

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

# gauntlet

VOLUME 48 | ISSUE NO. 29 | FEBRUARY 14 | 2008

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EXAMINING PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

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government next month



# Calendar of Curiosities

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## Students' Union Weekly Schedule of Events, February 25 - March 1, 2008

Monday, Feb 25

Tuesday, Feb 26

Wednesday, Feb 27

Thursday, Feb 28

Friday, Feb 29

Saturday, March 1



Stay tuned for the Students' Union  
**Provincial Election Awareness Week**  
February 26 - 29

## "HUGE PARTY"

cancer benefit  
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## photo to the editor

"Blues 101" by Ken Clarke (Nikon D70)

In celebration of Black History Month, Calgary blues guru Gary Martin sang, played and discussed his passion to a noon hour crowd at Speaker's Corner in MacEwan Hall last Thu. Gary will continue his History of the Blues performance on Thu., Feb. 14 and wrap it up on Thu., Feb. 28 with a full band.

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 (not exceeding 30 words) to room 319 MacEwan Student Centre or email [photo@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca](mailto:photo@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca)



## Provincial election madness news page 5

The news section looks at all things provincial. We examine Calgary-Varsity candidate stances on PSE. Liberal leader Kevin Taft sits down for a one-on-one and the leader of the newly formed Wildrose Alliance party gives you the lowdown on what could be a realistic alternative for the right. And much, much more.

## Rep'n the pop features page 13

Who knew the world of electoral reform and electoral boundaries was so fascinating? Read the features section to find out more about these two deliciously interesting subjects.

## You've been *very* naughty opinions page 17

This week, opinions dives into the provincial election and discusses the potential impact on students. But before that, we talk about BDSM! Grin & Barrett is back, with more leather than you can shake a phallic symbol at. The fun all starts on page 17.

## Playoff timez! sports page 22

All the winter teams made the playoffs! Whee! Read about it in sports!

## The not-politics section entertainment page 27

Nothing political in entertainment this week, just chats with the university's writer-in-residence, a band from Fort McMurray, theatre reviews and the annual Oscar preview! Shazam!

## The *Gauntlet* passes judgement ap page 33

You may have noticed the plethora of posters plastered on the wall that range from innocuous to absurdly, transcendently pointless. Turns out there's an SU election going on! We couldn't just let that go without the Exxtrem criticism you have come to know and love (hate?) in the AP section. Oh, who are we kidding? Nobody reads anything anyway.

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# The Rise and deKlein of the Progressive Conservative Party

When Don Getty took the reins of the Alberta Tories in 1985, he had big shoes to fill. The Progressive Conservative party had been in power since 1971 and had gained popularity under Peter Lougheed's leadership. Unfortunately, Getty's poor performance led to speculation as to the party's future while the Alberta Liberals grew stronger. Facing defeat in an upcoming election, Getty resigned and passed the torch to the charismatic ex-mayor of Calgary, Ralph Klein.

In response to the deficit that had built up from over-spending, Klein turned the budget around, slashing all kinds of social programs in an effort to bring Alberta out of the red. He gained wide popularity for penny-pinching and continued to gain stronger majority governments in Alberta, capturing 74 of 83 legislative assembly seats by 2001, dropping back to 62 in 2004. When it came time for Klein to retire, like Lougheed, he would leave big shoes to fill for long-shot candidate Ed Stelmach.

It wasn't long before Stelmach's leadership came into question. He was compared to Harry Strom—whose leadership of Social Credit led to the fall of the party's 36-year rule of Alberta in the 1971 election—when blogger Dave Cournoyer purchased edstelmach.ca and forwarded traffic to the Wikipedia entry on the former premier. A group calling themselves Albertans for Change has also recently criticized him in a series of print and television advertisements, arguing Stelmach lacks a plan for the future of Alberta. With a provincial election looming ahead, Albertans will find out whether this comparison is accurate or mere political mudslinging.

The premier has been accused of alienating Jim Dinning and his

supporters in Calgary. He recently lost support of current Calgary Montrose MLA Hung Pham due to what Pham described as poor decisions and dishonorable actions on the part of party leadership. In the 2007 byelection, Klein's Calgary Elbow riding was lost to Liberal Craig Cheffins, striking a crippling blow to the party's ability to hold seats in conservative country. Furthering the lack of confidence in Stelmach's leadership is evidenced by current finance minister Lyle Oberg's announcement he would not seek re-election in the upcoming election, following a series of conflicts with the party. Oberg, who ran for party leadership against Stelmach and Dinning, has held sev-

eral cabinet posts and has been an MLA since 1993.

This provincial election will see a new party arrive onto the political scene. The Wildrose party and the Alberta Alliance have amalgamated to form the Wildrose Alliance, whose right-wing stance may be enough to find their way into the legislative assembly. With 53 candidates running in the provincial election, the Wildrose Alliance stands to gain the support of disaffected voters who traditionally support the Tories. This could mean voters will either elect the fringe party to several seats or split the conservative vote enough to get Liberals and New Democrats more representation.

Stelmach is in a very unfortunate

position and it is unfair to blame the folly of the Conservatives solely on his leadership. Stelmach wasn't given an easy task when he took over the party. In Klein's desperate effort to pay down Alberta's \$23 billion debt, he made cuts everywhere he could while keeping oil royalties low to encourage growth of the industry. Education and health care suffered massive hits in funding as a result, and Alberta has been left with crippled hospitals and a government unwilling to do anything about rising tuition. While Klein was making cuts to health care, billions of dollars in oil royalties went uncollected. This means billions of dollars could have been funnelled into social programs or remained in the hands of taxpayers rather than lining the pockets of oil companies. When it came time to up royalties, Stelmach came under fire from wealthy Conservative voters who feared increasing the royalties would drive industry out of Alberta and cause a substantial slump in the economy. After Klein finished pillaging social welfare and achieved his goal of paying Alberta's debt, he passed out prosperity cheques to Albertans as if it would make up for the lack of social infrastructure, and promptly announced his retirement.

If Stelmach wants to avoid becoming the next Harry Strom, he's going to have to find a way to regain confidence in his leadership. The loss of longtime and well-supported party members isn't going to bode well for him in an election that promises to split the right-wing vote. In addition to big shoes, Klein left a big mess and Stelmach is going to have to step it up if he's to stop the decline and eventual fall of the PC dynasty.

**Christian Loudon**  
Production Editor

## Focus on *this* election, please!

As the upcoming Alberta provincial election draws near, election signs are being raised and politicians are lobbying for support. It's at the top of everyone's list of conversation topics given the waning support for the Progressive Conservative Party and because this is an election that will directly affect our lives, especially those of us who attend post-secondary classes. Unfortunately, even when this election is happening so close to home, many only seem to be interested in the latest standings in the American

presidential primaries.

Granted, the provincial election doesn't have a black guy forerunner or a crazy white lady who is married to a former premier. The party who takes leadership of the Alberta provincial government does, however, have control of post-secondary education funding and runs the richest province in Canada.

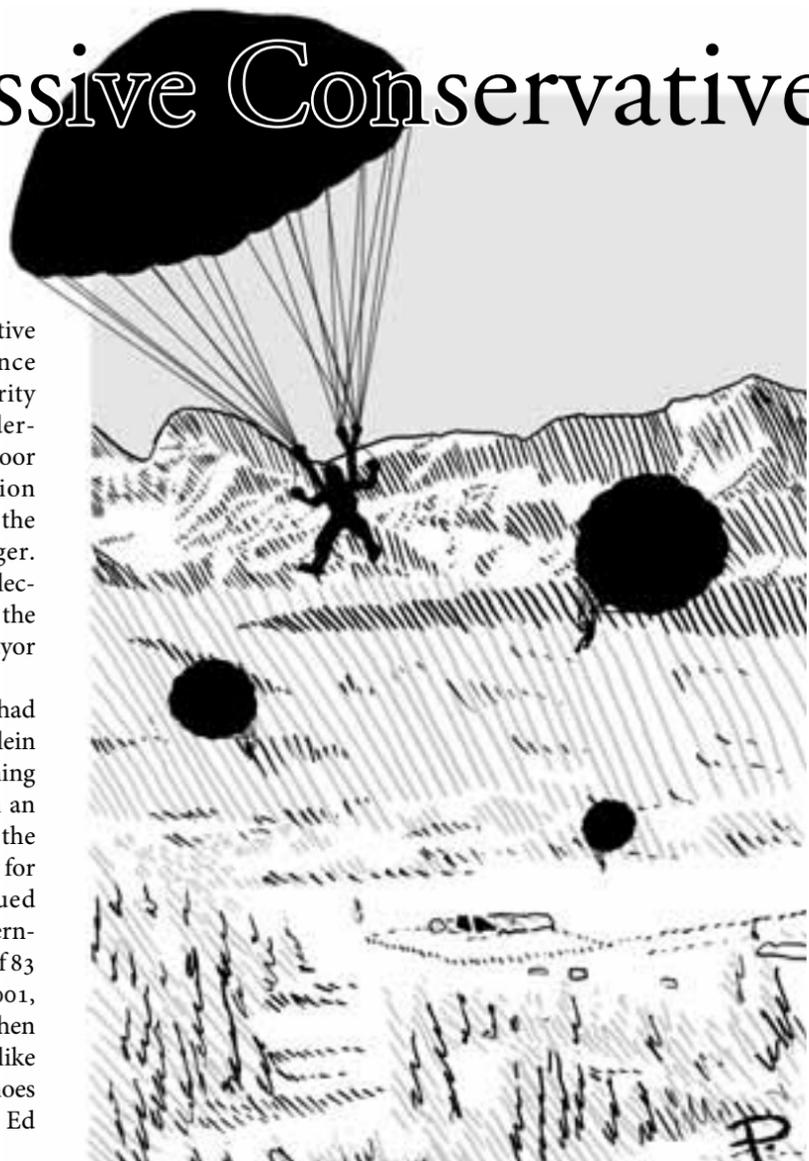
Alberta elections always have the connotation of being pre-determined, as the province has always had a decidedly blue tinge

in any political spectrum map. With the controversy surrounding Ed Stelmach's work as premier and the various loose ends he was left with—along with the amalgamation of the Wildrose and Alberta Alliance parties into the Wildrose Alliance Party offering a new, more right-wing alternative for Albertans—plus the anger about the Royalty Reviews, now is a time that, more than ever, a non-Conservative vote can matter. While we may not be at the point where the Conservative Party would lose

power of the province completely, the right-wing vote will likely be split and give more opportunity for alternative parties to take a stronger hold.

The American election may seem more revolutionary and exciting, but paying attention to the government that arguably affects students the most can pay off in the end, especially at a time where every vote does count.

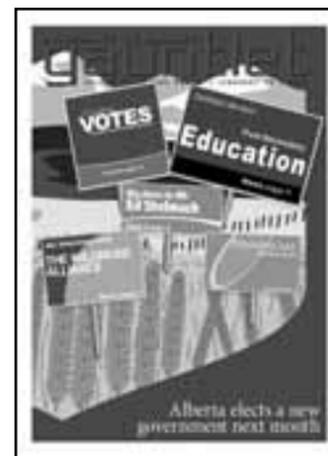
**Amanda Hu**  
Sports Editor



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 go out and vote for chrissakes-based ink. We urge you to recycle/spoon with the Gauntlet.

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

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design by Geoff MacIntosh



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# Prioritizing post-secondary education

## Talking school with candidates from the university's riding

### post-secondary

Cam Cotton-O'Brien  
TLF Editor

Though not quite as effective as a carefully lobbed Molotov, students will have the chance to exercise their political dissidence and affect the quality of their education.

Perhaps the most important issue facing students when Alberta hits the polls Mon., Mar. 3 is financial accessibility of education. The cost of living and tuition are only getting higher. Not only does this make getting an education extremely difficult for some individuals, but it means a lot of students are spending valuable study time working.

Calgary-Varsity Progressive Conservative candidate Jennifer Diakiw pointed to the government's rolled back tuition to 2004-05 levels and then tied it to inflation, capping the maximum amount universities can raise tuition each year. While this helped reign in the problem a bit, there is concern that it did not go far enough. Indeed, the provincial New Democratic Party proposes to lower tuition.

"We'd start by reducing tuition fees to their 1999-2000 level and fund a tuition freeze thereafter," said Calgary-Varsity NDP candidate Tim Stock-Bateman.

The Alberta Liberal party, too, has a plan. They are committed to restoring the legislature's control of tuition, thereby making the issue more accountable to the people of Alberta.

Calgary-Varsity incumbent Harry Chase explained the Liberal plan for advanced education involves the establishment of a post-secondary endowment fund from oil and gas revenues. It is estimated that this fund of up to \$15 billion could generate \$770 million extra per year to fund post-secondary education. An additional endowment of \$500 million is proposed for the arts, humanities and social sciences.

"What these funds do is provide predictability and sustainability for the institutions," said Chase.

Calgary-Varsity Alberta Greens candidate Dr. Sean Maw noted universities face a tremendous budgeting challenge, with a restricted

income and unrestricted expenses. In order to create the best educational institution possible they need to spend a lot of money. Tuition is a necessary aspect of their financing. If they are not able to get money from government, it either has to come from students or other program funds. In order to allow Albertan universities and colleges to operate at a high level, the Alberta Greens would like implement a sustainable fiscal policy.

"Universities need better and more predictable core funding," said Maw. "If their utilities go up, they know the provincial government can cover that."

In addition to providing more funding for universities, it's also important that the province contributes to student finances, explained Students' Union vice-president external Mike Selnes.

"This would include lower interest rates on loans, increasing the number of scholarships and bursaries, and making more funds available to students," said Selnes.

Stock-Bateman, Maw and Chase all noted it was important to aid student finances to make students less reliable on loans. They also supported the lowering of interest rates on loans, should they be required.

The other obvious issue is the cost of housing, an astronomical burden for many students. The Liberals propose to reduce or eliminate the property taxes for on-campus residence with the hope that it would encourage further development. The NDP also look to reduce the costs associated with housing by instituting rent controls and limiting the number of apartments being turned into condos. Alberta Greens, too, would place a focus on affordable housing. The Conservative party, during its recent tenure in power, had begun looking at an affordable housing option that was developed by the SU this past fall.

"They have a proposal for a residence that would not be on campus, that would be on a transportation corridor," said Conservative Diakiw.

The residence would provide affordable housing for students at the U of C, Mount Royal College and SAIT. Selnes noted the previous government had agreed to look at it and that the SU would pursue the



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

### Green candidate Maw wants to see more co-op education.

project with whichever government is in power a month from now.

The Alberta Greens expressed some very interesting ideas for making education more affordable.

"Co-op education gives you a better education and you leave with less debt," said Maw. "The Alberta government could provide more incentive for co-op [programs], tax incentives to companies for taking co-op students. Certainly some [faculties] are easier to do it than others, but the University of Waterloo shows that it can be done across the board."

Diakiw pointed out that under the Conservative government, PSE received around \$400 million.

"That is a pretty solid investment," said Diakiw. "Post-secondary education is very important. That is what we saw when the Premier was at the university the other day with the \$97 million announcement."

Others did not see the

Conservatives' gesture as sufficient.

"It was good, but it doesn't address financial sustainability," said Maw. "It was a gift and a band-aid. Ask yourself, why does the whole province get nothing for a year and then the week before the writ is dropped, the Conservatives spend money like drunken sailors?"

Some of this money was marked for infrastructure costs—in faculty buildings—but it doesn't come close to the amount needed to maintain other areas.

"The university is into its 41st year of age," said Chase. "It's into its mid-life crisis and that is felt most in the dormitories."

Selnes noted the deferred maintenance on residence buildings is currently one of the chief concerns of the SU.

Stock-Bateman explained the NDP is concerned about facilitating students' ability to focus on their studies instead of forcing them to spend all

their time working and stressing out about financial matters.

"It's no different than sending elementary school students to school without having eaten breakfast," he said. "We need to create environments in which students can excel."

Chase noted that the Liberal party is also very concerned about this.

"They should be able to have the exclusivity of concentrating on their studies instead of working three or four jobs," said Chase.

Diakiw noted the Conservative party, through the Access to the Future Fund, was encouraging private donors to give to universities. She mentioned that she was hopeful that the government would be able to begin matching donations now instead of waiting a few years to accumulate the money in the fund to do so. When asked about the fact that most private donations go to engineering and business, she was uneasy with the suggestion that other faculties specifically be compensated by the government.

"I don't think that the government wants to get into a situation where it is dictating to the university where it should spend its money," said Diakiw.

Other candidates were more eager to suggest that there should be compensation for the uneven distribution of private money.

"Every faculty has the right to the same minimum standards of education," said Maw. "If some faculties can attract more funding, good for them, but that should not be at the expense of minimum standards being met in all faculties."

Another important issue raised was the ability of students to vote in the coming election. The polling station that was in MacEwan Student Centre last election will no longer be there. Instead, the on-campus voting station will be at the student residence. There is concern, as well, about the requirement that students vote where they receive their bills.

"The way it's set up, it decreases the MLA's responsibility to the students in the riding," said Stock-Bateman. "If students could vote *en masse*, it would be way easier to control things like tuition increases. The voice of the students matter and you should have the ability to vote where you spend your time."

### campus quips

### Who are you going to vote for in the upcoming provincial election and why?



"I need to take a look at the updated platforms of each party before I finalize my opinion."  
— Mike Newbert, fourth-year science



"I don't think I'm voting, mostly because I haven't really been following the election."  
— Kelsey Mah, first-year business



"I'm not voting for Stelmach because that whispering voice in the ad really scares me."  
— Dave Farrell, fourth-year english



"Probably Liberal...mostly because Stelmach is a complete knob."  
— Adam Leclair, fourth-year primatology

# Party plans to fight housing costs

## affordable housing

Josh Goard-Baker  
Gauntlet News

Those on the streets are increasingly finding themselves unable to pay for the rising costs of life in Canada's wealthiest province.

With the coffers overflowing, the time for change seems at hand, with a major reinvestment of Alberta's fortunes into the lives of its impoverished residents and an aversion of what the Alberta Liberals, New Democratic Party and Greens all believe is a crisis. All three parties agree there must be an increase in the amount of affordable housing available for low-income Albertans.

In the eyes of NDP candidate Julie Hrdlicka, we are experiencing a crisis, one that needs major government involvement in order to solve.

"People say you're blowing it out of proportion," said Hrdlicka. "There's no blowing out of proportion. This is a crisis, these are peoples' lives. In Alberta, we have the highest rates of working people accessing the food bank. People working every single day, trying to pay for rent, trying to support their families, but still having to access the food bank. These people are working so hard, but they still can't put food on the table."

Solving this problem includes implementing rent guidelines, according to Hrdlicka. Things such as rent controls would limit the amount rent could be increased by a maximum of seven to eight per cent once a year. The plan would also include building more housing units and putting a hold on condo conversions across Alberta.

"Condo conversions are eating up the rental market for those who can't afford wealthier places to live," said Hrdlicka.

The NDP plan would also change the province's treatment of homeless individu-



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet

Fighting the rising costs in housing requires different approaches, depending on who you talk to.

als. Hrdlicka explained taxpayers are footing the bill to care for the homeless at a price tag of \$30,000 to \$40,000 per individual, but the costs of getting these individuals off the streets and housing them in affordable units are "much less."

Alberta Green Party leader George Read explained implementing a model such as those of successful cities like Montreal and Vancouver is the best way to solve the problem. Read believes the government needs to option out its affordable housing units, thus alleviating itself of a large portion of the economic responsibilities.

"Partnering with non-profit groups like housing cooperatives or poverty groups, to have them sustain or maintain those housing options [is necessary]," said Read. "As a result, they don't have the ability to sell things off because it is managed by someone and they don't have the long-term infrastructure costs because someone is managing the property."

In the end, Read noted he believes the government has created the problem.

However, according to Calgary-Varsity Progressive Conservative candidate Jennifer Diakiw, the government has already taken steps in the right direction in order to

rectify the problem of affordable housing.

"It is absolutely a priority for this government," said Diakiw. "The premier has made building communities a priority. An affordable place to live is key to that. Affordable housing is one of those extraordinarily complex issues. Homelessness also comes into that and our government has made a commitment to end homelessness in the next 10 years."

The PC government has allocated \$285 million in new funding, that will be going towards housing. Diakiw explained she believes rent controls don't present a viable option as a solution to the problem going forward. She stated that all the studies done show rent controls don't increase quality of housing or available supply.

"[Rent controls] tend to discourage investment in new construction and the maintenance of the existing units," said Diakiw. "That was a recommendation that was not accepted from the affordable housing taskforce."

Under the Stelmach government legislation has been implemented limiting rent increases to once per year, according to Diakiw. Further, a landlord must give one year's notice before they can convert a rental property into a condo.

However, Alberta Liberal Calgary-Varsity

incumbent Harry Chase believes that without a rent cap, we will experience much more of what he terms "economic evictions."

"Supposedly the government was going to require a one-year notice on condo conversions," said Chase. "But instead, people just jacked up the rent to such a point where people were forced out: economic evictions."

Chase noted that in order to stabilize the market the government must implement a two-year moratorium on all condo conversions, on top of instigating rent caps at 10-12 per cent, once a year. This two-year period of stability would provide people the ability to get out from under the rental accommodation, in essence, allowing those individuals the time to save money for a down payment on a mortgage, he explained. Chase also stated changes to the municipal acts also need to be implemented.

"[We need] to make it easier for municipalities to have approved fire code safe secondary suites, sometimes referred to as grandfather suites," he said. "The government—federal and provincial—should be providing land for affordable housing and developments."

All of these options would help recovery from what Chase terms "the crisis situation" Alberta is currently experiencing.

## MP Prentice gets his talk on at the university

Chris Pedersen  
Gauntlet News

Federal Conservative Minister of Industry Jim Prentice spoke to students, lawyers and the public at the University of Calgary Fri., Feb. 8. He focused on recent activities in government concerning greenhouse gas emissions.

"[Greenhouse gas emissions] are the most important issue of our time," said Prentice.

Prentice spoke about his background and his experiences as a law student at the U of C. He then moved on to describe how the government set up a framework to deal with reducing emissions, and explained the exact plan that the government is putting in place to control emissions.

"Canada [now] has a regulatory framework for emissions," he said. "No other country has this. [The government] had to consider changes in technology. The only way to change emissions

is with step changes in technology, for example the capture and storage of carbon. It is a complete overhaul of the system to reduce emissions."

Prentice then explained to the audience the numbers involved with the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

"[There will be] 18 per cent reduction by 2010 and two per cent reduction every year until 2020," said Prentice. "There will be 150 megatons of reduction by 2020. Success in global problems must start at the local level."

Prentice addressed the issue of balancing the environment with the economy of Canada. He also commented on balancing input from the public and business.

"It is important to talk with those concerned," he said. "The task involves balancing obligations to the world to secure a country's economic future."

Prentice explained that after 2020, a two per cent reduction will

occur every year, with a targeted 60 per cent reduction by 2050. The step changes in technology

are part of a plan called *Turning the Corner*.

Prentice quickly mentioned

the further development of wind technology and briefly touched on nuclear energy.

Alberta's **NDP** On your side.

Tim Stock-Bateman is committed to raising the level of debate to find better solutions on the:

- Challenge of affordable housing for students, lower income and marginalized Albertans
- Opportunity to develop innovative and green energy solutions that can sustain Alberta's bright future
- Need for a health system that looks after patients and the medical professionals that deliver the care

**Tim Stock-Bateman**  
For Calgary-Varsity

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# Strengthening the right

## Leader interview

Andrew Barbero  
Gauntlet News

Paul Hinman navigated what few political figures can; the merging of two parties.

For an MLA and leader of the recently fused Wildrose and Alberta Alliance parties—now known as the Wildrose Alliance Party—the move was easily achieved.

“We said ‘united, we’re stronger; divided we’re weak, we’ll fail,’” said Hinman from the campaign trail. “So we worked very hard as an executive in order to merge these parties.”

Both the Wildrose and Alberta Alliance, the latter for which Hinman served as leader, occupy the same territory of populism and a guiding principle of small government. In 2004, Hinman became the first member of the Alberta Alliance to be elected—the first independent elected to the legislature since 1986.

The Wildrose Alliance purports a five-point plan for Alberta focusing on government reform, tax relief, community initiatives, health care and education.

For the Wildrose Alliance, many of the issues boil down to one factor.

“Albertans have been overtaxed,” said Hinman. “Whenever you have a government with surplus dollars that means they’re taking in more than they need. This leads to Albertans slipping in quality of life.”

Beyond taxation, the Wildrose Alliance



John McDonald/the Gauntlet

Wildrose and Alliance have traditionally had their base of support in the country.

would hope to confront Ottawa more openly, a quality they feel lacking in the current conservative government.

“We need to stand up for Alberta,” said Hinman. “Constitutionally there are many areas that are provincial jurisdictions and we should be looking after those areas.”

Those concerns include pension plans, immigration and equalization payments. Hinman pointed to Quebec as an ideal

example of how Alberta should be treated by the federal government. While threatening a hard-line stance with Ottawa, Alberta separatism is not an official policy of the Wildrose Alliance.

As far as post-secondary education, the three-week-old party has no official plans. However, Hinman stressed the importance of education.

“We have wonderful people here in Alberta,

it’s our best resource, but if you don’t develop them or educate them, we don’t get our full value or reach our potential,” he said.

Instead of providing additional funding to universities, Hinman instead suggested more innovative tax structures that would allow alumni and other donors to contribute ‘pre-tax’ dollars to schools. He also suggested a graduated taxation system that would allow students to repay student loans over the course of a lifetime through a slight percentage increase in their individual taxes.

“If we can do things and not have government involved, were more efficient, we’re more effective and more productive,” he said. “When government gets involved, it’s just a black hole where you put in a dollar and hope to get out fifty cents or ten cents. But if the funding is going directly from alumni right to universities, it would be far more effective than the government taxing individuals and then redirecting the money.”

From these humble beginnings of grassroots politics and door-to-door campaigning, the party has set small and achievable goals.

“We are working hard to reach official party status,” he said. “To get four or more members elected would really send a message to Stelmach that he’s got to re-examine the conservative side of things, and not just be a tax-and-spend government where they try to buy the votes with the people’s own money.”

As of press time, the party had candidates in 53 of the 83 ridings, with 20 candidates running in Calgary.

## Parties promise product for position

Jonathan Davies  
Gauntlet News

With the provincial election just around the corner, Albertan political parties are in full campaigning mode, constantly outdoing each other and touting the best and brightest of futures under their rule.

Integral to the campaign platform are election promises and they come on hard and fast. But what are they really worth and how does that shape the political environment we live in?

“There seems to be a promise a day from everybody,” said University of Calgary professor Dr. David Taras. “It’s almost a war of promises.”

It’s not a new phenomenon, as long as politics have been around, there have been broken promises. This affects people’s views of politicians and politics, and subsequently their belief in the political system, explained Taras.

Alberta has the lowest voter turnout in Canada for provincial elections, according to the Canadian Council on Social Development and this is closely linked to election outcome.

“It’s a cynical electorate to say the least,” said Taras.

One suggestion for the poor statistic is that Stelmach’s Progressive Conservative party is the largest, wealthiest and most powerful force that have dominated provincial poli-

tics since Peter Lougheed came into power in 1971. Neither the Liberals nor New Democrats have been able to successfully contend in an election since.

“Alberta’s political system is unique in Canada, because the forces of politics generally don’t apply,” explained Taras. “When the outcome is written in stone, it is hard to get [voters] motivated. To make people feel their votes count.”

But a change could be in the air. Albertans are concerned over a range of issues including royalties, child-care, environmental protection and health care. Last week, the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons called into question Stelmach’s plan to train new doctors and nurses to ease the province’s health care crisis while his proposal to provide more daycare spots has been deemed inadequate by mothers.

More recently, rural Albertans are showing a swing away from the Conservatives, uneasy about what the future will bring to their communities, explained Taras.

“Rural Alberta has been the bedrock of the Conservative government” he said. “Forty-three of the 82 seats in cabinet are located outside Edmonton and Calgary.

Taras called it the Ghostbuster question: “who you gonna call?” It’s a sign that voters may be wising up to the campaign promises, he explained.

“Are these real solutions, are they just throwing money at the problem?” he said.

The other major event in the lead-up to this election has been an aggressive advertising campaign by the Alberta Federation of Labour, accusing the Progressive Conservatives of having no realistic plan.

“Can Albertans expect progress—

don’t plan on it,” states one of their ads.

“The effects [of these ads] are devastating,” said Taras. “It has changed the architecture a bit now in the Alberta contest.”

Politicians don’t go out intending to break a promise, noted Taras. There’s clearly more to it than simple lying. Election promises aren’t always economically feasible, especially when made without enough research.

“Premier Klein used to make up policies on a whim and then cabinet ministers would find out later,” recalled Taras.

It’s a dangerous game to play in politics, but Taras admits Klein always managed to land in the political middle. Prime Minister Stephen Harper used another strategy.

“He would present just five promises and make voters do the

checklist,” said Taras. “It’s a good strategy psychologically. It gives voters something they can grasp.”

The credibility of the politician may serve as a good indicator, but none in this election have a track record. Both Stelmach and Taft are relatively new to the scene. By all accounts, Stelmach seems to be genuine about his promised commitments to the province.

Furthermore, it is easy to lose sight of the reality that politicians have many pressures on them. Budgets are limited and interests conflicting.

“This is an austere time with a lot of cutbacks. There’s not much money for planning for a population of four million people,” said Taras.

Perhaps Albertans have reason to call these promises into question after all

“The voters will decide,” said Taras.

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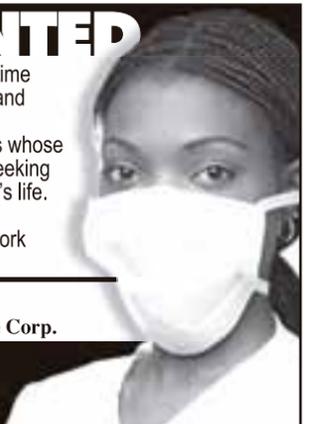
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# Taft argues why it could be time

## Liberal leader talks politics

### leader interview

Andrew Barbero  
Gauntlet News

**Gauntlet:** What policy decisions have been forwarded this time around to help put the Liberals out in front of the Conservatives?

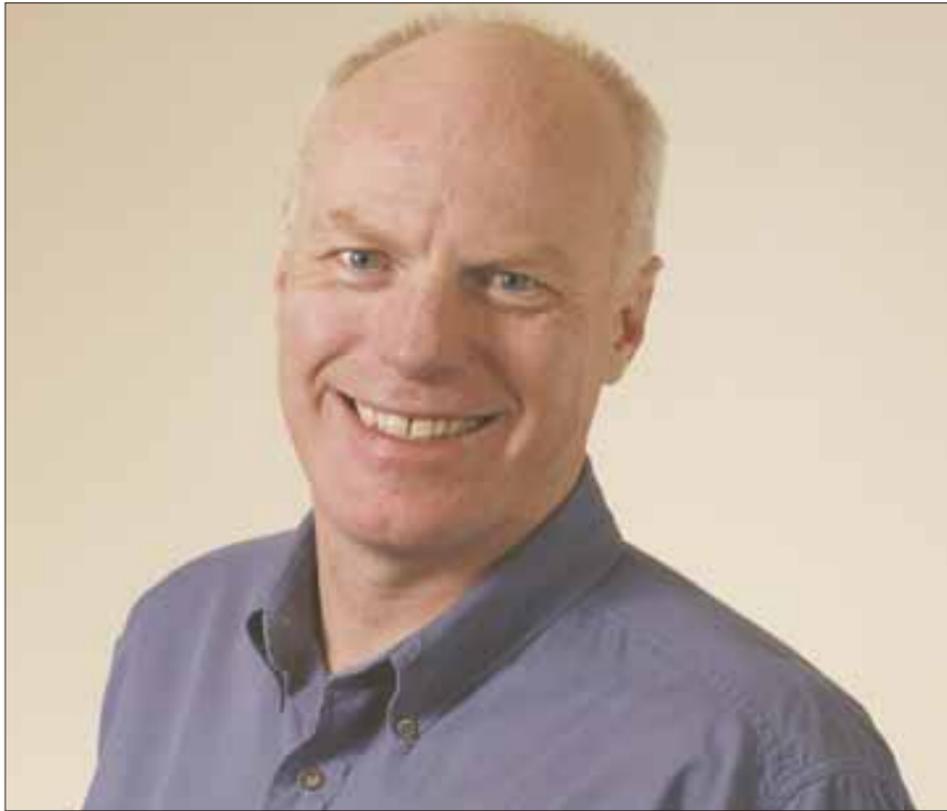
**Kevin Taft:** We're actually the first party with a comprehensive platform out there. It covers everything from affordable housing issues to environmental issues, with a particular focus on post-secondary education. One of our fundamental policies is to take a portion of royalties—30 per cent—and use some of the royalties to build up the Heritage Fund. Use another portion to build up a huge endowment for post-secondary education. A fund that could hit \$10 billion, and then fifteen and then \$20 billion.

**G:** I've also read about some smaller, more specific plans, including student housing tax cuts?

**T:** Yes. One of the things that contribute to student housing costs is that residences pay municipal taxes, even though they're run by universities. Our view is that they should be exempt from having to pay and that savings should be passed on to students. The challenges we hear about from students are tuition costs, housing costs, accessibility and quality, and we need to address all of those.

**G:** You've also talked about Mount Royal "University?"

**T:** Mount Royal College is within two steps of becoming a university. They need to upgrade their library, they need to make some other adjustments, but having a second university in Calgary is important. It would relieve some



courtesy Alberta Liberals

Taft hopes to use royalties to put over \$10 million towards a PSE fund.

of the pressure on the U of C. It would give another option to students and would be a step forward for this city and the province.

**G:** The big banner discussion about this election has been 37 years of Conservative government. One third of voters in this province say they are undecided. At the same time, this is a province that is very "small c" conservative. How does the Liberal party of Alberta speak to those voters and sway them to their side?

**T:** In 2004, our campaign drew virtually 30

per cent of voters. We need to get that up into the 43-44 per cent to form a government, and we think we can. How do we do that? We need great local candidates. We also need to demonstrate a fresh energy. Any political party that governs for 37 years is going to get caught up in its internal politics. Everyone's starting to say, "just give them a time-out and let's try somebody new." We're doing everything we can to draw people towards the Alberta Liberals.

**G:** You present a very positive alternative for a lot of dissatisfied conservatives, but there's

also another very viable party, the Alberta New Democrats, that occupy the same side of the spectrum. Would there be any consideration to working together with the New Democrats to form a new government?

**T:** The New Democrats and the Liberals occupy somewhat different territory. If it comes to a minority situation we'll size up the options at that time. The New Democrats, in the last year almost, have made a particular point of attacking us, over and over and over again. And they've made it pretty hard to work with them. It's hard to cozy up to a porcupine.

**G:** If a new government does find its way in, there's going to be 37 years of Conservative bureaucracy that's been entrenched there. How do you combat that bureaucracy that's been there forever, those deputy ministers that are so entrenched in those positions?

**T:** Most of Alberta's public servants are outstanding. At the very senior level, the deputy minister level, that's where positions have become more political and there would be a certain amount of housecleaning there. Everybody expects that at those very top levels.

**G:** Are you looking forward to a close election?

**T:** I think it will be a close election and, for the first time in many years, it's genuinely unpredictable. We could see, and I think right now we will see some dramatic shifts. But listen, the Tories have millions of dollars. They've got their hands on the levers of power. They remain the team to beat.

**G:** Depending on the results of this election, might this be your last election as Alberta Liberal leader?

**T:** I plan to be leading this party for years to come.

## Getting your vote on: U.S. edition

Todd Andre  
Gauntlet News

Everyone from political pundits to apathetic punks sat at the Rosza Centre to discuss the biggest one-day battle for presidential candidacy in United States history Tue., Feb. 6. The University of Calgary's Institute for United States Policy Research assembled panelists from student media and faculty to discuss the issues surrounding "Super Tuesday," a day in which 24 states south of the border chose their Democratic or Republican presidential candidates.

The candidates that win the primary elections get the right to represent their parties in the U.S. presidential election on Nov. 4, 2008. The race between Democratic candidates Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton was in a dead heat, while the Republican candidacy had an air of inevitability with John McCain sitting comfortably on top of rivals Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee.

Super Tuesday was the biggest event during the presidential primaries the U.S. has ever seen,

both in price and size. Before the primaries are over, both parties will have spent a total of approximately \$1 billion on their campaigns. This number could swell to as much as \$3 billion by the time the presidential campaign is finished.

"It's not that different from other years," said IUSPR director Dr. Stephen Randall. "Super Tuesday has always been a major event. This year, there's been a real struggle with some of the states who want to go early—so that their vote counts. It's trying to get into the limelight to some extent."

The excess of states in this year's Lolapalooza of primaries is the result of states trying to avoid going last. The final few presidential primaries are often meaningless formalities because the candidates have already won the necessary amount of delegates to claim the nomination, explained Randall.

Democratic presidential nominees need to win 2,025 delegates determined by the proportion of the vote received in each state. Republican nominees aim for 1,191 delegates in a first-past-the-post, winner-takes-all system; in the Republican system,

if you win the state, you win all of its delegates.

The panel tried to tackle some of the issues that will decide which two candidates will vie for the leadership of the free world. IUSPR representative Dr. Frank Towers spoke first in an ambitious attempt to explain all of the complexities of the primary system. Unfortunately, 10 years might not have been enough time to satisfy this Herculean task and he had only 10 minutes. The next speaker was U of C history professor Elizabeth Jameson who outlined the domestic policy of each candidate on both the Democratic and Republican side. CJSW's Evan Wilson gave a colourful speech on the volatility of the elections so far, while at the same time comically pointing out the media's error-prone prognostications. *Gauntlet* features editor Jon Roe also spoke on whether or not electronic politics actually makes a difference on the end result of elections.

With Super Tuesday finished, candidates still have a long way to go. On the Republican side, McCain is the winner but the Democratic race will come down to the wire.



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet

Twenty-four states voted in Super "Duper" Tuesday.

"By my count, I don't see how either of the [Democratic] candidates can win this now mathematically before the convention [Aug. 25-28]," said Randall. "The democratic race will likely go to the convention for resolution, but on the Republican side, it's

clear McCain is in the lead now."

Whoever wins the Democratic nomination, count on the outlandish personalities and shameless melodrama to continue to entertain throughout primary season.

"We got an interesting time coming," said Randall.

# Oil's well that ends well...

## o i l s a n d s

Jordyn Marcellus  
Gauntlet News

The Albertan economy, like your car, is run on oil. Since the beginning of Alberta's long love affair with the substance, from the great oil strike with Leduc No. 1 oil well to the current mining operations in Fort McMurray, the engine of the Alberta economy has been lubricated with the black sticky stuff. Many young men and women move up north to find employment in the patch, where companies like Suncor Energy and Syncrude Canada Ltd. are some of the largest employers in the region.

One of the issues at stake in this election—a sentiment echoed by all candidates—is the environment. While each candidate states there need to be steps taken to help with the environment, each party has a significantly different idea of just what is necessary in regard to the oilsands.

"We've already taken some steps that are actually working," said Calgary-Varsity Progressive Conservative candidate Jennifer Diakiw. "In our climate change strategy, all large industrial emitters are supposed to reduce their emission intensity by 12 per cent. The reduction of emissions is one of the important pieces that will impact the oilsands."

While the steps made by the Conservatives have been baby steps in the right direction, Calgary-Varsity NDP candidate Tim Stock-Bateman believes impacts extend beyond the air quality that the current government is focusing on.

"What's on the minds of Albertans are these grave concerns about the clear environmental impact we know we're having in the oilsands, as well as the environmental impact we don't know is happening," explained Stock-Bateman. "We really don't know [about] the long-term impacts that will happen in the future."

Alberta Liberal MLA Harry Chase, the incumbent in the Calgary-Varsity race and the opposition critic for infrastructure in the legislature, strongly disagreed with Diakiw's sentiment. His party, the opposition in the house, have long criticized the government for their environmental shortfalls.

"The reality of [the PC platform] is short-term gain and long-term pain," said Chase. "Varying people of differing viewpoints have pointed this out—Preston Manning has made the point, Peter Lougheed has made the point several times. These are people who you wouldn't consider left-leaning at all. The pace cannot be maintained."

Calgary-Varsity Green Party candidate Sean Maw also criticized the government over their oilsands

policy, specifically pointing out the laissez-faire attitude towards getting the oil out of the ground.

"The Conservatives seem to act like if they don't use up the oil in a few years, it's not going to be there," explained Maw. "It's insane, insane development. It's in everyone's best interest that until there's a thoughtful and sustainable plan in place, there would be no new development. We're not suggesting shutting down the oilsands, but we don't believe there should be any more development without a comprehensive [environmental] plan in place."

Chase reinforced the concept of just how development-hungry the Albertan government is by referencing a statement made by his predecessor, former PC MLA Murray Smith.

"Alberta is for sale or rent," said Chase. "My predecessor, Murray Smith, went down to Texas and said 'come on up, we're giving it away' and the attitude still predominates [in the legislature]."

The media has only recently discussed the impact of the oilsands on the water supply and quality in regard to Athabasca River Basin, which quenches the thirst of the oilsands machine. With pieces in Alberta views magazine and a report on Fort Chipewyan on CBC's *The National*, the issue of water supply has slowly entered into the forefront of the debate on the oilsands.

"We're dealing with a type of oil extraction that uses a tremendous amount of water," explained Stock-Bateman. "We use this water to pull oil out of the earth [and it] costs Albertans more and more. We're doing damage to, in and around the area where the water is coming from. We don't know what the long-term impacts are on the ecosystem."

The process of reclaiming oil involves filling the holes created in the mining process with top soil and then bringing in domestic vegetation and animals. Chase was critical of the implementation, saying that while admirable, these companies have yet to make enough of an effort.

"The only example of reclamation is a little patch of reclaimed land with ornamental buffalo roaming around on it," said Chase. "That says 'yes we can reclaim,' but there's no wide-scale effort to reclaim the mined-out land. To borrow a golf term, we need to replace our divot. All we have right now is holes."

With all these problems, Maw wonders why the other parties aren't taking more proactive steps in dealing with the environmental impact of the oilsands.

"Why do we have to be reactive?" asked Maw. "That's what makes the Greens different; we want to be proactive when it comes to environmental policy."

Whereas the other policies talk about slowing development, Diakiw argued the PC party is unique



John McDonald/the Gauntlet

As the price of oil rises, mining the tarsands is becoming more popular than drilling for oil.

in its belief that slowing down development would be disastrous for the economy and, instead, working on balancing the gro-

wth with environmental impacts.

"The oilsands are one of the engines of our economy," said Diakiw. "The government's focus

is on balanced growth, we want to manage the environmental impact and cap the emissions, but we don't want to slow the growth."



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# Looking at rails, roads and regulators

## infrastructure

Chris Pedersen  
Gauntlet News

Head-on collisions along the single lane highways, the eradication of crime from the streets and the future of infrastructure are important topics in the Province of Alberta. The four major parties in the Mar. 3 election are the Alberta Liberal Party, Progressive Conservative Party, The Green Party of Alberta and the Alberta New Democratic Party. All have ideas to improve the infrastructure of Alberta.

The state of transportation systems is a major topic in Alberta. The parties intend to improve transportation systems to benefit the people of Alberta.

Green Party leader George Read believes that a transportation plan and rail system is the future of Alberta.

"[Alberta] must integrate a province-wide rail system," explained Read. "The cost of rail is only 20 per cent the cost of road transport. Investment in city-wide rail needs to happen. Money needs to move away from roads."

The NDP Party candidate Chantelle Dubois also believes that a properly managed rail transport system is appropriate for the future of Alberta.

"[Alberta] needs a viable transit system," stated Dubois. "The high speed train is a very good idea; however we need to look at it to move people around and not for profit."

Progressive Conservative candidate Alana Delong noted that the PC government has been working on an overall transportation plan for Albertans.

"It is important for the economic advancement to improve Highway 63," stated Delong. "The section of highway between Fort MacMurray and the junction with highway 55 will cost \$1 billion to twin. The government is going ahead with this. Fort MacMurray is a future major city of Alberta and infrastructure must reflect this."

The Liberal candidate Harry Chase explained that major road projects that promote the transport of materials and personal in Alberta are needed.

"The twinning of Highway 63 up to Fort MacMurray is important," said Chase. "People are getting killed on that highway. Highway 3 heading from Medicine Hat to the Crowsnest Pass also needs to be twinned. We want to see the east west corridor have the same type of opportunity as the northwest corridor."

The issue of crime in Alberta has been prominent recently in politics. The four major parties in Alberta have created ideas that will address the issue of crime. The Green Party Leader George Read believes that



Gauntlet file photo

All parties agree that a province-wide rail system is in the best interest of all Albertans.

the eradication of crimes must begin in the community.

"The solution to reduce these things is mixed use communities," said Read. "People need to know their neighbours. Alberta needs more eyes on the streets and walkable communities."

The PC government also identifies crime as a key concern for Albertans. Alana Delong explained the PC government will do anything they can to help reduce crime.

"For instance, what can we do to deal with crime that deals with drug addiction and situations that deal with mental illness?" said Delong. "Create a separate stream in the system for the mentally ill so they get treatment instead of just moved through the system."

The NDP believe that more money needs to go into fighting crime through increased police funding.

"Money needs to go to the [police] from tax dollars," stated Dubois. "Crime goes down in a society where everyone is looked after."

The Liberal approach to crime enforces education of young people and increased funding for police. They believe education will allow youth to be involved in society and not continue to be driven to crime.

"Through education you involve people and give them alternatives to crime. Involvement in school and sports gives people a sense of belonging," noted Chase. "We need increase the number of dollars per capita [for police]. Currently it is \$16 per capita; we would increase it to \$20, to get more on the street enforcement."

The parties believe that the future generations of Albertans and Albertans of today must benefit from the economic boom

Alberta is currently engulfed in.

Read explained that the strong economy of the present must benefit the future people of Alberta.

"Alberta needs long-term

planning and investment in Alberta," said Read.

The Liberal party also contests that because Alberta's economy is extremely strong the govern-

ment must invest revenue for the future.

"Set aside 30 per cent of all non-renewable profits and create a fund," said Chase.



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# Penetrating politicians' priorities on health

## health care

Mercy Lamola and Jordyn Marcellus  
Gauntlet News

From 1992–2006 Ralph Klein's government instituted setbacks in Alberta's health care, despite enjoying a booming economy and a majority government. As Alberta heads into another election and there is uncertainty of future leadership, it's not clear what direction our health care will take. The four main parties pointed out major challenges that the Alberta government and its people face in the fields of health care. Alberta NDP spokesman Lou Arab identified Alberta's largest health issue as the waiting times in Alberta's emergency rooms, pointing to seniors being housed in hospitals and the ER.

"We need more community-based primary care clinics with doctors, nurses, and paramedics to allow more options for people who need health care in a hurry," said Arab.

The NDP would like to implement a prescription drug program to alleviate the burden from Albertans. He noted he hopes the program would be adopted nationally to increase the benefit to individuals. He added that a NDP government would also make more spaces available in hospitals by creating more long-term care facilities.

Whereas the NDP are more focused on primary and long-term care, Progressive Conservative candidate for Calgary-Varsity, Jennifer Diakiw, identified the shortage of health care providers being the biggest challenge facing Alberta.

"It's a national issue, Alberta is competing with the rest of Canada and North America," said Diakiw.

Diakiw added that Alberta leads the country in recruiting more health care professionals



Gauntlet file photo

Politicians disagree over the benefits and problems surrounding the use of private health care.

from 2003–06. She further explained that the PC focus will be on expanding the workforce. In his throne speech, the Premier announced plans to create 25 new physician training spaces at the U of C and U of A, 350 RN and 220 LPN positions. Diakiw added that they will continue to recruit qualified foreign-trained health care professionals and support them in making the transition through ESL training offered through the medical faculties at the two universities.

But incumbent MLA and Alberta Liberal representative Harry Chase pointed out that modern recruiting drives haven't made up for past health care cuts.

"We are still recovering from the foolishness in the '90s where we lost half our hospitals like the Holy Cross, the General Hospitals, and the Grace Hospital and the personnel that

staffed them," said Chase. "There is a lack of infrastructure and a loss of bed capacity."

Chase explained that the Liberal focus is on training more Alberta health care professionals and restoring university seats dedicated to physician and health care training. They would like to regain bed capacities by creating more specialized centers and create clinics and care centers in Southeast and North Calgary. Chase explained that the Liberal Party, who have called for re-regulating the electricity sector since the deregulation of the market in Jan. 2001, also believe that the health care privatization would not be a benefit to Albertan citizens.

"We have been in favour of getting rid of premiums because they are a tax burden to Albertans," said Chase.

Arab had stronger words towards the con-

cept of privatizing health care, pointing out the uniqueness of the NDP's position as the only party that doesn't take corporate funds.

"Privatization will take doctors and nurses out of the health care system," he said. "PC and Liberal parties get donations from private insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies and health care providers that are lobbying for privatization. The NDP doesn't accept donations from these types of groups."

Diakiw added that the PC party, who introduced the concept of privatizing some health care services, understood the delicate balance that must be struck when discussing the concept of privatization of services.

"This issue had been discussed before and we continue to look for a way to ensure that health care will be accessible to all Albertans," said Diakiw.

## Campus crasher

Daniel Pagan  
Gauntlet News

Campus Security advised students and staff to be on a lookout for suspicious behavior in campus washrooms, after a series of incidents involving a man caught in female washrooms across campus.

The man was discovered in a second-floor Math Sciences washroom Sun., Feb. 10, according to a campus community advisory email.

Campus Security director Lanny Fritz explained a female student noticed an individual wearing what appeared to be men's shoes sitting in the cubicle next to her. The student called her house on her cell and mentioned Campus Security in her conversation.

"The individual in the male shoes disappeared from sight, so the female student called Campus Security," said Fritz. "Campus Security met with the student and circulated the area, but was unable to locate the individual at that time."

Fritz noted Campus Security strongly believed the person in the washroom last Sun. was the same person they dealt with on previous

occasions. Their suspicions were confirmed after the individual was arrested several hours after the campus advisory went out.

"The individual was arrested at 1 a.m. Monday morning in the exact same washroom, where the Sunday incident took place," said Fritz. "The individual, of no fixed address, was last arrested Thu., Jan. 31, for trespassing on campus."

Fritz offered no explanation for why the individual decided to enter female washrooms, but noted he has been found sleeping in stairwells and on sofas in commons areas.

Students and staff who encounter the individual should not approach him and call Campus Security immediately.

"We know this individual is suffering from mental health issues and may not be taking his medication," said Fritz.

Fritz had a message for students and staff who are concerned about the homeless individual on campus.

"Campus Security is working with Calgary Police Services, on a strategy to discourage this individual from violating his trespass order from campus," said Fritz.

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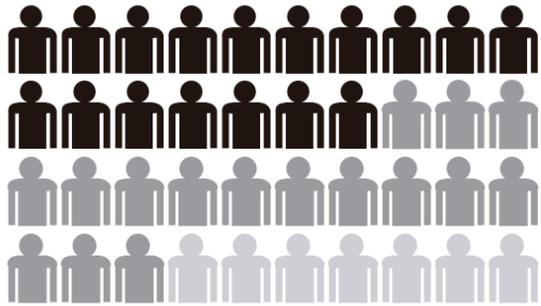
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# Counting votes

## An examination of proportional representation

### 2004 popular vote, riding

#### Calgary-McCall

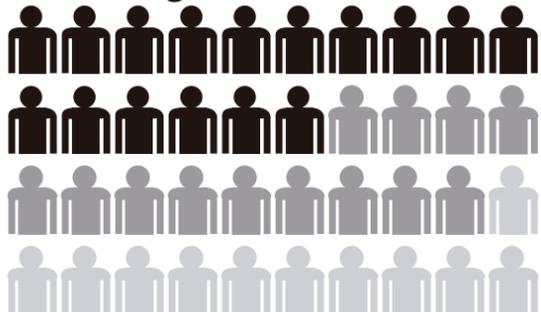


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### Elected representative



#### Lethbridge-West



=



#### Edmonton-Ellerslie



=



■ PC  
■ Liberal  
■ Other

In Calgary-McCall, Lethbridge-West and Edmonton-Ellerslie, 44 per cent, 40 per cent and 34 per cent, respectively, was required to elect 100 per cent of the representation.

## proportional representation

**Katy Anderson**  
News Editor

Everyday when I get to campus, I order a cup of coffee. When I settle into work and take a drink of the hot liquid, I expect it to be coffee, not tea and not hot chocolate. After all, that's what I'd asked for.

When we as Albertans go to the polling stations and mark our ballots, we should be expecting to get what we asked for, a government based on the votes we cast. However, with our current voting system, this is not the case.

In the last provincial election, 44 per cent of Albertans got up and went to the polls. Out of the minority of Albertans that voted only 47 per cent asked for a Progressive Conservative government. What Albertans got was a strong majority—75 per cent—PC government. Out of the 83 seats available in the legislature, 62 went to the conservatives. If Albertans had got what they asked for, the PCs would have won 39 seats.

### How distortions happen

Like the rest of Canada, Alberta uses

a first past the post electoral system. The province is broken down into ridings and each electoral district elects one MLA to represent them. In the case of Calgary-McCall in the 2004 election, 44 per cent of voters asked for a PC representative and 40 per cent asked for an Alberta Liberal representative, 100 per cent of the representation was given to the PC voters thanks to our winner-take-all system.

"It's not about what party you support in terms of how the current system discriminates against people," said Fair Vote Canada executive director Larry Gordon. "It's about whether or not you think everybody should have an equal vote."

Gordon pointed to federal politics to illustrate the gross representations of FPTP.

"In the last federal election, over 600,000 people voted Green in Canada and sent nobody to Ottawa to represent them," he said. "In Atlantic Canada alone, fewer than 500,000 liberal voters sent 20 MPs."

### Change a-brewin'

"Ten years ago, you would have been looking at a very different context in Canada," said University of Calgary professor and electoral behavior expert

Dr. Keith Archer. "At that time it looked like the Liberal party was going to be in power forever in Ottawa because of the fracturing of the Conservatives—the creation of the Reform and Alliance—it looked like the Liberals were always going to win by default and where popular support continued to go down, they continued to get a majority government. A lot of people back then were saying, 'there's a problem with our electoral system in that it's not responsive to the views of Canadians and it penalizes parties who are not these broad, catch-all parties.'"

Although discontent with the current system first appeared at the federal level, electoral reform started becoming a tangible prospect at the provincial level. Many provinces had experienced the same grievances, explained Archer. Parties penalized by our electoral system were often the ones that committed to examining electoral reform if elected.

British Columbia held a referendum in 2005 asking citizens if their current electoral system should be changed from FPTP to a form of proportional representation—a single transferable vote system. In an STV system, voters rank candidates in order of preference. The candidates that reach a set threshold of votes are

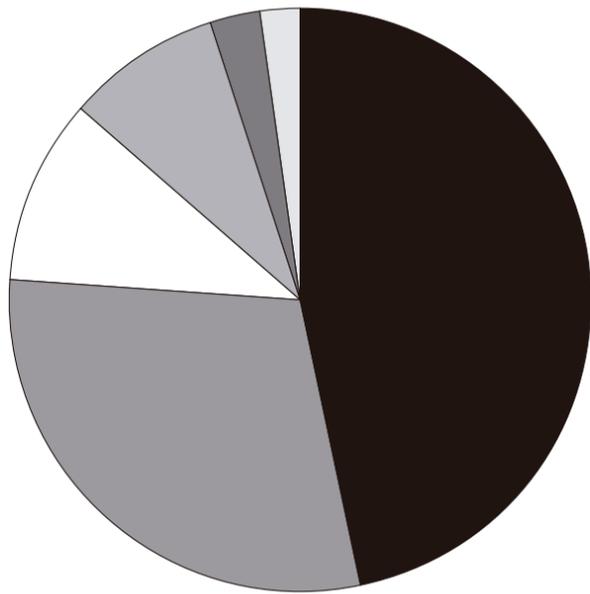
declared winners of the riding. From there, if the winner has exceeded the quota, votes are then transferred to the voters' second-place choice and so on, until all the seats are filled.

In order for the referendum to pass, two requirements had to be met: 60 per cent of British Columbians had to vote in favour of the change and half of the 79 voting districts had to have a simple majority in favour, 50 per cent plus one. Results of the election were 57.6 per cent in favour, and 77 out of the 79 districts had majorities.

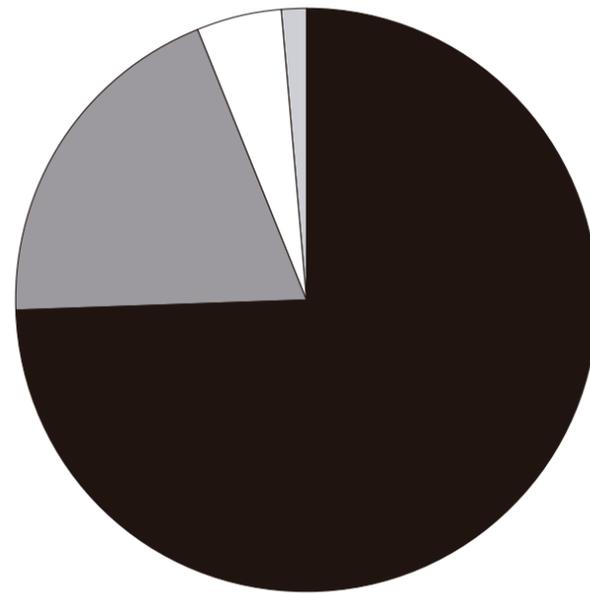
The referendum failed to pass. However, when Gordon Campbell's B.C. Liberals won a majority of the seats with only a plurality of the vote, both the media and public demanded to know why that was enough to give him a majority government, while a strong majority did not give people a change they had asked for.

Since the B.C. referendum, the issue of proportional representation has been raised in P.E.I., New Brunswick, Quebec and even Ontario, with its own failed referendum in 2007. In the failures of both the Ontario and B.C. referendums, a lack of public education is cited as the cause. "The education campaign was inad-

## Popular vote, 2004 Alberta Election



## Seats won



## Party



The Progressive Conservatives won 75 per cent of the seats in 2004 after only receiving 47 per cent of the popular vote.

Alberta is a textbook example of why a single transferable vote—a form of proportional representation—system works. From 1926–55, Calgary and Edmonton used the STV system, while the rest of Alberta stuck with first past the post. In the 29 years that it was used in Alberta, parties with five to 20 per cent of the vote won seats in 14 out of the 17 opportunities. In the next eight elections, parties that obtained five to 20 per cent of the vote only won seats twice out of the 15 opportunities.

“After 1950, Manning decided to swap it—it was basically decreed—so that the Social Credit party could cement their power base.”

– David Willis

*B.C. Citizen Assembly member*

equate,” said B.C. Citizen’s Assembly member David Willis. “Essentially, Campbell recognized that when he agreed to a second referendum. The second time around there will be funding for the yes and no sides—there was no public funding the first time around.”

Experts suggested that the STV system the B.C. Citizen’s Assembly tried to put forward was just too complicated to explain to the average citizen. Systems that use a combination of both FPTP and PR, such as Ontario’s proposed mixed-member proportionality, have been suggested because they combine a system voters understand with an aspect of proportionality. However, others are confident the public can adapt to substantial changes.

“If you take a university course, there are some pretty complicated things you have to get your head around,” said University of Calgary professor and expert in provincial politics Dr. Doreen Barrie. “It’s not that difficult to explain to people, but you have to go about it in a different way. Maybe they should have had a series of little mock elections where people could sort of practice or think of some creative ways to get through to voters. You need to make clear to them the defects and the deficiencies in the current system.”

#### Alberta’s love affair with electoral reform

“Alberta has a history of electoral reform,” said Fair Vote Alberta media spokesperson J.D. Crookshanks. “What people don’t realize is we’ve changed our electoral system in this province probably more than any other province. We’re hoping that next time they change it, it happens through a citizens assembly, like it was in B.C. [or] Ontario.”

Alberta is a textbook example of why STV works. From 1926–55 Calgary and Edmonton used the STV system, while the rest of Alberta stuck with FPTP. In the 29 years that STV was used in Alberta, it produced results that were much closer to what people asked for. Parties with five to 20 per cent of the vote won seats in 14 out of the 17 opportunities. In the next eight elections, parties that obtained five to 20 per cent of the vote only won seats twice out of the 15 opportunities.

“After 1950, Manning decided to swap it—it was basically decreed—so that the Social Credit party could cement their power base,” said Willis.

The switch to STV was arbitrary and not by referendum, and did not have to be changed back by one. It remains

up to the governing party to legislate a change in electoral reform.

#### So is PR really better?

“It depends on what you want to achieve,” said Barrie. “If proportionality is your main goal—if you want the legislature to reflect the voting pattern—then you have to have some form of proportional representation. If you have proportional representation you often have minority governments. If it’s stability that you want it’s easier to get it with first past the post. PR represents more voices, the softer voices in society, groups who might find it difficult to get into the legislature under our current system would have a better shot with proportional representation.”

Crookshanks stressed that in a democratic society the legislature needs to represent the voices of its citizens—not just the ones that speak the loudest. Ensuring fringe parties get to the table is a crucial part in both keeping the government accountable to all its citizens and ensuring that people do not feel disenfranchised. He is working to inform people about the possibility of a citizen’s assembly.

Archer suggested that a lot of the air

has come out of the balloon of electoral reform.

“While there had been a real push for it and some momentum a decade ago, I think it is a non-issue federally and the provinces that had been looking at it pretty closely aren’t taking action on it,” said Archer.

However, that remains to be seen. Crookshanks isn’t the only one looking at PR in Alberta. Political parties from the Greens to the Liberals are stressing the need for change to get smaller parties to the table.

“The assembly is off limits to the Green party, it’s off limits to the Separation party,” said Edmonton-McClung Liberal MLA Mo Elsalhy. “I don’t agree with them, but if five, six, seven per cent of the population agrees with them, they should have the opportunity to have one member in the assembly to present that point of view. It is going to definitely help the smaller parties, the fringe parties, but it is definitely going to help the official opposition. The Liberals are an official block of votes, the NDP are a legitimate block of votes, the Green party is a legitimate block of votes, the Alliance is a legitimate block of votes. These people have to have their voices heard in the assembly.”

# Redrawing Alberta

## electoral boundaries

Jon Roe  
Features Editor

Imaginary lines are surprisingly sensitive. Adjusting Alberta's 83 electoral divisions touches on many delicate issues: rural versus urban priorities, political favouritism and fair, relatively proportional representation of Albertans. It's impossible to address every political issue evenly when it comes time to redraw Alberta. The many conflicting interests create a difficult route to navigate.

The Elections Border Act requires the borders of the 83 electoral divisions to be reexamined after every second election or, if eight years haven't passed, between eight and ten years after the last commission. The last commission was assembled to map out a fair electoral representation of the province in 2002. The commission finished its recommendations in Feb. 2003, giving Alberta the current divisions. After this election, the borders will need to be looked at again, but since eight years haven't passed between commissions, it won't be until 2010–12.

The EBA lays out several requirements for the divisions. Using the most recent census data, the commission finds the average for each division (Alberta's total population divided by 83) and must create borders where each electoral division has a population within plus or minus 25 per cent of the average. In 2003, using Alberta's population data

from the 2001 Canada-wide census, the average population per riding was set at 35,951. The allowable range for the 2002–03 commission was 26,963 to 44,939 per division. But, the EBA also allows up to four ridings with as little as 50 per cent of the average population as special cases if it's a particularly large division—over 15,000 square kilometres—far from the Alberta Legislature building or has no town with a population greater than 4,000 people, among other considerations.

The 2002–03 commission set a target of only allowing variations within 15 per cent and picked only two special districts with populations, at the time, around 27 per cent below the average, but noted strongly that in the future even the 25 per cent range may not be feasible. Alberta's population is becoming increasingly concentrated in the Edmonton-Calgary corridor, drawing in seats from rural areas.

"A considerable number of submissions to the Commission indicated that this population concentration is giving rise to feelings of marginalization in areas of Alberta outside the corridor," the commission's Feb. 2003 final report said. "This was reflected in the comment by the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties: 'It seems that every few years, we're back trying to defend the right of rural citizens to have a meaningful voice in provincial decision making.'"

Because of the EBA's current stipulations, this migration of representation to the corridor is

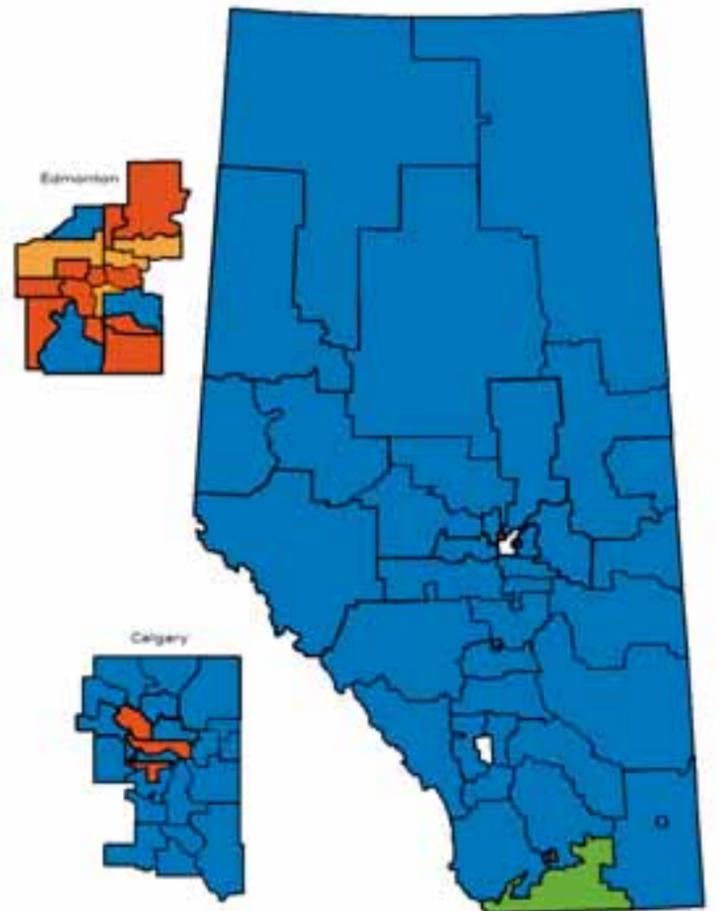
inevitable. According to the 2006's census data, there are seven ridings with populations higher than the plus 25 per cent limit due to rapid growth since the lines were drawn. Of those seven, six are in the corridor. The only exception is Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo.

Over 1.88 million people live in Edmonton and Calgary, compared with 1.41 million in the rest of the province, according to the 2006 census.

By the time of the 2011 census and two-year window for the next commission, this ratio between Edmonton-Calgary and the rest of the province will increase. Within the two-year window, when the commission is formed, it will change what census data is used. If the government waits until after the mid-2011 release of the census, the population would likely be even more concentrated in the corridor. A 2010 commission would use the most recent Canada (2006) or detailed Alberta census.

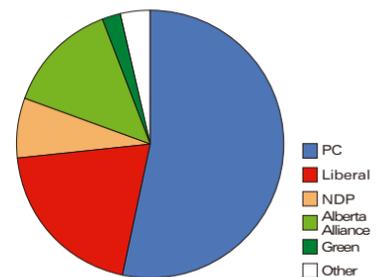
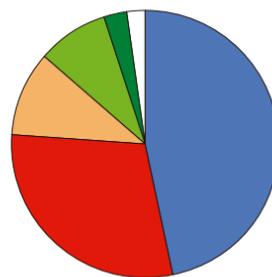
Beyond conflicting rural and urban issues, the political element enters into the border problem when the voting habits of urban and rural ridings are taken into account.

The Progressive Conservatives have traditionally swept rural ridings. In the most recent province-wide election in 2004, only two ridings outside of Edmonton and Calgary went to a non-PC candidate, Cardston-Taber-Warner where Paul Hinman won over PC incumbent Bryce Jacobs by a narrow margin and Lethbridge-East where Bridget Pastoor beat PC Rod Fong by 637 votes. Outside of Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat,



Popular vote, 2004 Alberta election

Popular vote outside of Calgary, Edmonton



Lethbridge and Red Deer, 68.8 per cent of the popular vote went to the PCs in 2001, and 55.4 per cent in 2004 compared with the PCs capturing 61.9 per cent of the popular vote province-wide in 2001 and 46.8 per cent in 2004.

However, even between the two urban centre caps of the populous corridor, Calgary and Edmonton, there is a difference. The majority of the popular vote in Calgary in the last two elections has gone to the PCs. In 2001, 69.5 per cent voted PC, giving them all of Calgary's seats. There was a significant drop in 2004, but the Conservatives still captured 50.5 per cent of the popular vote, giving them all but three of the seats.

Edmonton voted 47.8 per cent PC in 2001 and 34.4 per cent in 2004, where the PC party lost the popular vote in Edmonton to the Liberals, who received 39.7 per cent.

Though it would be a mistake to assume that any movement of seats from rural ridings, where the PCs are strong, would affect their seat totals in following elections because of numerous other variables, the strong base of consistent rural support for the PCs is important to note.

Between the 2001 and 2006 censuses, the fastest growing areas, excepting the Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo riding, were in the Calgary-Edmonton corridor. Ten ridings experienced a growth rate greater than 30 per cent. Six of those were in Calgary proper, one in Edmonton. Seven of those 30 per cent growth rate ridings caused the population to rise above the legislated 25 per cent threshold.

According to the 2006 census,

the average population per riding in Alberta was 39,786, giving a plus-minus 25 per cent range of 29,839 and 49,732. The current legislation forces the next commission to adjust those ridings, ignoring any more growth between the most recent census and 2011. Calgary's current average population per riding is 42,952 and adding a riding to Calgary may be the solution to bring down the average and to compensate for that growth.

There are still two years before a commission can be appointed to redraw Alberta's electoral boundaries. Two years of legislation and two years of growth other than that projected would change everything. But there are no indicators that the ratio between the Edmonton-Calgary corridor and the rest of the province will change in that time. Any more seats shifting to the major cities increases the rural/urban divide issue and may require the government to consider alternative methods of representation to fix it. In the final report from the 2002–03 commission, several changes to Alberta's system were noted including introducing proportional representation, which was a part of the electoral system in Alberta until 1950, and allowing special districts where the population is greater than 50 per cent above the average instead of just districts where the population is less than 50 per cent below the average.

Imaginary lines dividing a province are sensitive and represent more than just electoral divisions. They touch issues of population density disparity, political shifts and, ideally, accurately and fairly representing a diverse population.

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# Students shut out of democratic process

## Draconian election laws may prevent many students from voting



Cam Cotton-O'Brien  
Pidgeon Talk

With the sincerity of a pornographer in front of an obscenity board, students are encouraged to vote.

Mar. 3, 2008 will see the first provincial election since King Ralph abdicated his throne. In addition to offering the province a chance to pass judgement on a leader who has elicited considerable controversy, this election presents students the opportunity to force post-secondary education into the limelight of provincial politics. An opportunity of extreme importance as Alberta students live in the wealthiest province in the country and pay some of its highest costs for education. Unfortunately for University of Calgary students, current election regulations make it absurdly difficult to vote.

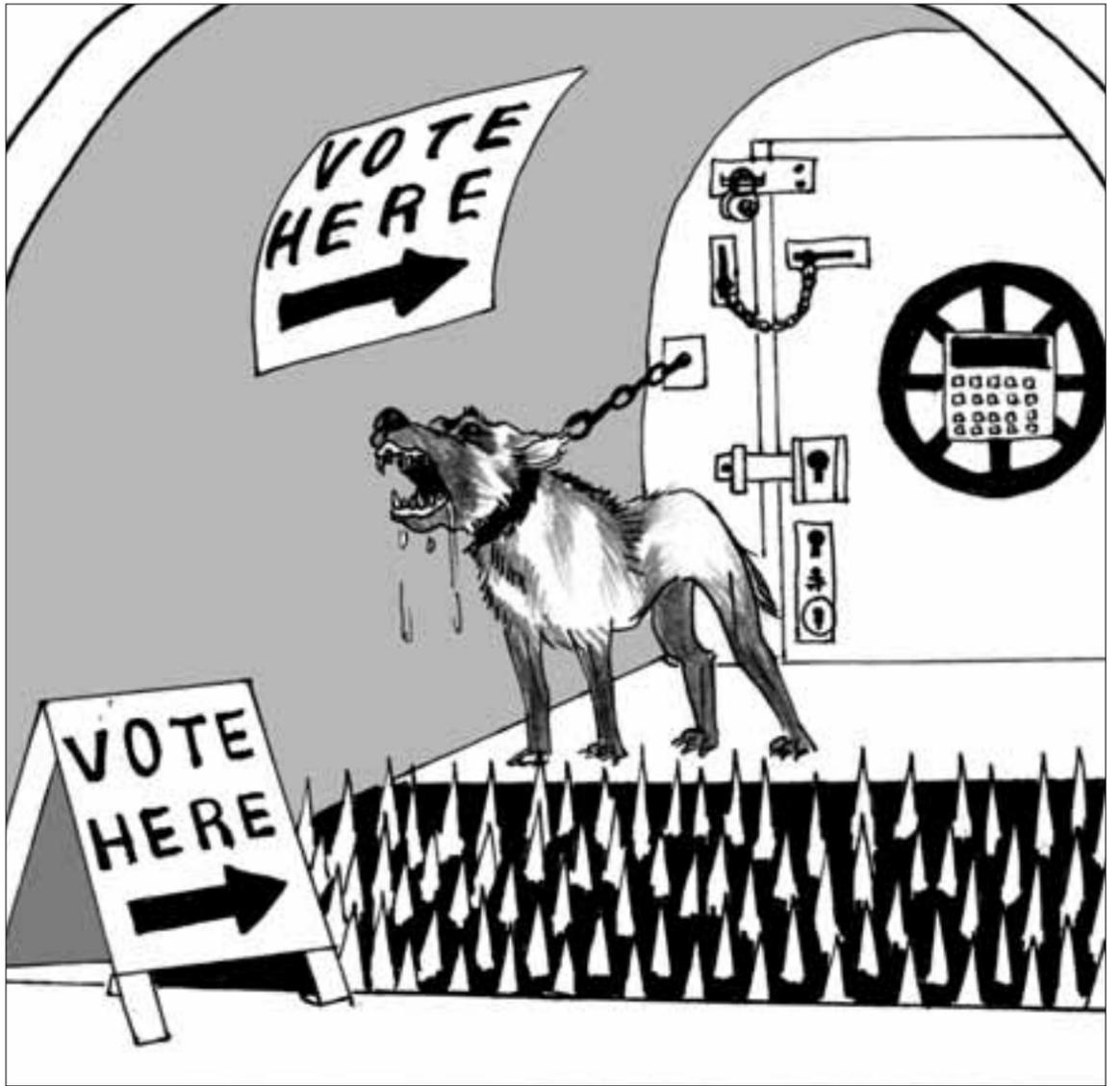
The problem is due to the transient nature of the student population. Many students come from other parts of the province or country and so find residence for the duration of the school year. Despite fleeing their parents for the sake of education and sanity, many students leave as a parting gift for the folks who have raised them a steady collection of bills. In many cases, it is simply too much of a hassle to continue changing one's official residence when living somewhere for eight months, then going home for the summer only to return to yet another address the following

school year. Though this practice is understandable, it is problematic come election time. Students can only vote in the riding to which their bills are delivered.

Thus, many students who live in the Calgary-Varsity riding for two-thirds of the year cannot actually vote there. Rather, in order to vote they have to obtain a special ballot. While not an obstacle requiring Herculean effort to overcome, it is enough of a bother that it will prevent many students from peeling themselves off of the couch. The pitfall of this is, of course, that without students voting, student interests won't be represented in the provincial legislature. This means that students have little influence over things like tuition and affordable housing, so instead of studying, they spend their time making cucumber sandwiches at the local delicatessen.

While it is certainly irresponsible of students to be lazy enough to allow this to happen, it is also irresponsible of Elections Alberta to hinder students' capacity to vote. A new system needs to be implemented.

U of C students should be able to vote in the Calgary-Varsity riding instead of their billed-to district if they choose. By providing the option for students to vote in a riding where they may in fact live for the majority of the year and which will be accessible on voting day, there would almost certainly be a higher turnout. Not only this, it would provide for an increased representation of student interests in the provincial legislature. A concentration of student voters in the U of C area makes the chance



of electing an official who would honestly and effectively pursue student interests much higher than the supposed representation that students garner with their voices spread thin across the rest of a province that can't hear them over the pulsing roar of the oil rigs.

It would be simple to create a provision enabling students to vote easily. All it requires is a system whereby students declare

that they wish to vote in the riding of their university, in the process renouncing their ability to do so where their bills reside. To avoid excessive confusion it might be required that students provide proof of enrolment at the university. It shouldn't be too difficult to develop a mechanism for the successful implementation of this or similar policy. The bungling of such a program would require a measure of ineptitude that surely

no Alberta bureaucracy could ever be accused of.

As politicians are often quoted as saying, education is an investment in the future, so having a voice in government committed to the best possible provision of such an education cannot be a bad thing. There is an alarming inconsistency in the position of encouraging students to vote while at the same time making it so difficult that it borders on disenfranchisement. Efforts need to be made to promote student suffrage if we're ever to improve youth turnout.



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# Voters need to make education a priority



Anne Stalker  
TUCFA President

With an election currently underway, now is a good time to get politicians to pay some attention to the issues of post-secondary education, particularly as there seems to be general understanding that post-secondary education is the key to a successful future for Alberta. However, what is lacking is an understanding of exactly how a university like ours actually contributes to the future. Here is my view of the unique significance of an institution like the University of Calgary.

Universities provide special value to society precisely because no one, not even the government, can foresee the future. We do not know what changes there are going to be for society over the next 50 years. We can speculate, but just like long-range weather forecasts, the further out we go (and even one year is stretching it, if you look at past experience), the less

accurate we are. How, then, does a society prepare for the unknown? Universities, if allowed to operate as they should, are at the forefront of such preparation, both in research and education.

Firstly, research: a university is the only institution in our society that can focus on basic research that has no immediate return and that does not focus on anyone's vested interest. This function is essential for any forward-thinking government because it is this kind of research that will shape the future. Without basic research whose potential application is unknown at the time it is undertaken, the understanding necessary to develop new treatments for disease, new technologies and new ways of thinking about society and its needs would not be available.

Moreover, even with regard to research applications that could have immediate value, no one has the crystal ball necessary to determine which of these will work.

A forward-thinking government will understand and accept that there is no way to meddle in this process effectively, and trust that the minds at work at our universities are best-placed to know what research to undertake. Such a government

would provide strong support for this research, and understand that both the people who do the research and the resources they need are good investments for Alberta's future, even if the government does not fully understand the nature of the work. It is such trust that has brought us to the place we are today.

Secondly, education: the fact that it is impossible to say where society will be in ten years, and what needs we will have means that a focus on training for specific jobs is, at best, only a short-term solution for our needs. University education is not a short-term solution, as it takes four years to get even a first university degree. Instead, university education is designed to provide deep understanding of a discipline and long-term skills. The deep understanding awakens in students some comprehension of who we are, a love of learning and an appreciation that things are not always simple. Analytical skills that enable us to assess situations and critique material, research skills that enable us to discover what information is available on any subject and oral and writing skills that enable us to communicate that understanding to a broader audience are all valuable long-term skills offered by a university education. Both deeper

understanding and the investigative skills are timeless qualities that will prepare our students to lead in an indefinite future.

So what does a university need to teach these elements? It needs a broad range of disciplines, because the most important incentive to get our students to learn is their innate interest in the subject. That is why the core of our university—the faculties of Social Sciences, Humanities, Science, and Communication and Culture—remains strong even while there is push to develop more “sellable” areas.

It also needs teachers who can inspire the students to make the effort it takes to progress in this world of learning. What it takes to inspire students will vary at different levels of learning, but it takes a special talent to inspire students who are not yet familiar with the subject, or indeed with any subject at a university level. These are the professors who can take the dense research and make it sing for the students, and we need to find and cherish these people.

Thirdly, it needs the resources to allow the students to engage in their subjects. It needs the computers, the labs, the interactive classrooms, the spaces for discussion and, of course, it needs these to be properly main-

tained so that the students feel part of a thriving and cared-for institution.

Finally, it needs enough support for the students that they will not be weighed down by the cost of tuition and other aspects of their education. They need time to engage in learning, not in funding their education.

Therefore, at the end of the day, we need a government that will do a few things. It needs to understand the special nature of universities, and respect their mandate. It must appreciate the fact that neither the government nor anyone else really understands what our future needs will be and that we need universities in order to be prepared to handle this unknown future.

It needs to fund universities at an adequate level and without inappropriate direction, understanding that this is more about funding brilliant researchers and inspiring teachers who operate at a high level than about buildings, though, of course, maintenance should not be forgotten.

Lastly, it needs to allow the students and the faculty at these institutions the freedom to be able to concentrate on the important work they are doing, without working extra jobs to make ends meet or worrying about their mounting debt.

## SU View: Funding Support for Academic Competitions



Fraser Stuart  
VP Operations & Finance

The Academic Competition Support Program is a new and innovative Students' Union initiative funded through Quality Money. The goal of the program is to enhance the student experience by providing an opportunity to apply and showcase academic talents in a competitive environment. It also aims to enhance the University of Calgary's profile in the post-secondary academic arena in Canada and around the world. This initiative will provide more interested students and faculties the opportunity to host or attend a diverse range of academic competitions. Through these competitions, students will hone their skills and gain pride in representing their school while engaging in teamwork and cooperative learning experiences.

The Academic Competition Program will provide support to full or part-time undergraduate students, groups, or sanctioned clubs. To qualify for Academic Competition Support, the competition must be related to the students' academic course of study. Competitions that are part of a credit program of instruction are not eligible for Academic Competition Support.

The maximum Academic Competition support grant the Students' Union can approve is

\$1,500 for a group or sanctioned Students' Union club or \$300 for an individual. The fund is intended to assist in covering expenses incurred in attending or hosting an academic competition, including and limited to delegate fees, delegation fees, competition materials, venue expenses and travel expenses.

Application forms are available at the Students' Union office. For more information please visit our website at [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.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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# Students shut out of democratic process

## Draconian election laws may prevent many students from voting



**Cam Cotton-O'Brien**  
Pidgeon Talk

With the sincerity of a pornographer in front of an obscenity board, students are encouraged to vote.

Mar. 3, 2008 will see the first provincial election since King Ralph abdicated his throne. In addition to offering the province a chance to pass judgement on a leader who has elicited considerable controversy, this election presents students the opportunity to force post-secondary education into the limelight of provincial politics. An opportunity of extreme importance as Alberta students live in the wealthiest province in the country and pay some of its highest costs for education. Unfortunately for University of Calgary students, current election regulations make it absurdly difficult to vote.

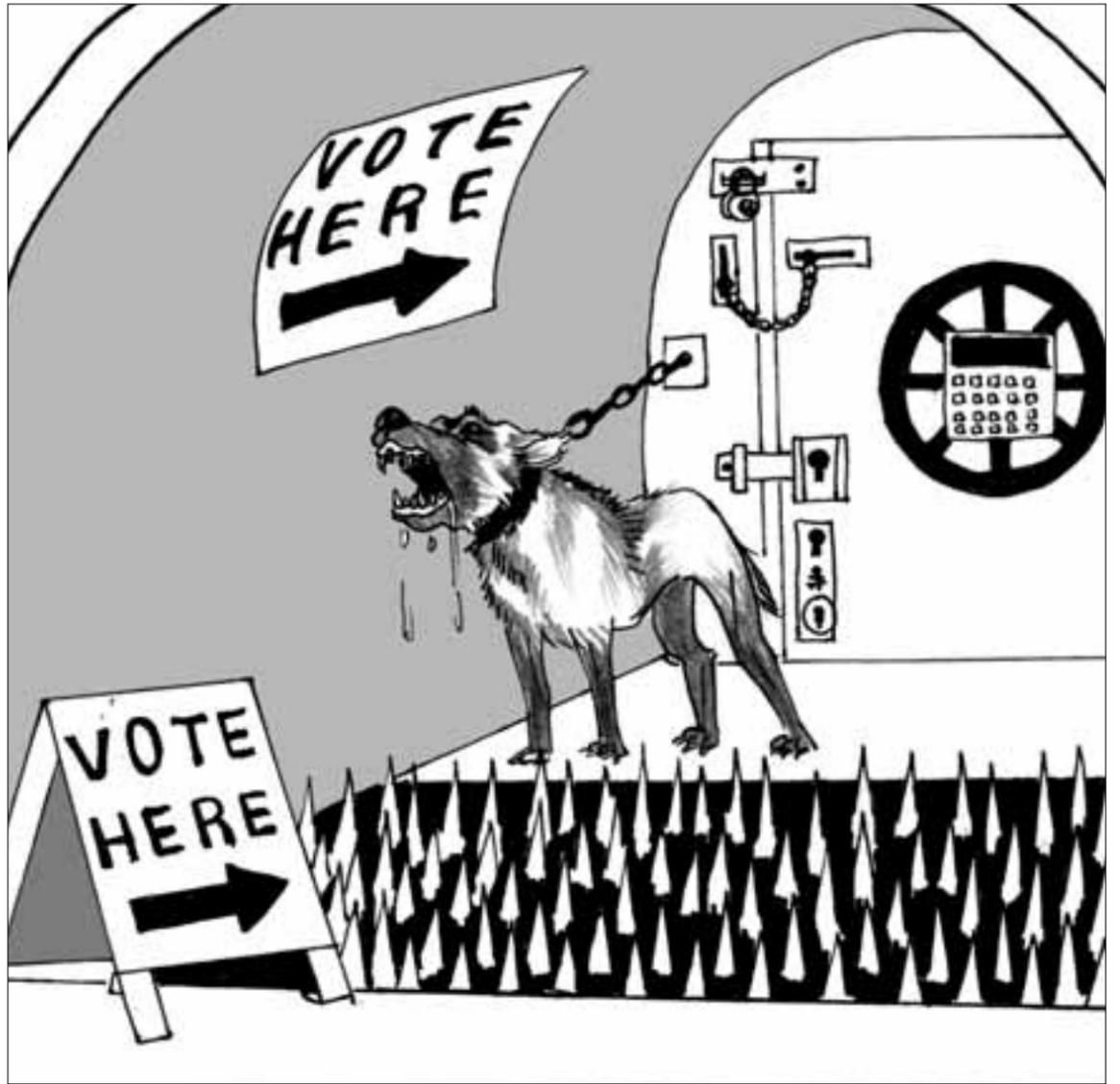
The problem is due to the transient nature of the student population. Many students come from other parts of the province or country and so find residence for the duration of the school year. Despite fleeing their parents for the sake of education and sanity, many students leave as a parting gift for the folks who have raised them a steady collection of bills. In many cases, it is simply too much of a hassle to continue changing one's official residence when living somewhere for eight months, then going home for the summer only to return to yet another address the following

school year. Though this practice is understandable, it is problematic come election time. Students can only vote in the riding to which their bills are delivered.

Thus, many students who live in the Calgary-Varsity riding for two-thirds of the year cannot actually vote there. Rather, in order to vote they have to obtain a special ballot. While not an obstacle requiring Herculean effort to overcome, it is enough of a bother that it will prevent many students from peeling themselves off of the couch. The pitfall of this is, of course, that without students voting, student interests won't be represented in the provincial legislature. This means that students have little influence over things like tuition and affordable housing, so instead of studying, they spend their time making cucumber sandwiches at the local delicatessen.

While it is certainly irresponsible of students to be lazy enough to allow this to happen, it is also irresponsible of Elections Alberta to hinder students' capacity to vote. A new system needs to be implemented.

U of C students should be able to vote in the Calgary-Varsity riding instead of their billed-to district if they choose. By providing the option for students to vote in a riding where they may in fact live for the majority of the year and which will be accessible on voting day, there would almost certainly be a higher turnout. Not only this, it would provide for an increased representation of student interests in the provincial legislature. A concentration of student voters in the U of C area makes the chance



of electing an official who would honestly and effectively pursue student interests much higher than the supposed representation that students garner with their voices spread thin across the rest of a province that can't hear them over the pulsing roar of the oil rigs.

It would be simple to create a provision enabling students to vote easily. All it requires is a system whereby students declare

that they wish to vote in the riding of their university, in the process renouncing their ability to do so where their bills reside. To avoid excessive confusion it might be required that students provide proof of enrolment at the university. It shouldn't be too difficult to develop a mechanism for the successful implementation of this or similar policy. The bungling of such a program would require a measure of ineptitude that surely

no Alberta bureaucracy could ever be accused of.

As politicians are often quoted as saying, education is an investment in the future, so having a voice in government committed to the best possible provision of such an education cannot be a bad thing. There is an alarming inconsistency in the position of encouraging students to vote while at the same time making it so difficult that it borders on disenfranchisement. Efforts need to be made to promote student suffrage if we're ever to improve youth turnout.



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# Voters need to make education a priority



Anne Stalker  
TUCFA President

With an election currently underway, now is a good time to get politicians to pay some attention to the issues of post-secondary education, particularly as there seems to be general understanding that post-secondary education is the key to a successful future for Alberta. However, what is lacking is an understanding of exactly how a university like ours actually contributes to the future. Here is my view of the unique significance of an institution like the University of Calgary.

Universities provide special value to society precisely because no one, not even the government, can foresee the future. We do not know what changes there are going to be for society over the next 50 years. We can speculate, but just like long-range weather forecasts, the further out we go (and even one year is stretching it, if you look at past experience), the less

accurate we are. How, then, does a society prepare for the unknown? Universities, if allowed to operate as they should, are at the forefront of such preparation, both in research and education.

Firstly, research: a university is the only institution in our society that can focus on basic research that has no immediate return and that does not focus on anyone's vested interest. This function is essential for any forward-thinking government because it is this kind of research that will shape the future. Without basic research whose potential application is unknown at the time it is undertaken, the understanding necessary to develop new treatments for disease, new technologies and new ways of thinking about society and its needs would not be available.

Moreover, even with regard to research applications that could have immediate value, no one has the crystal ball necessary to determine which of these will work.

A forward-thinking government will understand and accept that there is no way to meddle in this process effectively, and trust that the minds at work at our universities are best-placed to know what research to undertake. Such a government

would provide strong support for this research, and understand that both the people who do the research and the resources they need are good investments for Alberta's future, even if the government does not fully understand the nature of the work. It is such trust that has brought us to the place we are today.

Secondly, education: the fact that it is impossible to say where society will be in ten years, and what needs we will have means that a focus on training for specific jobs is, at best, only a short-term solution for our needs. University education is not a short-term solution, as it takes four years to get even a first university degree. Instead, university education is designed to provide deep understanding of a discipline and long-term skills. The deep understanding awakens in students some comprehension of who we are, a love of learning and an appreciation that things are not always simple. Analytical skills that enable us to assess situations and critique material, research skills that enable us to discover what information is available on any subject and oral and writing skills that enable us to communicate that understanding to a broader audience are all valuable long-term skills offered by a university education. Both deeper

understanding and the investigative skills are timeless qualities that will prepare our students to lead in an indefinite future.

So what does a university need to teach these elements? It needs a broad range of disciplines, because the most important incentive to get our students to learn is their innate interest in the subject. That is why the core of our university—the faculties of Social Sciences, Humanities, Science, and Communication and Culture—remains strong even while there is push to develop more “sellable” areas.

It also needs teachers who can inspire the students to make the effort it takes to progress in this world of learning. What it takes to inspire students will vary at different levels of learning, but it takes a special talent to inspire students who are not yet familiar with the subject, or indeed with any subject at a university level. These are the professors who can take the dense research and make it sing for the students, and we need to find and cherish these people.

Thirdly, it needs the resources to allow the students to engage in their subjects. It needs the computers, the labs, the interactive classrooms, the spaces for discussion and, of course, it needs these to be properly main-

tained so that the students feel part of a thriving and cared-for institution.

Finally, it needs enough support for the students that they will not be weighed down by the cost of tuition and other aspects of their education. They need time to engage in learning, not in funding their education.

Therefore, at the end of the day, we need a government that will do a few things. It needs to understand the special nature of universities, and respect their mandate. It must appreciate the fact that neither the government nor anyone else really understands what our future needs will be and that we need universities in order to be prepared to handle this unknown future.

It needs to fund universities at an adequate level and without inappropriate direction, understanding that this is more about funding brilliant researchers and inspiring teachers who operate at a high level than about buildings, though, of course, maintenance should not be forgotten.

Lastly, it needs to allow the students and the faculty at these institutions the freedom to be able to concentrate on the important work they are doing, without working extra jobs to make ends meet or worrying about their mounting debt.

## SU View: Funding Support for Academic Competitions



Fraser Stuart  
VP Operations & Finance

The Academic Competition Support Program is a new and innovative Students' Union initiative funded through Quality Money. The goal of the program is to enhance the student experience by providing an opportunity to apply and showcase academic talents in a competitive environment. It also aims to enhance the University of Calgary's profile in the post-secondary academic arena in Canada and around the world. This initiative will provide more interested students and faculties the opportunity to host or attend a diverse range of academic competitions. Through these competitions, students will hone their skills and gain pride in representing their school while engaging in teamwork and cooperative learning experiences.

The Academic Competition Program will provide support to full or part-time undergraduate students, groups, or sanctioned clubs. To qualify for Academic Competition Support, the competition must be related to the students' academic course of study. Competitions that are part of a credit program of instruction are not eligible for Academic Competition Support.

The maximum Academic Competition support grant the Students' Union can approve is

\$1,500 for a group or sanctioned Students' Union club or \$300 for an individual. The fund is intended to assist in covering expenses incurred in attending or hosting an academic competition, including and limited to delegate fees, delegation fees, competition materials, venue expenses and travel expenses.

Application forms are available at the Students' Union office. For more information please visit our website at [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.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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# Provincial ELECTION AWARENESS WEEK

FEBRUARY 26 - 29, 2008

## WHY TO VOTE:

The public perception of students and elections usually assumes that we don't care about politics and therefore we don't vote. With an incredibly important provincial election coming up, it's our time to change that inaccurate perception. It's our time to get informed and vote.

**Regardless of who  
wins, students must  
stand up and make  
our leaders prioritize  
and fully fund our  
public post secondary  
system. Alberta's future  
depends on it.**

What makes this election so interesting? The Progressive Conservative (PC) Party has governed Alberta for 37 years. 'Steady Eddie' Stelmach has garnered mixed reviews and has yet to test his mandate. Calgary had been a PC city for the past two decades, and before the election held 18 of the city's 23 seats. The Alberta Liberals made headlines as they won former Premier Ralph Klein's riding in a by-election last

year. Even more interestingly, the Liberal seats in Calgary bordered or included post secondary institutions. The Liberals, led by Kevin Taft, are anxious to gain more seats in Calgary but have yet to win a majority of seats in the city. The NDP, Green and Wildrose Alliance parties all currently lack a seat in the city, but don't count them out. All three parties will be campaigning hard and looking to change the political fabric. With the few frontrunners in Calgary, many seats could flip, making this likely Alberta's most interesting election in recent history. It's essential that we, as students and citizens, realize our power to shape the future of Alberta. We must make our voices heard and vote.

When deciding for whom to vote you may want to look into each party and candidate's view on post secondary education. Challenges facing students such as massive debt, a lack of affordable dedicated student housing, aging campus buildings, overflowing classrooms and tuition hikes all stem from a lack of adequate government funding. Regardless of who wins, students must stand up and make our leaders prioritize and fully fund our public post secondary system. Alberta's future depends on it.

Monday, March 3rd is your chance to cast your ballot and make your voice heard. But before you vote, get informed. From Tuesday, February 26th to Friday, February 29th the SU will be hosting *Election Awareness Week* where you can find all the resources you need to vote. Come take part in the events, talk to parties/candidates and ask questions. Just imagine how powerful our voice could be if we all decided to vote.

## HOW TO VOTE:

- 1) You can vote in the Alberta provincial election IF:
  - you are a Canadian citizen,
  - you are at least eighteen years of age,
  - you are "ordinarily" a resident in Alberta for six months prior to polling day (this usually does not include students living on campus).

If you live in Residence you will likely have to vote using a special ballot. Come to the DC on Monday, February 25th between 4:00 PM-7:00 PM to get more information about the parties and your riding, or visit [www.elections.ab.ca](http://www.elections.ab.ca).
- 2) Visit [www.voterlink.ab.ca](http://www.voterlink.ab.ca) if you need to update your voting information. This speeds up the process but can also be done at your polling station with two pieces of identification.
- 3) Visit [www.elections.ab.ca](http://www.elections.ab.ca) to find out where to vote, either on March 3 or the three other advance voting days.
- 4) Vote!

[www.ImagineAlberta.ca](http://www.ImagineAlberta.ca)

imagine ALBERTA

It's almost time for the break...indeed, it possibly is the break by time you're reading this. Likely that means that you'll have a full week of drinking in which to collect stories and furious love affairs to report in the TLF section. Don't fail me, bring your TLF to MSC 319 or e-mail them to [tlfs@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca](mailto:tlfs@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca). All submissions must include your name, I.D. number, phone number and signature. Submissions judged to be sexist, racist, homophobic or attacks of a personal nature will not be printed.

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Reverend Ron:  
They call it stormy Mon., but Tue. just as bad. Wed. worse, and Thu. also sad. The eagle flies on Fri. and Sat. I go out to play. Sun. I go to church, then I kneel down and pray. (Repeat 4,000 times.)  
- T. Bone

L.B., I choo choo choose you. Be mine forever.  
- Super Ela

I went to school and did the same old shit, though I never really knew what to do with it.  
- www.ChrisGheran.com

ARMI sponsored by I.N.G. Insurance present their annual Winter Speaker Night Feb.13 @ 5:00 p.m. Elite insurance professionals will be there. Food and prize draws provided.  
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Yukon, Summertime poodle, wintertime husky, you will be missed.

To the Redhead and Brunette in SOCI321. You know who you are. Tone and Volume control is key. Subject matter may also be of concern, since the WHOLE class hears it. Just a thought or a suggestion.

Dear Sexy Cellist:  
Why don't you come over to my section sometime, because you can pluck MY G String anytime.  
- Bashful Woodwind

To whoever took our couch from Stairway to Heaven, GIVE IT BACK ASSHOLES!!!  
- couchless

Arusha's Action Film: *A Stone's Throw* Wed. Feb. 20, 6:30 p.m. Plaza Theatre 1133 Kensington Road N.W. \$10 at the door, 100% C \$ accepted.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY NINJA!  
and happy valentines day!  
luv ya!  
- Jac fm

To H.W.  
Even roses blush in the magnificence of your beautiful smile  
- K.C.

NUTV is YOUR campus community television station. Vote YES on Feb.14 till 4 p.m. [www.nutv.ca](http://www.nutv.ca).

Voter apathy means I have time for more important things. Who cares who you vote for, false promises are always made and you will always get screwed over no matter who you vote for.  
- Justonevote

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Just once I would like to be mistaken for a boyfriend, so that I know that someone that looks like me is getting some action.  
- thedrewskii

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If you're part of the Sandwich Appreciation Club contact [tlfs@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca](mailto:tlfs@gauntlet.ucalgary.ca). I will study you.  
- Cam

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To all the engineers who "can collect your own garbage": I'm sure you'll make a great janitor some day.  
- >> <3 CPSC student

Mr.. Mysterious,  
We need to meet. I'm in the CnC Lounge Fri. mornings (SS311).  
- ccGirl.

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# Hockeysaurs take triple weekend wins

DINOS **2** vs **1** BISONS  
men's hockey

Alyzée Sibtain  
Gauntlet Sports

Anyone taking on the University of Calgary men's hockeysaurs should be cowering in fear, as the boys are pushing hard to the playoffs. The Dinos played host to the University of Manitoba Bisons and came away with yet another sweep over the Feb. 8-9 weekend. Friday night's game saw the Dinos fight their way through penalty trouble to hold on for a 4-3 win. The series closer was also a tight one, but the Dinos managed to edge the Bisons by a score of 3-2. But who would be satisfied with two wins in one weekend? The Dinos made it a 3-0 weekend as they finished off their make-up series against the University of Alberta Golden Bears with a 2-1 victory.

Coming into the weekend series, the Dinos had just completed a sweep of the University of Regina Cougars in front of fans at Father David Bauer Arena. They did so with a couple of 4-3 wins and looked to continue their winning ways as they welcomed the Bisons. The Dinos had great success against their eastern rivals already sweeping the Bisons this season back in Nov. The hockeysaurs still had their work cut out for them, as the Bisons were also making a charge for their playoff lives. They were carrying momentum from salvaging a series split against the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns the previous weekend and were looking to add to their success.

"There are no bad teams in this league," commented Dino captain Ryan Annesley. "We're expected to beat everyone now. We and everyone else has high expectations of our team."

The Dinos managed to find themselves back on their heels in the first minute of play of Fri. night's physical game. With Dino Brett O'Malley in the box for goaltender interference, Bison Kyle Howarth opened the scoring with a slap shot past hockeysaur netminder Jeff Weber. Annesley quickly brought his team even, by putting the puck top-shelf behind the Bisons' Krister Toews. The Dinos took



Martin Lussier/the Gauntlet

That looks like it's going to hurt.

the lead, which they never relinquished, on a Torrie Wheat powerplay goal in the last five minutes of the opening frame.

The Bisons knew they had to step it up, but the Dinos were bringing the pressure in the early second period. O'Malley created a bit of a cushion for his team, boosting their lead to 3-1 halfway through the period. That was all the Bisons needed to find that extra step and get themselves back in the game. Rick Wood slipped a Mike Hellyer pass past Weber and the Dinos were now clinging to a one-point lead.

In their desperation, the Dinos made a few questionable decisions. Weber, for one, came charging out of the net to challenge Bison forward Chris Faloon on the breakaway, but was subsequently called for a trip. A penalty shot ensued, but Faloon was not able to convert. The Dinos managed to dodge a bullet, but had to start playing smarter if they wanted to keep adding to the win column.

The Bisons made one final push with an unassisted goal by Chris Benias at the halfway point of the final frame, but the Bisons were not able to capitalize on two-man advantages at the end of the game. Annesley nearly upped the score to 5-3, but connected with the post on an empty-net shot with just seconds left in the game. The Dinos had another scare in the third period, when Annesley took a hard

shot to the face. His quick exit to the dressing room was no cause for concern, as the captain made it back out to the ice for the final minutes of the game. The home team skated off with their third straight win and looked to extend their streak the following night.

"Everyone wants to keep winning [and] we like this feeling of winning almost every night," described Annesley. "We expect nothing less from ourselves and everyone's chipping in to make it happen."

Saturday night began in a similar fashion with the Dinos in penalty trouble. The hockeysaurs held off the Bisons and found the back of the net first. Dino Aaron Richards tipped a Dan Ehrman feed past Toews on the power play, and Dino scoring machine Jared Aulin added to the lead minutes later with an even-strength goal. In doing so, Aulin extended his point streak to 14 games and continued to make his offensive presence felt on the ice. Annesley also recorded an assist.

The game was again a physical one, with each team trying to gain dominance over the other. In the second period, the Bisons found their way around Dino netminder Jordan McLaughlin, cutting the hockeysaurs' lead to one. O'Malley tallied his 14th goal of the season as he converted on his game-winning shot.

Despite a final push from the Bisons after they managed to score their second goal of

the night, the Dinos were able to hold them off with Toews pulled. In doing so, the Dinos picked up their sixth sweep of the season, extending that winning feeling.

The Dinos' weekend didn't end with their sweep of the Bisons. They still had some business to take care of with the University of Alberta Golden Bears, who were in town for the second game being made up from November's mumps postponement. The Bears had already taken the first game in front of their home crowd and the Dinos looked to continue that streak in front of their own fans at Centennial Arena on Sun. night. The Golden Bears were well-rested from their weekend off, but the Dinos had momentum on their side from their success earlier in the weekend.

Wheat had a huge game for the Dinos, as he opened the scoring on a powerplay goal halfway through the first period. Aaron Richards, who recorded an assist on Wheat's score, tallied the game-winning goal midway through the second period. The Bears tried to make a game of it five minutes later, as Brian Woolger found the net behind Weber.

Although the Bears lost in the end, they put pressure on the Dinos throughout the game. There were many loose pucks that took a Bear bounce, but Weber and the Dinos were able to hold them off. The powerplay was the major difference for the teams. Although the Dinos and Bears each had six chances, the Dinos were able to step up defensively and hold the Bears to five shots and no goals.

With Sun. night's win, the Dinos clinch third place in the Canada West Conference and improve their record to 15-7-4, 15-2 since the addition of Weber and Aulin to the lineup. More importantly, they secured quarterfinals home-ice advantage for the weekend of Feb. 22-24 at Father David Bauer. The Dinos will have an advantage not only because of their fan support, but the ice they play on.

"Any team will tell you that it's a different game when you play in Calgary," explained Annesley. "The ice is bigger than most other rinks, so we have an advantage in that we're used to it and its effects on the game."

The Dinos will finish off their season on the road, as they take on the Pronghorns in their last regular season match up. Come out and support your hockeysaurs before you head back to school after reading break. Puck drops at 7 p.m. and admission is free with valid student I.D.

## Lady hockeysaurs split weekend to squeak through to the post-season

DINOS **73** vs **79** HUSKIES  
women's basketball

Cole Christensen  
Gauntlet Sports

The University of Calgary basketball ladysaurs concluded their regular season schedule with a double-header versus the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Feb. 8-9. The Huskies, despite an inferior

record, put up a fight versus the sixth-ranked Dinos, winning one of the two games at Jack Simpson.

On Fri. night, the ladysaurs, clinging to a two-point lead, overcame a crucial Megan Lang turnover with only 12.9 seconds left on the clock to win the game 87-85. This was, in large part, thanks to forward Whitney Haswell's steal to preserve the victory. Even with the win, coach Shawnee Harle was less than enthused.

"We need more intensity, more focus, more smarts and more of a sense of urgency on every possession," she said. "Playoffs are just

around the corner and we need to step our game up to get ready for playoff basketball."

The game on Sat. was more of the same. This time, the late-game heroics came courtesy of the Saskatchewan Huskies defence, who stopped Dinos guard Michelle Willson's potential game-tying lay-up with just six seconds remaining. The Huskies then hit their remaining foul shots and hung on for a 79-73 victory. Coach Harle again lamented her team's lack of intensity outside of the closing minutes.

"We can't wait until the last three

minutes to play hard," she said. "We must do this every possession for 40 minutes."

As a result of the subsequent seeding, the double header actually turned out to be a playoff preview, as both squads will meet again in a best-of-three Central Division semifinal Feb. 15-17. The ladysaurs, by virtue of their superior record, will have the home court advantage for all three games. As shown by this past weekend's split, the Dinos can clearly not assume anything heading into a playoff series with the lower-seeded U of S.

The Huskies can play the ladys-

saurs tough, but Coach Harle was not shy when asked if a rematch with this team was ideal.

"I want to play them again so we can show them and ourselves that we are the better team," Harle quipped. "Plus, it makes preparation easy since we already know what to expect after playing them the previous weekend."

As coach Harle and the rest of the Dinos coach, the only way to show that they are the better team is to play like it in the playoffs.

Game time is 6 p.m.

# Lady hockey saurs take Cougars in set

Double wins leave team at 12-6-4 going into the post-season

DINOS vs COUGARS  
2 vs 1

## women's hockey

Derek Neumeier  
Gauntlet Sports

It was a long, tumultuous season for the University of Calgary Dinos women's hockey team, but the ride is going to only get more interesting. After dropping two heartbreakers to the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology Trojans last weekend, the Dinos knew that it was of the utmost importance that they come back strong versus the first-place Mount Royal College Cougars to regain momentum heading into the playoffs. The Dinos delivered with a bang, stunning the Cougars with two hard-fought victories, 2-0 and 2-1. With the wins, the 12-6-4 Dinos earned themselves a third-place finish in the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference and home ice advantage for the opening round of the playoffs next weekend.

The Dinos' elite defence and goaltending proved to be the deciding factor on Fri. night as the Cougars were unable to generate anything for the score sheet on home ice. MRC, needing a win to hold off SAIT for the top spot in the league, came back stronger on Sat. as they opened the scoring in the game and commanded a 1-0 lead going into the third period. However, the Dinos would not be denied as they stormed back to tie the game and eventually win in the shootout, capping off the series upset and ending the regular season on a very positive note.

"As excited as we are to finish the regular season, we're still looking towards the playoffs," said forward Beth Nerland following Saturday's triumph. "We're going to celebrate the win tonight but we're going to stay focused and not let it go to our heads going into next weekend."

From the drop of the puck on Sat., it was evident that the game was going to be a showcase of defensive abilities as the Cougars and Dinos, ranked first and second, respectively, for fewest goals against in the league, had no room for error or acceptance for failure.

Both teams came out aggressively but were unable to solve each other's sound positioning and stickwork.

It wasn't until midway through the second that the game saw its first tally. Following a sloppy power play, the Dinos were caught disorganized and paid the price when Cougars winger Sash Hochlander chipped the puck along the boards past Dinos defender Cait O'Hara and went in alone on the right side of goalie Katie Urness. Hochlander fired a slow wrist shot that Urness got only a small piece of as the puck trickled past her and into the net, putting MRC ahead 1-0 6:19 into the second.

MRC's defence is as tough as any for women's hockey at the undergraduate level, especially protecting a lead late in the game, but the Dinos were not to be denied, storming back to tie the game early in the third. Nerland, taking a feed from Ali Webb, caught the Cougars on a line change and went in one-on-one with the lone defender. Scoring Christmas came incredibly early for Nerland as the defender tripped over her own feet skating backwards, leaving the veteran Dino alone with Cougar goalie Brittany Dick with plenty of



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Lianne Legere (#22) rolls the puck down the ice.

time and room. Nerland made the most of her ideal chance, beating Dick stick-side to tie the game up at 1-1.

The rest of the third and overtime saw no scoring, setting the stage for yet another Dinos shootout. Webb, the leading scorer and most efficient shootout sniper for the lady hockey saurs, got her team rolling in the first round as she perfectly timed and aimed a quick wrister.

The Cougars scored on their first shot as well but forward Lianne Legere kept the Dinos ahead in round two, deking Dick out of her drawers and sliding the puck into an open net. Urness then made a scintillating blocker save on her end, leaving rookie Alana McEvoy with the chance to clinch the win against MRC's number-one netminder Amanda Squire, who was sent off see HEARTBREAKERS, page 26

# Dinos shut out WolfPack with double 3-0 wins

DINOS vs WOLFPACK  
3 vs 1

## women's volleyball

Joshua Goard-Baker  
Gauntlet Sports

The University of Calgary Dinos women's volleyball team closed out their regular season in winning fashion Feb. 8-9. Gearing up for the playoffs the Dinos swept Thompson Rivers University in both Fri. with 25-18, 25-18, 25-12 and Saturday's 25-20, 25-20, 25-17 matches, building much needed confidence heading into the post-season.

"We played a solid weekend, albeit against a weaker team, so we weren't really significantly challenged on either night," said Dinos head coach Kevin Boyles after the weekend's matches. "I thought that it was a good opportunity for us to make sure that everyone got some time on the court and to have a good sense of confidence heading into the playoffs."

A quad of Dinos, Laura Wilson, Holly Harper, Lauren Perry and captain Julie Young, led the way to victory on Fri. night, all finishing the game with seven kills. According to Young, the women came out a bit sluggish but got their feet under them as the game went on.

"We blocked, hit and dug well,

it felt good to play solid especially before our playoff stretch begins," she said.

Perry and Deanna Delisle led the way for the Dinos on Sat. night finishing with 10 kills and eight kills, respectively.

The Dinos finish the season with a 16-4 record and now have to prepare for their first-round match against the University of Regina, who finished with a 10-10 record Feb. 15-17. The series will be played in a best of three matches, with the first two games scheduled for 8 p.m. in the Jack Simpson Gym on Fri. and Sat. The third game of the series is scheduled for Sun. at 2 p.m., if necessary.

The weekend will also mark the end of the line for two fifth-year Dinos players as Delisle and Willemina Stikker-Breemhaar, both middles for the team, will be honoured for their time with the team. Despite this, the Dinos have to remain focused for what should turn out to be a challenging match over the weekend.

"I think we're as ready as we can be for the stretch run," said Boyles. "Everyone is healthy and motivated and we're looking forward to the opportunity to see how far into the post-season this team is capable of going."

That sentiment was echoed by Young, who was excited for the weekend to come and hopes for a large turnout of loud fans to help support the teams.

"We are very focused and practices have been very intense, so we

are ready for a big crowd to cheer us on," she said.

For Boyles, the team's work will come to a head this weekend.

"This is the part of the season that we all live and train for—motivation is not an issue," he said. "It's time to put in some great playoff performances

and take a run at a national title."

The quarterfinals kick off Feb. 15.

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# Split weekend puts basketsaurs at 18-4

DINOS vs HUSKIES  
76 vs 86

## men's basketball

Stewart Pallard  
Gauntlet Sports

The University of Calgary Dino men's basketball team finished their season on the road, splitting their weekend series against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Feb. 8-9. Both games were mostly for pride, as the outcomes had no bearing on either team in the standings or whom either team would play in the post-season.

Whenever a team plays the Huskies, the game plan is to stop 6'8" forward Andrew Spagrud. The fifth-year player has been averaging just over 20 points per game this season and is, arguably, one of the strongest Canada West basketball players in memory. The Dinos defence limited Spagrud to just seven points. Keeping the team's star player limited to single digits in points is a tell-tale sign of the team losing and that's exactly what happened to the Huskies as the Dinos would win 72-67. Spagrud's sidekick Kyle Grant who is also having a strong season averaging over 15 points per game, was stopped at just two points on the night. However, they did manage to out-rebound the Dinos 30-27.

The Huskies had a 38-26 lead at half-time but the team's best players just couldn't keep it afloat. The Dinos outscored them 44-19 in the second half.

Hank "the Tank" Bekkering led the Dinos' offensive attack, torching the Huskies for 24 points. Bekkering might not have the highest point-per-game average in Canada West but in head-to-head competition, he frequently has more points than those ahead of him and is still third in the league, averaging 21.05 points per game. He is a strong candidate the Canada West MVP award and on the number-four ranked team in the country. Other strong players included point guard Jeff Price who had 15 points, rookie Tyler Fidler who had 14 and forward Robbie Sihota rocked 13.

"I still don't feel we played our best basketball in Saskatchewan," said Dinos head coach Dan Vanhooren. "[We had] two games on a long roadtrip where we came out and won the first game. I thought was a really good testament to the team we have."

The Sat. night game was senior night as the Huskies honoured all five of their fifth-year players making for a lengthy ceremony. Teams on the road typically do not win on senior night and the Huskies made their seniors' last regular season home game a victorious one with an 86-73 victory.

This time, Spagrud wasn't kept silent racking up 28 points and becoming the all-time leading scorer in the history of Canada West basketball with 2,182 points. Grant also



Amanda Hu/the Gauntlet

The Dinos double-team it to the net earlier this season.

rebounded and had a twenty-point effort. The Dinos were only down seven points at the half but the Huskies would lead by eight at the end of the third quarter and the Dinos would only score 11 points in the fourth quarter.

The offensive attack was led by familiar faces as Bekkering had 20 points, Price 17 and Sihota had 12. Forward Ross Bekkering sat out both games with an ankle injury but will be back in time for the playoffs.

Third-year forwards Sihota and Ross Bekkering have had much better seasons than they did last year and are big reasons why the Dinos finished with an 18-4 record instead of the .500 record they had last season.

Both of them worked hard in the off-season getting stronger and it has paid off as Sihota has averaged 13.68 points per game this season and Ross lead the league in rebounds averaging 10.4 per game.

The number-four ranked Dinos will now play the waiting game as they have a first-round bye, getting ready to play the winner of the series between the Huskies and University of Alberta Golden Bears. If they win that series they will host the Canada West final four.

Playoff kicks off in the Jack Simpson Gymnasium Feb. 22 at 7 p.m.

# Dinos split weekend with WolfPack to take a place at playoffs

DINOS vs WOLFPACK  
3 vs 1

## men's volleyball

Courtenay Adams  
Gauntlet Sports

It wasn't easy, but the men's volleysaurs managed to eke their way into post-season contention after splitting play with the Thompson Rivers University WolfPack Feb. 8-9. Going in to the weekend, the men were required to pull at least one win from the double-header to continue to the playoffs. While Fri. night's nail-biter failed to end in the Dinos' favour with final set scores posted as 13-25, 25-22, 22-25, 25-23, 15-11, the volleysaurs managed to synthesize nerves into victory on Sat. night following four intense sets with 21-25, 26-28, 29-27, 25-27. The win propelled the Dinos from eighth to sixth place in the conference.

On Fri. night, Omar Langford, Andrew Tallas and Oleg Podporin were all impressive on offence and Scott Price opened the match with an extensive service run. Tallas was also strong on defence with nine digs. Despite the Dinos' efforts, their play was shut down by WolfPackers like Robin Schoebel with 26 kills and Graham Allard with nine digs.

However, Tallas and Price continued their well-rounded play in Saturday's match, while Graham Vigrass—also a first-year—had a notable performance, registering eight kills for the evening. The team's combined efforts were rewarded with the win that brought them into the post-season.

"It's a big win for this program," said head coach Rod Durrant, noting the team's inability to secure a playoff spot for the last five years. "Certain guys stepped up and had really good matches and as a group we were able to withstand a very good opponent and find a way to win."

Durrant also alluded to the weekend's tension by emphasizing the importance of every point.

"There's a small difference between winning and losing," he commented. "It's one good serve, it's one dig, it's one block. It's those small little quality plays out there that allow us to be successful."

Following the weekend's excitement, the Dinos' hit the courts once again for an intensified version of practice that was focused on two themes already familiar to the players. Taking care of the ball on their side by improving consistency in all aspects of play was of utmost importance to the team, as was with working on the quality of the service game. Strategy against their first playoff opponent, the third-ranked University of British

Columbia Thunderbirds, was also discussed. The Dinos will face them starting Valentine's Day in a best-

of-three series that will take place over the weekend.

Coach Durrant was willing to

give credit where credit was due to the T-Birds, but stubbornly see VOLLEYSAURS, page 25

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# A Young captain

Joshua Goard-Baker  
Gauntlet Sports

The importance of the captain on sports teams is unparalleled, with responsibilities that come on and off the court, the presence is even felt when the individual is not speaking. Sometimes the captain is the team's ultimate cheerleader, or that stoic individual who everyone respects. Examples of different leadership styles can be found all across professional sports, whether it be Jason Varitek, who as a member and team leader of the Boston Red Sox, led a nutty, zany crew to the 2004 Major League World Series. He always seemed to bring a level of seriousness and intensity to a team that just wanted to have fun. Another example might be Calgary Flames captain Jarome Iginla, who, despite an unparalleled professionalism, always seems to have a smile on his face and must be the poster boy for loving life. His effect on the Flames, might come in the department of keeping those multi-millionaires grounded in the reality that it all, still, is just a game.

The Dinos have had some important captains as well. Despite Richard Bohne's Canada West scoring record being broken over the weekend, Bohne will always be remembered for his intense style of play and the leadership he exuded on the court.

Another born leader is Julie Young, captain of the women's volleyball team. Whether it be through her confidence on and off the court or her cheerful demeanor that seems to have an edge of intensity always riding underneath, Young was molded in just the right fashion to lead a perennially deep and talented team.

After returning from injury early in the season, it seemed Julie Young was a bit slowed for the first half. However, her stabilizing force was always present with the team, and in the second half Young has turned up her game, as have the rest of the Dinos. On a team that coach Kevin Boyles has termed as inconsistent, Young has provided stability with the team moving towards the playoffs.

Born in Red Deer, Young was a highly sought-after athlete after completing high school, both in volleyball and basketball. However,



Katy Anderson/the Gauntlet

Young serves up some trouble for the competition.

she says that the decision to come to Calgary was an easy one after meeting coach Boyles and the rest of the team at the time. The squad, who had just completed a national title, offered a winning atmosphere and a sense of family that Young felt was of great importance to her. Now, in her fourth year, Young has spent time as both a libero and an outside hitter and can be utilized in a number of different fashions on the court.

Off the court, Young is enrolled in the faculty of communication and culture, with her goal to become an elementary teacher. In the off-season, Young spends a lot of time playing her second-favourite sport, tennis. Obviously, her favourite tennis player right now is another born winner Roger Federer.

Asked about her interests outside of sports, Julie mentioned she loves to find and listen to little-known indie bands, with her favourite at the moment being Angus and Julia Stone, from Australia. As for Canadian music, Young still holds a place in her heart for canuck Alanis Morissette. She still uses "You Oughtta Know" as her warmup song before games. Her favourite live band is The Killers, her favourite TV show is *Scrubs* and her all time favourite-movie is *The Sound of Music*.

Back on the court, Young mentions that one of the hardest things about being involved in university sports is learning to balance sports, schoolwork and social life.

"It takes about two years [to get used to it]," estimated Young.

Outside of the university, Julie has been involved with the Canadian National Team and spent two and a half weeks training with them over the summer. Asked whether she had aspirations of going to the Olympics, Julie was non-committal.

"Team Canada did not qualify for the Olympics this summer," said Young. "I think I will be done playing volleyball before the next Olympics rolls around. I enjoy being with the national team [and] I enjoy the intensity and high level the girls play at."

Whether or not she chooses to continue playing volleyball after university, the fact is that Young has provided another example of how important the captain is on a sports team. They are always the individual who leads others on and off the court, setting examples and shining when the spotlight is focused squarely on them.

Stay tuned for our next player profile.

## Volleysaurs, continued from page 24

asserted that the team's superior ranking was in no way a guarantee of victory.

"UBC's a very good team," said Durrant. "They've been to the nationals. We respect them and we know what they're capable of. They have some very good athletes and they're coached very well. We need to be at our best," said Durrant.

Playoff success or not, the coach was impressed with the Dinos' over-

all regular season play, as well as with their conduct on and off the court.

"They're a good team," said Durrant. "They support each other. They have fun with each other and there's a real positive vibe when they're together. I like our work ethic. There're always little dips in the climb, but we've rebounded to get to an eight-and-ten record and to get into the playoffs. That, in my

opinion, is ahead of schedule."

The Dinos face the Thunderbirds on Thu. night, Sat. afternoon, and Sun. afternoon this weekend in Vancouver at the Tournament Capital Centre. The matches will be available via webcast on the Dinos website.

The playoffs kick off with the quarterfinals against The University of Regina Feb. 15.

# off the page

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# Gauntlet Sportspinions

## Looking for logic in the Toronto Maple Leafs' franchise



**Austin Paladeau**  
Sports Columnist

Recently, I have begun to read Al Gore's latest piece of supposed non-fiction, titled *The Assault on Reason*. His basic premise, from what I gather thus far, is this: why is it that reason, logic and truth play a sharply diminished role in the way America now makes important policy decisions? As I am not finished reading the book, I am unsure of his conclusions. Nonetheless, it is an intriguing thesis and one which started me thinking about how logic and reason

has come to play a limited role in the sports sphere as well. Nowhere is this more evident than with the current state of affairs displayed by widely loved—and perhaps even more widely despised—Toronto Maple Leafs.

For those who do not follow hockey religiously, here is the story: the Maple Leafs have not won a Stanley Cup in the last 40 or more years and have iced some of the worst teams in hockey history. Over this same 40-year span, the Leafs have acrimoniously parted ways with some of their most beloved players in franchise history, such as Dave Keon, Lanny McDonald and Darryl Sittler and have failed to take any sort of meaningful step toward perennial contender

status, save for two conference finals appearances in '93 and '02. Things over at Maple Leafs Sports and Entertainment reached a new boiling point last month when much maligned General Manager John Ferguson Jr. was canned, leaving head coach Paul Maurice and the rest of the team on the hot seat for the remainder of the season. In the absence of some miracle, the team will miss the playoffs for a third consecutive year this season and will have further frustrated their loyal and long-suffering fans. With Cliff Fletcher at the helm of the franchise on an interim basis, questions are abound in the media as to what the Leafs will do to change the atmosphere surrounding the team and bring the

Buds back to glory. This is where the altered Al Gore thesis comes into play: why does it seem that reason and logic play a limited role in the hockey operations of the Toronto Maple Leafs? The Leafs have done nothing in recent memory that resembles logic and it appears they are following this trend again, despite a supposed recognition of needed change in team management.

The fact of the matter is the Leafs are a bad team, both on paper and on the ice. Their development system lacks any surefire prospects and the big club is full of support type players thrust into starring roles. Their best asset, Mats Sundin, appears hellbent on remaining with the team, despite knowing full well

what his trade would net the team in return. This is where Fletcher needs to introduce reasoning to his club. The team needs to re-tool regardless of the desires of President Larry Tanenbaum or the others residing on the board of governors at MLSE. They need to stockpile young talent and accept the fact that being a weak team for a year or two will lead to greater gains in the long run through the draft and cap flexibility. Mats Sundin needs to go, regardless of the Captain's seemingly noble intention to go down with the ship. The status quo can not continue to be maintained by MLSE just because it has been profitable. Now is the time for the Leafs to wake up and build a team that Leafs fans can once again be proud of.

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# DINOS

## ROOKIES OF THE MONTH

**SARAH LAGNY**  
*Volleyball*

A Saskatoon native, Sarah saw court time in all six Dinos matches in January, helping the team to a 6-0 record. She leads the team with 371 assists, averaging 9.27 per set—the third best total in Canada West. Sarah is a first-year student in the Faculty of Science.

**TYLER FIDLER**  
*Basketball*

Tyler earned the first start of his CIS career Jan. 26 after an outstanding month as the sixth man. He averaged just under 10 points per game in the month and has 170 points in his rookie year. Tyler is a student in the Faculty of Communication and Culture.

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## Heartbreakers, cont'd from pg. 23

the bench to replace Dick after the first two rounds. The switch made no difference as McEvoy had a severe case of dangleitis, dangling Squire into submission to make the Dinos a perfect 3-for-3 in the shootout and give them the win.

"I was really nervous at first, but I calmed myself down and realized I had a lot of options as to where I was going to put the puck," said McEvoy of the game. "I knew the move well but also made due with

what the goalie gave me."

With the regular season behind them, the Dinos can now set their sights towards the first round of the playoffs and their opponents, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology Ooks, a team that the Dinos went a perfect 4-0 against during the regular season. The Ooks, who finished their 3-17-2 season by being outscored 9-0 in their last weekend series, were the bottom-feeders of the ACAC all

season, finishing dead last, but the Dinos are still adamant that they bring only their best hockey come next weekend.

"We can't take NAIT lightly," warned McEvoy. "But if we keep playing like we are, I'm sure we can beat them and eventually make it to the finals."

The Dinos gear up for their home and away series against NAIT Feb. 14-16.

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# The U of C's roamin' resident poet

**Sina Queyras**  
writer interview

**Cam Cotton-O'Brien**  
TLF Editor

It would be interesting to know, so many years later, what exactly prompted Sina Queyras' high school creative writing teacher to advise her to drop out of school. Probably it was his recognition that this young woman was to lead a different path—he was the one who originally told her she was a poet.

"That seemed like a death sentence to me," said Queyras. "You know, obscurity, no audience, poverty, also irrelevance. I've never wanted to be a poet, but clearly he was right."

It was no simple path that got her from high school drop-out to where she is now, the 2007-08 Markin-Flanagan Canadian writer in residence. Rather, a period of vocational nomadism—from working for a private investigator, to a stint in the fashion industry, to a position as a bartender, among other things—ensued. A period that was marked by very little writing.

"[I] didn't write very much from the time I was 19 till the time I was 26," said Queyras. "When I was 26, that's when I decided that this is what I was going to do, no matter what it cost."

Having lived in a Chrysler with her mother for a number of years,

Queyras has had the dubious privilege of being a student at 22 different schools. Though this gave her an interesting perspective as both an outsider and an insider, this experience also meant that she hadn't had the time and proper instruction to learn to write. Thus, at 26 when she decided it was time to pursue a career as a writer, she resolved to go to college. Her initial interest in journalism was crushed when she saw that the professor for the course was none other than the editor she had worked for as a teen-employee of a paper in northern BC.

"I decided it was kind of a been there, done that scenario," said Queyras. "[Instead] I took creative writing in Malaspina, Nanaimo. That was it. I never looked back after that."

After a year at Malaspina, Queyras transferred to the University of Victoria and then to the University of British Columbia, where she received a BFA. Then, it was on to Concordia in Montreal where she received an MA. Degrees finished, Queyras needed to find an occupation. She started a theatre company with some friends. This kept her in Toronto for a few years until she was faced with the reality of making a living, which drove her and her partner to the United States. Six years of teaching at Rutgers in New Jersey were greatly enjoyed by Queyras, who during that period lived in Brooklyn. New York, it turned out, was the



Cam Cotton-O'Brien/The Gauntlet

Sina Queyras has a life that's been much cooler than yours.

ideal spot for the writer.

"That sounds like a cliché," said Queyras. "People say, 'what are you doing here? You should be in New York.' It's true."

Her six-year tenure at Rutgers ended, Queyras took a post at Haverford College in Philadelphia. It was while teaching at Haverford that Queyras applied and was accepted as the U of C writer in residence (incidentally, she does not actually live in residence).

Before coming to town this past fall, Queyras had published three collections of poetry, the most recent called *Lemon Hound*. She has also been a contributing editor for *Drunken Boat*, an online

Canadian literary journal for which she has compiled the folio, "Mis-Translations," that went up last week.

Queyras' duties as the writer in residence involve spending 50 per cent of her time working on her own material and 50 per cent of her time participating with Calgary's literary community. One of these community activities is manuscript consultation. Writers, both from inside the university and out, can bring 10 pages for Queyras to look over. She noted that you can tell a lot from even a single paragraph of someone's writing.

As an instructor, Queyras advises students to operate, as she does,

outside of their element to force themselves to engage in new creative ideas and projects.

"I tell my students, if you want to write, study philosophy or political science or entomology, the wildest thing you can think of," said Queyras. "Early on I realised that as a student it was my job to make everything I did relevant to my project."

Queyras is working on four different projects of her own in Calgary. One of these is a novel that she has spent more than a decade on.

"I actually spent 10 years writing that novel," said Queyras. "Then, when I was done, I realised I hated it, so I largely threw it out. Now I'm rewriting it."

The novel, which Queyras hopes to have completed in May, has inspired a collection of poems dealing with subject matter uncovered during research for the novel, but which will not appear in its text.

When her tenure as the writer in residence ends this summer, Queyras, who mentioned that she has spent a lot of her life trying to get off the grid, will resume her nomadic poet lifestyle—spending the hot season in New York before heading back to Montreal for the fall. Though not yet sure what she will be doing there, it can only be assumed that Queyras will continue to lead an exceptional life, that of an individual capable of becoming a talented literary force despite having failed English in high school.

# Fort Mac is all about oilsands and rocking

**Desiderata**  
music interview

**Jordyn Marcellus**  
E&P Editor

The idea of anything coming out of Fort McMurray besides dirty water, environmental degradation and oily sand is a bit ridiculous. The common conception about the town is that there's nothing there but work, getting drunk and going to the strippers. Generally done in that order. Conventional wisdom says that Fort Mac is unique in its complete absence of culture.

Young upstarts Desiderata have finally begun to make the long, slow process of making amends for the city's last big cultural export, Natasha Henstridge (of *Species* fame). Since their beginnings as a bunch of pudgy punk kids to their current lives as pleasantly-plump hipsters, the band has been slowly changing up their stylings and kept their music fresh.

"Starting out in Fort McMurray,

we were pretty uneducated musically," says Laine Cherkewick, the three-piece's bassist. "We were pretty much a punk band like Choke. Once we started listening to more experimental music and jamming out more, our sound started to change up. By the time we moved to Edmonton, listening to local bands in the area, we've changed our style even further."

One of the things Desiderata has impressed music fans the most with, besides their frenetic live shows and scalpel-sharp guitar riffs, is their willingness to do something a little unexpected. Sometimes a little jazzier, which is understandable given the way the band met up.

"We met when I was in Grade 10 or so," laughs Cherkewick. "There was this all-star jazz band that was at the local college that all the band geeks from all over the city wanted to get into. That's where I met [drummer] Jerome [Tovillo], and then I met [vocalist and guitarist] Blair through Jerome."

The group haven't spent an ounce of time slacking in their

musical careers. Immediately after releasing their 2007 album *We Are Not Convinced There Has Been Improvement*, they immediately broke out the old van in an attempt to spread their tunes around the country. Where some bands collapse on their first tour, bickering and fighting until they break up, the band found themselves closer from their experience on the road.

"We bonded a lot more after the tour," says Cherkewick. "We were really good friends before, and got a hell of a lot tighter on that tour. It was the best time of my life. We toured with another band, Atrophy Manuscript, and a single merch guy. We all packed into one van. We toured all along the west coast and then to Quebec and back. It took us about six or seven weeks. We got to meet cool people and party it up. There's not much more you could ask for."

Not content to rest on their laurels, the band just finished recording an album in Vancouver studio The Hive with producer Jesse Gander, who's previously worked with the City Streets and the Doers,

among others. With a new album inevitably comes the touring. Of course, some seasons are better than others.

"I'm excited to tour again in the summer," says Cherkewick. "Touring in the summer is probably the best time, as you can sleep outside if you don't have a place to stay. We did it all the time. Sometimes we'd have no place to stay or we'd be couch-hopping and all this crap would happen and we'd have to make a hasty retreat. We'd end up driving around looking for a place to sleep and end up sleeping in a field. Sometimes we'd get woken up by cops, other times we'd have all this sap over our faces from sleeping on the grass."

In spite of the troubles, Cherkewick is upbeat about his career in music. The group works day jobs when they're not recording or touring. It's understandable because they're still paying their dues and playing shows wherever they can fit it into their schedules. Their next show will be their second in Calgary, strutting their stuff in front of a surprisingly energized fanbase.

"It's sweet, because we get to do shit like record out in Vancouver for two weeks, come back to Edmonton for a week and then go out and play a show in Calgary the next week," laughs Cherkewick. "It's really weird, we have a lot of support in Calgary. It's surprising because we've only played one show in the city, but we have tons of fans there. I don't understand it at all, but I'm definitely not complaining."

The band, all in their early twenties, are doing something that most musicians don't get to do in their entire life: going on the road and making music. With their next release, tentatively titled *Alcoholhawk*, arriving sometime in the spring, Cherkewick is hopeful and optimistic.

"I find it absolutely insane to be able to do this," he laughs. "When I was younger I told myself 'my dream to be able to play music for a life time and not work.' While I'm still working a day job, I'm closer than ever."

Desiderata play a set at Emmedia Sat., Feb. 16 starting at 7 p.m. Cover is \$5 at the door. *Alcoholhawk* is the best album name ever.

# Coat doesn't wear thin

## The Gift of The Coat

t h e a t r e r e v i e w

Ryan Pike

Entertainment Editor

At a time when theatrical productions seem destined to become more grandiose and effects-laden to compete with motion pictures and other modes of visual entertainment, it's rare that a high-profile production goes in the opposite direction—stripping itself of all but the bare essentials in order to spark the audience's imagination. Rarer still is an occasion where the effort is successful, but such is the case with Sean Dixon's *The Gift of the Coat*.

The play examines various facets of human nature, with the entirety of the play occurring as the aftermath of a public speaker named Rideau (Kevin James) giving a beggar, Ned (John Kirkpatrick), his coat. It's worth noting that the beggar begins the play immediately discovering that he has died and the coat (Kathleen Duborg) is suddenly

able to speak. The pair venture out into the world, the beggar attempting to uncover the events that led to his death and the coat wanting to return to its former owner.

Writer Sean Dixon effectively develops a pair of narratives—one following Ned and the coat, the other featuring Rideau and another man—dovetailing them together at the end. The production's design team goes above and beyond: the set itself is merely a set of stairs and the rest of the play's aesthetic is left to the actors and the imagination of the audience. The inclusion of a few key costumes, props and an amazing lighting job by designer David Fraser completely transforms what could have been a handful of people fumbling around in the dark into something really affecting.

The cast is impeccable. The vast amount of time is spent with the Coat and Ned, but their journey is never tiring. Kathleen Duborg imbues an inanimate object simultaneously with poise and stature, while John Kirkpatrick fills the stage with manic energy and humour. The play likely wouldn't have worked with

lesser actors, as the audience has to connect with the actors in order to discover what's happening along with them. Kirkpatrick, in particular, has an amazing tirade midway through the play focused on the nature of beauty that is a sight to behold. Kevin James is great as Rideau, but Barden Griffiths stands out as his assistant, Wallace. The actors not involved in scenes also act as a sort of Greek chorus, becoming geese, lovers and Torontonians as the action dictates, aided only by costumes and props. While their use risked becoming hokey, it never even got close to coming across that way to the audience.

Aided by tremendous use of lighting, costumes and props and fueled by a cast of talented, energetic actors, the play's 90-minute runtime blows right by. *The Gift of the Coat* is a charming, surprisingly affecting look at human nature, where the audience examines why people are the way they are, joined by a dead beggar and a coat.

*The Gift of the Coat* runs until Sun., Mar. 9.



Daniel J. Pagan/The Gauntlet

Behold, the world's best-dressed game of "keep away."

## movies that matter

Birth is a miracle,  
a rite of passage, a natural part of life.  
But birth is also big business.

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RICKI LAKE AND PRODUCER ABBY EPSTEIN

## THE BUSINESS OF BEING BORN

Compelled to explore the subject after the delivery of her first child, actress Ricki Lake questions the way American women have babies. Epstein gains access to several pregnant New York City women who are clients of a charismatic midwife who, between birth events, shares both memories and footage of her own birth experience. Footage of women having babies punctuates the film. The fundamental question: should most births be viewed as a natural life process, or should every delivery be treated as a potential medical emergency? A must-see movie for anyone even thinking about having a baby.

**CAMPUS SCREENING: THURS. FEB. 21 @ 7 PM**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY, MURRAY FRASER HALL, ROOM 160

Suggested donation of \$5 Students/Seniors/Low Income • \$10 Adults (to cover screening costs) Tix at door only or a donation to the Campus Food Bank (Calgary Dollars accepted) Panel discussion to follow Presented by TRIMEDIA, The Epcor Centre, Hallmark Housekeeping Services and FFWD Weekly

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You will never look at giving birth the same way.

## August shines

A u g u s t  
t h e a t r e r e v i e w

Darren Young

Gauntlet Entertainment

Sometimes the biggest problems start in the simplest of situations. The complicating factor in *August, An Afternoon in the Country*, is not the setting in which it takes place, but rather the intentions and motives of the characters delivering the story. *August* is set at the home of a family living in rural Quebec, with the story unfolding in real-time over a family dinner. This may sound like a gross oversimplification, but it exemplifies the monochromatic scheme of the plot versus the vibrant undertones of the conflict. The family that's the focus of *August* is filled with colourful characters, their interactions revealing the dynamic relationships that exist between them.

A brief introduction captures the crumbling relationship of Gabriel and his wife Louise, providing a context for the rest of the play. Most of the action following the introduction serves merely as buildup to the breaking point between the couple. Surrounding Gabriel and Louise is the immediate family of Louise—her parents Jeanne and Simon who own the family home and maple syrup business, ornery and hysterical grandmother Paulette, tantrum tossing teenage daughter Josée,

slightly ditzy aunt Monique and her fiancée André Mathieu. Over the course of *August*, these characters participate in idle chitchat, and do ordinary, everyday things until a small argument occurs, leading to the downward spiral and eventual conclusion.

ATP's production of *August*, showing in the Enbridge playRites Festival of New Canadian Plays, is faithful to the nature of the story and intentions of playwright Jean-Marc Dalpé. Each character plays their part fittingly, allowing the situation to thrive and blossom as the family disintegrates under pressure. Joyce Doolittle is hysterical as the matriarch of the family, Paulette, providing comic relief at just the right moments.

Danette MacKay also stands out in her role as aunt Monique, playing the black sheep of the family on the eve of her wedding to Mr. Mathieu. Her excellent timing lends itself to some of the more entertaining and engaging dialogue of the play. Though over-acting beleaguers moments of the play, the actors generally recover quickly from such bouts.

Overall, ATP has a winner on its hands with *August*. It is intelligently written, well performed, and loses little in its transition from French to English. No matter how basic the story may seem, the colours behind the story keep *August* fresh and worth seeing.

*August* runs until Sat., Mar. 8.

# There's always time for wine!

Our picks to impress that special someone...

**Andrew Sedor**  
Gauntlet Entertainment

You can't screw up buying your date flowers, it's hard to screw up buying them chocolates, but it is very easy and pricey to screw up on wine selection. Whether you are having wine by itself or pairing it with food, it is beneficial to do some research into which wine will fit your palate and your budget. To make your research easier, the *Gauntlet* has consulted with some people who deal with wine on a day-to-day basis.

**MICHAEL BIGATTINI**  
*Torres Vina Esmeralda (white)* [\$13; Spain]

A blend of muscatel and gewurz-taminer that is light fruity but has a backbone of acidity that makes you want to drink it all night long.

Goes with: Seafood, chicken, pasta with fresh herbs and olive oil. A great wine to drink all by itself.

*Chateau Magnol (red)* [\$22; France]

A 50 per cent Cabernet Sauvignon, 50 per cent Merlot blend with really good fruit, really good acidity and not too heavy in tannin. An absolutely amazing Bordeaux for its price.

Goes with: Grilled meat, steak, burgers, sitting around drinking red wine.

*Jose Maria Fonseca Domini (red)* [\$13; Portugal]

A deep rich red with a lot of flavour, good balance and is composed of the blend of the grapes that make up port, but made out dry. The wine is made in clay barrels, so it softens the bite but still keeps the freshness of the fruit without adding any oak taste.



photos by Chris Tait/The Gauntlet

Goes with: Short ribs, barbeque ribs, any meats with a lot of flavour.

**GRAHAM JORDAN**  
*Capcanes Mas Donis (red)* [\$19; Spain]

This wine has good fruit, and is very smooth going down. With notes of cherries, raspberries and earthy qualities it is a wine anyone can enjoy.

Goes with: Pork chops, spaghetti bolognese, most pastas.

*Folonari Valpolicella Classico (red)* [\$16; Italy]

This is a fruit-driven wine that goes down almost too easily. Simple yet satisfying, with a fresh and fruity aroma.

Goes with: Pasta, pizza, red meat.

*Peter Lehmann Barossa Shiraz (red)* [\$20; Australia]

Full-bodied with a good balance of fruit and tannin. A great Shiraz with a lot of flavor.

Goes with: Chicken, turkey, dark chocolate.

**ANDREW SEDOR**  
*Nino Franco "Rustico" Prosecco (sparkling white)* [\$22; Italy]

It's smooth, yet fills your mouth with flavour and doesn't have a high acid finish like champagne. Tastes of sweet apple, pear and tropical fruit make this the perfect sparkling wine for Valentine's for wine connoisseurs or people who enjoy the odd glass.

Goes with: Most appetizers and Valentine's Day.

*Urban Riesling (white)* [\$15; Germany]

A great wine if you're just getting into wine. A well-balanced white with peach pair and a lot of green apple flavour that suits anyone who likes their wine a bit sweeter.

Goes with: Chinese, pork and great to drink by itself.

*Zenato Ripassa (red)* [\$23; Italy]

An extremely popular, easy-drinking, full-bodied red that has a soft-textured finish with raspberry and blackberry flavours.

Goes with: Grilled meats.

**OUR PANEL**

**Michael Bigattini** devoted his life to wine at a very young age. His career in wine has included serving at fine dining restaurants, being an employee at a still/sparkling wine house, becoming a wine rep, working for an award winning B.C. winery and hosting many shows including *Wine Basics*, *Beer Basics* and *Vine to Wine*. For the past six years Bigattini has worked at Calgary's Willow Park Wine and Spirits where he is the senior product consultant, teaches classes and makes appearances at special functions.

**Graham Jordan** is 21-year-old international business student who is also studying to be a sommelier (a trained wine steward). Jordan has been heavily involved in the wine business for four years and has almost finished his diploma with the Wine and Spirit Education Trust. His passion for wine has led him to travel through wine regions in France, Italy and California.

The *Gauntlet's* **Andrew Sedor** has worked under the wine teachings of Bigattini, Jordan and many others for the past year and has developed his own unique palate.



TOP OF THE  
**VOX**  
CALGARY 90.9 FM  
**cjsw**  
106.9 CABLE

**TOP 20** for the week of **FEB 11.08**

- \* Denotes Canadian Artist  
\*\* Denotes Local Artist
- 1 **BRITISH SEA POWER**  
*Do You Like Rock Music?* (Rough Trade)
- 2 **KELLY STOLTZ**  
*Circular Sounds* (Sup Pop)
- 3 **AMERICAN MUSIC CLUB**  
*The Golden Age* (Merge)
- 4 **JASON COLLETT\***  
*Here's To Being Here* (Arts & Crafts)
- 5 **BLACK MOUNTAIN\***  
*In The Future* (Scratch)
- 6 **THE SUMMERLAD\*\***  
*City Of Noise* (Saved By Radio)
- 7 **CRIPPLE CREEK FAIRIES\*\***  
*Curl Up And Die* (Transistor)
- 8 **JON MCKIEL\***  
*The Nature Of Things* (Wednesday)
- 9 **IDA**  
*Lovers Prayers* (Polyvinyl)
- 10 **XIU XIU**  
*Women As Lovers* (Kill Rock Stars)
- 11 **LUCY BLAND**  
*Down To Sea Level* (indie)
- 12 **EVANGELICALS**  
*The Evening Descends* (Dead Oceans)
- 13 **BOB MOULD**  
*District Line* (Anti)
- 14 **SCARY MANSION**  
*Every Joke Is Half The Truth* (Zum)
- 15 **LOUIS XIV**  
*Slick Dogs And Ponies* (Atlantic)
- 16 **SHORTSTACK**  
*The Covers EP* (Gypsy Eyes)
- 17 **BEASTS AND SUPERBEASTS\***  
*Beasts And Superbeasts* (indie)
- 18 **VARIOUS\***  
*Unity: A Tribute To Desmond Dekker* (Bacteria Buffet)
- 19 **LIAM FINN**  
*I'll Be Lightning* (Yep Roc)
- 20 **THE EVAPORATORS\***  
*Gassy Jack And Other Tales* (Mint)

**HIP HOP/SOUL/FUNK**

- 1 **FOOD FOR ANIMALS**  
*Belly* (Hoss)
- 2 **TWO TON SLOTH**  
*Is Brad Hammers & PZ* (Token Recluse)
- 3 **tzdEKA**  
*tzdEKA* (Little Whore)
- 4 **VARIOUS**  
*20 Years Of Life* (Delicious Vinyl)
- 5 **MIKE LADD**  
*Nostalgia Lator* (Definite Jux)

**WORLD**

- 1 **DADDY RINGS**  
*The Most High* (African Glory)
- 2 **VARIOUS**  
*What's Happening In Pernambuco: New Sounds Of The Brazilian Northeast* (Luaka Bop)
- 3 **VARIOUS**  
*Latin Reggae* (Putumayo)
- 4 **CHEB I SABBAH**  
*Devotion* (Six Degrees)
- 5 **VARIOUS**  
*Best Of Folk Music From Latvia* (Arc)

**MYKE'S PICKS**

- 1 **BON IVER**
- 2 **THE YMD**
- 3 **APES**
- 4 **TERRY RILEY / KRONOS QUARTET / WU MAN**
- 5 **THE BIG SLEEP**

**SPOTLIGHT ON CALGARY**

**JULIE KERR**

Folk ditties galore! That's the only way I can really describe Julie Kerr's new album, *Deeper Still*. That's not true actually... I could call it awesome banjo-strumming meets beautiful country vocals, pure folk bliss. *What do you think of that?*

[www.juliekerr.com](http://www.juliekerr.com)

**RADTASTIC!**

**YOUR GUIDE TO ALL THINGS MUSIC AT CJSW 90.9 FM**

To be added to the email list, contact Myke Atkinson, Music Director at [cjswfm@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cjswfm@ucalgary.ca)

**NUTV**.CA  
Campus Community Television

NEW SHOWS!

NUTV is back in full form with new episodes of *On the Verge* and *Full Frontal*. Fazal talks to GWAR and Hey Rosetta in DTV, while *Full Frontal* looks at a new car sharing initiative in Calgary that recently started up.

[www.nutv.ca/fullfrontal/](http://www.nutv.ca/fullfrontal/)  
or  
[www.nutv.ca/ontheverge/](http://www.nutv.ca/ontheverge/)

**Dinos**

NUTV will be broadcasting the Women's divisional semi-finals on Feb 15-17, and the Men's divisional finals on Feb 22-24. Tune into our website to watch them live, or you can check out the reruns after the fact.

[www.nutv.ca/streaming/](http://www.nutv.ca/streaming/)

About NUTV...

NUTV is one of the oldest university based television production societies in Canada. Based at the U of C, we offer an invaluable opportunity to explore the medium of television by learning all the stages of production. No prior experience is required to join!

<http://www.nutv.ca/>



# THE GAUNTLET'S 2008 ACADEMY AWARDS PREVIEW

illustration by Lora Yee

The Academy Awards have become solidified over time as Hollywood's tribute to itself. Thankfully, it's also provided gambling junkies with an opportunity to bet on things that are completely separate from professional sports. The *Gauntlet's* dynamic duo of cinematic geekery, Entertainment Editor Ryan Pike and E&P Editor Jordyn Marcellus, attempt to accurately predict who will win at the 80th edition of the Oscars Sun., Feb. 24, rather than who deserve to. Pride, Pike's one-year perfect record and a pitcher of beer are on the line.

—||—

#### BEST LEAD ACTOR:

George Clooney (*Michael Clayton*; fourth nomination, one win)

**Daniel Day-Lewis – Ryan's and Jordyn's Pick** (*There Will Be Blood*; fourth, one win)

Johnny Depp (*Sweeney Todd*; third)

Tommy Lee Jones (*The Valley of Elah*; third)

Viggo Mortensen (*Eastern Promises*; first)

Last five winners: Forest Whitaker (*Last King of Scotland*), Phillip Seymour Hoffman (*Capote*), Jamie Foxx (*Ray*), Sean Penn (*Mystic River*), Adrien Brody (*The Pianist*)

**Ryan says:** Let's narrow this down. Mortensen's first nomination is his award. Jones had a great year, but got nominated for the movie nobody saw rather than as a supporting actor in *No Country for Old Men*. Clooney won recently, so he's out. Both Depp and Day-Lewis deserve the award, but Day-Lewis still has residual goodwill after being snubbed for *Gangs of New York*.

**Jordyn says:** There are numerous films that Johnny Depp should have won an award for. *Sweeney Todd* isn't one of them. The buzz that *There Will Be Blood* is generating, and the fact that the other films haven't really been seen by the Academy, means that Daniel Day-Lewis will be thanking God on Feb. 24.

—||—

#### BEST LEAD ACTRESS:

Cate Blanchett (*Elizabeth: the Golden Age*; fifth, one win)

**Julie Christie – Ryan's Pick** (*Away from Her*; fourth, one win)

Marion Cotillard (*La vie en rose*; first)

Laura Linney (*The Savages*; third)

**Ellen Page – Jordyn's Pick** (*Juno*; first)

Last five winners: Helen Mirren (*The Queen*), Reese Witherspoon (*Walk the Line*), Hilary Swank (*Million Dollar Baby*), Charlize Theron (*Monster*), Nicole Kidman (*The Hours*)

**Ryan says:** Ellen Page is the sentimental favourite but stands little chance against this competition. Cotillard and Linney lose out due to their films failing to reach a wide audience. Blanchett suffers from being nominated in two categories in the same year. Vote-splitting on her part, coupled with numerous awards for her competitor, means Julie Christie wins her second Oscar.

**Jordyn says:** People will argue that Kitty Pryde from *X-Men: The Last Stand* even getting a nomination is the reward. Blanchett will win the supporting award for her Dylan performance but she won't win both. The other films haven't been seen and are automatically out. With *Juno* getting so much positive press, the aging Academy will try to remain relevant by giving Page the victory.

—||—

#### BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR:

Casey Affleck (*The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*; first)

**Javier Bardem – Ryan's and Jordyn's Pick** (*No Country for Old Men*; second)

Phillip Seymour Hoffman (*Charlie Wilson's War*; second, one win)

Hal Holbrook (*Into the Wild*; first)

Tom Wilkinson (*Michael Clayton*; second)

Last five winners: Alan Arkin (*Little Miss Sunshine*), George Clooney (*Syriana*), Morgan Freeman (*Million Dollar Baby*), Tim Robbins (*Mystic River*), Chris Cooper (*Adaptation*)

**Ryan says:** As good as anybody else was this year, Javier Bardem was better. He won the Golden Globe and the SAG Award for this category against the same guys. Nuff said.

**Jordyn says:** With the two previous awards, Bardem has got it in the bag. Not much else to add.

—||—

#### BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS:

**Cate Blanchett – Jordyn's Pick** (*I'm Not There*; fifth, one win)

Ruby Dee (*American Gangster*; first)

Saoirse Ronan (*Atonement*; first)

**Amy Ryan – Ryan's Pick** (*Gone Baby Gone*; first)

Tilda Swinton (*Michael Clayton*; first)

Last five winners: Jennifer Hudson (*Dreamgirls*), Rachel Weisz (*The Constant Gardener*), Blanchett (*The Aviator*), Renee Zellweger (*Cold Mountain*), Catherine Zeta-Jones (*Chicago*)

**Ryan says:** The most interesting category this year. Four first-time nominees pitted against Blanchett, who'll definitely suffer from vote-splitting as noted earlier. Ronan and Swinton lose out due to their films not reaching a wide-enough audience, despite acclaim. Ruby Dee won the SAG Award against the same competition, but her film came out months ago. While both Blanchett and Amy Ryan had great years, Blanchett will suffer from vote-splitting while Ryan won many awards from the critics and has buzz on her side.

**Jordyn says:** While Ryan's point about vote-splitting is a strong one, it's Cate Blanchett in a biopic about Bob Dylan, where she plays a dude on drugs. The combined Academy boner will let her ride a wave of votes to the win.

—||—

#### BEST DIRECTOR:

**Paul Thomas Anderson – Ryan's and Jordyn's Pick** (*There Will Be*

*Blood*; third)

Joel and Ethan Coen (*No Country for Old Men*; seventh, one win)

Tony Gilroy (*Michael Clayton*; second)

Jason Reitman (*Juno*; first)

Julian Schnabel (*The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*; first)

Last five winners: Martin Scorsese (*The Departed*), Ang Lee (*Brokeback Mountain*), Clint Eastwood (*Million Dollar Baby*), Peter Jackson (*Return of the King*), Roman Polanski (*The Pianist*)

**Ryan says:** Right away, ignore everyone but Anderson and the Coens (as Gilroy, Reitman and Schnabel are cannon fodder). *No Country for Old Men* and *There Will Be Blood* will split Director and Picture since there's no obvious front-runner. Since *No Country* seems to have a load of momentum on its side for Best Picture, I've got to pick Anderson to win Director.

**Jordyn says:** Anderson made *Magnolia* and *Boogie Nights*. He didn't win an award for either of them. While the Coens have made numerous films and have even won an award, it's simply going to go to Anderson as an award owed by the Academy.

**BEST PICTURE:**

*Atonement*

*Juno*

*Michael Clayton*

***No Country for Old Men* – Ryan's Pick**

***There Will Be Blood* – Jordyn's Pick**

Last five winners: *The Departed*, *Crash*, *Million Dollar Baby*, *Return of the King*, *Chicago*

**Ryan says:** *Atonement*, *Juno* and *Clayton* stand no chance, as it's just a race between *No Country* and *There Will Be Blood*. A year with no frontrunner typically produces split decisions in major categories. Since *Blood* gets recognized in the Actor and Director races, evening things out results in *No Country for Old Men* winning Best Picture.

**Jordyn says:** While the Coen Brothers made a great film, it's going to go to *There Will Be Blood*. More often than not, whoever gets the Director win also wins Picture. While there's significant buzz for *No Country* and traditional wisdom indicates that in a split contest the director and picture will go to two different candidates, *There Will Be Blood* is so fantastic that it'll eke out a win.

FACULTY OF FINE ARTS - DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

# THE NATHAN WISE

By Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, translated by Edward Kemp  
In co-production with the Department of Germanic, Slavic & East Asian Studies

February 19–March 1, 2008, 7:30 pm  
Except February 25 & 26  
2 for 1 Sunday Matinee, February 24, 2 pm  
University Theatre, University of Calgary

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# Drama department has words for the *Wise*

## Classical German play tackles religious intolerance

**Nathan The Wise**  
theatre preview

Ryan Pike  
Entertainment Editor

For years, a common colloquialism has advised steering polite dinnertime conversation away from topics such as politics and religion that tend to result in heated discussion, disagreements or fist fights. The University of Calgary's drama department has chosen to ignore this advice, aiming to explore notions of religion, tolerance and intolerance with a symposium taking place Feb. 21-23 on campus. As part of the symposium, the U of C drama department presents *Nathan the Wise*, directed by associate professor Barry Yzereef.

"It's a play I've always been interested in performing," says Yzereef. "I've let it be known throughout the drama department and also in Germanic Studies that I've always been interested in this play. Germanic Studies decided to put on a conference dealing with the themes of tolerance and intolerance and they said, 'would you be willing to put the play on?' and that's how it all got started."

Originally written in 1779 by German playwright Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, *Nathan the Wise* tackles religious disagreements during the Crusades. The play was seen as controversial and performances were banned during many periods, including much of Lessing's lifetime. Yzereef feels the play's message hasn't lessened in importance over time.

"Lessing's message is so important because it's a play about acceptance, embracing and understanding of

the other," says Yzereef. "The play deals with themes of anti-semitism. It deals with themes of war. It deals with themes of family and discovering of who you truly are. These themes never, ever die."

Yzereef notes that the timeliness of both the performance of the play and the symposium itself ensures that the issues being examined are relevant, both in a historical and modern context. On a personal level, he shares that performing *Nathan the Wise* has brought out a great deal of excitement amongst the cast and crew, as well as caused them to examine their own feelings on the subject matter.

"It's fascinating that this, although a German classical play that most people might think would be terribly boring, has been for the company and everyone involved absolutely exciting," says Yzereef. "I've never had a group of actors after rehearsal go out together to discuss really what the substance of the play is. They quote the play to each other constantly. They're examining the issues and they're asking themselves about the themes. It's all been really fascinating for them. I know the audiences will find this an incredible, modern play even though it was written in 1779."

Finally, those interested in discussing controversial topics no longer have to hold their tongues. Instead, they can head over to the theatre to explore complex issues in an engaging manner. Thanks to the departments of drama and Germanic studies, it is now safe to discuss politics and religion without being chased away from the dinner table.

*Nathan the Wise* runs Feb. 19 to Mar. 1 at University Theatre.



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## THINGS TO DO

- 1 Elections stuff.** Democracy overload! With the U.S. primary, provincial election, the SU election and maybe even a federal election in the wings, how can you not register to vote? Check out [www.elections.ab.ca](http://www.elections.ab.ca) and use their VoterLink service to get your democracy on.
- 2. That Empty Space.** Kick off reading week with **Montag** and **Sons of York** in That Empty Space Fri., Feb. 15 starting at 3 p.m.
- 3. Road trip.** Reading week is supposed to be for reading. Instead, fill up the tank and go to Fort Saskatchewan. Or Saskatoon. Or Regina.
- 4. Go to a Dinos game.** They're in the playoffs. During reading week. There's no reason NOT to go watch the Dinos kick ass at sporty things.

## THEATRE

Interested in intrigue? Vertigo Theatre's *Snake in the Grass*, runs Feb. 14-17 in the Vertigo Theatre. There's all kinds of mystery there. Tickets are \$36 and can be purchased at [www.vertigotheatre.com](http://www.vertigotheatre.com).

Shakespeare's classic *Romeo and Juliet* rocks the Arrata Opera Centre Feb. 14-23 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$17 for students at Ticketmaster.

*Riverdance* plays its closing tour at the Jubilee Auditorium Feb. 14-17 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$45-\$75 at Ticketmaster.

The **Playrites Festival** brings the crazy-cool new theatre to Calgary. Head on over to [www.atplive.com](http://www.atplive.com) for tickets prices and dates. Tickets are available at Ticketmaster. There's too much theatre for one section. That's awesome.

## CONCERTS

Broken City holds a **Valentine's Prom Karaoke** Thu., Feb. 14 starting at 9 p.m. Cover at the door. 80s power ballads all night long.

**John Mellencamp** and **Tom Cochrane** bring a slice of North Americana to the Saddledome Fri., Feb. 15 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$40-\$150 at Ticketmaster.

Nothing's sweeter than **Mos Def** playing a show. Which is convenient, as he struts his stuff in Mac Hall Fri., Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$52.50-\$62.50 at Ticketmaster.

**Montag** show off their electronic music mastery in Broken City Fri., Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets available at Megatunes and Sloth Records.

**Becoming the Martyr** crucify themselves in the Underground Fri., Feb. 15 at 9 p.m. Tickets available at the door. Bring a poncho, as the first three rows will get wet.

**Hayden** plays a beautiful, heart-warming set at the Knox United Church Sat., Feb. 16 at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$25 at Ticketmaster.

Yes. **DJ Jazzy Jeff**, of *Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* fame, is doing another set in Calgary. This time, at Coyotes Sun., Feb. 17 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at Ticketmaster.

**Marco V** and **Cary Chang** do their thang at the Tantra Nightclub Sun., Feb. 17. \$20 at Ticketmaster.

**Exodus** goes on the wagon-trail Wed., Feb. 20 in the Warehouse. Tickets are \$23.50 at Ticketmaster.

Local Calgarians **English Teeth** play a one-off reunion show at Broken City Thu., Feb. 21 at 8 p.m. Tickets available at Megatunes and Sloth.

**Iblamerobot** and the **Pine Tarts** fight the good fight against our mechanical overlords Fri., Feb. 22 at 9 p.m. Tickets at the door.

Punk kids **Disposable Heroes** rock the Gateway on SAIT Campus. Tickets are \$7 at Ticketmaster. Mohawks and stretched earlobes not required.

Holy fuck, it's **Holy Fuck**. They make the hipsters at the HiFi Club dance their asses off Sat., Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$16 at Ticketmaster.

**Corb Lund and the Hurtin' Albertans** wail about their woes at the Whiskey Tue., Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$40 at Ticketmaster.

## SPORTS

**NHL Alumni 3 on 3 Pond Hockey** is like the old fashioned games back on the pond, but with talented people. Tickets are \$15 at Ticketmaster. Puck drops in the Saddledome Sun., Feb. 17 at 10 a.m.

Check out Calgary's awesome lacrosse team, the **Calgary Roughnecks**, as they make the **Colorado Mammoths** extinct Sun., Feb. 24 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$23-\$59 at Ticketmaster.

The **Calgary Hitmen** dull the **Saskatoon Blades** Sat., Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. in the Saddledome. Tickets are \$25-\$35 at Ticketmaster.

With the playoffs fast approaching, the **Dinos** are getting their heads in the game. Like Zac Efron in *High School Musical*. You can too, by checking out the games. Free with student I.D.

The **women's basketball team** have three games this weekend against the University of Saskatchewan. Their games start at 6 p.m. Feb. 15-16, and noon on Feb. 17.

The **men's basketball team** have their division final in the Jack Simpson Gym Feb. 22-24. Fri. and Sat. games start at 8 p.m. and the game on Sun. (if necessary) starts at noon. They're doing pretty well and they've got a good shot of winning.

## MISC.

British filmmaker **Terence Davies** will be giving a speech in the Evans room in the Rozsa Centre Fri., Feb. 15 titled "**Adaptation: The Neon Bible and the House of Mirth**"

Terence Davies' film *Distant Voices, Still Lives* will also be shown at the Plaza Theatre Sat., Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Collectively.eclectic presents **Legacies: A Night of Fashion, Music, Dance and Black History** in Mac Hall Sat., Feb. 16 starting at 6:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 in advance at Fameless and Island Beat with tickets \$25 at the door.

# CJSW on-air guide

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
6 am	her royal opinion	breaking the tethers	lush life	morning joy	jazz for quantum cats	late night continued	late night continued	6 am
6:30								6:30
7 am	BBC WORLD SERVICE NEWS weekday mornings at 6, 7, 8 and 9 am							7 am
7:30						democracy now!	alternative radio	7:30
8 am						bunte welle <small>german</small>	counterspin	8 am
8:30							eritrean radio	8:30
9 am	cold smoke jazz	canadian music centre presents	bella musica	the soap box derby	the two and a half hour coffee break		hrvatski radio <small>croatian</small>	9 am
9:30		cloud pleaser				calgary vietnamese radio	radio pilipino <small>ilipino</small>	9:30
10 am							buscando america <small>latin &amp; south america</small>	10 am
10:30								10:30
11 am	democracy now!	so SU me <small>students' union</small>	alternative radio	cjsw news	who shakes <small>city calendar</small>	helenic melodies <small>greek radio</small>	let's get baked with mat & dave <small>vegan baking from ckd</small>	11 am
11:30		beet farm <small>sponsored by the drum &amp; monkey</small>	absolute beginners	counterspin <small>media watch</small>	pillage the village / failed pilot	audio verse <small>sponsored by bird dog video</small>	level the vibes	11:30
12 pm	this side of blue							12 pm
12:30								12:30
1 pm								1 pm
1:30								1:30
2 pm	the banshee beat	electric company <small>sponsored by the inner sleeve</small>	the ok ship lights	the audible smile <small>sponsored by melodiya records</small>	my allergy to the fans <small>sponsored by tubby dog</small>	bikesheviks <small>sponsored by cadence coffee</small>	mental illness <small>sponsored by the coup</small>	2 pm
2:30								2:30
3 pm								3 pm
3:30								3:30
4 pm	pop beats and cigarettes	jane & tasya's guide to everything <small>sponsored by broken city</small>	halfway home <small>sponsored by the liberty lounge</small>	alternative to what? <small>sponsored by kerfmusic.com</small>	road pops <small>sponsored by fwd weekly</small>	caribbean link-up <small>sponsored by fwd weekly</small>	breaking techniques	4 pm
4:30							desi vibes	4:30
5 pm								5 pm
5:30								5:30
6 pm	french transe en danse	off the page <small>gauntlet</small> artslink	mezza l'una <small>italian</small>	writer's block	musiquarium <small>everything from jazz to jungle sponsored by giant 45</small>	voice of ethiopia	speaking in tongues <small>world music</small>	6 pm
6:30			the blues witness <small>sponsored by calgary dollars</small>	folkcetera <small>sponsored by the marquee room</small>	full moon funkalicious <small>the latest &amp; greatest in breaks &amp; house</small>	oh africa!	the chit chat	6:30
7 pm	south louisiana gumbo	tombstone after dark <small>sponsored by the palomino smokehouse &amp; social club</small>	lift the bandstand	film clips	dirty needles <small>the best in funk, soul &amp; hip hop</small>	the nocturntable		7 pm
7:30			queertopia / urban sex <small>lesbian / bisexual / gay</small>	noise <small>experimental music</small>	remote emissions <small>hard hitting jungle &amp; drum 'n bass</small>			7:30
8 pm	reverb		good character requirement / turing radio	fat beat diet		megawatt mayhem <small>metal</small>	tokyo eye patch	8 pm
8:30	yeah, what she said <small>women's programming</small>		don't throw your marmalade					8:30
9 pm	aubrey's shindig!	staticland	hello pretty city / blue collar bravado	post-everything		the sarcastic triangle / attention surplus disorder	international telegram	9 pm
9:30								9:30
10 pm	katharsis	rack power						10 pm
10:30								10:30
11 pm		what will the neighbors think						11 pm
11:30								11:30
12 am	bass ackwards	fuzzbox special						12 am
12:30								12:30
1 am								1 am
1:30								1:30
2 am	too late mix tape	twilight banter	make it happen cap'n	rage cage				2 am
2:30								2:30
3 am								3 am
3:30								3:30
4:00								4:00
4:30								4:30
5:00								5:00
5:30								5:30

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## Students' Union Election SWAT

*It's that time of year. The posters have gone up, the baby kissing has started, and the police have been dispatched to deal with myriad reports of pedophilia. That's right, it's election time.*

*In the spirit of the Students' Union elections, the Gauntlet's Academic Probation section has gathered together the four most judgemental people at its disposal in order to evaluate the election based entirely upon outward appearances.*

*The Judges: Ben Hoffman, Garth Paulson, Jon Roe and Kyle Francis.*

### 1 Dimitri Petropoulos

**Jon:** I don't understand the appeal of spoofing a movie about greasy men.

**Garth:** Oh, wait, it's Haskayne.

**Kyle:** A vote for this guy is a vote for incredibly high-budget gay porn.

**Ben:** And a vote for greasy guys unironically shouting "SPAAARTAAAA!" at the Gym.

**Jon:** While they're helping each other oil up.

### 2 Dalmy Baez

**Kyle:** This is probably the last chance we'll get to make fun of Dalmy before she'll have the shock troopers knocking on our door. She's watching you. Everywhere.

**Jon:** Everywhere isn't a slogan,

it's the end of the sentence "there's [insert fluid] everywhere!"

**Garth:** Well, the print jobs are bad enough on the posters that it may very well be true.

**Ben:** Are there any posters in the washrooms?

**Kyle:** Dalmy Baez is watching you poop.

**Garth:** Everywhere.

### 3 Joel Skaley

**Ben:** Joel Skaley is hoping to get elected by virtue of how popped his collar is.

**Garth:** Is he a Dracula?

**Jon:** I don't know if I can reasonably vote for a president who spraypaints in confined areas.

**Kyle:** I could reasonably vote for a Dracula.

**Ben:** I know he probably used a stencil, but every time I look at his banner I visualize him laying on ground poppin' it so hard while getting shot in the eyes with black spraypaint.

**Kyle:** Yet another thing I can get behind.

### 4 Tierney FitzGerald

**Kyle:** Hrm, capital F, capital G, I see. He must be a PhiloSopher.

**Ben:** Isn't this the guy who didn't want to run for commissioner because he didn't want to work

under someone who "didn't have as good of ideas as he did?"

**Garth:** To be fair, I can think of several species of bird that would have worse External ideas than Tierney. The finch, for example.

**Jon:** He seems to have perfectly good ideas about how to be in a Calvin Klein ad.

**Ben:** At least if we vote for Tierney, we know we're "voting for a realist, not a first impressionist."

**Garth:** I wonder who the first impressionist was?

**Kyle:** Some dude who thinks that Tierney FitzGerald has better ideas for External than a parrot?

**Jon:** Also, chin-bum.

### 5 Scott Sims

**Jon:** Well, this poster certainly seems to understand the su.

**Ben:** But are the crayons an insult to the candidate or the voting student?

**Garth:** He's in trouble if he ever runs against Devo. There goes half of his platform.

**Kyle:** Or the Wu-Tang clan. But who among us could beat them in an election?

**Jon:** If Devo and the Wu-Tang Clan ran this university, I'd pay any amount of money to come here.

**Ben:** And you'd be addicted to cocaine!

### 6 Alastair MacKinnon

**Kyle:** This picture looks like it was taken on a cell phone. In a bathroom.

**Garth:** At a sleazy bar.

**Jon:** With another dude.

**Ben:** Do you think that's why three quarters of his photo is obscured—because it's hiding a dude?

**Kyle:** We could ask Dalmy Baez. She was probably there.

**Garth:** She's everywhere.

**Jon:** Man, it would suck if she ever needed an alibi.

**Ben:** Where were you on the night of Dec. 15?

**Kyle:** EVERYWHERE!!

### 7 Sam Singla

**Jon:** I know its black history month, but is it really unfair for me to vote against blackface Cat in the Hat?

**Garth:** This does raise a lot of questions about the Cat in the Hat: where does he live? Does his stovepipe frequently explode?

**Kyle:** Does he bathe?

**Ben:** Does he routinely rent the colour of his face out to clueless aspiring politicians?

### 8 Natasha Men

**Kyle:** I'd really like Natasha Men to start a cabinet with Dan Breast.

**Jon:** The Breast-Men cabinet?

**Ben:** I wonder if they'd get a special menu at Taco Bell?

**Garth:** Come on man, you know after *Achewood* won *Time* Magazine's graphic novel of the year it's no longer hip to reference.

**Kyle:** Yeah, you're destroying our indie cred.

**Ben:** Ray Smuckles 4 Prez!!

**Jon:** I don't get it.

**Ben:** You wouldn't. It's a joke.

### 9 Teale Phelps Bondaroff

**Garth:** What does *the Real Deal* even mean? You could use that in any context...

**Ben:** I totally soiled myself on the way to the washroom yesterday! It was *the Real Deal!*

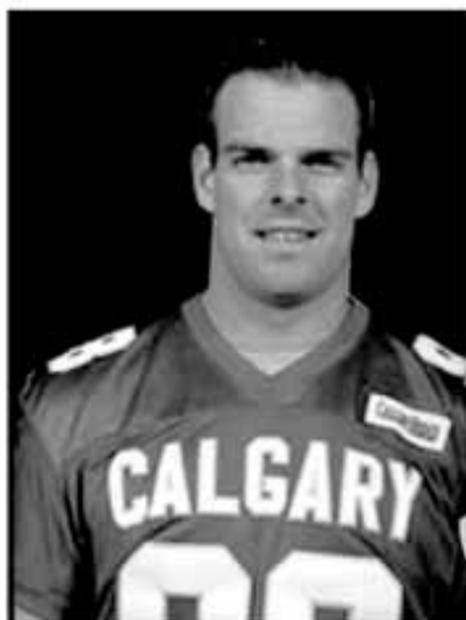
**Kyle:** I just had sex with Ann Coulter! It was *the Real Deal!*

**Jon:** I just got elected in a students' union election in the lowest possible position for the third time! It was *the Real Deal!*

**Garth:** Well that certainly does illustrate the innocuousness of the phrase. I'm really not sure how I'd feel about having sex with Ann Coulter. I know how you'd feel about it, Kyle.

**Kyle:** It was poop! She bit me! It was *the Real Deal!*

*continued on page 34*



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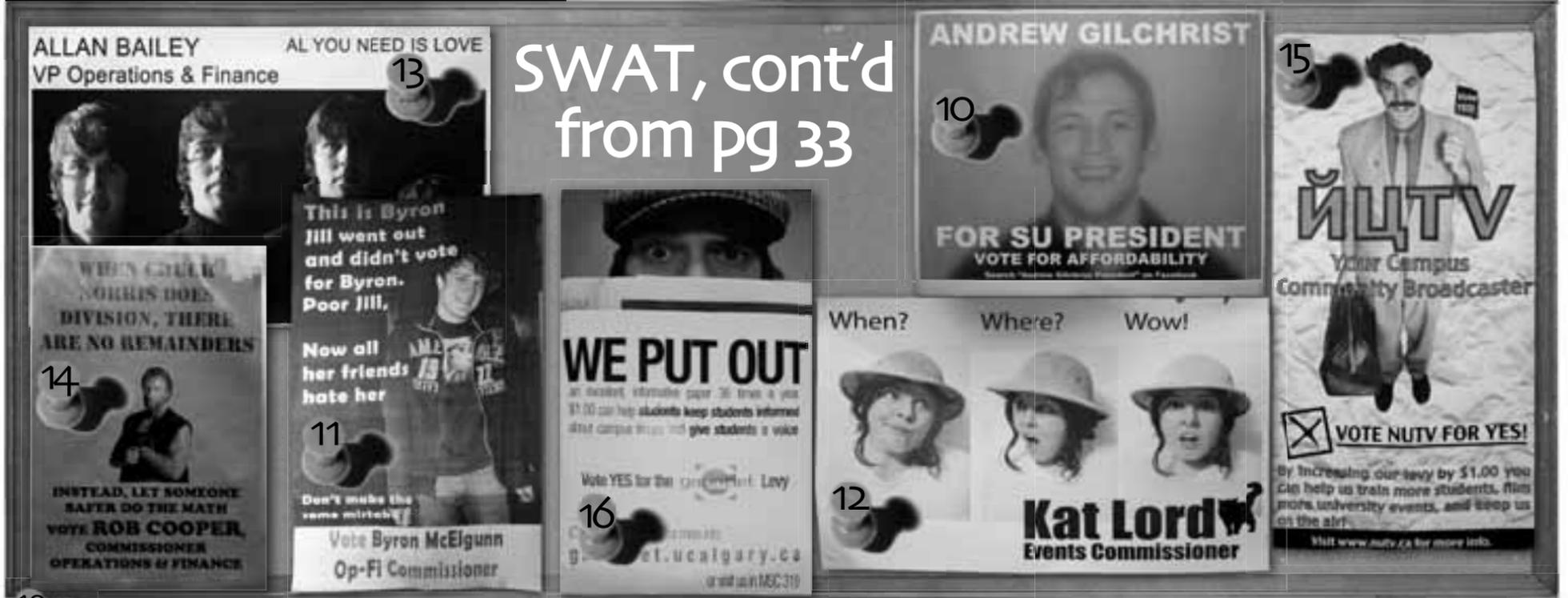
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# SWAT, cont'd from pg 33

**10 Andrew Gilchrist**  
**Jon:** This poster terrifies me. I think it's the pumpkin orange. But then again, maybe it's a stipulation that su presidents have to somewhat resemble a pumpkin.  
**Garth:** That, or the fact that he looks like a serial killer.  
**Ben:** Or a Dracula.  
**Jon:** So he kills people and sucks their blood.  
**Garth:** Yeah, but those are completely different. So he kills twice as

many people.  
**Kyle:** How is Dalmy Baez supposed to win an election against two Draculas?  
**Jon:** She totally has the advantage—she's everywhere.  
**11 Byron McElgunn**  
**Kyle:** Actually, I don't even know why this guy's in here. His poster's hilarious.  
**Garth:** Yeah, this is a mother-fucker who has things figured out.

Comparing the su to an infectious disease is surprisingly apt.  
**Jon:** No one wants to hear about it and, if you don't pay attention to it, it festers.  
**12 Kat Lord**  
**Ben:** You have to wonder where Kat Lord is that there are so many horrifying penises slightly out of frame.  
**Jon:** The hat gives it away: A penis safari!

**Kyle:** Also, doesn't that slogan just seem like she's horrifically unprepared?  
**Ben:** A vote for Kat Lord is a vote for being unprepared.  
**Garth:** For horrifying penises.  
**13 Allan Bailey**  
**Garth:** I think Allan's campaign slogan was originally a quote from his ESL Korean friend. "Al, you need is love!"  
**Kyle:** "Is good campaign idea small music bug forever!"  
**Jon:** "Take zeitgeist make vote now!"  
**Ben:** "Combat fighting love power yes is people voting for indefinitely! Is never not always will be good!"

**Garth:** NUTV wants that money so they can go to Toshi Station to buy some power converters!  
**Kyle:** Iz m in ur campupez, filming ur studntz!  
**Jon:** Blackface Cat in the Hat says—wait. I still don't get that fucking reference...  
*[Ed note: Alright. Time for the worst, saved for last.]*  
**16 Gauntlet Levy Increase**  
**Jon:** This photo needs more beard. I grew a beard for a reason.  
**Kyle:** I was going to ask who that ugly asshole was peering out from over the paper.  
**Garth:** That's just the thing. I've seen the people at the Gauntlet. That innuendo is just frightening. And that's coming from someone who has almost exclusively had sex with people associated with the paper in the last five years. You don't want them to put out.  
**Ben:** Not true. More people should have sex with people from the Gauntlet. Don't let Garth dissuade you, ladies, my mom says I'm beautiful.  
**Kyle:** Well, I suppose a bag of frozen shrimp rolled around on the floor of a barber shop has a certain... morbid fascination.  
**Garth:** This coming from someone who looks like a close up of Captain Planet's cold, glistening nutsack.  
**Jon:** Big words from the world's only surviving crib-death baby.  
**Kyle:** Eat ten dicks, face pubes.  
**Ben:** Fuck all of you. Let's do this dance.  
*[Ed note: Article discontinued due to severe bodily harm.]*  
*[Ed note: Also, chin-bum.]*

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**14 Rob Cooper**  
**Ben:** When Rob Cooper needs a campaign, he uses the Chuck Norris fact generator!  
**Garth:** I wish there was a Rob Cooper fact generator.  
**Kyle:** When Rob Cooper gets creative, there is no result.  
**Jon:** Rob Cooper has never met a gradient he didn't abuse.  
**Ben:** When you bully Rob Cooper into doing your math homework, he does it. Well.  
**Garth:** A vote for Rob Cooper is a vote for dated pop culture references.  
**Kyle:** Shit, I was going to cast my dated pop culture reference ballot for NUTV.  
**15 NUTV Levy Increase**  
**Jon:** I pity the fool who uses pop culture references in their campaign.  
**Kyle:** NUTV levy. Make it so... Tea: Earl Gray. Hot.  
**Ben:** Narf! NUTV wants money! Poit!

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by Chris Brown

Terminal Hooster

I can't believe I failed 15th Century French History.

But you lived those events, Joan of Arc.

Yeah, but I got caught cheating during the exam, so they failed me.

Let me guess: you prayed to God again?

Yep.

Except this time he wanted everyone to know he spoke to me, so he went a little overboard with the theatrics.

I'm sure he could have told me that the answer to number 15 was (b) without the thirty-foot-long flaming banner.

Although the thousands of Cherubim singing my name were a nice touch.

What's the point of these questions and all these tests?

Because it's the only way to see if you're smart.

All I know about all these tests is that I failed every one of them. I'm sure I'm smart, but I just don't know how to take these tests. I'm sure I'm smart, but I just don't know how to take these tests.

Because I'm not smart enough to take these tests.

But if all you want is to be smart, then you should just take these tests. I'm sure you'll be smart.

Because I'm not smart enough to take these tests.

But if all you want is to be smart, then you should just take these tests. I'm sure you'll be smart.

**BANANAS!**

PANICKING ABOUT VALENTINE'S DAY, LOVEBIRDS? FEAR NOT! HERE ARE SOME **INGENIOUS** IDEAS STRAIGHT FROM HOLLYWOOD. THREE CHEERS FOR INNOVATION!

IS THAT A CAMERA IN YOUR HATE?

WHAT MAT?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH EATING CEREAL IN SCOTCH? #GWIN!

I CAN'T BREATHE.

...GRAMPA?

I LOVE HER WIT AND INTELLECT.

PLASTIC SURGERY—FAKE IS THE NEW REAL. SO GIVE THE GIFT OF LOOKING LIKE A MICHAEL JACKSON-CYBORG LOVECHILD. THEY WOULD THANK YOU—IF THEY COULD MOVE THEIR FACE.

DIVORCE PAPERS—WHAT'S BETTER THAN HALF OF A MULTI-MILLION POUND? OR IF YOU SIGNED A PRE-NUP-OUT WITH THE OLD, AND IN WITH THE NEW (ADMITTED SUPERMODEL)?

TRA

SEXTAPE / RACY PHOTOS—THE COST-BENEFIT RATIO IS IRRESISTIBLE. IT'S CHEAP TO MAKE AND LUCKILY, YOU CAN COLLECT EARNINGS WHEN IT IS "ACCIDENTLY" LEAKED. KA-CHING! (PARIS HILTON & BRUNO)

STINT IN REMB—IT'S FOR THEIR OWN GOOD. WE KNOW HOW UNSPEAKABLY DIFFICULT IT IS TO BE STUCK IN A 5-STAR VILLA IN THE BAHAMAS—ESPECIALLY THOSE OBEDIENT SERVANTS, TED. DANG.

FLOATATION DEVICES

**BLATHER**  
"dawcee"

HAVE YOU SEEN THE INTERNET LATELY? THOSE HUMANS ARE MESSED UP. IT SEEMS LIKE ALL THE FREAKY HUMAN WOMEN LIKE TO GET WITH MY KIND, AND ALL THE FREAKY HUMAN MEN LIKE TO GET WITH YOURS.

DUDE. ARE YOU TRYING TO PICK ME UP?

White Ninja's disappointing restaurant experience

Waitress, someone has taken bites out of this cheese.

That would be the Swiss, sir.

Switzerland—present day

This cheesewheel is fisting!

might I have a few bites in random places?

whiteninja.com

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