one of the spotting vessels—collided with the Robert Hunter.

While the Japanese assert the Robert Hunter intentionally rammed the Kaiko Maru, Watson claims the Kaiko Maru swerved into the star-

board side of his vessel. Although Sea Shepherd's vigilante reputation isn't winning them any points in the dispute, it's unlikely Watson would deny ramming the Japanese ship, as Sea Shepherd has no qualms about admitting to ramming vessels involved in illegal whaling.

The entire deb-acle has been a public gong show, complete with pirates and maritime warfare, but that's exactly what Watson intended.

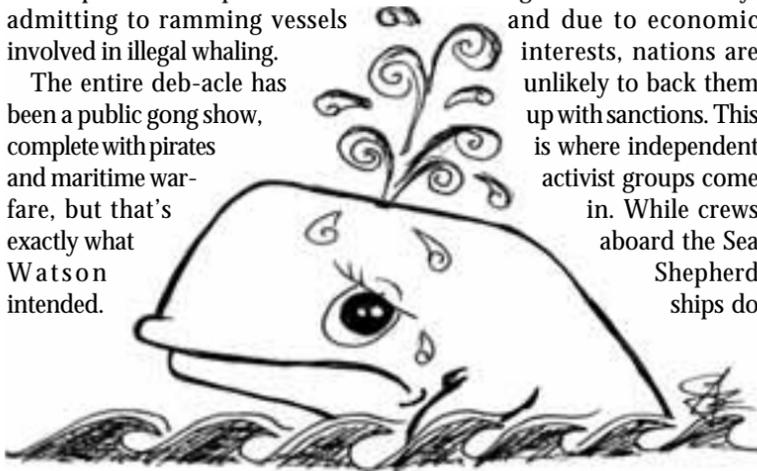
The IWC instituted the moratorium on commercial whaling because various populations were facing extinction. Unfortunately, the IWC lacks the necessary power to enforce such regulations unilaterally,

and due to economic interests, nations are unlikely to back them up with sanctions. This is where independent activist groups come in. While crews aboard the Sea Shepherd ships do

take conservation to extremes, they bring significant public attention to their cause through such stunts.

If activist groups weren't vehemently fighting for conservation, it's unlikely such standards would be voluntarily upheld when financial gains are at stake. Although the ships have been forced to return to Melbourne since running low on fuel, New Zealand conservation minister Chris Carter has agreed to become "very active on the international stage" since the public debacle.

By no means will ramming whaling vessels prevent the slaughter of thousands of cetaceans, but it will certainly cause a public stir, and in this case it may even be successful in bringing about international support against Japan.



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SU View: SU needs your input

By Emily Wyatt

For the past few years, the Students' Union has received a significant amount of money from the Board of Governors to fund projects and initiatives that increase the quality of the student experience here. This year, once again, the SU will receive approximately \$1.4 million to improve campus life for students. Past uses of quality money include classroom size reduction, scholarships and bursaries, the social science corridor renovation along with other programs and initiatives.

Student input into the allocation of these funds is extremely important to the Students' Union and once again we are seeking student's feedback. Proposal forms are available on our website or for pick up at the SU front desk.

These proposals will be taken to the quality money committee for further consideration. We have received wonderful ideas from students in the past and would love to hear your ideas again. Just think of something on campus that needs improvement and write it down on a proposal sheet with a description and approximate cost. I would be happy to help any student with questions that they have in regards to their proposal.

The proposals need to be submitted to the SU office by February 28th. Also, for a complete list of previous SU funded quality money initiatives please visit our website, www.su.ucalgary.ca.

Thanks in advance for your input and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at studun@ucalgary.ca.

The SU View and its corresponding headline are provided by the Students' Union and published without Gauntlet editorial revision.

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Hopefully everyone's made it through Valentine's Day, midterms and elections unscathed. It's time to enjoy a break. During your week off you could go skiing, drink or maybe claim to be the father of Anna Nicole Smith's daughter. Tell us about it, bring your TLF to MSC 319 or e-mail them to tlfs@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca. All submissions must include your name, ID number, phone number and signature. Submissions judged to be sexist, racist, homophobic or attacks of a personal nature will not be printed.

I don't like it when my relatives speak Dutch around me. It sounds like they have something caught in their throats.

To the guy playing World of Warcraft in GLGY 209: That's not very jock-ish.
-for shame

Kim, You can be my Valentine, but don't tell Jade.

Get mentored through the Women's Centre!! For more info see Joan at MSC 318 or www.ucalgary.ca/women. Apply ASAP—limited spaces!!

Check out "richarticles.2ya.com" for comics the Gauntlet doesn't seem to want to print!

-TooRisqué
[Or don't. Despite the Gauntlet's stellar reputation for tastefulness, we still don't feel the need to subject anybody to that.]
-Bagel Ed]

Ivana Anneal, I saw your wandering eye in CMMB 451. I'm lac Z alpha, you're lac Z beta. Let's get together and make blue colonies.
-Single Strand.

Looking for Pure Math 20 Tutor and AP Chem 20 Tutor. 399-4540

Ska is like fun punk, but with trombones. No, not rusty trombones. Just the regular kind.
-Dr. Who

To the couples in FILM 200 on Monday at 3 p.m., no one wants to watch you snuggle and kiss. The classroom is not a theater OR a bedroom.
-ewwww

Let your undies hit the flo'. Let your bodies steal the show. (Hope you did them like you never did befo' on Feb. 14)
-W.U.T.P

To PeopleSoft: You kicked my dog (registration), and now my dog is sick..
-Noodle Bowl

Dear 'dude,' Way to go! You hooked up with the boss' son! Everyone is so proud, just don't get married.
-Buddy the LG dog

Think you're good at FOOSBALL? Prove it! Mar. 1-2 in the N. Courtyard. 50 cents a play with all proceeds going towards arthritis research.

Writing TLFs is the most productive thing I've done all day.
-Depressed procrastinator.

For all you Facebook lovers out there, help feed B.O. Join the "Feed Omalley" Group

To the boy in ANTH203, Du bist ein arschloch

I find that if you just stay in your room for Valentines Day, it makes it feel like every other day of the year.
-thedrewskii

To proveuswrong@gmail.com, Why do nice guys finish last? Because, they help everyone but themselves.
-SR2020

Looking for the Logan Echolls to my Veronica Mars... but only at the end of season one.
-Lonely VM Fan

You'd never smell your grandpa after hours.
-Old Spice

Sometimes, I feel like I was born for Facebook. Other times I think I was born to make sweet love to COMS girls. And Phaedrus.
-Marshall Isoarislato

To the ugly fat dude at the Five Star Affair show, it's a dance floor, not a mosh pit. Fucker.
-Angry dancer.

Dear Megs, Isn't my vest s-u-i-t-e?
-Love Sting

When you're minin' for coal and you forget what coal is, you're gonna get fired 'cause that's your job!
-KA-BLAMO

Powned, all chem engg who have three midterms this week, there is still hope. Call 331-SUCK.
-Owned by 331

If you left a pair of gloves and a toque at the BMO ATM across from the Black Lounge, contact me at 667-9724. They were too nice to toss in the lost and found!

Join the revolution to fight the fascist control of the TLFs by Bagel Ed! The coup is coming...

-Che Gauntlet
[Go for it. TLF editor is an unpaid, time-consuming position, which consists of correcting third-years' spelling mistakes. Have fun.]
-Bagel Ed]

To the Black Hat Guy, Even with your scarred face I still can't take my eyes off of you.
-TOM

If you haven't already voted in the SU election... I don't really care.
-Truly apathetic student

Q: Who is the best Pokemon?
a) Snorlax
b) Dragonaire
c) Gyrados
Respond via TLF.

Coolice, You rock my socks! <3 your aggro-whore
-Kittyhawk!

SIGN UP NOW! Headshave Canada's fifth annual headshave is underway! Help raise \$ for the Alberta Cancer Foundation. Visit www.shaveyourhead.ca. Help make a difference.

To the mouth-breathers of ARKY 357, stop sending mass-emails begging notes. You plague my inbox more than the annoying companies attempting to sell me Viagra.

Fear the Staplord!
-The Staplord!

Lazy-ass absent group member: we aren't going to carry you all year. Since you don't respond to email, I'll say it here. Start drafting an academic appeal—you'll need it.

Moe: He lived a long, hearty life, surviving near boiling, freezing to death, alcohol poisoning and water deprivation. He enjoyed making bubble nests and swimming in circles. R.I.P

I wish that there were such a thing as a stump shot.
-Baseball Fan

Judges in technicolor robes eat KFC; meanwhile back at the ranch the platypi despise roman plurals. Not that there's anything wrong with that.
-Kavorkian scarf enthusiast

D+ in chem201 + any love for the Back Alley=Karoake song of lies.
-your friends, ryan and the twins, joseph and steve

My ANTH professor is Wash from Firefly. No, really!

Dear Jumping Jack girls in the gym: Nice Zoobs.
-JonnyCyo

I was so cold today that I wanted to vomit. That's astoundingly cold!

Lost, good friend, dark dreadlocks, answers to the name Andy, last seen with Jen. If found, please contact Derek or Paul.

Jade, You can be my Valentine, but don't tell Kim.

Happy Emo Day! Time to revel in how unloveable you are!

I have a dream... that joe will get Facebook. p.s. victor is a wanker
-Martin Luther King Jr.

Marco, where is the TLF you promised me at the Den? You owe me one for stuffing my sister's buns.
-Waiting

In celebration of Valentine's Day, I shaved my legs!

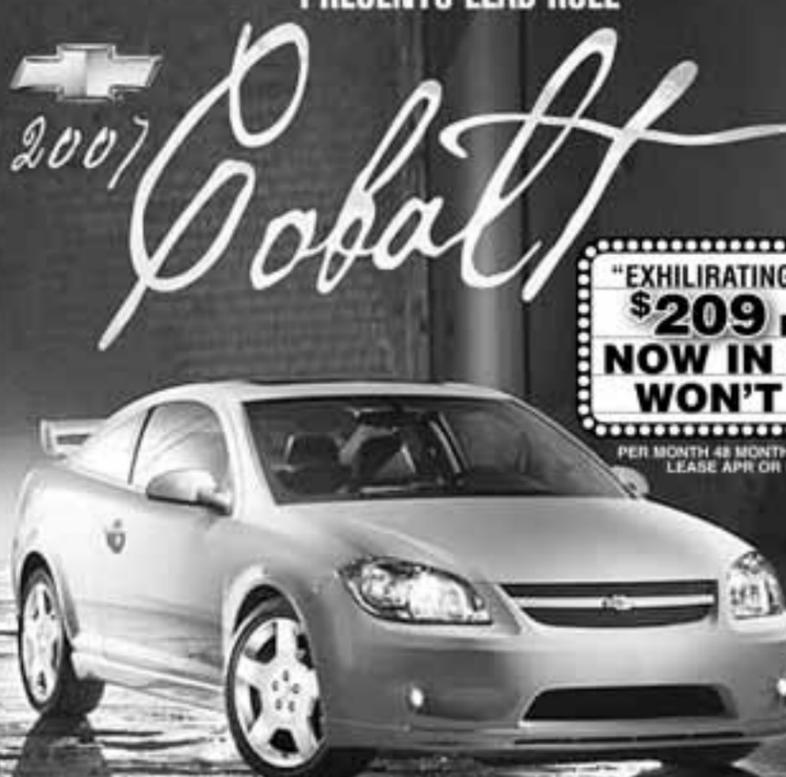
Unlike JZ, I only have nine years experience being a Chinese.
-Halfer

Hey emo-freak. When did being a wuss become acceptable? Make the world a better place, punch an emo-freak in the face. war - Ram

To Marshall Isoarislato. I know we had a bad night, but why can't we work it out? Facebook can't replace what you and I have.
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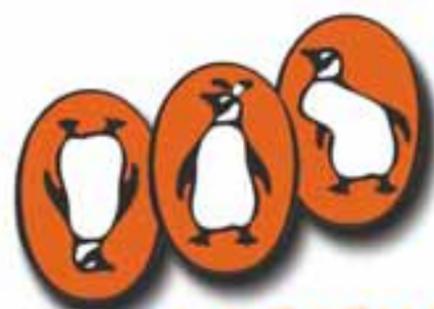
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THIS WEEK ON THE INTERNET

Troubleshoot your cat!



Andrew Rininsland
 Production Editor

Everybody's had one of those "Oh my God, my computer just died" moments, where nothing works and first instinct is to either pummel the thing senseless or curl into fetal position, rocking back and forth whilst sobbing. This is the *wrong course of action!* The thing's going to have to get fixed eventually and the sooner it's done, the better off you'll be. Follow the diagnostics checklists below to pinpoint the problem and, if nothing else, save your techie friend some time. Hopefully by the end you'll at least have an idea of what's causing the problem.

Checklist #1: Boot Overview

Can your computer at least get into the operating system?

- 1. POST - This is the first bit. Either it will do a memory test and detect your drives, or a big-ass logo will appear. Maybe both. Check the box if it makes it through this part. If it dies here, you probably have a hardware problem. Go to Checklist #2.
- 2. os Initialization - This is the part where either the Windows logo comes up or the little spinny-thing starts going in Mac os x. Check the box if this part finishes without problems. If it dies here, it's likely a software

problem. Go to Checklist #3.
 □ 3. os Entry - If it makes it past the other parts, you should be either in the os or at a login screen. If it dies here, it's likely a software problem. Go the Checklist #4.

Checklist #2: Fails at POST

You likely have a hardware problem. Let's try and figure out what it is.

- 1. Does it even turn on? - Check for presence of lights on both your monitor and computer. Not to sound patronizing, but is it even plugged in? Double-check all the cables and make sure they're securely attached; half the time, something's just unplugged.
- 2. Is it blowin'? - Are the fans working? Pay particular attention to the power-supply fan. This is located right above where you plug the power-cable into your tower. If it's turned on and not blowing, it's possible your power-supply is having issues. UNPLUG THE COMPUTER NOW! Take it to a technician and say the "Power supply no worky." He'll know what you mean.
- 3. Is it giving you heat issues? - If you're receiving warnings about heat during POST, it's likely either an internal fan has stopped working or you have an inch of dust sitting inside your case. Turn it off and unplug the power, grab a can of compressed air, open up your case (Careful, as this may void warranty with some of the stupider computer manufacturers), hold your breath, and giv'er a good blast. Likely, a

mini-tornado of dust will spray from every orifice the computer has. Repeat this until no more comes out. Then, try turning it on. Making sure not to touch any of the internal parts, see if the fans are spinning, particularly the CPU fan (Should be near the center). If not, turn it off IMMEDIATELY and have someone replace that.

- 4. Does it detect a hard-drive? - An error such as "Cannot detect primary master" or "Insert system disk" signifies a hard-drive problem. There are a couple things to do here. First, during the beginning of the POST, try to find a notice that says something like "Press F2 to enter setup." This will put you in BIOS. Try to find some information about your hard-drive. It differs in every version of BIOS, but the words to look for are "Primary Master." If it says "Auto Detect" or "Not Detected," chances are a cable's loose or your hard-drive's bought the farm. If you feel comfortable doing so, check to make sure the hard-drive's power and data ribbons are securely connected. Otherwise, get a qualified technician to look at it.

Okay, this is depressing. Let's finish up next week with the last two lists. Until then, it's time for some extreme...

PUPPIES AND KITTIES!

Yes, dear readers, in order to prevent all five of you from succumbing to that inevitable depression we all



feel mid-February, we're gonna rock it old-skool, dawgs versus kats stylee.

It's an all-out Puppywar!

Several decades ago, some men had a brilliant idea. They created a distributed network redundant enough to survive a nuclear attack and they named this contraption "The Internet." Nowadays, the war versus the Ruskies isn't as intense and so we've found a new enemy: your neighbour's dog. Puppywar and its sister-site Kittenwar allow pet-owners to upload retardedly cute images of their animals in order for them to compete in a bare-knuckled, all-out, no-holds-barred battle to see who reigns supreme. It's kind of like a value judgement-free version of "Hot-or-Not" that will leave you

with the warm and fuzzies. Yay!
Puppywar.com
Kittenwar.com

Cats, cats, everywhere, and not a drop to drink!

The majority of the time, anything coming out of 4chan is scary as all hell and will make your brain turn to mush, causing it to explode violently out your ears. Cat macros are the exception to this rule. Knitemare is an amazing and perpetually-updating collection of funny cat photos with awesome captions. It is visual Prozac. One read through the list will improve even the worst day.

knitemare.org/cats/

Have a crucial tech question? Is something on fire? Is your cat in your PC, eating your megahutz? Email aendrew@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca

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Giving technology the boot

by Kendra Perry

"The typical Canadian spends on average an hour and a half on their cell phone, 2.6 hours on the internet and 3.7 hours in front of the television per day."

—Public Health Agency of Canada

The word detox is usually associated with the removal of toxins from the body. Many people participate in rituals to cleanse themselves and gain a better understanding of the things they consume on a daily basis. Recently, a friend of mine was instructed to put a twist on the detox diet and apply it to modern technology for a class. For three days she was told to write about her experience living without her cell phone, the Internet, television and radio. This experiment piqued my interest, especially since these things are so woven into the fabric of our society we believe our lives are inadequate without them. We're dependent on information available at the click of a mouse and the ability to communicate with anyone by pressing send on our cell phones. We're so accustomed with this instantaneous way of life, we can't fathom living another way. In order to figure out some of the consequences our reliance on technology has produced, I decided to join my friend on her crazy adventure and give technology the boot for three days.

My experience without technology was interesting and some thought-provoking points were brought to my attention. I decided to track down an expert to better understand my experience. I enlisted the help of University of Calgary communications studies professor, Dr. Gwendolyn Blue. Together we sat down and discussed how technology is changing the world around us and what the outcome of these changes will be.

We discussed how removing technology from my life, no matter how hard I tried, was virtually impossible. Commercial radio

plays everywhere, even in doctors' offices. As students, we are utterly dependant on the Internet—in the three days without checking my email, I missed three deadlines and showed up for a cancelled lab. Our relationship with technology is clearly one of dependency, but to what extreme?

"What people fail to realise is that we are integrated into technology," Blue said. "Our computer is an embodiment of ourselves. We are not separate from that computer. It is an extension of our senses."

This all sounded very futuristic, but the rationality was dead on. This point sunk in during the reactions I received when telling people about my detox. Most people didn't understand why I'd do such a thing and went on to tell me how they could never do the same. It was the kind of reaction I'd expect if I decided to swear off technology for the rest of my life, not a mere three days.

Our dependence on technology is strengthening, and it's changing the way we function in every day life. One morning while riding the C-Train I counted the number of people speaking on their cell phones. Three stops amounted to 34 people on their cell phones and only four engaged in actual face-to-face conversation. This made it clear technology is changing social networks and the way we communicate with each other. By consequence, our language is evolving from its traditional auditory and visual roots to reflect the change.

"We hear the spoken words and the tone of the voice," Blue clarified. "We look for non-verbal cues such as hand motions and eye contact. These factors help us to form meaning. Now we are forming new codes for interpreting meaning."

These new codes aren't hard to find. With MSN messenger and text messaging, it's apparent language is becoming briefer. We shorten our sentences and change the spelling of words to make the act quicker, reflecting the very nature of our soci-



ety. It will be interesting to see how this affects the way we communicate with each other in the future.

"Whether the consequences of this will be negative or positive is unclear," said Blue. "What we do know is that it is changing us and that is incredibly exciting. But we will have to wait to see the results."

It's impossible to deny the positive changes technology has produced in our lives, but there are negative consequences as well. I started to think about technology's negative aspects when I noticed the amount of advertisements scattered on billboards, the C-Train and the university. Everywhere I looked there was some clever poster telling me the inadequacies of my possessions. My cell phone needs to be smaller, my television needs to be bigger than my living room and my Internet isn't fast enough. There is always a new ad pitch, swearing some product will make life easier and more convenient. Consequently, technology is persistently changing and as a result nothing is built to last longer

than it takes for the next best thing to become available.

"Most of what we own is disposable," said Blue. "As a result, we have become a throw-away society."

We're constantly bombarded by ads on our computers, televisions and even our cell phones. Through this blitz, we are persuaded into believing we need things we actually don't. Eventually all of these superfluous items end up in landfills. These devices don't biodegrade and will remain there for millions of years. Our constant desire for new products also contributes to other environmental issues, sometimes in unexpected ways.

When people think of climate change they tend to think of their cars, but there's more to it. Huge amounts of greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere during the manufacturing of cell phones. Computers and televisions require vast amounts of energy to function, and in Alberta, a lot of energy comes from coal power.

"We need to take a look at what we are doing here," Blue added.

"Until we can see the big picture and these simple connections, how can we even start to solve a problem as huge as global warming?"

Obviously technology has had a vast effect on the world and our lives. Truthfully, there isn't enough space on this page to even scratch the surface of the issue. Though recommending a society-wide detox on technology isn't feasible, we've become so saturated by technology a cleanse could only develop a better understanding of its impact on our lives.

What we do need to do, as Blue pointed out, is take a step back and ask ourselves some serious questions. Has technology allowed us to do anything otherwise impossible? What's worthwhile and what's trivial? And the biggest question of all: do we need shiny new gadgets or have we just been coerced into believing so? Unfortunately, answers to these questions vary from individual to individual. But unless we begin to realize the effect technology has on us as individuals, we'll never notice the changes it makes on us collectively.

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Guy Gavriel Kay author interview

Jeff Clemens

Gauntlet Entertainment

To most English students and the general literate public, the words 'Canadian literature' automatically evoke a painful groan. Thankfully, not every Canadian author needs to recall coffee-spoon poetry and the unbearability of being a suburban housewife. Famed fantasy writer Guy Gavriel Kay is one of the authors giving readers something entirely different.

"When I started about a decade ago I thought that being Canadian was a bad thing—there was no glamour, it wasn't sexy and there was just no advantage to being a Canadian," explains Kay. "Now we have so much more and we're so much

more established and it's a better scene overall with [Canadian] music and writers becoming more popular"

Being different from many other Canadian authors isn't where Kay's originality ends. His works distance themselves in many ways from traditional fantasy novels. In a traditional fantasy the protagonist does their task out of an ingrained sense of morality, but in a Kay novel, humanity—that possibility for good and evil in everyone—is a commonly explored theme.

"I try to add a little bit of an element of the characters doing the things they do for reasons other than the right ones," says Kay. "These characters don't do the right thing because they have to, but for their own reasons, and the results just happen to be positive."

In his books, Kay also often attempts to combine both modern and historic elements. Classified by many critics as historical fantasy, Kay's novels incorporate elements of earth's

history into worlds of high-fantasy. Using modern things like iPods and cell phones Kay reconciles the opposing worlds, weaving stories where readers are just as likely to meet a terrorist as a giant.

"The research is the fun part," says Kay. "You do a lot of research and keep learning until eventually you have to actually work and write the story. I feel in order to write a good story the author needs to know more than is necessary so they are as close to an expert as possible."

Kay's dedication to knowledge is shown in the meticulous detail and compelling reality of his works and the vehemence in his voice. Publishing his first book in 1984, Kay still manages to keep his writing fresh, and has avoided getting stuck in the stereotypical fantasy trappings throughout his long career, distinguishing himself as a giant in a world of dwarves.

Ysabel is available in bookstores everywhere.



Y s a b e l book review

Departing from his common elves-and-goblins universes, Guy Gavriel Kay's *Ysabel* is an urban fantasy novel in the style of Neil Gaiman, complete with contemporary setting. Combining Roman and Celtic history, photography and a centuries-old love, *Ysabel* tells the story of Ned Marriner, a young French boy who moves to America and stumbles upon a hidden, magical world within an old cathedral.

Writing a coming-of-age story has become a rite of passage for modern fantasy writers, and *Ysabel* stood the chance of being a blasé affair if it was done with any less skill. Kay pulls it off like the genre vet he is, with powerful, mesmerizing language and enough shocks, twists and turns to keep even the most scrutinizing readers entertained.

As a story about a boy who grows up, falls in love and fights the denizens of Celtic myth, *Ysabel* succeeds. Ned is relatable, responds to the outrageous things around him in a reasonable way and matures from a young teenager to a man through the story. Kay uses humour to great effect—like Ned wondering if it's appropriate to play *Houses of the Holy* in a Church—to flesh out the character and establish his humanity.

If the story has a flaw, it's the anti-climactic ending. After such a strong run-up, it's hard not to feel cheated when *Ysabel* ends in a whimper instead of a roar. Not that subtlety is a bad thing, but when so many threads are left hanging, the ending just feels incomplete. Written at least partly as a love letter to Provence (a former province of southern France), at times, Kay seems like he's more concerned with the historical aspects of the story than the exciting ones and it shows in the ending. *Ysabel* is at its best when it strikes a balance between the fictional and the non-fictional, and it holds it well enough for most of the read. Though the end falters slightly, *Ysabel*'s post-modern blend of history and fantasy is ultimately a triumph.

..Dan Pagan

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Ryan Pike and
Kyle Francis
The Entertainment

The 79th Academy Awards take place Sun., Feb. 25 in Hollywood, and the world prepares for a spectacle of celebrities in silly outfits, overwrought acceptance speeches and excessive door prizes. It is, in no uncertain terms, the motion picture industry's annual celebration of themselves. As usual, there's a lot of debate on who deserves it most, especially in a year with no obvious front-runners. The Oscar voting process is notoriously grandiose, complicated and political. As such, the *Gauntlet's* two staff film nerds have decided to use our vast knowledge of pop culture to predict who will win, rather than who deserves to.

Best Actor in a Leading Role:

Leonardo DiCaprio - Kyle's Pick (*Blood Diamond*; third nomination)

Ryan Gosling (*Half Nelson*; first)
Peter O'Toole (*Venus*; eighth, holds honorary award)
Will Smith (*Pursuit of Happiness*; second)

Forest Whitaker - Ryan's Pick

(*Last King of Scotland*; first)

Last five winners: Philip Seymour Hoffman (*Capote*), Jamie Foxx (*Ray*), Sean Penn (*Mystic River*), Adrien Brody (*The Pianist*), Denzel Washington (*Training Day*)

Ryan says:

Front-runner Forest Whitaker and Canadian Ryan Gosling represent the only first-time nominees in this year's best actor race. Unfortunately, only Whitaker and Leonardo DiCaprio have a shot at taking home gold. The popular consensus is that DiCaprio was better in *The Departed*, O'Toole and

Smith have both been nominated in the past for better performances—O'Toole won an honorary Oscar in 2002—and nobody really saw *Half Nelson*. Despite a strong sentiment towards DiCaprio, Whitaker won the Golden Globe and the Screen Actors Guild Awards for this category. It's in the bag for Whitaker. **Kyle says:** While Whitaker's Globes—which are often accurate precursors to the Oscars—suggest his victory, it can't be ignored that the Academy has shown nothing but adoration for DiCaprio since he's become Scorsese's go-to-guy. So, while *Blood Diamond* might be the inferior film, and DiCaprio's is the inferior performance, he simply has too much clout within the organization to be snubbed completely.

Best Actress in a Leading Role:

Penelope Cruz - Kyle's Pick (*Volver*; first)

Judi Dench (*Notes on a Scandal*; sixth, one win)

Helen Mirren - Ryan's Pick (*The Queen*; third)

Meryl Streep (*The Devil Wears Prada*; 14th nomination, two-time winner)

Kate Winslet (*Little Children*; fifth)

Last five winners: Reese Witherspoon (*Walk the Line*),

Hilary Swank (*Million Dollar Baby*), Charlize

Theron (*Monster*), Nicole Kidman (*The Hours*), Halle Berry

(*Monster's Ball*)

Ryan says: Foreign language roles rarely do well in

acting categories, which

rules out Penelope

Cruz.

Nobody really saw

Little Children, Streep

and Dench have already won Oscars

and Helen Mirren won the Golden

Globe and the SAG Award in this

category. The second no-contest.

Kyle Says: I'm just going to say it: Pedro Almodóvar. Once again, the Academy loves the guy, and since

Pan's Labyrinth got Mexico's nomination for best foreign language film this year, it's not an unreasonable prediction that they'd give Cruz the statue just to glad-hand the legendary director.

Best Actor in a Supporting Role:

Alan Arkin - Kyle and Ryan's Pick (*Little Miss Sunshine*; third)

Jackie Earle Haley (*Little Children*; first)

Djimon Hounsou (*Blood Diamond*; second)

Eddie Murphy (*Dreamgirls*; first)

Mark Wahlberg (*The Departed*; first)

Last five winners: George Clooney (*Syriana*), Morgan Freeman (*Million Dollar Baby*), Tim Robbins (*Mystic River*), Chris Cooper (*Adaptation*), Jim Broadbent (*Iris*)

Ryan says: Discounting newcomer James Earle Haley's role in *Little Children*, everybody has a shot at winning. The key is to remember that everyone in the Academy votes for the awards. Despite Eddie Murphy winning both the Golden

Globe and the SAG Award, his past indiscretions likely mean he won't win. Forced to choose between the oft-overlooked veterans Alan Arkin, Djimon Hounsou and Mark Wahlberg, the voters will choose to honour Arkin's first nomination in 38 years.

Kyle says: *The Departed* is definitely getting a lot of deserved love this year, which makes Wahlberg's hilarious performance as a hot-tempered New York investigator a pretty viable choice in this category. Unfortunately for the funky bunch, *Little Miss Sunshine's* only other winnable nomination is original screenplay, and the committee will hand the Sundance sweeper a higher profile award to maintain relevance within the indie crowd. With DiCaprio absorbing the one award they would let *Blood Diamond* have, Hounsou gets knocked out in favour of charismatic old-timer Arkin.

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Jackie Earle Haley (*Little Children*; first)

Djimon Hounsou (*Blood Diamond*; second)

Eddie Murphy (*Dreamgirls*; first)

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Cate Blanchett (*Notes on a Scandal*; third, one win)

Abigail Breslin (*Little Miss Sunshine*; first)

Rinko Kikuchi (*Babel*; first)

Jennifer Hudson - Kyle and Ryan's pick (*Dreamgirls*; first)

Last five winners: Rachel Weisz (*The Constant Gardener*), Blanchett (*The Aviator*), Renée Zellweger (*Cold Mountain*), Catherine Zeta-Jones (*Chicago*), Jennifer Connelly (*A Beautiful Mind*)

Ryan says: There are tons of first-time nominees here, with only Cate Blanchett having been nominated before. Jennifer Hudson won both the Golden Globe and the SAG Award against the same nominees, so there's almost zero chance anybody else wins.

Kyle says: Simply put, *Dreamgirls* has way too much critical buzz to go completely unnoticed, and with all its other eligible categories sucked up by more apt candidates, it will get supporting actress thrown at it by way of appeasement. Also, everything Ryan said.

Best Director:

Clint Eastwood (*Letters from Iwo Jima*; ninth, four-time winner, along with Irving Thalberg Award in 1995)

Stephen Frears (*The Queen*; second)

Paul Greengrass (*United 93*; first)

Alejandro Gonzalez Innaritu (*Babel*; first)

Martin Scorsese - Kyle and Ryan's pick (*The Departed*; eighth)

Last five winners: Ang Lee (*Brokeback Mountain*), Eastwood (*Million Dollar Baby*), Peter Jackson (*Return of the King*), Roman Polanski (*The Pianist*), Ron Howard (*A Beautiful Mind*)

Ryan says: It's not so much why Martin Scorsese will win this year, but rather why the other four nominees won't. Eastwood won't win because he won a couple years

ago and repeat winners are rare. Greengrass, Gonzalez Innaritu and Frears are all experienced, but haven't paid their Oscar dues yet. Plus, Scorsese won both the Golden Globe and Directors Guild Award.

Kyle says: While Ryan's prediction that Scorsese will win by way of politik is fair, he's also the only real choice in terms of artistry. While past years have come down to Academy deference winning over creative recognition, Scorsese, unlike the other directors, has both in abundance. In every respect, he's the only choice.

Best Picture:

Babel

The Departed - Kyle and Ryan's pick

Letters from Iwo Jima

Little Miss Sunshine

The Queen

Last five winners: *Crash*, *Million Dollar Baby*, *Return of the King*, *Chicago*, *A Beautiful Mind*

Ryan says: *Letters* is a no-go because *Million Dollar Baby* (and Clint Eastwood) won a couple years back and repeats are rare. *Little Miss Sunshine* is too indie to win. *The Queen* has strong acting, but the story has too many flaws. It's between *Babel* and *The Departed*. The theme for this year is "We're really sorry, Martin Scorsese," so the *The Departed* takes it

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Ryan says: It's not so much why Martin Scorsese will win this year, but rather why the other four nominees won't. Eastwood won't win because he won a couple years

ago and repeat winners are rare. Greengrass, Gonzalez Innaritu and Frears are all experienced, but haven't paid their Oscar dues yet. Plus, Scorsese won both the Golden Globe and Directors Guild Award.

Kyle says: While Ryan's prediction that Scorsese will win by way of politik is fair, he's also the only real choice in terms of artistry. While past years have come down to Academy deference winning over creative recognition, Scorsese, unlike the other directors, has both in abundance. In every respect, he's the only choice.

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SHREDDIN' GNAR

gauntlet 2007 ski and snowboard supplement



Katy Anderson/the Gauntlet

When the idea came up to uncover the gnarliest pow in the Rockies, to drop the steepest cliffs, launch the sickest air—and document the whole thing—only one individual was up for the challenge. Former *Gauntlet* sports editor Sean “Rookie” Nyilassy travelled over 650 kilometres to shred seven of the best local mountains.

He survived to tell the tale, but only by following his tested mantra: “If in doubt, ski it out.” So the next time you find yourself at the top of a run with your heart pounding because you left your comfort level back on the chair lift, ask yourself: “What would Rookie do?”

RED RESORT

rossland, B.C.
day pass: \$52

Sean “Rookie” Nyilassy

If you're hungry for powder, strap on your bib because Red Mountain has an all you can eat buffet open December through April. We made the trip to our furthest destination from Calgary to shred Dec. 8–9. Red's season had started the previous week, but Dec. 8 was opening day for the Motherlode and Paradise chairlifts on Granite Mountain—the bigger of Red Resort's two peaks.

We arrived a good half-hour before the lift opened and found a sizable crowd of locals eagerly awaiting the chairs to start swinging. Once we reached the top, it was easy to see why. Red was pounded with snow in November and coverage was great for early season all over the mountain. Nothing was

closed, and despite the locals beating us to the chairlift, we got fresh tracks down two of the gnarly-steep chutes Granite has to offer.

The fun certainly didn't end there. A couple of hours into the Friday morning the locals slowly trickled back to the parking lot to take care of their real responsibilities—their jobs, suckers—practically handing over the mountain to us. We didn't wait in another lift line and found fresh snow almost everywhere we went. While the lifts did close at 3 p.m., we were plenty tired by that point and ready for a massive heap of nachos in Red's bar, Rafters.

With their base now over two metres, Red has continued to see great snow this season. Their powder isn't quite as light and fluffy as the Rockies', but there are loads of it that don't get skied out very quickly. Since Red is relatively far from Calgary, Vancouver and Spokane, it sees little traffic from those major centres. The nearest airport is a small one in Castlegar 45 minutes away. These two factors contribute to the lack of crowds at Red and keep the powder fresh for those willing to make the trek.

Although there are still some fresh turns in the tighter treed areas many days after a storm, the locals are usually seen strapping on their snowshoes or skins by that point. There are a handful of peaks that are an easy hike from Red's in-bound

terrain for those with the proper gear and knowledge. This easily-accessed backcountry opens up thousands of acres of powder to be shredded once the in-bound trails have been beaten up a bit.

For those not up for the backcountry adventures, the terrain at Red is challenging to say the least. The Silverlode chair accesses the few short green runs available at Red. The Paradise chair has a good variety of trees, groomers and bumps for intermediate skiers. The remaining areas are not for the faint of heart. Red Mountain is steep all the way around with no top-to-bottom green run to save beginners who make the trek up. There are some excellent runs on Red Mountain, and the lack of vertical climbs makes for fast laps for those in a hurry. But the real treasures lie on Granite Mountain. A solitary green run wraps right around the mountain, meaning you can ski all 360 degrees of it. There are some mellower trees in the Powder Fields area, but most of the mountain is very steep. There are a few chutes, like the slides and coolers, and lots of trees.

So if you like driving, steeps and trees, why not give Red a try. If you are a beginner who whines about the 15-minute drive to COP, Red is probably not for you. In any case, plenty of snow and a quiet mountain await deep in the Kootenays.

There's no pow to be had at Fortress

One of Calgary's closest mountains remains closed

F O R T R E S S

Todd Andre

Snowboarder Lindsay Aiken has done more surfing than snowboarding this year, despite her season's pass at Fortress Mountain, a snow haven only 45 minutes away from her Calgary home. But surfing? In the ocean starved, cow-patty-paradise of what is known as rural Calgary? She surfs the net, of course, along with every other Fortress pass holder who is eagerly awaiting an opening date to be released from mountain management.

A pristine panoramic photo from Fortress' peak adorns the home page of the resort's website, taunting would-be skiers and boarders like Aiken with their slogan, "We got the snow," juxtaposed with the gloomy caption, "Opening soon." The website hasn't changed in months. Neither has the resort. Every other resort in the Rockies has enjoyed a surge in business because of the best snow conditions in years, while Fortress sits empty.

"They seem like they're really irresponsible because they couldn't open last year," grumbled Aiken, one of several disgruntled University of Calgary Snowboard Club members.

A native of snow-scarce Ontario, Aiken's primary reason for moving out west was to take advantage of the world-renowned Rocky Mountain champagne powder. But despite having bought her Fortress season's pass through the Snowboard Club back in September, she has yet to lay eyes on the mountain's snow capped peaks—excluding her online visits.

"I don't have any faith it will be open at all this season," said Aiken with a sigh. "Maybe for a month in February. It seems really unorganized. I'm optimistic about its potential, but they don't seem to want to put in the effort."

There is plenty of blame to go around, however. The resort was forced to close the bridge on Fortress Road Nov. 24, 2006, after government inspectors deemed it unsafe. Zrinko Amerl, president of Fortress Mountain Resort, claims the Alberta government intervened without warning, and at the worst possible time.

"We were ready to open for Dec. 1, but the government said, 'We want you to certify everything,'" said Amerl, in one of the dozens of telephone interviews he has been forced to conduct since being shut down in November. "They looked at the bridge and felt it wasn't safe, based on an engineering report that wasn't complete. This is strictly because of the government, the processes and the government approvals. All of these delays are directly because of them."

Dave Nielsen, the regional director of Alberta's conservation agency for Kananaskis Country, says that Fortress' closure is not just based on the bridge, but several problems that have plagued the resort.

"These are things that were brought to [Fortress Mountain's] attention last year: public health and safety, lift certification, food services, *et cetera*," said Nielsen. "The stuff from Fortress is longstanding, but the bridge was recent. Part of the problem was that the facility was closed for a year. The year's closure has created issues that need to be rectified."



Laura Sydenham/the Gauntlet

This did not take place at Fortress. There will be none of this taking place at Fortress in the foreseeable future.

The U of C Snowboard Club executives have supported Fortress for the last few years by selling \$199 Fortress passes to members and offering to build a terrain park on the mountain. On the surface it looks like a good deal for the club and its hundreds of members, never mind the free marketing garnered by the resort. Unfortunately, the deal has put the club and its loyal members in the middle of a battle between big government and big business. Snowboard Club executive Amanda Brown isn't happy with the way things have been handled by Fortress thus far.

"They just weren't ready," said Brown, referring to passes that drop in value with each missed powder day. "They promised us it would open in the middle of December. [Snowboard Club members] were patient enough to wait for the second opening date, but now people are getting impatient. Their date keeps getting pushed back. [The \$199 passes] will not even be worth it if you can only go twice."

Fortress posted on their website that they would be ready to open "in the middle of January" but their gates remain locked as this story goes to print. The unexpected delays have led to a predictable response from savvy student consumers, who rarely have \$200 to spend on groceries, never mind a dormant ski pass. Geoff Burrel, the executive member of the Snowboard Club dealing with the Fortress fiasco, said that members have abandoned the struggling ski resort.

"I'm not sure if I'm at liberty to say how many passes were sold, but I will say that an overwhelming majority of the passes sold were requested to be refunded," said Burrel, adding he was sympathetic to the resort's plight at first, but after dealing with the mountains of refund forms instead of a mountain satiated with snow, his patience has thinned. "The

main reason they weren't allowed to open is that their lodge isn't up to standard."

Indeed, Fortress opened its gates last year in late January, but without the availability of its main lodge. Everything ran smoothly: pass holders were happy that it opened at all and the Alberta government seemed happy that they had another tourist attraction to boast about in their Travel Alberta ad campaigns. Kananaskis Country has changed their stance in dramatic fashion this year, presumably in the best interest of the public.

Amerl thinks that these new approvals are unnecessary.

"Normal procedure would be to certify the lifts and open," said Amerl, referring to last year's arrangement with K-country. "They want us to approve the washrooms and other stuff that we have a safe record [in providing]."

K-country insists that it's in everybody's best interest, including their own, to have Fortress open for business.

"We certainly hope that Fortress can be back in operation," said Nielsen. "That's our profound wish, but public health and safety is our primary concern."

In the meantime, some have lost faith in the cultish resort. Frustration has built up in customers because they feel like they weren't given enough information. Fortress sent out a question and answer email in November, but failed to contact their customers since then, despite a declaration at the bottom of the email promising to, "keep [pass holders] in the loop by sending more e-mails the moment we have new developments."

Die hard student snowboarders like Aiken, who loathe missing a week of riding, let alone over two months, are unhappy with Fortress' scant communication.

"They haven't done anything to contact

anyone, or to let us know if we can get our money back, or if they are going to do something next year [for pass holders]," said Aiken, who has given up on Fortress. She said that she could have used the money to purchase a pass elsewhere if she knew the mountain was going to be closed for this long.

Amerl asserts that additional communication was impossible given his circumstances.

"When you don't have any info to give out, simply saying, 'We don't have anything to say,' doesn't cut it," said Amerl.

As winter drags on, skiers, snowboarders and Fortress pass holders alike are all getting their powder fix elsewhere. The Snowboard Club has threatened to remove Fortress from their website in an attempt to shake off a stigma of broken promises and late starts, while snowboarders like Aiken are soaking up the snow at other resorts in the neighborhood. No matter how you look at it, that can't be good for business.

"Of course we'll survive," asserted Amerl. "Most of our pass holders are quite patient, and as far as snow conditions are concerned, it's awesome."

There is hope for dejected Fortress members though.

"For anybody who shovels a couple hours of snow, they can ski or ride [the mountain] for free," said Amerl. "But they have to make sure they're in contact with us at the gate beforehand."

So, if Fortress is still under state shutdown this week, eager skiers and boarders can get in some turns in exchange for a little grunt work. It's a great deal for those who haven't already bought a pass, but not much good for those who have.

'07 Ski hill reviews

Enchanted forests

by Sean "Rookie" Nyilassy

FERNIE
f e r n i e , B . C .
d a y p a s s : \$ 6 9

Looking up at Fernie's five bowls, it's easy to understand why someone decided to turn it into a ski resort. Each bowl offers riders plenty of space to explore and the ability to traverse from one bowl to the next makes it easy to lose yourself in the winter playground. We explored Fernie on Dec. 10, the day after opening.

With just one day to play at Fernie, we were lucky to have a guide for the morning. Shawn Clarke runs two-day "steep and deep" camps at Fernie, but made some time to show us around during our visit. He took us to some areas we may not have discovered and gave us a great feel for the mountain. In the afternoon we ventured off on our own and put in some great turns.

Fernie has an impressive annual snowfall and plenty of terrain. The lower mountain is covered in cruisers

for beginners to learn on and tune their skills for what is offered above. The five bowls within Fernie's boundaries are treed to the max, allowing for what Fernie is known for: tree-skiing. Unfortunately for boarders, these bowls make for plenty of traversing, but the rewards are plentiful. There are enough gentle tree runs to keep the intermediates entertained for days and tonnes of steeper ones and a few chutes to challenge the experts.

With accommodations to fit any budget right at the bottom of the hill, a weekend at Fernie isn't out of the question on a university student's savings. However, this means the hill is accessible to any stooge with the means to get there and the slopes can be busy. Luckily, traversing far enough around one of the bowls will usually yield some fresh snow.

If tree-skiing is your thing, Fernie is your place. Keep an eye on their snow report and when they get a nice dump, make your way down there for some B.C. hospitality and great riding. Just remember to go back to Calgary at some point. Or not.

Better than a hoof-induced concussion

KICKINGHORSE
g o l d e n , B . C .
d a y p a s s : \$ 6 0

We sat in our hostel watching the snow fall the night before riding at Kicking Horse, and it was *goood*. The hill had been open the two weekends preceding our visit, but Dec. 15 marked the commencement of full-time operations. With 48 centimetres falling in the 48 hours before they opened, we were in for a treat.

We arrived at the hill half an hour before the gondola opened, but a sizable crowd was already gathering in anticipation of a sweet powder day. As avalanche bombs echoed through the valley, the crowd cheered and excitement climbed higher and higher. We were finally neatly crammed into gondola cars and whisked to the top as the first lucky riders let out cries of joy getting face shots on the groomer below.

We had run after run of the most endless powder I have ever experienced. As the day flew by, the patrollers opened more of the mountain as they deemed it safe, delighting every rider. It's hard to pick a favourite run when we got face shots below the gondola, on CPR ridge and in the trees off the Stairway to Heaven chair, but the

open chutes on CPR ridge must have been unbelievable for the first few riders down them.

Although not everyone can expect a 50-centimetre day like we had, it's not unheard of at Kicking Horse. They get more frequent big dumps than the Banff-area resorts to the east and certainly have some crazier terrain. Kicking Horse has some big open bowls

but the steepest runs are accessed by traversing along one of the ridges serviced by the lifts and dropping into one of the chutes or treed areas along the way.

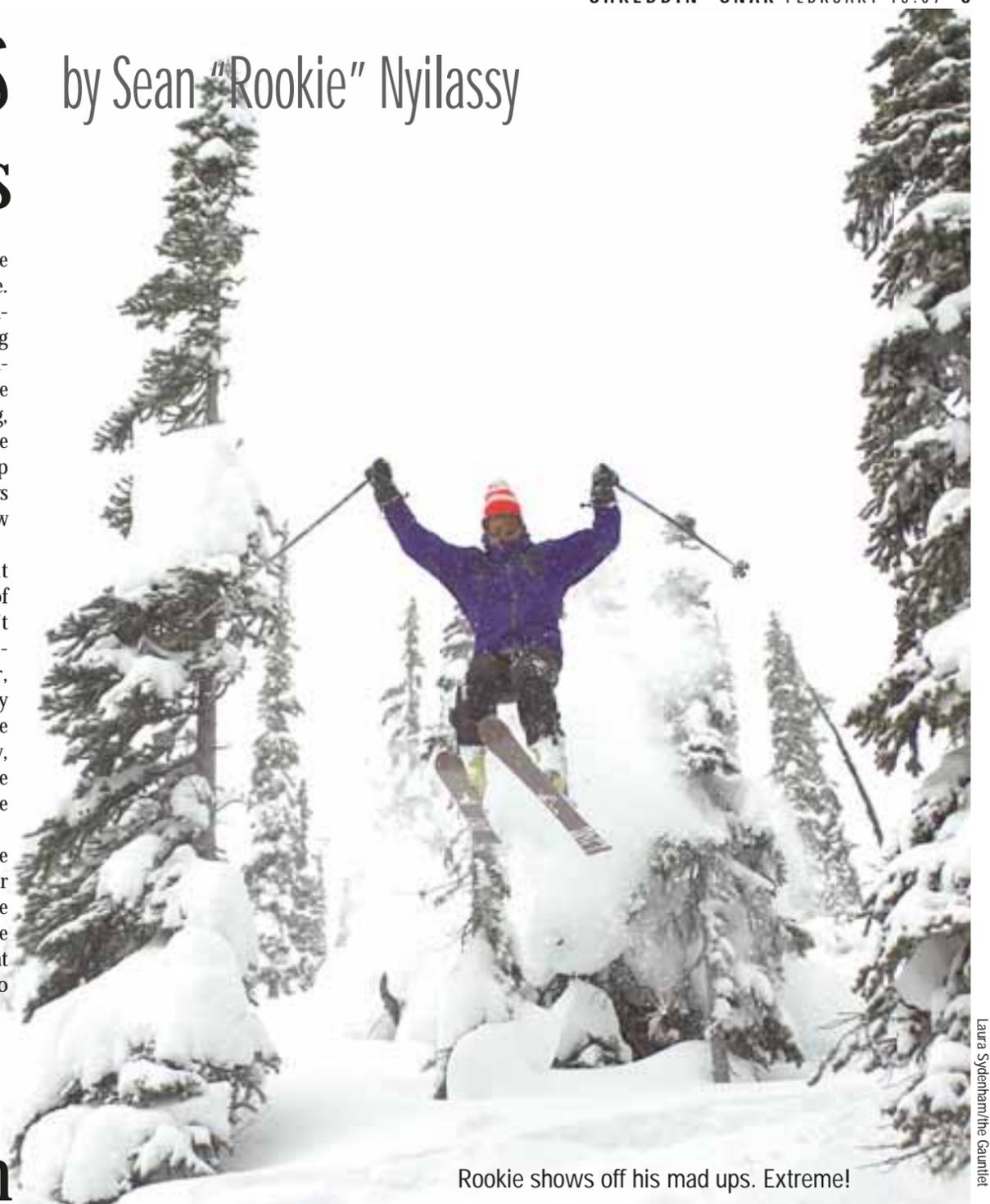
The patrollers were unable to open the Feuz Bowl on our day there, but it apparently has some of the best riding at Kicking Horse. Unfortunately it is often the last area to open following a snowstorm and

is often not ready until the day after the snow stops falling.

Kicking Horse's high-capacity gondola also spits patrons out at the top quickly enough for the mountain to get skied-out rapidly after a storm. Fortunately, there are some of the best backcountry hikes those with the appropriate gear and awareness.

While our day of incredible powder at Kicking Horse was probably better than the average day there, the terrain it has to offer would be a pleasure to ride any day.

Despite the extra driving time, Kicking Horse is worth a visit for a few days. If you can't find something stupid to try there, you definitely have your eyes closed.



Rookie shows off his mad ups. Extreme!

Laura Sydenham/the Gauntlet

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Laura Sydenham/the Gauntlet

He's faster than time!

Record breaking snow season

LAKELOUISE

Lakelouise, A.B.
day pass: \$69

Like most of the Rockies, Lake Louise did very well for snow in November and early December, making conditions for our Dec. 14 visit ideal. There was enough snow to cover the sharks often lurking beneath the surface at Louise and fresh snow in the days before our trip ensured we had a fresh canvas to paint on. The sun was even shining brightly when we arrived—a rare occurrence at Louise.

We headed straight for the backside, where snow is typically best, and were able to get some great runs in before needing warmth and nourishment. Luckily, we got the craziest lines out of the way in the morning

because the clouds moved in for the afternoon, and the flat light forced us into the trees.

The tree-skiing at Louise lived up to our standards and we managed to continue enjoying ourselves without the morning sunlight. We even ventured over to the unpatrolled West Bowl for our last run, where fresh tracks can be found long after the rest of the mountain has been pounded by the crowds. After our satisfying day of shredding the gnar, we headed to the comfortable but crowded bar for an expensive pint.

Louise's selling feature would have to be the backside terrain. Three lifts, the Top of the World, Summit Platter and Paradise, access one of North America's largest open bowls and provide guests with almost endless possibilities when weather permits. The backside offers enough green runs for beginners to get a taste of the open bowl atmosphere while keeping advanced riders busy for

ages with steep chutes and cliffs, as well as open areas to cruise in.

However, cloud cover and fog often make riding the backside a guessing game. Flat light makes it near impossible to tell whether you are going up, down or upside-down. When this is the case, the Ptarmigan area has some excellent tree-skiing where visibility will be infinitely improved. There are also some treed areas on the frontside, although snow quality and quantity isn't as good as on the back.

If chutes, trees and bowls are more than you can chew, the Larch Chair offers some nice cruising groomers and the always-amusing Rock Garden. There are also plenty of cruisers near the base on the frontside as well as an impressive terrain park. Rails and jumps range from introductory to 'don't-look-down,' and the park is well-maintained right through spring for those days when search-

ing for powder isn't worthwhile.

Despite receiving light, fluffy powder for most of the season, Louise can get tracked out quickly on busy days. But if you're willing to work for your turns by riding way over in Brown Shirts or the West Bowl, you'll find some snow to call your own. And although steadily increasing lift ticket prices put a day-pass out of many students' reach, those smart enough to buy the Louise card enjoy discounts at Fernie, Nakiska and Kimberly as well.

Louise is a well-rounded mountain, with something for everyone and enough something to keep anyone amused for years. Although its popularity can make it busy at times, the staff keep it running like the world-class resort people expect. So if you get the chance, go there, but bring someone who knows their way around because it's too much to explore in a day.

Better than staying at home, barely

C O P

Calgary, A.B.
day pass: \$34

Are you *board* of Calgary? Do you wonder what the hell there is to do in this stupid city? Perhaps you're overlooking Canada Olympic Park. We made it out there for an evening of skiing on Dec. 11, and by evening of skiing, I mean an evening of abusing our bodies in their terrain park.

Having exited Calgary on Highway 1 on numerous occasions, staring from the road as the gigantic half-pipe swallows riders like a Venus fly trap swallows flies, we were eager to give it a try. We reached the 'peak' of COP to find that, along

with the mandatory helmet rule introduced a couple of years ago, riders must now sign a waiver to enter the park. While some whiney underage high school kids won't like the idea because their guardian is long gone, one ride through the park's large features explains the waiver's rationale.

After jotting down our John Hancocks, we got the blood flowing in our legs on the small features at the top of the park on our way to the excessively large pipe. It looked larger in person than from the highway, but it was too late to turn back now. Riding up the 22-foot wall makes you question your sanity, but getting above the deck is accomplishment enough to instill a sense of victory.

After a few feeble attempts we

decided to focus our energy on one-hits and hiked the bottom of the pipe for the remainder of the evening. We would have liked to try the large kickers beside the pipe, but a couple of hours of bones connecting with ice as we increased the vert and spins on our hits was enough punishment.

COP managed an impressive Nov. 11 opening day this season and was the only hill I can think of with their park pretty much finalized by early December. The set-up is great, with small kickers and rails on the flatter top section to play or learn on, followed by three choices for the steeper section. There are more challenging rails and medium jumps on one side, the Goliath half-pipe in the middle and large

kickers on the other side.

While the park offers features for riders ready for jumps and rails, the rest of COP can be a great place for the first-time rider to learn. There isn't much point in driving for two hours to the mountains just to ride the magic carpet when COP has one right in Calgary at a fraction of the price.

Another unique feature of COP is that it is a training facility for many other Olympic sports like bobsledding and luge. This allows them to offer programs at the discovery level for every sport that is offered to the high performance athlete. So if you aren't up for riding there, you can always take a quick skeleton lesson and terrify yourself down an icy chute.

Groomin' it up on the groomers

NAKISKA

Kanaskis, A.B.
day pass: \$53

The lack of snow at Nakiska's base when we arrived Dec. 12 was not exactly reassuring. Their snowmaking had been working overtime during the cold snap in November, but coverage was still minimal at the base. However, higher up we were happy to find a few runs on the Gold chair open and well-covered.

We began ripping laps on the groomed trails as the sky opened up to release some of the largest snowflakes in one of the densest snowstorms I have ever seen. Being the middle of the week at Nakiska, there were a few race teams training on one run and about three other people on the lifts. Meaning that with each ride up the chairlift, the snow fell fast enough to cover up our tracks. Within a couple of hours, a good seven or eight centimetres were on the ground and we had a powder day.

This is not often the case, as the average annual snowfall is far lower at Nakiska than most other mountain resorts, and the groomers seem to have perfected a technique that turns the slopes into sheets of ice—which remained evident under our fresh pow. However, Nakiska was built for the alpine ski racing events at the 1988 Olympics and still serves as an excellent training facility for athletes from across Canada and around the world.

There are other things Nakiska is good for as well. Beginners looking to get out of Calgary and enjoy the mountains will find plenty of gentle terrain half the distance to Banff but still in a mountain setting. The terrain park, although not ready for our visit, presents some delightfully massive features to scare the pants off even advanced riders, as well as plenty of smaller ones to learn on.

While Nakiska offers none of the alpine bowls and tree-skiing enjoyed further west, it's great to wake up hung-over, check the snow report and go back to bed. Then, a couple of hours later, you can crawl out to your car knowing there's no fresh pow to shred in the mountains and hit Nakiska for a half-day in the park or beginner area. That shorter drive helps increase the amount of sleep you can get after a night of partying.

Where bunny meets XXXXTREME

SUNSHINE

b a n f f , A . B .
d a y p a s s : \$ 7 0

We made our way to Sunshine Village for their opening day, Fri., Nov. 10. That early in the ski season and before most resorts' seasons have even started, it's hard to expect too much. However, above-average snowfall throughout the Rockies in October and November meant Sunshine was able to have most of the terrain on two of their main lifts open.

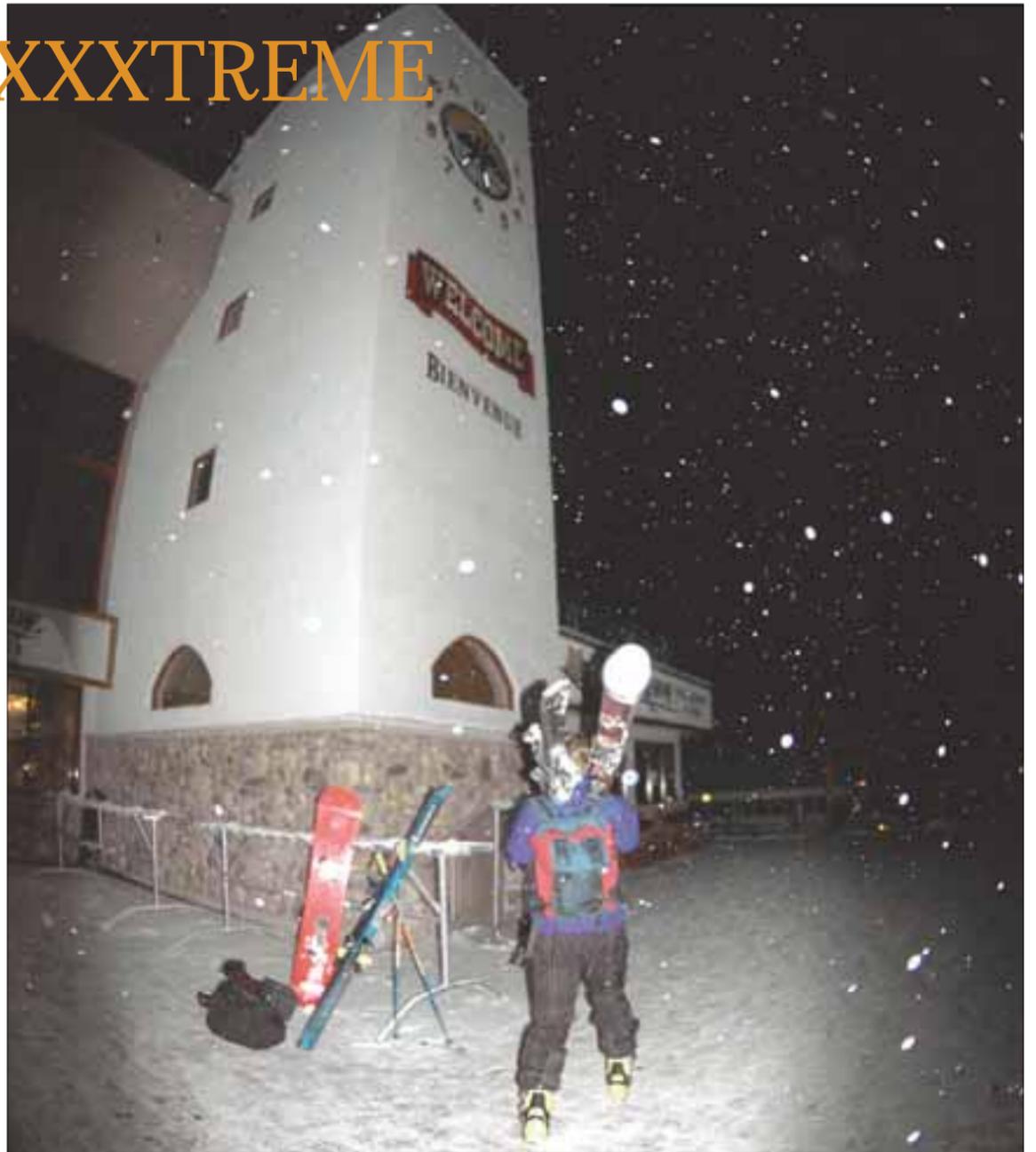
We were able to enjoy some powder turns on Wawa and even found some soft landings below a cliff band on Standish. To our surprise, the ample snow did a pretty good job covering up the jagged rocks you expect at Sunshine in the early season, keeping the damage to our bases at a minimum. After a solid day we ventured over to Trapper's where a pitcher of beer helped us to relax the muscles we hadn't used since last season.

Now that Sunshine's operations are in full swing, you can expect to find terrain for any ability. There are a few easy groomers on Wolverine, Standish and Wawa, as well as

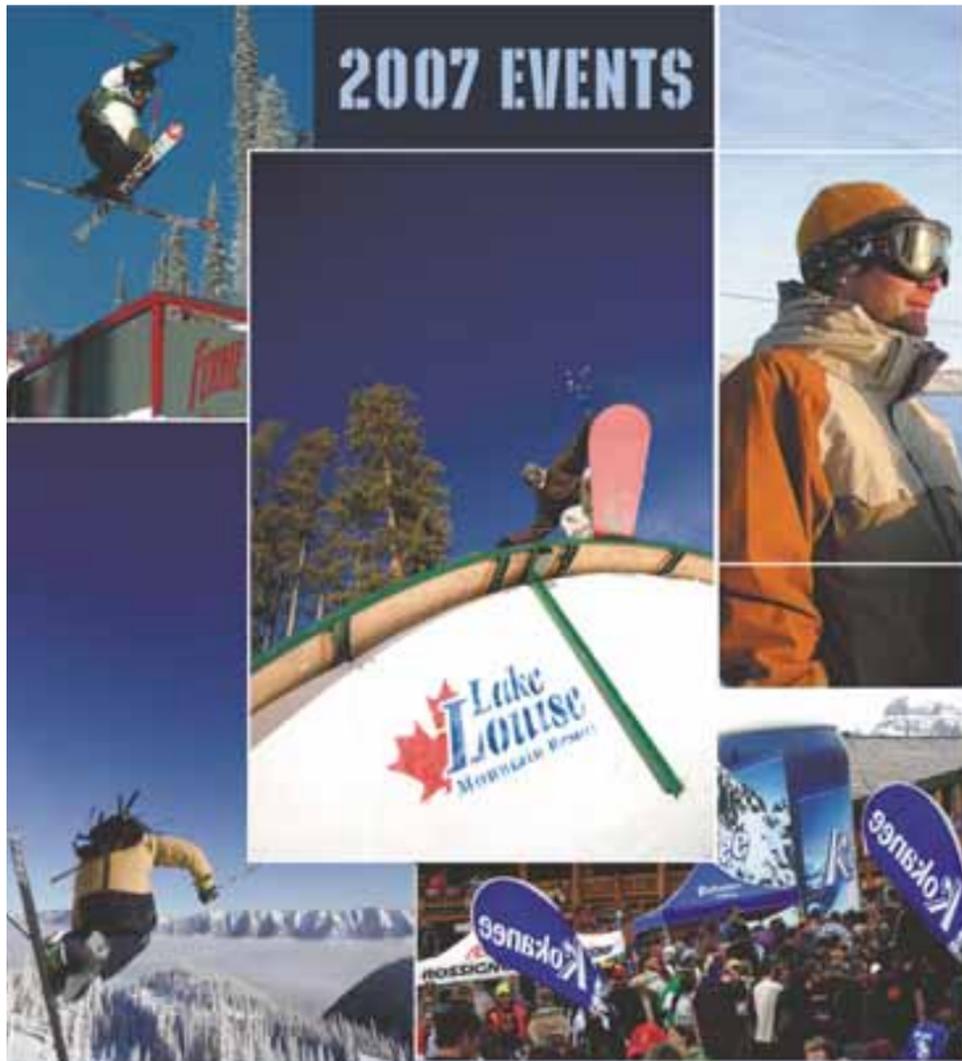
screamers on Goat's Eye, Angel and Continental Divide. There are some treed areas accessible from Goat's Eye, Wawa, Tee Pee and Angel, but most of Sunshine's best terrain is open bowls and steep chutes. And it's hard to forget the extreme terrain like Delirium Dive and Wild West. A lap may take about an hour, but for the steep lines available, it's worth every minute.

Covering all of Sunshine's terrain is the Rockies' champagne powder most people crave. Although the slopes are packed most weekends and the obvious playgrounds get tracked out very quickly, a little bit of exploration on Wawa can usually provide some fresh turns. In the past, searching for fresh turns was the only option long after a snowfall, but a major terrain park overhaul should provide some entertainment on those non-powder days. A sponsorship from Rogers has allowed Sunshine to turn the lullaby they used to call a park into an 11-acre challenge for all abilities.

With the changes in the park and great variety of terrain all over the mountain, Sunshine shouldn't be missed by any avid skier or boarder. Keep your eye on their snow report and jump in whatever beater you can get your hands on the next time they're dumped on.



Dale Miller/the Gauntlet



2007 EVENTS

FOR SKIERS AND SNOWBOARDERS

Lake Louise Big Mountain Challenge
Junior - February 17 & 18, 2007
Senior - February 21 - 25, 2007



Lake Louise Slopestyle
March 3, 2007

lake louise
Slopestyle

Fernie Freeski Competition
Junior - March 10 & 11, 2007
Senior - March 14 - 18, 2007



Fernie Big Air
April 7, 2007

fernie
BIG AIR

Lake Louise Spring Episode
April 28 & 29, 2007



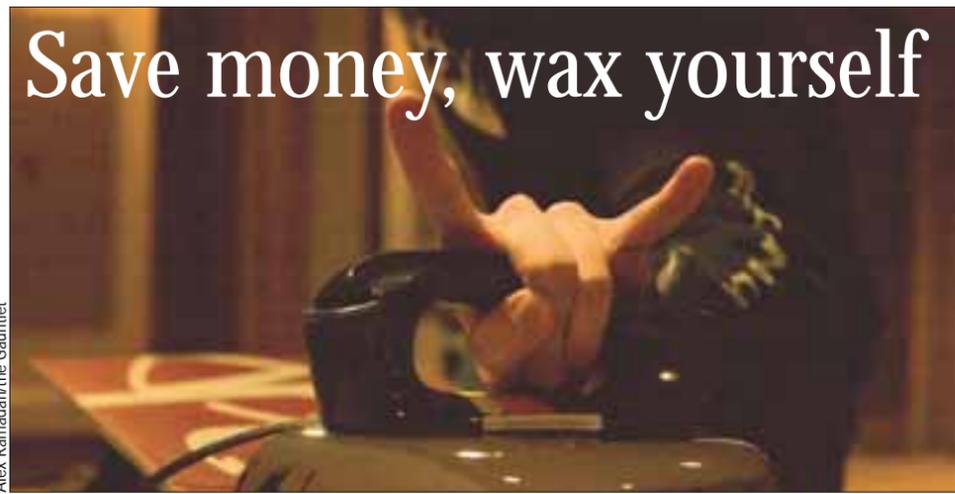
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Alex Ramadan/the Gauntlet

BOARDWAXING

Andrew Rininsland

The first step is to clear all the crud that's accumulated on your board or skis, as well as any old wax that's still there. This is done by liberally spraying the base with the aptly-named base cleaner (\$8-\$12), waiting 20 or so minutes, then going tip-to-tail with a wax scraper. (See Fig. 1) Do this in a ventilated area (like outside) because toxic fumes are totally weak-sauce. If the base looks like the moon and needs some P-tex lovin', now's the time to do this. Melt a P-tex candle, dripping it into any large gashes. Smaller ones are fine and will probably smooth out during waxing. (See Fig. 2)

Next, pour the wax onto the base by heating up the iron and melting the wax on it. Note that any iron used for waxing will never touch clothes again, so either buy a dedicated

waxing iron or forgo having pressed garments ever again. Get enough to coat the base, but don't go overboard because more wax equals more scraping, which equals a huge mess. (See Fig. 3) Did I mention to do this in a ventilated area like outside?

Once the base looks like a Jackson Pollock painting, take the iron and run it up and down until the wax is evenly distributed. Make sure to use moderate heat so the wax doesn't go up in smoke. Now, wait half an hour.

Rockin'! Okay, now, remember all those warnings earlier about doing this outside? Yeah, this is why. Take the scraper and scrape tip to tail until there's very little wax left. (See Fig. 4) There should be no big flakes coming off. This seems rather pointless, but the idea behind waxing is to fill micropores in the board's surface. Leftover wax will only slow you down.

If you're a perfectionist, take a buffing pad and rub it tip to tail until it's smooth. Killer! You're done!

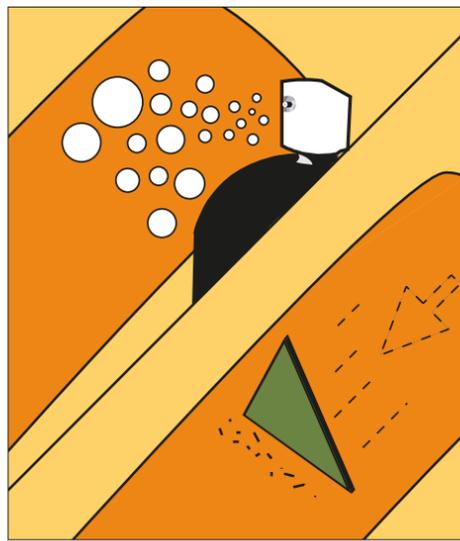


Fig 1. Clean your board.

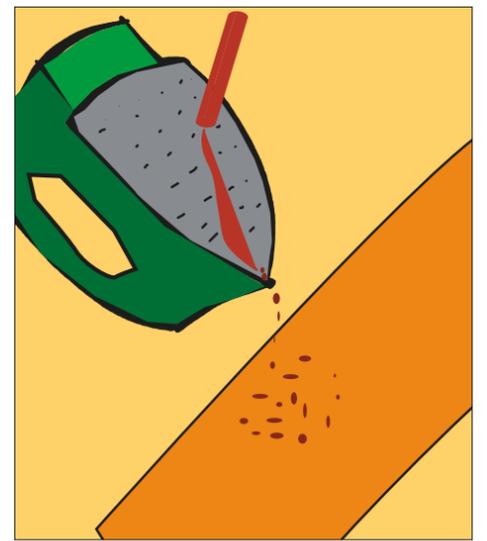


Fig 2. P-tex lovin'.

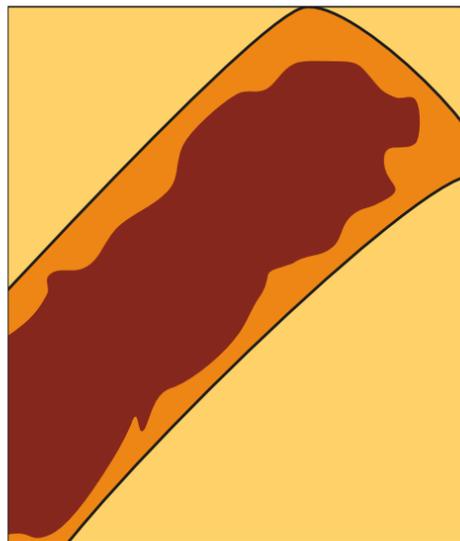


Fig 3. Wax on.

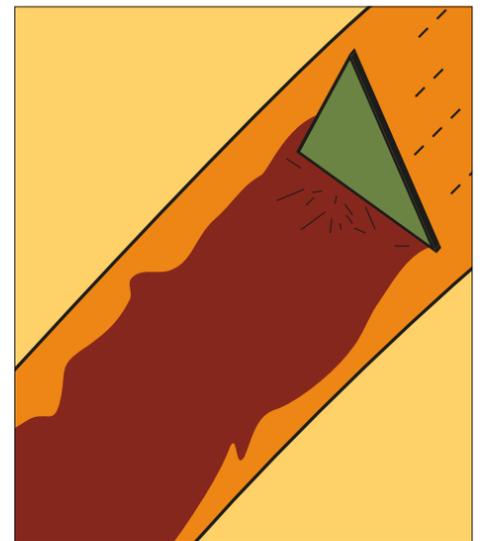


Fig 4. Scrape that mofo down!

Diagrams by Andrew Rininsland

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Thrifty shredding



Katy Anderson/the Gauntlet

Rookie knows where to find cheap gear. That toque? \$2.

CHEAP GEAR

Trace Gillespie

Cheap gear sounds like a contradiction—hitting the slopes by nature is expensive. When heading to the hill, most riders are prepared to shell out for gas, wildly expensive food and drink, an overpriced lift ticket, a possible ambulance ride and, of course, something to get you down the hill. It's nice to think of buying skis or a board as a once-in-a-lifetime activity, but with the speed of gear evolution, the top-of-the-line only lasts a season.

In the past there was a thrifty solution; then resort owners banned crazy carpets. But being a city near the hills gives Calgary a wicked gear scene. Those who enjoy loans and creditors taking away their couch—or those who've found that elusive pot of gold—can head right down to one of the city's top retailers, where a brandspankin' new set of good downhill skis, bindings, boots and poles will go for upwards of \$1,000.

For the less financially endowed, there are many used gear options, which allow room for this month's rent.

Generally, a good used score can be found for as low as \$100 for skis and bindings, \$5-10 for poles and \$50 or less for boots. Avoiding the ambulance ride is up to you. Boards are similarly priced, minus the poles of course.

Calgary has a plethora of stores to satisfy the need for speed, but some are easier to access. Used shops can be a goldmine or a bomb as the gear

changes from hour to hour, so thrifty skiers should be prepared for a long hunt for those slick snow sticks.

One big option when looking to get rid of some gear, or to pick up something used, is talking to Dino and his posse at **Outdoor Approach**. They'll let you in on a not so well-hidden secret: consignment. Following exactly the same principle as the books sold in Bound & Copied, sellers negotiate a price and a percentage and when it sells they cash in.

As far as on-campus options go, the University of Calgary's snazzy **Outdoor Centre** has some good used rental sales to keep an eye out for. They're also the only place to rent. Rentals are often less than half what they'd cost on the hill. But get there early, they're busy during the 8 a.m. rush.

Another sweet spot is **Sports Swap**, where flashy associates can bling you out with some used gear starting at about the price of those new sneakers you can't wait to get all salted up.

Heading over to **Abominable Sports** to compare prices is a good idea.

Although expensive, ski towns always have an abundance of rental shops. They also present a chance to preview some gear worth buying and check out end-of-season deals.

A less movement-oriented approach is to hit up some sick deals on **ebay**, though the danger there is not seeing the gear in person before it is purchased. A solution to this can be found on **Craigslist** (calgary.craigslist.org), a classified website where buyers can contact sellers and check out the gear before buying it. The site is local.

Need somewhere to find cheap gear? Check out these awesome websites.

www.calgaryoutdoorcentre.ca

Click 'used gear' and you'll find, to your surprise, used gear. Local, easy pick-up, and it supports a U of C business.

www.ebay.ca

Though no longer home to human femurs—I was just about to complete my collection too—the world's largest garage sale is home to skiing equipment.

calgary.craigslist.org

A classified site where you can find a plethora of used things. If you're lucky, you can even find skiing equipment!

www.abominablesports.com

The shop is local and right across from COP. You can buy your gear and get right on skiing down the slopes of what's left of Calgary's Olympic pride.

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'Ain't nothin' sweeter than untouched snow

Trace Gillespie

Imagine carving in silence. No lifts, no crowds, no resorts, no ski patrol. Nothing but you, a mountain and hopefully a buddy.

Backcountry is the name of the game—for those who can handle it. The backcountry houses unlimited runs filled with endless powder and some extremely dangerous carving potential. But no one is born with enough backcountry knowledge to live out a day avalanche free. Experience and keen judgement are essential.

It's not as far away as it sounds, and the reasons for avoiding the hills are obvious.

"[There are] too many people and the slopes aren't big enough," says Outdoor Club executive and ski junkie Jeremie Bourqui. "Learn, experiment and experience."

Getting to the backcountry isn't impossible either, but there are a few key lessons everyone should know.

The number one rule for backcountry wannabes is to go with someone who knows what they're doing.

"Know what to do in an emergency situation before setting



Laura Sydenham/the Gauntlet

An xtreme bunny hopping in a treed area.

out, [in case] anything happens," said Bourqui. "Always check equipment before leaving."

Before heading to the backcountry you need to know what to do if you're caught in an avalanche, but also avoidance and how to find your buddy.

"The chances of survival drop significantly after [being buried for] 15 minutes, with the critical

phase between 15 and 45 minutes," said Bourqui. "Rescue teams can take hours, or even days to arrive. Time is life."

With a minimal amount of rescue time, it is essential to take action quickly and effectively. All backcountry skiers should have a shovel, probe and beacon, said Bourqui.

"Never leave the parking lot with-

out [them]," said Bourqui.

According to the American Avalanche Association there are over 30 avalanche deaths each year in North America. The risks can be daunting, but don't let numbers stop the search for the perfect run.

"With a 30 cm base and snow, without coercion I'll go anywhere," said Bourqui. "The Lake Louise region is the best in the area, and

Kananaskis is good too. Rogers Pass has some good options, even if the warning is high."

The best way to get more information is to take an avalanche course either with the Outdoor Centre or another credible organization.

For weather readings check out www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca or www.avalanche.ca.

Heli-skiing is expensive, but hella-cool

Kendra Perry

Being 100 miles from civilization, with 9,000 vertical feet of terrain and three and a half feet of feathery powder doesn't have to be a dream. If you have mad skills and a wad of cash in your wallet, you could turn this fantasy into a reality.

Heli-skiing is downhill skiing or snowboarding in areas reached by helicopter rather than chair lifts. Riders pile into a helicopter and are dropped on top of a mountain. The helicopter returns to pick the riders up at the bottom. Heli-skiing allows riders to access extreme terrain otherwise unavailable for riding. But before diving in head first, there are a few things you need to know.

Trips often take place in open snowfields, glaciers and trees. There are a wide range of areas that a skier can choose to go but first-timers are limited in their choices. Everyone dreams of powder, but unfortunately the weather does not always co-operate.

"Seventy per cent of the time, conditions are going to be unbelievable," said former heli-ski guide Ted Foley. "The other 30 per cent of the time, they are going to be a lot less than sweet."

In marginal conditions, skiers may be limited to trees only. It really comes down to luck.

Heli-skiing is not for everyone. Riders need to be confident and consistent before deciding to head into the unknown. If you just graduated from the rope tow and think you're going to go shred the gnar on some crazy mountain peak, think again. Foley insists that you be at

least an intermediate skier to participate on an expedition.

"You need to have skied actively for many years and be comfortable and in control on all types of terrain," says Foley.

There is no advantage in exaggerating your experience. If you get into the backcountry and try to pull out your best snow-plow or can't keep up with the group, you're out of luck. Heli-ski organizations reserve the right to pull you off the trip and send you home. To avoid an embarrassing—or worse, dangerous—experience, don't lie about your skills.

On top of not being for the average Joe, heli-skiing is also expensive. A two-day trip can put a \$2,500 dent in your wallet. A seven-day excursion can cost as much as nine grand. Unless you have this kind of cash just sitting around, it's probably time to start saving your pennies.

There are also many dangers associated with heli-skiing. The most obvious is avalanches, but helicopter accidents can also be an issue. Heli-ski organizations make safety their top priority, but anything can happen when you stick it to mother nature. Skiers are required to carry transceivers, probes and a shovel on them at all times in case of an emergency situation. Knowing how to use these fancy devices is also an asset.

Some might say the risks and high costs aren't worth the fresh lines, but Foley thinks there's nothing better.

"There is no greater high than ripping turns through deep untracked powder," says Foley.



Katy Anderson/the Gauntlet

Pillow tops like this don't come for free.

"If you can scrape some cash together, then go for it. It's definitely worth it."

If heli-skiing sounds like the sport for you, there are many different companies that operate trips throughout Alberta and B.C. Foley

recommends Canadian Mountain Holidays and Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing. Both companies offer two- to seven-day expeditions boasting some of the most experienced guides in the country.

No, no, Copeland with an “e”

courtesy Indoor Recess



C o p e l a n d m u s i c i n t e r v i e w

Janice Tran
Gauntlet Entertainment

“Control Freak” has such a nasty connotation. It immediately evokes images of the high-pow-

ered, pinstriped corporate shark, ruminating over every detail as he plans the exploitation of pandas, koalas or indigenous peoples. When referring to something as benign as pop music, perhaps “control enthusiast” is more appropriate.

Whatever the nomenclature or connotation, this is the tack that Aaron Marsh took as he was writ-

ing Copeland’s latest album *Eat, Sleep, Repeat*.

“As far as it is concerned, my band members probably would call me a control freak when it comes to the writing process and recording and all that,” laughs Marsh. “It’s a good thing for me but maybe bad for them.”

It’s the control freak attitude that

helped Copeland release their best album yet. *Eat, Sleep, Repeat* features the soft piano rock that fans have come to love, but couples it with an overall sense of maturity not present in previous releases. “We tried to keep an experimental mindset when we were recording,” says Marsh. “We definitely felt a lot more free to experiment because we weren’t writing a record that was going to be on the radio—we were planning on it coming out on a small label. We had complete freedom to make the record that we’ve always wanted to make.”

Despite Copeland’s greater artistic control, *Eat, Sleep, Repeat* sparked some major label interest early on, eventually finding a home on Columbia. That isn’t to say that Copeland signed the deal with starry eyes, thinking their dreams of rock stardom would come true. In fact, the band was skeptical from the beginning.

“We’ve always been kind of hesitant about major labels,” said

Marsh. “We’ve had so many friends who have been screwed and overlooked in the major label scene.”

The move to Columbia was a logical stepping stone for the group. It means bigger tours, bigger budgets for videos, recordings and the ability to spread their music to a much larger audience.

“It was just the right move because the people that were involved were so passionate about the band and all the chips just fell in the right place,” said Marsh. “The right people got into the music to make it a good move. I feel confident with the people who we’re working with now.”

For Copeland, the luxuries of being on a major label feel even better rightfully earned. Unlike some bands that get signed right out of high school and enjoy immense, if fleeting, fame, Copeland have experienced their fair share of trials.

“It was super hard to get it together and get it going,” says Marsh. “I was working a full-time job, taking classes at a community college, trying to write songs and trying to book tours for the band.”

In the end, it was the friendships and support that helped the band to accomplish what they have. Without that, they would still be playing basement shows.

“Half of the people that have helped us along the way would not have been eager to help us if it weren’t for friendship,” says Marsh. “It all goes back to how you treat others and how you present yourself to those around you. You’ll never get anywhere on your own.”

Copeland plays with Switchfoot at MacEwan Hall Wed., Feb. 21. Douglas Coupland novels are available in bookstores everywhere.



i hear dead people

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ELECTIONS

On Wed., March 14, the Gauntlet Publications Society will be holding elections for Tier I positions (Editor-in-Chief and News Editor). All University of Calgary undergraduate students are eligible to run for these positions. Students interested in these positions must declare their candidacy by Wed., March 7 at 5 p.m.

The hiring process for Tier II positions (Production Editor, Entertainment Editor, Sports Editor, Features Editor, Illustrations Editor, Photo Editor and Opinions Editor) will begin Fri., March 16. All U of C undergraduate students are eligible to apply for these positions. Applications must be received in the Gauntlet office by Mon., March 19.

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



Champion
Chill 'em All
(Saboteur)

In a world where downloading music onto iPods has become more addictive than heroine, music is often treated as the subconscious soundtrack to life. Active listening has taken a clear backseat to mindless listening, with most fans content to blast music through one earphone while listening to their friend talk their free ear off. More than lyric-based genres, electronic music has fallen prey to this criminal behaviour far too often, being written off as repetitive and boring. With *Chill 'em All*, Champion just may change the unfair notion that electronic music is stale.

Chill 'em All is a fantastic electronic record with cleverly produced beats and prominent guitar melodies. There is a lot to listen to on the album, and for those paying close enough attention, it is anything but boring. The issue of course, then, is to get the passive listeners of today to sit up and pay attention to the world of sound passing around them. People need to notice the intricately woven harmonies lying on top of the steady, relentless backbeat. They need to acknowledge the veritable myriad of influences Champion manages to co-mingle in his tracks. There are traces of everything from blues to punk and even a hint of disco. All of these elements blend on *Chill 'em All* in a subtle, tasty aural treat for those who choose to truly listen.

Electronic music may function as background dance music, but it can also be a stimulating and interesting listening experience. Champion seems to be more familiar with the latter, and would be a welcome addition to any iPod—not to mention a healthy alternative to heroine.

..Darren Young

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Loney, Dear
Loney, Noir
(Sub-Pop)

Some albums slap their listeners in the face, demanding their undivided attention and pummel them from start to finish. Other albums take a slower approach as they gradually seep into listeners' heads until they've carved out a nice niche for themselves. The best albums employ both strategies, offering a strong first impression and increasing rewards. Unfortunately, some albums can't wrap their heads around either of these concepts, making it next to impossible to listen to them from start to finish.

Loney, Noir, the first North American release from Swedish multi-instrumentalist Emil Svanängen—who goes by the unwieldy moniker Loney, Dear—falls victim to this tragic fate. Building a suite of pristine, summery pop songs, Svanängen's skill is there throughout *Loney,*

Noir—it's just really hard to notice. Somehow, Svanängen's falsetto vocals and never simple, never-overblown arrangements fit perfectly into a pleasant background din, but never make a break for anything greater.

This is frustrating as *Loney, Noir* should be a good album. It's structurally beautiful pop music, even if it's a little on the syrupy side and not far removed from other typical Swedish songwriters like Jens Lekman. Despite its technical strength throughout, the album flies through one pretty, inoffensive song after another before ending abruptly. The whole process is sadly underwhelming.

..Garth Paulson



Manowar
The Sons of Odin
(SPV)

Manowar, second only to GWAR as heavy metal's biggest joke, are back again with yet another eardrum assault. Holding the unofficial world record as loudest band on the planet at 129.5 decibels (ear damage starts at 80!) Manowar have been writing their over-the-top, hyper macho songs for over 20 years and show no signs of becoming any less ridiculous.

This time around, Manowar have decided to release an EP, *The Sons of Odin*, paying tribute to Norse mythology. Normally, when a band puts out an EP, it's good news for fans as they pay less money for fewer songs and often get less of the filler most LPs have. Sadly, this is not the case with *The Sons of Odin*. Two of the five

tracks are live recordings, which is cheating considering the first is only a spoken word intro for the following song. This leaves three new songs, but one is an orchestral piece that sounds like it was ripped straight from *Lord of the Rings*. It doesn't really count either. This leaves two new songs which cover Manowar's usual themes of power, strength, courage and why it would be awesome to be a viking.

The Sons of Odin is little more than a quick attempt to milk more money from loyal fans. It should be avoided by fans of Manowar, and other fans as well.

..Robin Ianson



John Starling and Carolina Star
Slidin' Home
(Rebel)

Back in 1971, a group of friends in Maryland formed a bluegrass band called the Seldom Scene. The main rule for membership in the band was that each member had to keep their day job, playing music on the weekends just for fun. Throughout the years, the Seldom Scene changed membership often, but fans of the group often note that the original membership is considered the best. Lucky for them, original members John Starling, Mike Aldridge and Tom Gray have reunited to form John Starling and Carolina Star. Their first album, *Slidin' Home*, is a solid, if ordinary effort.

Straight from the opening track, the ain't-got-no-money-travelling song "Waitin' for a Train,"

Slidin' Home showcases the breezy quality of the album. The tempo runs the gamut from the bitter lamentation of "Those Two Blue Eyes" to the moroseness of "In My Hour of Darkness"—even taking time out for a pair of rollicking instrumentals part way—but never loses energy. While several songs could be flashier, nothing drags.

Though this is Starling's first album in more than a decade, and his first with his bandmates in even longer, *Slidin' Home* is an energetic trek into the world of country and bluegrass. For fans of the genre, the album never outstays its welcome.

..Ryan Pike

off the page



Peter Bjorn and John
Writer's Block
(Almost Gold)

A few months ago, some whistling, bass, laidback drumming and the charming interplay between male and female vocalists made the Internet go bonkers. The reason for all the blogosphere gushing was "Young Folks," a breezy love song by the comma-hating Swedish trio Peter Bjorn and John. The song was, in a word, perfect. It deserved every appearance it made on Myspace profiles and left a lot of web-savvy kids eagerly anticipating more.

Fortunately, all those hungry souls can rest easy now as PB&J have answered their prayers by finally making *Writer's Block*—the album from which "Young Folks" originated—available in North America.

After a brief, noisy introduction, *Writer's Block* storms out of the gate with the concussive "Objects of my Affection." The song is powerful, catchy as SARS and unavoidably uplifting. PB&J follow up this opening blast with the aforementioned "Young Folks," which sounds even better juxtaposed with the force of "Objects" than it does on an MP3 blog. By the halfway point of the next song, the bobbing "Amsterdam," it's obvious PB&J's internet success was no fluke; they're a seriously talented band and *Writer's Block* is a frighteningly good pop album.

PB&J will probably be written off by some because they don't tread any new territory. Though this criticism has some merit, *Writer's Block* and its luscious melodies, gleeful sequencing and simple, addictive songwriting is simply too good to write off because it relies upon pop conventions. It might not break any new ground, but *Writer's Block* is a staggering showcase of pop music's ability to be more than just choruses.

Its record may be spotty at best, but the Internet got it right with Peter Bjorn and John.

..Garth Paulson



Champion
The Remix Album
(Saboteur)

Many are quick to write off remix albums as a quick and easy way for an artist to cash in on a recent wave of success, and are consequently inclined to pass them by. Champion has certainly had success lately with the album *Chill 'em All*, receiving positive reviews and getting nation-wide radio play for the single "No Heaven." That being said, every so often there's a remix album that is, in fact, an honest and sincere artistic endeavor which turns out to offer great takes on old tracks for devoted fans. Thankfully, Champion's latest effort, creatively titled *the Remix Album*, falls into the latter of the two categories.

The *Remix Album* definitely leans toward the electronic side of *Chill 'em All*. The guitars

take a back seat to the beats and synthesizers, and the result is a more ambient and relaxed sound than *Chill 'em All*. The sense of ambience remains consistent over the course of the disc, something surprising from a remix with multiple contributors.

The song "Two Hoboes" is even remixed twice—the Mocky Remix is upbeat and funk inspired, while the Detroit Grand Pubah's Gutter Mind Mix is much darker sounding, driven by a deep-and-dirty bass line. The two songs could be taken as a microcosm for the entire experience; without looking at the titles one would be hard pressed to realize that they were the same song.

..Lewis Park



Explosions in the Sky
All of a Sudden I Miss Everyone
(TRL)

To every rule there is an exception, and for every 10 lame rock bands chugging through power chords, there is one Explosions in the Sky. The Texas-based four-piece achieved a modicum of infamy for their sophomore release *Those Who Tell the Truth Shall Die, Those Who Tell the Truth Will Live Forever*, released a month before 9/11 and featuring artwork of a plane captioned "This plane will crash tomorrow." The band soon caught the eye of Hollywood, and stepped into the spotlight to score *Friday Night Lights*.

Despite their popularity, Explosions in the Sky haven't changed much. Their fifth studio album, *All of a Sudden I Miss Everyone*, features the same musical flourishes that have won them

acclaim and doomed them to never receive radio play. The average song lasts around eight minutes and features no singing at all. Despite this, the group creates arrangements that don't really need lyrics to make their point.

Explosions in the Sky have firmly marked their territory in the musical landscape. Unfortunately, this limits how much variety can be found on their albums. Those listeners who enjoy three-minute musical morsels or singing in their shower need not apply. However, fans of the band will rejoice in finding an album that is, for better or for worse, virtually indistinguishable from every other Explosions album.

..Ryan Pike



Norah Jones
Not Too Late
(Blue Note/EMI)

Norah Jones is playing it much too safe on her latest release, *Not Too Late*. While all of the songs are beautifully sung, there's only one track that stands out and begs to be remembered.

Fortunately, there are tiny intricacies sprinkled here and there that aren't necessarily apparent on the first listen. Further visits reveal minimal twists and turns, but are so subtle you have to pay close attention.

The most intrepid and enjoyable number on the disc is "Sinking Soon," a Tom Waits/Kurt Weill-styled arrangement featuring Jones in sultry-vamp mode. The jazzy trombone, twangy guitar and Jones' own piano tinklings add to a hazy, 1930s-nightclub ambience. It's just too bad

there aren't more tracks that wander off the beaten path.

Jones reveals a political stance with the tongue-in-cheek "My Dear Country." On this relaxed, piano-based ode to George W., she sings "Who knows, maybe the plans will change / Who knows, maybe he's not deranged." Besides its bitter political analysis, the song is also one of Jones' more musically sophisticated offerings on the disc.

Unfortunately, *Not Too Late* is simply a nice, overly-easy listen with little or no surprises. Perhaps the overall description of the disc is best summed up in one of Jones' own lyrics, "Wake me up when it's over / Wake me up when it's done."

..Ken Clarke

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A Vancouver Blossom

Lotus Child
music interview

Marina Foo
Gauntlet Entertainment

Sushi is to Vancouver what beef is to Calgary. Likewise, a hip young indie band from Vancouver that couldn't name their favourite sushi bar would be trusted there as much as a honky-tonk southern Albertan country act who couldn't name a nearby steakhouse: not much.

"King Sushi," says Zachary Gray, co-founder and guitarist of Vancouver's Lotus Child. "We're almost sick of it because we go there all the time—usually after almost

every rehearsal. And do you know why it's so great? The chef there has six fingers!"

An extra finger for a sushi chef would be a similarly large boon for a pianist. Though the curious pop-rock group doesn't sport any genetic anomalies, Tom Dobrzanski, their piano player, is gifted with nigh-super human tone detection.

"Tom has this funny—actually, it's kind of scary—talent," explains Gray. "If we're setting our stuff up before the show and there's music playing in the bar, he'll be trying it out on his keyboard and just play whatever's on there."

Often compared to the other piano-fronted indie darlings, Spoon, Lotus Child is leant a curious, standout sound by their choice

in instrumentation. Though certainly not an entirely unique idea, the pianos add a layer to the melodies that recalls Paul McCartney, coupled with

harmonies that conjure memories of *London Calling*.

"Spoon wasn't a band I really knew until people started telling us we

sounded like them," says Dobrzanski. "Then I bought the records and really liked it because, obviously, it's up our alley. It's funny how we sort of sound like Spoon without ever hearing a record. We were off in our own little world and we just ended up in a similar place."

Spoon is not the only band that Lotus Child has been compared to. Recent reviews have tagged Lotus Child to artists like the Arcade Fire, Muse and Bright Eyes, all distinguished indie acts. Although those artists are quite musically disparate, they've impacted Lotus Child's album, *Gossip Diet*, in some shape or form.

"We listened to [all those bands] at some point in the last four years," explains Gray. "And the writing of the songs [on *Gossip Diet*] were over the past three years."

With the songs written and the album stacked across store shelves nation-wide, the next step hangs ominously over any independent band's head. As it goes with any good music, though, the move away from the scenester status and into mainstream labeldom is all but inevitable.

"We're definitely getting to the point where we do want to make the move to a label," says Dobrzanski. "We were never in a big hurry. It wasn't necessarily our goal to sign to a major label right away. We wanted to establish ourselves and come out with a record. Learn to stand on our own two feet."

Last year, Lotus Child did two western Canadian tours and recorded their first full-length at Warehouse Studio with producer Howard Redekopp (the New Pornographers and Tegan and Sara). The boys anticipate another busy year as they travel across the nation to promote an EP they plan on recording soon.

Even with semi-mainstream popularity well within their grasp, with any luck Lotus Child will maintain some of the indie-sensibility that provided their kick-start. Either way, they're not likely to give up the Vancouver sushi tradition any time soon.



Beware! The children of the lotus always stand like this just before they strike.

courtesy Lotus Child

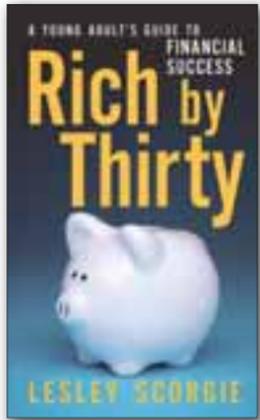
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Lotus Child will be playing at That Empty Space on Fri., Feb 16. *Gossip Diet* is available online at www.lotuschild.com.

Cream. Dolla' dolla' bill y'all



Rich By Thirty book review

Janice Tran
Gauntlet Entertainment

At the age of seventeen, most kids are flat out broke and working part-time at minimum wage. They scream for joy when they find \$20 in their wallets. Author Lesley Scorgie on the other hand, was a different story. At seventeen she was asked to appear on Oprah because of her abnormal ability to earn a net worth of nearly a million dollars at such a young age. Scorgie is now in her mid-twenties with millions of dol-

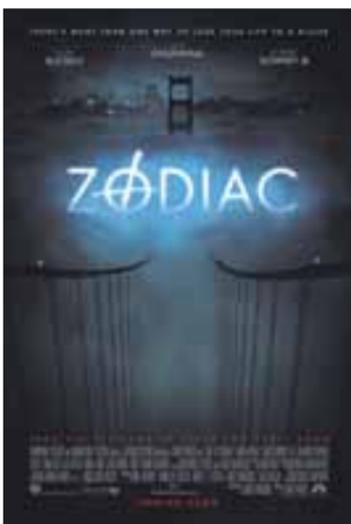
lars in assets, and has written *Rich by Thirty* in an attempt to share her success strategies with the rest of the world's youth.

Whether or not the whole thing is just a scam to accumulate more wealth for Scorgie will remain a mystery, though. *Rich by Thirty* certainly does not offer a formula for overnight financial success. The book does, however, do a great job of offering clear and concise advice on how to begin managing your money. It covers all the basics, like budgeting, debt management, savings accounts, interest and RRSPs. It goes further than most introductory financial books by offering some great techniques for investing in the stock market. The author also acknowledges that most readers are in significantly diverse financial situations, and offers a catered solution for most of them when explaining the concepts.

This book is an overall great introduction to money management. So unless you are already independently wealthy, *Rich by Thirty* is a quick read that will be very helpful both now and in future.

Rich by Thirty is available in bookstores everywhere. Dying penniless and alone is an option almost anywhere!

win passes



To win passes to see a special advance screening of *Zodiac*, the latest film by David Fincher, on Thurs., Feb. 22 at Westhills send an email to entertainment@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca and name Fincher's previous film about a serial killer.

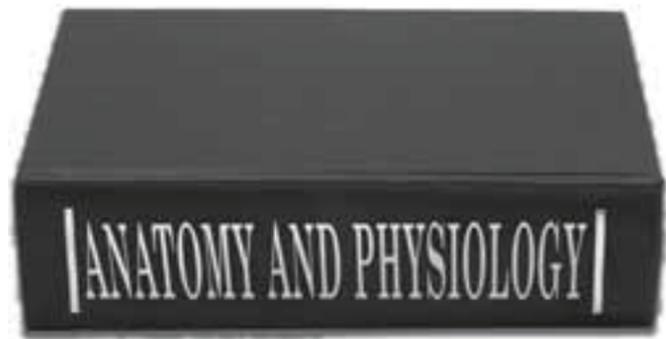
Zodiac will be released in theatres Fri., Mar. 2.



For a unique perspective on the campus and city-wide arts scene, check out the University of Calgary's Gauntlet newspaper. We're all around the campus and beyond.

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gauntlet
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Gauntlet photo by Dominic Fabrig, Dance Montage 2005

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Cages on stages could be outrageous



Chris Tait/the Gauntlet

Prison fact: Beanie caps can be exchanged for five minutes with your children.

Jesus Hopped the A Train

theatre preview

Kevin De Vlaming
Gauntlet Entertainment

Forget acting school, Khari Jones proves that football can be as successful a lead-in to a career in the performance arts as anything else. Jones, a veteran CFL player of nine years, is playing the lead role in the forthcoming Company of Rogues production of *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train*. Jones defends his unique career overlap by explaining it to be a passion which dates back to his college days.

"I like to joke about it," says Jones. "I tell people that I was a professional actor before I was a professional football player. My first year out of college, no one wanted me as far as football went, but I was auditioning for plays, and I was in some shows down in San Francisco and Sacramento."

Jones, who won the CFL's most outstanding player award while playing for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in 2001, has been cultivating his acting ambitions on the sidelines throughout his career as a professional quarterback. Appearing in upwards of 30 stage performances elsewhere, this production marks the Calgary theatre debut for the burly-but-articulate Jones.

"I was shooting a film called *I Dream of Murder* with an actor named Joe Norman Shaw," says Jones. "We got to talking during a scene we were in together, and he called me a little while after that about this play he wanted to direct, *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train*. He just needed to find the right actor for the role of Lucius, and he felt I would fit the part."

Shaw, the artistic director for Company of Rogues Theatre, cast Jones as the incarcerated sociopath Lucius Jenkins shortly thereafter. The play focuses on the interaction between Jenkins and fellow inmate Angel Cruz, who has been jailed for taking a life to save the life of a friend. The twist is that Lucius believes he has found God, and is determined to "save" Cruz.

"As soon as I read the character of Lucius I felt like I knew him," says Jones. "Even though he's very unlike me—I mean he's a death row inmate trying to make it in prison—he still feels like he's had a chance at redemption. He's killed eight people, yet he feels like he has been saved, and is living the right way now."

Whether Jones is living the right way now or not by acting remains to be seen. Jones notes that the response to his shift in career focus has been positive so far, so long as audiences can get past the novelty of seeing a pro football player in a stage performance.

"The biggest thing for me is making sure that when I'm acting, I'm an actor, and when I'm a football player, I'm a football player," says Jones. "I try to distinguish between the two in my mind, and hopefully in other peoples' minds, so they don't think I'm just a football player trying to act, or vice versa."

That being said, the fact alone that he's a quarterback-cum-actor playing a serial killer pushing God might just make *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train* worth seeing on its own accord.

Get in some pro-star soul-searching at *Jesus Hopped the 'A' Train*, running down at the Joyce Doolittle in The Pumphouse Theatre from Sat., Feb. 17 through Sat., Mar. 3. Ticket and showtime information is available at www.corogues.com.

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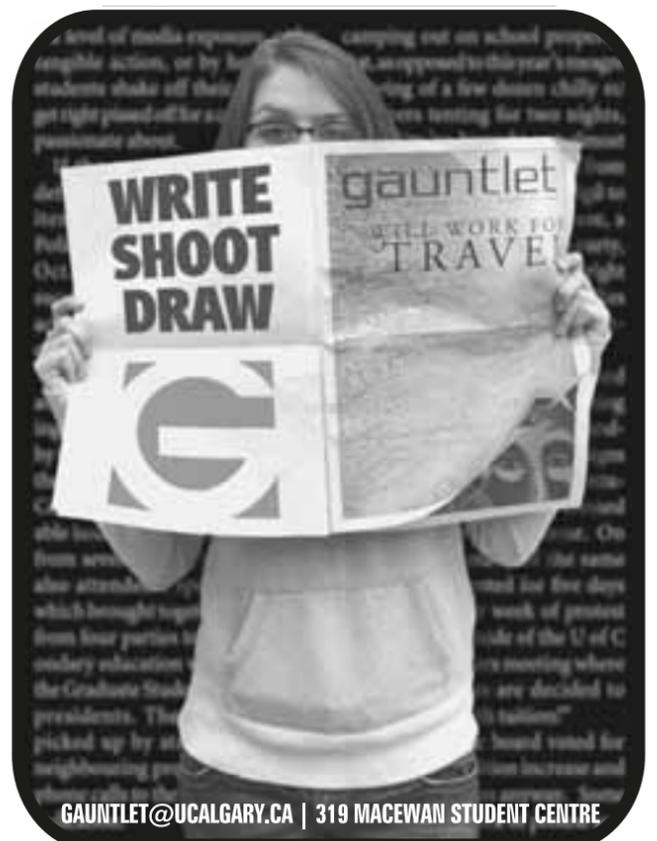
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o p t i c s

DVD REVIEWS



Delirious

DVD Street date: Mon., Feb. 12

Nostalgia can be a wonderful thing. This is especially true for a celebrity whose peak popularity came about 20 years ago, and who's looking to make a comeback. In this re-release of his 1983 stand-up routine, Eddie Murphy is looking into the face of the past and seeing just how funny he used to be.

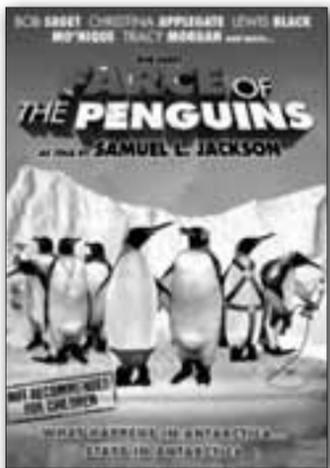
Though Eddie Murphy's *Delirious* tour was nearly two decades ago, the material has not lost its relevance. Sure, some day down the road it'll probably be insufficient to make jokes about farts and Ralph Kramden getting fucked in the ass by Ed Norton and expect a laugh, but for now, these sorts of things have dodged the dead-joke bullet. The subject matter is crude and infantile, but Murphy delivers it with such confidence and timing it feels acceptable to laugh at his childishness. Even so, he does make the occasional misstep.

At one point during the set, Murphy discusses the wacky antics of his family at their annual cookout. Specifically, he imitates his father

in a drunken stupor and in this character lectures his uncle about burning down the backyard. The rant starts hysterically but fades to a whimper by the end, rambling into incoherence. As long as Murphy stays focused on the punchline, however, his delivery is strong and offers enough motivation to keep watching.

While the name Eddie Murphy may have lost some of its intrigue in recent years, *Delirious* recalls why it was ever notable. If Murphy is in fact looking to reclaim his bad boy status from the clutches of *Dr. Doolittle*, then the DVD release of *Delirious* is a good first step.

..Darren Young



Farce of the Penguins

Street date, Feb. 14, 2007

Back in 2005, moviegoers were transfixed by a documentary about emperor penguins making an arduous journey to their mating grounds. Filmed over the course of a year by director Luc Jacquet, *March of the Penguins* won the Academy Award for feature-length documentary and spawned a series of unrelated films about penguins. Some of these films, like *Happy Feet*, were charming in a kitschy way, at the very least. *Farce of the Penguins* is almost entirely devoid of any redeeming qualities whatsoever.

Written and directed by Bob Saget, *Farce of the Penguins* takes stock footage of penguins walking and edits it to make it seem like the penguins are talking. Dubbed over the footage is some of the most god-awful dialogue in recent memory and a plot combining the worst possible elements of the romantic comedy genre, as two penguins walk to their mating grounds, swear and talk about penguin sex.

At their destination await a bunch of female penguins, who spend the duration standing around and talking about stupid shit.

Despite how awesome penguins are, *Farce* kills the novelty off quickly. The result is 80 minutes of listening to Bob Saget and Lewis Black performing terrible dialogue, with frequent cutaways to uninspired, unfunny gags. Tying the whole debacle together is the phoned-in narration of Samuel L. Jackson. While hearing Jackson swearing is always fun, the writing is so terrible that listening to him becomes a chore. That *Farce* destroys the comedic value of Samuel L. Jackson, penguins and swearing all at once speaks volumes about the quality of the screenplay, which was likely written in crayon on a cocktail napkin several minutes before the deadline. Just like this review.

..Ryan Pike

February DVD release schedule

February 20th

Trailer Park Boys movie
Rednecks get high and drink too much. You laugh.

The Prestige
Magic Batman versus magic Wolverine in Victorian-era London.

Babel
Brad Pitt is confused by foreigners.

Star Wars: the original trilogy
Now, both the regularly mastered and re-mastered versions are available as two-disc packages. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to master them again.

Ghandi
The English oppress colonial India. You cry.

Final Fantasy VII: Advent Children (Two disc special edition)
Nerdgasm in tidy, two-disc package.

February 27th

The Land Before Time: The great day for flyers
Just die already, fucking dinosaurs.

Stranger than Fiction
Will Farrell stars in a critically-acclaimed movie. Everyone wonders what the hell happened.

Tideland
Terry Gilliam is no longer capable of making good movies.

TOP OF THE VOX

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TOP 20 for the week of feb 13.07

- * Denotes Canadian Artist
** Denotes Local Artist
- 1 **VARIOUS****
Hai Karate Allstar Remix Series
indie
- 2 **THE SHINS**
Winning The Night Away
Sub Pop
- 3 **JULIE DOIRON***
Woke Myself Up
Endearing
- 4 **DEERHOOF**
Friend Opportunity
Kill Rock Stars
- 5 **BLANKKET***
Be Your Own Boss
Recording Club
- 6 **APOSTLE OF HUSTLE***
National Anthem Of Nowhere
Arts & Crafts
- 7 **VARIOUS***
Snowed in: A Tribute To Hank Snow
CJSR
- 8 **BERG SANS NIPPLE**
Along The Quai
Team Love
- 9 **VARIOUS**
OM Hiphop
OM
- 10 **EMILIE SIMON**
Flower Book
Milan
- 11 **BONONO**
Days To Come
Ninja Tune
- 12 **SIX PARTS SEVEN**
Casually Smashed To Pieces
Suicide Squeeze
- 13 **GERMANS***
Cape Fear
Arcco
- 14 **MENOMENA**
Friend And foe
Barsuk
- 15 **TRADITION***
Tradition
Recording Club
- 16 **KIM BARLOW***
Champ
Jericho Beach
- 17 **MOTHER MOTHER***
Touch Up
Last Gang
- 18 **FIVE STAR AFFAIR****
Do Not Disturb
indie
- 19 **VARIOUS**
Stones Throw Ten Years
Stones Throw
- 20 **AEREOGRAMME**
My Heart Has a Wish That You Would Not Go
Sonic Unyon

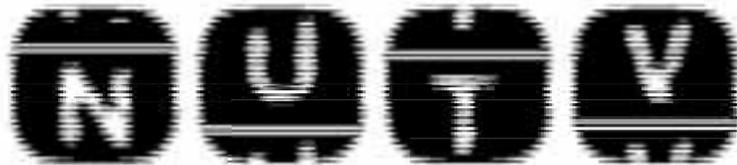
JAZZ

- 1 **REZ ABBASI**
Bazaar
Zoho
- 2 **ERNESTO CERVINI QUARTET***
Here
indie
- 3 **ROYCE CAMPBELL**
Trio By Starlight
RoyCam
- 4 **GRADY TATE**
From The Heart
Halfnote
- 5 **KEN ALDCROFT'S CONVERGENCE ENSEMBLE***
The Great Divide
Trio

FOLK/ROOTS/BLUES

- 1 **JOEY WRIGHT***
Jalopy
Black Hen
- 2 **LOREENA MCKENNITT***
Ancient Muse
Quinlan Road
- 3 **WILLIE NELSON**
Songbird
Lost Highway
- 4 **ALASDAIR ROBERTS**
Amber Gatherers
Drag City
- 5 **BASEMENT**
Basement EP
Zealous

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THEATRE

Get *Wrecked* in Engineered Air Theatre Feb. 23–25. Tickets are \$15.90 to \$21.20 at Ticketmaster.

The playRites Festival continues with even more plays! *The Knowing Bird* tattles Feb. 15, 17, 18, 22, 23 and 27. *The December Man* lives Feb. 16, 20, 24 and 28. *The Age of Arousal* is unleashed Feb. 17, 21, 24 and 25. All in Martha Cohen Theatre. Tickets are \$16.50 to \$40 at Ticketmaster. Plus, discover *Why Freud Fainted* Feb. 15–17 and experience *This is Cancer!* Feb. 23–25 and 27–28, both in Big Secret Theatre. Tickets are \$22 at Ticketmaster.

Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* unfolds in the University Theatre Feb. 15–18 and 21–24. Students \$12, adults \$15 at Campus Ticket Centre.

DSI: Drunk Scene Investigation stumbles into Studio Theatre Thur., Feb. 15 at 10:30 p.m. Admission is \$2.

CONCERTS

Fred Eaglesmith, the Culls and JP Hoe soar over Broken City Thur., Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. Advance tickets are \$22 at Megatunes and Broken City.

Remote Kid and Lotus Child invade That Empty Space Fri., Feb. 16 from 3 p.m. until 6 p.m. Free.

Lotus Child, Pressure Kill Common Style and Grandfather Five and the Holy Morning bless Broken City Fri., Feb. 16 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at Megatunes, Melodiya and Sloth.

Geronimo, the Cape May and Remote Kid burst into song in the Hi-Fi Club Sat., Feb. 17.

Ole, Molotov Smile and Hypnopilot mesmerize Broken City Tues., Feb. 20 at 8 p.m.

Stink Mitt and DJ Noah York City groove inside the Hi-Fi Club Tues., Feb. 20.

Jars of Clay and Need to Breathe suffocate MacEwan Hall Wed., Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$26.50 at Ticketmaster.

Switchfoot and guests sanctify MacEwan Ballroom Wed., Feb. 21 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at Ticketmaster.

Ghosts of Modern Man and Passenger Action produce haunting music inside Broken City Thur., Feb. 22 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at Megatunes, Melodiya and Sloth.

Rascal Flatts and guests honk the tonk inside the Saddledome Thur., Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$69.50 to \$79.50 at Ticketmaster.

Peer Pressure, A-Rock and Hatchmatik bombard the Hi-Fi Club with sound Thur., Feb. 22.

Whitey, the Rayzing Sons and Kilbourne raise hell in Broken City Fri., Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at Megatunes, Melodiya and Sloth.

Jeff Cassie and the Cheatin' Hearts, the Failure and Meisha Louie cheat on the Hi-Fi Club Sat., Feb. 24.

Wolfmother and guests suckle MacEwan Hall Sat., Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$32.50 at Ticketmaster.

Simeon Ross and Secret Broadcast bust out a free concert Mon., Feb. 26 at Broken City.

Mother Mother, the Yoko Casionos and the Kettle Black blend Broken City Tues., Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at Megatunes, Melodiya and Sloth.

Pride Tiger, the Frosted Tipz and Aces and Hearts maul the Hi-Fi Club Tues., Feb. 27.

SPORTS

So much Dinos action, we had to split it up! The playoffs kick off for the women's hockey team as they face Mount Royal at the Olympic Oval Fri., Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. The women's volleyballers host UBC Feb. 16–18, as needed, at 7 p.m.

THINGS TO DO

1. Reading Week is a great time to take a break from your busy scholastic career to do the things that really matter, like working every day or going to Mexico. You can always study 15 minutes before your exam.
2. The playoffs are here! The Dinos teams are winding down their seasons and heading into the playoffs, and it would be super if you went to a game.
3. *Casino Royale* is showing on campus the Monday we get back from Reading Week, for free.
4. There is a lot of inexpensive theatre on campus. Just sayin'.
5. Mark your calendars, the next edition of the *Gauntlet* hits stands Thur., Mar. 1.

MISC.

Women's basketball tangles with the U of Saskatchewan Feb. 16–18, if necessary. Both are in Jack Simpson Gym. The men's hockeysaurs finish off their regular season against the U of Lethbridge in Max Bell Arena Feb. 16–17 at 7 p.m. Free.

The Flames melt the Colorado Avalanche Thur., Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. and Sat., Feb. 17 at 8 p.m. and skewer the San Jose Sharks Sat., Feb. 24 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 to \$195 at Ticketmaster.

The Hitmen shrink the Kamloops Blazers Sun., Feb. 18 at 2 p.m. and tame the Medicine Hat Tigers Sun., Feb. 25 at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$9 to \$35 at Ticketmaster.

Broken City kicks off their version of dinner and a movie, called *Broken Reels Wednesdays*, Wed., Feb. 21 with screenings of the Bob Dylan bio *No Direction Home* and local short films beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets available at Megatunes, Melodiya and Sloth.

Go back to school with *Casino Royale* in Science Theatres 148 Mon., Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Free with student ID.

Learn about Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* Mon., Feb. 26 in the Boris Roubakine Recital Hall in Craigie Hall. Free.

CJSW on-air guide



	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
6 am	morning joy	breaking the tethers	lush life	cold smoke jazz	jazz for quantum cats	late night continued	late night continued	6 am
6:30								6:30
7 am						democracy now!	alternative radio	7 am
7:30								7:30
8 am						bunte welle german	counterspin	8 am
8:30							eritrean radio	8:30
9 am	this side of the blue	canadian music centre presents	bella musica	airport bison radio	the two and a half hour coffee break		hvratski radio croatian	9 am
9:30								9:30
10 am		tangential workout				calgary vietnamese radio	bagong pagasa philipino	10 am
10:30							buscando america latin america	10:30
11 am	democracy now!	so SU me students' union	alternative radio	cjsw news counterspin	who shakes city calendar	helenic melodies greek radio		11 am
11:30								11:30
12 pm	el moustacheo mysterio	red squares sponsored by the drum & monkey	strange and beautiful	the mutton chop record hop / pillage the village	punk up the volume sponsored by beat route magazine	fantastic plastic sponsored by bird dog video	the good word project	12 pm
12:30							level the vibes	12:30
1 pm								1 pm
1:30								1:30
2 pm	pop beats and cigarettes	electric company	nerd beat / anti-parent culture sound	the audible smile sponsored by melodiya records	my allergy to the fans sponsored by tubby dog	bikesheviks sponsored by cadence coffee	mental illness	2 pm
2:30								2:30
3 pm								3 pm
3:30								3:30
4 pm	welcome to flava country sponsored by the hi fi club	jane & tasya's guide to everything sponsored by broken city	the bad arts sponsored by liberty lounge	alternative to what? sponsored by palomino smokehouse	road pops sponsored by f1wd weekly	caribbean link-up sponsored by f1wd weekly		4 pm
4:30								4:30
5 pm								5 pm
5:30								5:30
6 pm	french transe en danse	off the page gauntlet	mezza l'una italian	writer's block	musiquarium everything from jazz to jungle sponsored by giant 45	voice of ethiopia oh africa!	let's get baked with mat & dave vegan baking from cktu in halifax	6 pm
6:30								6:30
7 pm	south louisiana gumbo	artslink	the blues witness with reverend ron sponsored by calgary dollars	folkcetera	full moon funkcicious the latest & greatest in breaks & house		desi vibes	7 pm
7:30								7:30
8 pm	reverb	tombstone after dark	lift the bandstand	film clips	dirty needles the best in funk, soul & hip hop	the nocturntable	speaking in tongues world music	8 pm
8:30	yeah, what she said woman's programming							8:30
9 pm	aubrey's shindig!	honey, i punk the kids	good character requirement / turing radio	noise experimental music	remote emissions hard hitting jungle & drum 'n bass		the chit chat	9 pm
9:30								9:30
10 pm	katharsis	rack power	charlie / don't throw your marmalade	fat beat diet		megawatt mayhem metal	tokyo eye patch	10 pm
10:30								10:30
11 pm		what would the neighbors think?	incidental tracks	post-everything	dna hardcore techno	the sarcastic triangle / attention surplus disorder	translucent dreams ambient, trance etc.	11 pm
11:30								11:30
12 am	downtime	dead air			sound champion showcase		uncle lijiah's whiskey run	12 am
12:30								12:30
1 am								1 am
1:30								1:30
2 am	bass backwards	into the deep	corduroy couch	rage cage	sunlight theory / 31 flavours	mental brain thoughts / scrumdiddlyumptious	straight on 'til morning	2 am
2:30								2:30
3 am								3 am
3:30								3:30
4:00								4:00
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Lady b-ballasurs win 10th straight

Dinos steal home-court advantage from Huskies

women's b-ball

Todd Andre
Gauntlet Sports

The University of Calgary women's basketball team has clawed their way into hosting the Central division semi-final against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies on the back of their unbelievable 10-game winning streak. For the second time this season the Dinos swept the Huskies, taming the dirty dawgs 85-79 Fri., Feb. 7, and 75-69 Sat., Feb. 8.

The Huskies have to return to Saskatchewan with their tail between their legs after losing first place on the last day of the season. To make matters even worse for the Huskies, they have to return to Calgary for the division semi-final Feb. 16-18 and face a team that looks unstoppable.

"I don't think we're going to do anything drastically different [this weekend]," said Lindsay Maundrell, who led all Dino scorers in Saturday's game with 21 points. "We all can play better. We know what we're good at, and we know where our strengths are."

It is hard to believe the Dinos can play any better than they are now. The 'Saurus have won 12 of their last 13 games since being crushed by Saskatchewan 81-69 in their first meeting of the season, and they

have yet to surrender a loss in 2007. They have come a long way from the 3-6 team that the Huskies pummeled before the Christmas break.

"That was our biggest test since December—the last time we played them," said coach Shawnee Harle after Friday's nail-biting victory. "I didn't think we played very well [in the first half]. But I thought we kicked it in, and I thought Ashley [Hill] kicked it in the third [quarter]."

Friday's game was a see-saw battle of two teams fighting to play in front of their hometown fans, and more importantly, sleep in their hometown beds. The Dinos seemed incapable of taking the lead from Saskatchewan until the third quarter, when Hill started to heat up. A halftime chat with the coach inspired the rookie to go 7-10 from the field, scoring 17 points and winning player of the game honours.

"Just before we went onto the floor Shawnee gave me a bit of a pep talk," said Hill from the seat of her stationary bike after the game. "She told me and Coyle we had to play well to win."

There must be magic in those words, because Coyle and Hill led all Dino scorers with 18 and 17 points respectively, and the valiant Dino defenders clamped down in the last four minutes to seize the win.

Calgary churned out a different performance Friday night, but reaped the same result: a victory and a home



Ryan Link/the Gauntlet

Jane Meadwell steps up to block a driving Husky.

court date for the opening round of the playoffs against a Saskatchewan team that will be physically and emotionally drained.

"They're going to be tired," said

Harle. "The thing I like best [about the last weekend's games]: on Friday I thought we won with our offence, and on Saturday I thought we won with our defence. That's a tough thing

for Saskatchewan to prepare for."

Regardless of how well the Dinos are playing right now, they still have a huge obstacle to overcome in their first round match up against the Huskies. That obstacle is the gargantuan reigning league MVP Sarah Crooks, who just surpassed Calgary's Leighann Doan for the all-time lead in Canada West scoring by draining her 1,959th point on a free throw in Friday's game. And if Calgary's rebounding struggles continue this weekend, they could have their hands full trying to block key-monster Crooks once she has a juicy offensive rebound. The Dinos were out-rebounded 104-81, last weekend, with Crooks recording 48 points and 35 of those boards.

Dino forwards Whitney Haswell and Michelle Wilson are going to have to step up their game this weekend in order to stop the colossal Crooks. The Dinos are 3-0 against Saskatchewan and 14-3 overall when either of these two women leads the team in rebounds. Calgary rebounding was key in shutting down Wilson in the closing minutes of last weekend's games, and the same will be true in the Central division semi-final.

But in the end, the Huskies are 5-5 in their last 10, while the Dinos have won 10 straight. The smart money is on the blazing red and white.

"My money is on us in two straight," predicted Harle, humbly.

Dinos all Thai-ed up in international tour

r u g b y

Nickolas Meehan
Gauntlet Sports

When travelling internationally it's common to receive as many vaccinations as recommended by a local travel clinic. Unfortunately for the University of Calgary men's touring rugby team there is no vaccine to protect against

pissed-off Thai competitors.

A 35 person contingent from the University of Calgary Rugby Football Club will be departing from Calgary International Airport Wed., Feb. 14 headed for Thailand to play in the Bangkok International Ten's tournament. The tournament consists of nearly 30 different teams. The Dinos are entering two teams and are the only North American teams entered into the tournament, which runs Feb. 16-18. The competitive

team will consist of veteran Dinos players while the social team will consist of younger players.

The UCRFC has been pressured to go play in the Bangkok International Ten's tournament for well over three years, so it was decided the next tour must be to Thailand to play in the tournament. Head coach Simon Chi explained that their hook-up in Thailand was a former Canadian National Team prop named Eddie Evans. Evans owns Extreme Rugby

Wear, a clothing company based out of Thailand.

"Touring is a very important, and extremely fun, aspect of rugby culture," said coach Wade Belbin. "It allows players the opportunity to travel and be a part of a wide community, virtually anywhere in the world."

Although numerous tours have been made to Vancouver and Edmonton each year, the UCRFC makes it a goal to try and coordinate

at least one international tour every three years. The last international tour was to the United Kingdom in 2003, where the Dinos played three games against three different English clubs.

Safety is the key word for the tour while almost everything else is secondary, even planned events. No team members will be present at any functions if the function is not deemed safe and fit for the entire team.

See RUGBY, page 32

SCOREBOARD

DINOS

85

women's b-ball

Courtney Coyle picked up 18 points for the Dinos in the win.

HUSKIES

79

DINOS

3

women's volleyball

The Dinos got back to their winning ways with a victory on homecourt. See story, pg. 29

WOLFPACK

1

DINOS

3

The victory secured homecourt advantage for the Dinos in the playoffs. See story, pg. 28

WOLFPACK

0



DINOS

75

women's b-ball

The Dinos stole home court advantage for the upcoming playoff series against the Huskies in their 10th straight win. The Dinos haven't lost in 2007.

HUSKIES

69

DINOS

3

men's hockey

The home shootout loss secured the Dinos a playoff spot. See story, pg. 30

BEARS

4

DINOS

70

men's b-ball

The Dinos put up their sixth straight 'W' on senior-tribute night. See story, pg. 28

HUSKIES

65

DINOS

70

The Dinos lost the game and back-up guard Jeremy Odland. See story, pg. 28

HUSKIES

79

Dinos split, Odland out

men's b-ball

Stewart Pallard
Gauntlet Sports

The University of Calgary men's basketball team is battle-ready after splitting a Feb. 9-10 series against upcoming playoff opponent, the University of Saskatchewan Huskies. The split gives the Dinos a record of 11-11 on the season and a third-place finish in the Central division.

Fri., Feb. 9 was an emotional night for the Dinos as the team honoured fifth-year veterans Josh Feist, Brian Finnis and Sonny Khangura in their second-last regular season game of their Canadian Interuniversity Sports careers.

The pre-game tribute seemed to suck some of the life out of both teams, and the Dinos play was full of peaks and valleys in the first half. Luckily, the Dinos only found themselves down 34-30 at the break.

In the second half the Dinos dominated the game. They managed to tie the game at 42 with 14:30 remaining and then went on a 12-3 run over the next four minutes, taking a 54-45 lead. From then on the Huskies never cut the lead to less than

nine points. Calgary ended up out-rebounding the Huskies 42-35 and had 17 turnovers to the Huskies' 24 as they fought to a 75-60 victory. The win was the Dinos' fifth straight.

Afterwards Dino head coach Dan Vanhooren described the game as an emotional one for his team and was happy with his team's play.

"The kids played tough and I was really proud of them," said Vanhooren, noting he didn't want to give the Huskies any indication of how he was going to play the Husky power combo of Andrew Spagrud and Rejean Chabot in the upcoming playoff series.

"We wanted to play them straight up [and] hold our cards to our chest," said Vanhooren.

Husky forward and All-Canadian Spagrud was held in check by second-year Dino Ross Bekkering, who matched Spagrud in points with 17. Feist earned Dino player of the game honours by scoring 18 points and adding eight assists.

The Dinos were without their leading scorer Saturday, as Feist had a family commitment to attend. Dino guard Tony Dhaliwal had the large task of filling the 5'9" guard's shoes.

The Dinos trailed for most of the first half as the Huskies were led by

forward Kyle Grant's 11 points, but were only down 36-35 at the break.

The Huskies eventually extended their lead to 10 points with under 13 minutes left. The Dinos didn't quit, and cut the Husky lead to five with five minutes to go. That would be as good as things got for the Dinos, as the Huskies won 79-70.

Chabot had 17 points for the Huskies and Spagrud had a double-double with a game-high 19 points and 10 rebounds. Robbie Sihota had a double-double for the Dinos with 10 points and 11 rebounds and Dhaliwal had 11 points, four rebounds and three assists, stepping in for Feist.

The Dinos were obviously missing Feist, but Vanhooren was pleased with Dhaliwal's effort.

"Some guys might press a bit more [with Feist out], but Tony did a great job running [the plays]."

The Dinos had some tough luck when Jeremy Odland received a hard foul to his jaw. Odland's jaw was broken on the play and will require surgery. Several of his teeth were also broken when a Saskatchewan player tried to block Odland's layup attempt. Odland will be in the hospital for several days after the surgery and will require several weeks to get back to eating regularly. This is a tough loss for the Dinos as Odland was play-



Trent Orth/the Gauntlet

Dino Jeremy Odland is escorted off the court after breaking his jaw.

ing great basketball lately and had a 20-point game against the Brandon University Bobcats Jan. 20.

Despite the loss of Odland, the Dinos are a confident team heading into the first round of the playoffs next weekend. They had their winning streak snapped at five games, but the Dinos are a much improved team since the start of the season and have an excellent chance next weekend of advancing to play the Central division champion University of Alberta Golden Bears.

"[We're in a] very positive, good frame of mind since Christmas," said Vanhooren. "This game isn't

any indication of anything to come from either side."

Khangura, who had 12 points for the Dinos, shared his coach's optimism, and noted Saturday's loss didn't do anything to temper it.

"We're feeling pretty confident right now," said Khangura. "[Saturday,] we shot terribly and we were missing our leading scorer."

The Dinos have their season on the line next weekend as they take on the Huskies in Saskatoon in a best of three series. Both teams are evenly matched and the series could very likely require all three games to settle it.

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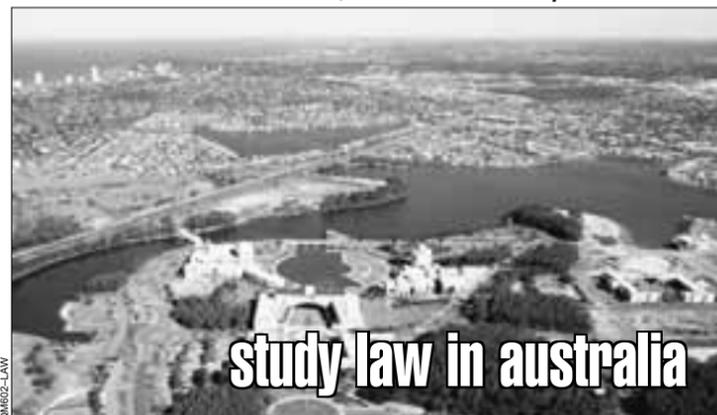
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T-Birds/Dinos clash

women's volleyball

Jon Roe
Sports Editor

The road to Winnipeg for Calgary leads through B.C. Though counter-intuitive and downright geographically inaccurate, that's how it currently stands for the Dinos women's volleyball team as they look to move on to the Canada West final four by taking out the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds in a Canada West quarter-final playoff series Feb. 16-18.

"In the UBC matches, despite how poorly we played, were a lot tighter than you think," said head coach Kevin Boyles, referring to the two games the Dinos dropped against the T-Birds on home court two weeks ago. "That first set on Saturday could've gone either way. We went to five on Friday, without us playing very good ball."

Since the CW adopted its current final four format in 2002/03, the Dinos have faced the T-Birds in the CW playoffs three times going 2-1. All three of those meetings came in the CW final four. Though that record seems favourable, the Dinos have not had any luck against the T-Birds lately, dropping all three of their playoff meetings since 2004/05, including two heart-breaking losses in the CIS semi-finals.

"The UBC team we're playing this weekend is completely different than the one we saw last year," said Boyles. "We've been in the



Ryan Link/the Gauntlet

Dino Raynell Lavertu nails the ball.

national semi-finals going on five years now. We should have lots of experience, we should know what it takes."

But if the Dinos stop the T-Birds here, they won't have to face them in the CIS championships. The Dinos are going there regardless of what happens this weekend, but for the T-Birds, the road to the '07 CIS championships in Calgary leads through Calgary.

The Dinos play Feb. 16-17 at 8 p.m. in the Jack Simpson Gym. If necessary, game three is at 2 p.m. Sunday. Playoff tickets are \$5 for students.

Wrestlers prepare for CW



Andrew Rininsland/the Gauntlet

Dino wrestlers prepare for the Canada West championships held in Saskatoon.

w r e s t l i n g

Amanda Hu
Sports Assistant

As the season nears a close, the Dinos wrestling team is gearing up for the Canada West championships in Saskatoon Feb. 16-17.

The women's team is a top contender going into the competition, currently ranked first in Canadian Interuniversity Sport standings, while the men stand at fifth. Coach Mitch Ostberg is hopeful about the outcome of CW.

"The women's team is quite strong," said Ostberg. "The men are still building, but are also very competitive."

This year's roster is headed up by Justine

Bouchard, globally fifth-ranked in the 63 kilogram weight class, Leah Callahan, the 2006 Canada West rookie of the year and double-threat Mark DeWit, who also plays for the Dinos football team.

The Dinos face some stiff competition in this year's CW, most notably from the University of Regina Cougars, who trail the Dinos at second in CIS rankings.

To help train for CW, the Dinos hosted the Nordhagan Junior Classic, drawing female athletes ages 17-20 from Korea, Switzerland, Austria and the United States to compete at the Red Gym Feb. 3.

"Nordhagan was great preparation for the women," said Ostberg.

The Canada West championships take place Feb. 16-17.

Durable Durrant

men's volleyball

Alex Baron
Gauntlet Sports

Rod Durrant had a rough rookie season as a head coach in Canadian Interuniversity Sport. However, as coach of the University of Calgary men's volleyball team, Durrant has plenty of potential and an excellent resumé to build upon.

The Dinos won the Husky Dino Cup in late October, appearing in the tournament final for the first time in five years. Since then, the team has won only four games, finishing with a record of 4-14.

Durrant came to the Dinos from Alberta Volleyball, where he had spent the last seven years as technical director of the provincial program. In that same time span, he coached the Canadian men's standing disabled team to three world championships in 2002, 2004 and 2006.

Coming into the year there were a lot of new faces, as only three players from the previous season were around. Despite the current Dinos squad including four players in their fifth and final year of eligibility, the team had trouble finding their stride all season. Early in the year, Durrant felt that the senior players and the three fourth-year players needed to be the leaders of the team.

"[We have] lots of experience, [and these] mature guys need to be their best for us to win," said Durrant.

Even with this season's troubles, Durrant has a lot of support from current players glad to have him coaching.

"It's good to have him," said Dino setter Glen Handley, who took last year off. "That's why I came back and I made that clear at the beginning of the year. He's a coach you like to play for."

"Rod's probably the best coach I've ever had," added libero Ryan Poon. "He handles his players with a lot of respect."

The Dinos came into the season with the goal of making the playoffs and it came down to the last weekend of the year where they needed to win both games against the Thompson Rivers Wolfpack to have a chance at qualifying.

Unfortunately, the Dinos fell short, losing Friday's game in the fifth set.

"We've been up and down all year, we find our stride and [then] take a step back," said Durrant of the team's season. "There's been a lot of changes within this program."

It doesn't get easier after this year, as the Dinos lose four players due to ineligibility.

"He is very unique in that he is always trying to improve as a coach," said assistant coach Calvin Aubin, who has coached with Durrant for 10 years. "He's never stagnant. He's always challenging himself and always challenging his players."

Durrant was inducted into the Volleyball Canada Hall of Fame along with his 2002 Canadian men's standing disabled championship team.

Some might consider this

season a disappointment, but it hasn't been all bad. For a team in transition, they came agonizingly close to their playoff goal and we can reasonably expect much more from Durrant

and his Dinos next year as he tries to break their awful four-year playoff drought.

Check gauntlet.ucalgary.ca for more information on how the Dinos fared in their last weekend of the year.



Durrant.

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Hockeysaurs back into playoff spot

Sixth straight loss in shootout secures place in post-season

men's hockey

Alyée Sibtain
Gauntlet Sports

Ops, they did it again. The University of Calgary men's hockeysaurs have locked up the last playoff spot in the division, but it was a bitter-sweet success. The Dinos suffered their third straight sweep in the post-secondary Battle of Alberta Feb. 9-10 in a home-and-home series. The University of Alberta Golden Bears took the series opener in front of their home crowd with a 3-2 victory, and clawed their way to a 4-3 shootout triumph the following night at Father David Bauer Arena.

The first period of Friday's game was a flurry of action at both ends of the rink. The Dinos found themselves in the hole early Friday night, with the Bears scoring in the first two minutes of the opening period.

Dino Wade Davis, a former Calgary Flames draft pick, tied up the game minutes later off a Conlan Seder feed. The Dinos stunned the Edmonton crowd only 52 seconds later, when captain Brett Thurston put his team in the lead on the odd-man rush. The Dinos headed into the locker room looking well in control of the game and ready to turn their fortunes around against

a team who has had their number for the past decade.

However, the powerplay troubles that have plagued the Dinos over the course of the season re-emerged in the second period. The Bears scored twice on the powerplay to tie up the game in the first five minutes and notched the game-winner thanks to Ian McDonald's shot in the dying minutes.

With Friday's loss, the Dinos fell below .500 for the first time this season. The drive south was a cold and sombre one, as the Dinos knew they had to really kick it into high gear if they wanted to salvage the split.

But once again, the Dinos were chasing the Bears from puck drop. The Bears took the lead early in the first period, and were almost up by two goals until the second was overruled due to a dislodged net. The crowd grew restless as the Dinos failed to capitalize on their man-advantages, especially since they chose to keep passing the biscuit instead of shooting it.

The Dinos finally came to life in the second period, dominating the Bears on both ends of the ice. Dino Ryan Annesley tied up the contest by beating Bear netminder Blake Grenier to the rebound, and breathed some life back into his team. Teammate Travis Friedley played a key role on the offensive end, with assists



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

The Dinos lost both their games to the Bears on home ice this season.

on both Dino goals. The Dinos headed into the final frame with a 2-1 lead, and more importantly, a win in sight.

Regrettably, the Bears decided that they also wanted to dominate the game for a period, and unfortunately for the Dinos, it was the third. Bear Chad Klassen brought his team even with the hockeysaurs on a powerplay goal halfway through the period, and teammate Dylan

Stanely put the Bears up 3-2 five minutes later.

However, the Dinos had worked too hard to let the Bears steal this game away from them. Thurston, from his knees, scored short-handed with only 56 seconds left on the clock to tie the game at four goals apiece, and send it into overtime.

Extra time solved nothing, and both goalies stood strong during the first three rounds of the shoot-

out. Dino netminder Scott Talbot was finally beaten by McDonald, who broke the Dinos' back for the second time with the only successful conversion of the shootout. The loss put the Dinos in the basement of the division, and the fans in a bad mood.

Though the Dinos clinched a playoff spot in the shootout loss, they won't go very far until they figure out how to put together some wins. Calgary fans will get their last chance to see their team in regular season action Feb. 16-17, as they host the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns at Max Bell Arena. The Dinos have owned the 'Horns this season, and hope the trend continues as they desperately need a win to head into post-season action on a high note.

Puck drops at 7 p.m., and admission is free with student ID.



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Lady hockeysaurs win two of final three heading into playoffs

Women's hockey

Derek Neumeier
Gauntlet Sports

Coming off of back-to-back 3-0 victories and heading into their last game of the regular season, the University of Calgary women's hockey team was looking to sweep their season series with the NAIT Ooks and enter the playoffs riding the momentum of a three-game winning streak. However, fate seemed to be against the Dinos Sat., Feb. 12 at Father David Bauer Arena, as nothing seemed to go right and the team wound up on the losing side of a tight 4-3 decision.

Neither team seemed especially ready for the looming playoffs, as sloppy, penalty-filled hockey was the choice of style for both teams. The Ooks maintained a lead for the majority of the game, and despite a determined push in the third period, the Dinos were unable to capitalize on all of their scoring chances.

"It was a tough loss," said Dinos defender Ali Webb. "We're going to take the positives from it and go into the playoffs building off of



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Charlotte Chanasyk celebrates a Dinos goal.

the good things we did this weekend."

After NAIT opened the scoring early in the first it was Dinos leading scorer Chelsey Morrill who tied it up. Morrill deflected a shot from the blue line past the Ooks netminder, converting on her team's first powerplay of the game.

The game started sliding down a steep hill for the Dinos in the second, after they surrendered the lead early. The Dinos were called for questionable penalties and had two goals dis-

allowed. NAIT was able to feed off of the Dinos' bad fortune and keep the game in their hands. The Ooks extended their lead, scoring two more goals early in the third and causing a goaltending change as Dinos starter Katie Urness was pulled in favour of Vanessa Frederick.

The change seemed to positively spark the Dinos, as they found new legs in the dying minutes. Morrill and Webb scored goals but it came too late, as NAIT clutched to their lead and repelled the Dinos onslaught, squeaking

through the remaining seconds without allowing them to tie.

The Dinos were able to once again make use of strong special teams in the game, scoring two of their three goals on the man advantage and stifling all eight Ooks opportunities.

"We pay attention to detail more on the penalty kill," said Dinos head coach Dean Holden. "We're second best in the league in that regard."

Despite finishing fifth out of six teams in the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference, the Dinos still earn a berth in the post-season. The Dinos will face the Mount Royal College Cougars in the opening round in a best-of-three series at Centennial Arena Feb. 16-18. The Dinos managed two wins versus the Cougars during the regular season and a series victory is definitely there for the taking. Even though they head in as the underdogs, the Dinos still show confidence.

"We're still going to head into the playoffs strong," commented Dinos forward Charlotte Chanasyk. "This game didn't bring us down and we'll carry our aggression into the next game."

VARSITY PHARMACY PRESENTS

DINOS

ROOKIES OF THE MONTH

SEANNA MITCHELL
Women's Swimming

The Dinos came within 50 points of knocking off the four-time defending Canada West champion UBC Thunderbirds at the conference championships at the UofC Pool in January, thanks in large part to Seanna's contribution. She swam the anchor leg of the Dinos' gold medal-winning 4x200m freestyle and 4x100m medley relays and added a silver medal in the 4x100m freestyle relay. Seanna also won an individual gold medal in the 100m freestyle event, bringing her total to three gold and one silver medal at her first Canada West event. A native of Ottawa, Seanna is a first-year student in the Haskayne School of Business.

DAVID EGAN
Men's Volleyball

Rookie middle David Egan was forced into a more prominent role in January when fifth-year starter Blake Adair suffered a hand injury. David has filled in admirably. He led all Dinos players in hitting percentage in the month of January (37.4%) and recorded 50 kills—good enough for third spot on the team.

A veteran of Team Alberta, David was Athlete of the Year at James Fowler High School last year along with MVP for both his high school and club volleyball teams.

He is a first-year student in the Open Studies program.

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- Would you do it again?

University of Calgary Master's student is looking for interview participants in a thesis study about internet friendships and meeting online friends.

If you have met a friend from the internet, are interested in participating or have questions about the study, please email [Christine Luft](mailto:aluft@ucalgary.ca) for more information.

aluft@ucalgary.ca

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Rugby, continued from page 27

Although a package was sent out by coach James Beck, filled with good humoured rules, there is still nothing funny about potential bombings or turning a twelve-day tour into a twelve-year prison sentence. Absolutely no one wants to go to jail in Thailand.

However, safety doesn't mean

the planned events can't be fun. Angus Campbell, Belbin and Beck spent hours of planning to make Thailand one of the best experiences of the rugby players' lives.

"Even though the tour is only 10 days long, we'll be packing a lot into that short time," Belbin said. "We'll also be experiencing as much of the

Thai culture as we can. We've planned visits to a few Buddhist temples, the royal palace in Bangkok, as well as riding elephants and taking some time to relax on the beach."

Time on the beach is exactly what many players need after six grueling months of classes and a weekend tournament which includes touring

squads from New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. Three days will be spent on the beach in Rayong, 220 kilometres from Bangkok on the country's eastern coast.

Canadians are known almost virtually as a hard-hitting nation when playing in international competition, so many teams will be looking to see how well the Dinos do against them.

"There is a big target on us at the

tournament because we are the only team from the Americas," Beck said.

"We have a lot to prove to the rugby community worldwide but also to university teams in British Columbia like the University of Victoria and the University of British Columbia who have turned down invitations to play us. By performing well at the Bangkok Ten's we hope to make a major statement back here in Canada."

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Election SWAT

Every candidate in the Students' Union election aims to create an eye-catching poster to snag the attention of the average student voter. And each year, as the nominations close, most candidates are already on the phone to their friends stationed around the "prime" poster locations, giving them the go-ahead to drop their furred banners like so many rolls of toilet paper. And like a good roll of double-ply, these posters would be more useful if they were put within arm's reach of an outhouse.

Regardless of how long candidates took placing their poorly exposed self portraits and worthless jingoist slogans into Microsoft Word, most of their tree-killing, design-abortions still look like crap.

Gauntlet all-around assholes Chris Beauchamp and Jon Roe are here to take the candidates' hours of work (fuelled by a sincere desire to have an elected position on their resumé), and turn it all into a five-minute-long, tasteless, unfunny and downright mean piece for the Gauntlet's often tasteless, always unfunny, currently downright mean Academic Probation section.

Please keep in mind that space restrictions have limited us from trashing every candidate's poster. We really would have liked to though.

Chris: Let's start with this Justin Barrett clown. I mean he couldn't be any more hardcore if he knocked out his front teeth and shaved off his emo haircut. Well, actually, that'd be way more hardcore.

Jon: Hey, getting a tattoo on your ass if you're elected is pretty hardcore. But instead of the su logo, he should just cut to the chase and get "I'm a tool of the man" branded... on his forehead.

Chris: Yeah, he can't be that good of a candidate, after all there was only one short quote from him in the Gauntlet story about the events forum. I think it was "student apathy is killing me."

Jon: Just like his poster is killing me. Let's check out this Fraser Stuart number. Wait a second, where the hell was that photo taken? Is that the bombed-out hole Stuart lives in or is he peering in someone's basement window?

Chris: Yeah, I hear he's from some war-torn country in the Caucasus somewhere. I think it's called Argyllistan. All the young people wear old people's clothes, and never change out of the same goddamn sweater.

Jon: I have another question, how can he be a good VP operations and finance if he lives in a hovel with no operations or finances?

Chris: I have an answer: he can't. Next.

Jon: How about Michael Prang? With chest hair like that, it looks like he was cruising around the annual shave your head for cancer event with a glue stick.

Chris: But now he'll be able to cruise for cougars in other places too, like the Alcove. He looks like Leisure Suit Larry.

Jon: If Prang is looking for cougars, then Deanna Cameron Dubuque must be looking for the male equivalent. Is she trying to invite voters or speed daters?

Chris: Both, I think. It doesn't really matter though. She's only running for senate. All you have to do is sit there, look pretty and collect a free parking spot. Look at Brent Kettles, he's mastered it.

Jon: Minus the looking pretty part. At least he has 'experience.' He won't dent the cars on either side of him, he's gone in and out of that spot for two fucking years.

Chris: You forgot 'integrity' and 'vision.' He's got the vision to back into his spot and the integrity to let his friends use it when he doesn't need it.

Jon: Next.

Chris: Let's look at this Wilma Shim. Her poster says she's FOCUSED, but with a skirt like that I wonder what she's hoping people focus on?

Jon: It was nice of her to rip off the fourth grade with the acrostic poem. At least she looks sassy and professional in that business suit. Though that also looks like it was ripped off a fourth grader.

Chris: At least she had the know-how to make an exciting poster. Unlike Kyle Olsen.

Jon: He's less exciting than Calista Flockhart at a buffet. 'No thanks, I already ate.' He could've at least smiled for his goddamn campaign poster, it looks like someone just told him he doesn't get to file his taxes this year.

Chris: The highlight of his day is probably choosing whether or not

he's going to have 1 per cent or skim milk with his All-Bran.

Jon: Well Julie Bogle wins the "most clever" award by making hers into a mock-Google site. Though I don't know if she'd like all the possible connotations. Is she going to sell our information to the U.S. government or block out certain aspects of her job for the Chinese?

Chris: I dunno, but that picture looks like it came up on a Google image search for "Ally McBeal + old lady necklaces."

Jon: I wonder what happens when I click the "I'm feeling lucky" button? Next.

See ELECTION SWAT, page 34



jack.
SAW ane

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too bad your stop arrived faster than your courage.

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Election SWAT cont'd from pg. 33

Chris: I think any idiot can see the brand recognition Teale Phelps Bondaroff is going for.

It's clearly "I'm the kind of dork that owns my own samurai sword."

Jon: I thought it was for that Quentin Tarrantino movie, you know, *Four Rooms*? Except in all four of the rooms,

there's a dork with a samurai sword.

Chris: Yeah, and I recognize that suit. He wore it 20 hours a day for the entire week of the campaign.

Jon: You'd think Jack Layton would be kind enough to buy him a new suit, or at least a sweet crumb-catcher. Next.

Chris: This Julie Labonte woman seems to be avoiding some of these pitfalls. She's not showing any leg and she doesn't live in a hovel.

Jon: No, it looks like she wants to be "West Wing" Barbie™. She must live in the Barbie Mansion with that plastic picture of hers.

Chris: That's not plastic Jon, that's Photoshop.

Jon: Next.

Chris: It looks like the su election budget ran out before they got to Kat Lord. A vote for her is a vote for sniffing markers, eating crayons and colouring inside the lines, mostly.

Jon: Maybe she'll be lobbying politicians with homemade cards put together with sparkly glue. Next.

Chris: So what do you think about Luke Valentine?

Jon: How can I vote for an A.C. who was booted as a C.A.? Hey Luke, how's the GPA?

Chris: Ouch Jon. Low blow.

Jon: They're all low blows, Chris. That's the point! Hey, look it's David Bowie! Or should I say Phil Hunter, Captain Androgeny.

Chris: Androgeny is sexy nowadays, I'm told. You know what's not sexy though, and never has been?

Jon: Gun fingers?

Chris: That too, but no, I was going to say Mike Selnes.

Jon: That's not fair, someone obviously surprised him with that camera. 'Holy shit? Am I supposed to be running in an election now?'

Chris: More like, 'Holy shit! Why am I wearing a blazer with my T-shirt? I look like an extra in *Animal House*!'

Jon: Well, at least he had the good sense to show up to the external forum. Unlike Jamie Lall and Tanmeet Singh, who apparently were busy getting their photos taken in front of a gradient.

Chris: Yeah, they should change their slogan to "Working together to lose an election."

Jon: It might as well be everyone's slogan. Pass me a poster, I'm going to the outhouse.



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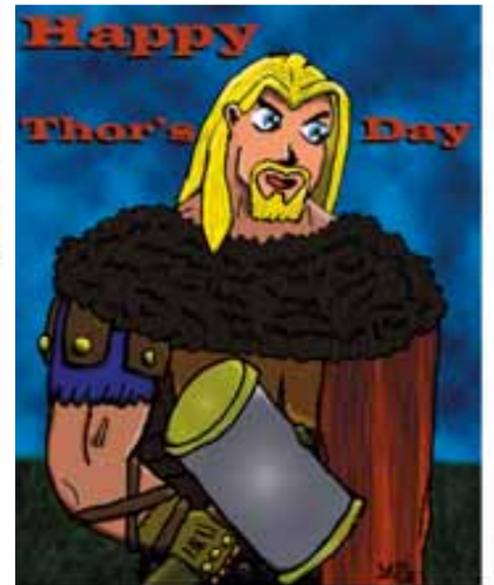
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MALICIOUS INTENT - Kyle Francis - "On Death Rays, pt. 4/6"



The Nordic Thirst: To Cure All That "Ales" You

Read it and Weep

by Travis Dandro



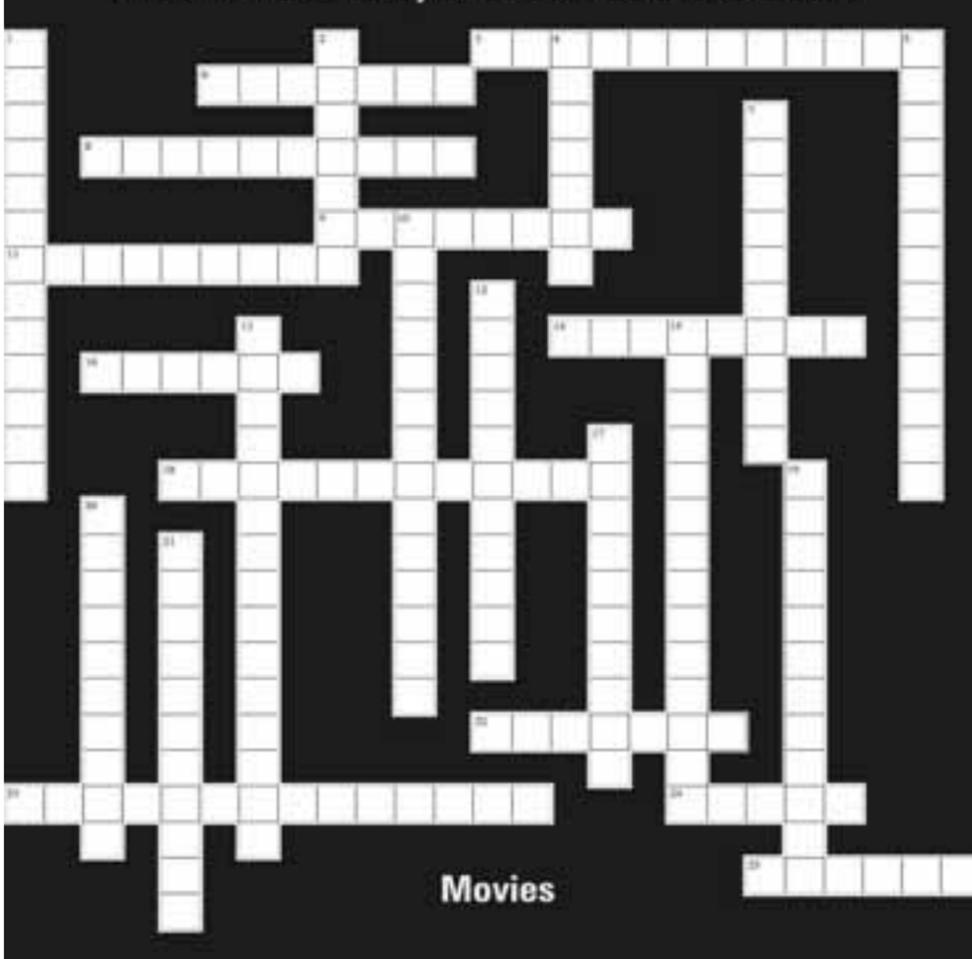
ANIMACAMPUS BY: JON GREGG



LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS



Procrastinations By Erla Low and Jeff Clemens



ACROSS

3. Harrison Ford's archaeologist character
6. Spoiler alert: The boat sunk!
8. "AIIIIIIrighty then!"
9. George Lucas' space epic
11. Crazy Scientist actor in Top Gun
14. The main crime family in "The Godfather"
16. Tony Jaa's english debut.
18. The title character wore a Guy Fawkes mask
22. After watching this you have 7 days
23. "Get these muthaf*ckin' snakes off this muthaf*ckin plane!"
24. Cartoon tale of an Ogre
25. Come stay at the Bates Motel

DOWN

1. Zombie movie in a mall
2. The ___ Falcon
4. "Yippee ki-yay motherf*cker"
5. Drinking syrup makes these state troopers antsy in their pantsy
7. Kevin Costner's post apocalyptic crapfest (in water)
10. Football movie with Pacino's famous "inches" speech
12. Rosebud sled
13. Comedy group responsible for Animal House and Van Wilder
15. Hobbit adventure!
17. Overrated actress famous for flashing her funbags in Swordfish
19. Mike Myers' spy
20. Drunken master who does his own stunts
21. Spike Lee movie about interracial relationships



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