

Happy Holidays from the

Gammelt

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hunting feature pg. 20



STUDENTS' UNION HAPPENINGS

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Did you know...?

In 2006, MacEwan Hall, which is owned and operated by the Students' Union, was ranked #3 in Canada and #82 in the world among the top 100 concert/performance venues in annual ticket sales.

SU OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS:

The Students' Union office will be closed December 22, 2008 through January 1, 2009.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 12: SU General Election nomination packages available at the SU office in MSC.

January 19 - 23: SU Clubs Week.

January 26 - 28: SU General Election Nomination Days.

January 30 - 31: SU Leadership Summit. Visit our website for more details or to register now!

www.su.ucalgary.ca



LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

SU Leadership Summit: January 30-31, 2009

The University of Calgary Students' Union will be hosting their first Leadership Summit on January 30th and 31st, 2009, featuring

- Workshops on strategic planning and effective leadership styles;
- Sessions on event planning and sponsorships;
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Friday, Dec. 5th

NOG



fest '08

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Editor-in-Chief: Jon Roe 403-220-7752
editor@thegauntlet.ca

News Editor: Sarelle Azuelos 403-220-4318
news@thegauntlet.ca

News Assistant: Morgan Haigler

Entertainment: Amanda Hu 403-220-4376
entertainment@thegauntlet.ca

Entertainment Assistant: Jordyn Marcellus

Sports: Brad Halasz 403-220-2298
sports@thegauntlet.ca

Opinions: Cam Cotton-O'Brien 403-220-2298
opinions@thegauntlet.ca

Opinions Assistant: Jesse G. Hamonic

Features: Katy Anderson 403-220-4376
features@thegauntlet.ca

Photography: Paul Baker 403-220-4376
photo@thegauntlet.ca

Photography Assistant: Dr. Chris Pedersen

Production: Ryan May 403-220-2298
production@thegauntlet.ca

Illustrations: Gina Freeman 403-220-2298
illustrations@thegauntlet.ca

Academic Probation: Ryan Pike, Andrew Rininsland
and Christian Loudon 403-220-2298
ap@thegauntlet.ca

Three Lines Free: Laura Bardsley 403-220-2298
tifs@thegauntlet.ca

Business Manager: Evelyn Cone 403-220-7380
business@thegauntlet.ca

Advertising Manager: John Harbidge 403-220-7751
sales@thegauntlet.ca

Graphic Artist: Ken Clarke 403-220-7755
graphics@thegauntlet.ca

Network Manager: Ben Li

Contributors

Courtenay Adams • Sean Agnew • Roman Auriti
Isaac Azuelos • Allison Cully • Caitlin Campbell
Jonathan Davies • Josh Dyck • Desirée Geib
Jen Grond • Vivian Leung • Geoff MacIntosh
Labiba Majeed • Vanessa Mastin • Eric Mathison
John McDonald • Meagan Meiklejohn
Julia Anne Osinchuk • Daniel Pagan • Susan Park
Julie Phillips • Alastair Starke • Elijah Stautn
Mike Tofin • Jennifer Trieu • Joseph Tubbs
Tyler Wolfe

Golden Spatula

Alastair Starke. For drawing the SU executive as Winnie
the Pooh characters. Like they are in our minds.

Furor Arma Ministrat

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

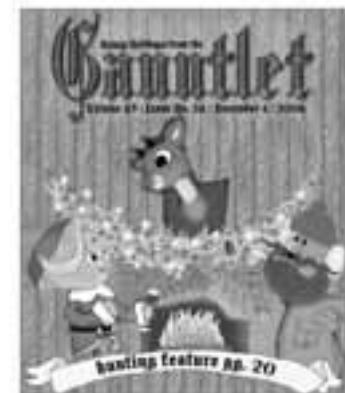
The *Gauntlet* is the official student newspaper of the University of Calgary, published most Thursdays throughout the year by the Gauntlet Publications Society, an autonomous, incorporated body. Membership in the society is open to undergraduate students at the U of C, but all members of the university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

The Cover

illustration by Gina Freeman
design by Ken Clarke, Gina Freeman and Ryan May



The power and the glory

The Governor General's precarious position as newly entrusted decision maker

The weeks since the last Canadian federal election have been eventful, to say the least. While the world economy continues its freefall, the parties of Parliament have squabbled to the point where it is being argued that the governing Conservatives have lost the confidence of the House of Commons. What happens next remains to be seen, as Prime Minister Stephen Harper has hinted he will ask Governor General Michaëlle Jean to dissolve Parliament and call yet another election, while a coalition consisting of Liberals and New Democrats and backed by the Bloc Québécois have announced plans to ask Jean to allow them to form their own government.

The recent turn of events puts Jean in the hot seat and highlights one of the recurring problems in Canadian politics — the role of the Governor General. Since its institution, there has been debate over the purpose of the office. Originally a representative of the Crown given power to reign in its stead in British North America, the position has continually been redefined through constitutional crises and political convention

to the point where it is largely a figurehead. While many arguments have arisen regarding senators and judges being appointed decision-makers accountable to none, the Governor General's ceremoniality and lack of decisions to make have left the position full of pomp and circumstance, but little real power. Until now.

The importance of the position has diminished over time, in part due to acts of government and political convention, shifting the priority from Canadian governance towards more of an advisory role. The rebellions of 1837 prompted the introduction of responsible government and the Governor General's primary function became to ensure that those running Canada had the confidence of its populace. The controversial 1926 ordeal involving Governor General Lord Byng refusing Mackenzie King's request to dissolve Parliament resulted in British government acts recognizing the sovereignty of the colonies and a convention amongst subsequent Governor Generals to grant the Prime Minister's request in such situations. Byng's refusal to dissolve Parliament stands as the only

such instance in Canadian history.

Nevertheless, mere convention cannot bind the hands of the Governor General. Jean has the power to call an election or hand the proposed coalition the reins of government. Since Confederation, Canadian voters have chosen a Prime Minister by an election, with the understanding being that if their party loses the confidence of the House of Commons, Parliament will be dissolved and an election called. The future of Canada's government is too important to be decided by officials bound by mere convention. If government falls, let it be the fault



of politicians answerable to voters and not appointees accountable to no one.

Ryan Pike
AP Editor

Editor, the *Gauntlet*

Walking safe

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,
Hello U of C!

I'd like to let you know about a significant change to Safewalk this year — we're walking off campus for the first time since our program's inception in 1995! This is a big step for our organization and we're pleased to be able to provide the service to our U of C community.

We do have some geographical boundaries however. We can walk you as far north as 40th Avenue, as far east as 24th Street at Morley Trail or just on the other side of Crowchild, and as far south as 16th Avenue. To the west, we'll walk you right up to Shaganappi Trail. We can take you to the closer half of the Brentwood parking lot and we'll walk you to the Moxie's entrance of Market Mall.

If your destination is beyond our range, we can walk you up to the boundary — we may not have the resources to hike with you to Ranchlands, but why not feel safer

for the first bit of your journey?

Another point you'll need to know is that these off-campus walks are available during specific hours — you can still get an on-campus Safewalk 24 hours a day, but our extended-range walks are available between 5 p.m. and 1 a.m., Monday through Saturday and between 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Sunday nights.

Secondly, I ask you this: was this the year you told yourself that you were going to get more involved on campus? Has this semester flown by and you still think that it was September last week? Haven't gotten around to signing up for anything yet?

It's not too late to volunteer for Safewalk. We only ask that you commit to 12 hours a month, in three four-hour shifts. Not only are you helping the campus community live and learn in a safe, comfortable environment, but you're getting a bit of exercise, earning tuition credit and you could win our spring scholarship!

You don't need to be tough — all Safewalk volunteers sign a non-inter-

vention contract. Your role merely involves walking, being friendly and meeting new people. Please e-mail us with questions, or if you're ready to apply, please send us a resume and cover letter. Also, if you're not sure if your house or destination is within our boundaries, you can ask any on-duty Safewalk team, you can call 403-220-5333 or, if you don't need the answer immediately, you can e-mail safewalk@ucalgary.ca. Finally, you can check our website's map at ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk.

Good luck with finals, papers and projects!

Liam Cummings

Safewalk Coordinator, University of Calgary

Reconsidering Russia's problems

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,
["Russia's media massacre," Tyler Wolfe, Nov. 27, *Gauntlet*]

As one of many millions of Russians who had learned about

Mrs. Politkovskaya's work only after she had been murdered, I was quite shocked by the absurdity of accusations against Russia's democratically elected leaders and the whole flood of anti-Russian propaganda that emerged after this tragic case. It is too easy to see that the murder has damaged the reputation of the Russian state and that of its current leadership to an incomparably higher degree than all of Mrs. Politkovskaya's critical publications ever could. This makes me wonder, in accordance with the ancient principle of *cui prodest*, whether the real motive for the murder was to silence a journalist
see LETTERS page 15

Correction

In a story last week ["Pro-lifers face fines and misconduct," Sarelle Azuelos, Nov. 27] FIRE was misrepresented as pro-life, when they are in fact pro-choice. The *Gauntlet* apologizes for any confusion.

Tuition consultation getting sour

Sarelle Azuelos

News Editor

Early Friday morning, before many students are done brushing their teeth, the Board of Governors will come together to decide how much debt students will accumulate after four years of degree chasing.

The board meets Friday at 8 a.m. to vote on the proposed 4.1 per cent tuition increase. The Students' Union will oppose the move.

The SU held a tuition consultation open to students in MacEwan Student Centre at the end of October for input on what the campus body would like to see. While the majority of students did not want an increase, discussion focused on improvements the tuition increase should go towards.

"I feel confident now about going to the Board of Governors with this decision," said SU president Dalmy Baez.

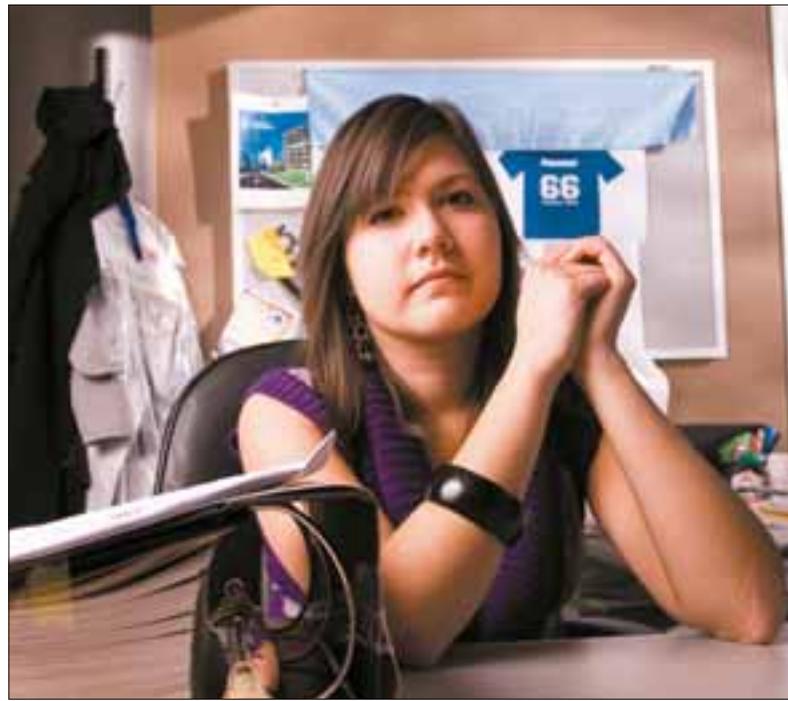
Controversy arose from the tuition consultation presentation and document that the SU is taking to the BOG when social sciences representative Teale Phelps Bondaroff said the SU should be asking for a tu-

ition decrease. He argued during the Student Legislative Council meeting Tuesday that because the university failed to reach the goals set by last year's executive, the SU should aim to rollback prices to a 2007 level. Last year, the board passed a 4.6 per cent increase after a similar document was given out. It asked for a 4.6 per cent increase in student satisfaction on National Survey of Student Engagement scores, which hasn't been seen to date.

"Anyone who stays and says that we're representing students when we're not, first of all shouldn't be re-elected and second of all should seriously consider that they're not accountable to students," he said.

Albertan students already pay over \$600 more in undergraduate tuition fees than the nation average. A 4.1 per cent increase would bring the annual full-time tuition at the U of C from \$5,361 to \$5,580.

The SU recommendations include creating an endowment for teaching excellence awards, a mandatory orientation SU session for first-years and addressing deferred maintenance in residence buildings. Phelps Bondaroff felt these goals were too vague and measuring the univer-



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

A 4.1 per cent increase would raise tuition by \$220 for 10 classes.

city's success would be difficult.

"Without actual benchmarks, we cannot evaluate the document," he said. "I think it's extremely shortsighted."

Baez assured they would decide on a metric system in the future, likely using the NSSE or Canadian

Undergraduate Survey Consortium scores. While she admitted that different recommendations from year to year may be difficult for the university to accomplish, she also found it necessary for the SU to represent issues they feel are important at the time.

"There is something to be said about accommodating current situations and adapting to circumstances," she said. "My hope is for successors to continue in a similar approach so the university will be able to improve."

The document also calls for a reorganization of administration to a "genuine community." The 4 to 1 Approach asks for a vision statement to improve the university's sense of direction.

"The issues we've identified is there seems to be a lack of understanding of everyone's roles and how they fit into the bigger picture," said Baez. "We all felt that although the university is quite new, it's really time to start exploring different methods to making decisions."

Phelps Bondaroff argued the approach would benefit the institution in the long run, but was unrelated to the issue of increased tuition. He threatened to quit his position if the SU does not take a stronger stance on future issues like the arts faculty amalgamation.

"I'm sure the BOG will pass this document because it holds them to no obligation," said Phelps Bondaroff.

\$10,000 of quality money goes to Mac Hall kiosks

Ryan Pike

AP Editor

The University of Calgary Students' Union has taken a page out of Mount Royal College's playbook in an effort to ease computing congestion on campus.

Funded by a quality money initiative, the SU has installed a pair of computer kiosks in MacEwan Student Centre as part of a pilot project proposed by operations and finance commissioner Bryan Campbell, inspired by a

system already in place at MRC.

"I did a year of school at Mount Royal and they had these kind of computers on microwave stands, a small wooden cabinet with a monitor on top," said Campbell. "They had these everywhere on their campus and it was really a brilliant idea with the move to Blackboard and the move to get students to use their MRC e-mail account."

Last year, Campbell submitted a quality money proposal for a pilot project of a similar computer system, created for what he termed

"quick, five-minute, check-to-see-if my-class-is-cancelled" use.

SU vice-president operations and finance Alex Judd said that the initial quality money allocation of \$10,000 went towards the installation of two kiosks in MSC — one at the east end of the food court and the other near Jugo Juice — with the remainder of the money slated for promotion of the project once the kiosks are officially unveiled in the new year.

"The status of the project right now is they're installed, we're just

having a couple of technical difficulties that are being worked out presently," she said. "Once we are confident in their [readiness], we will be ready to launch it."

As the aim of the pilot project is short-term computer use, the interface of the kiosks has been designed with limited functionality. They feature a series of in-house SU ads as screensavers and direct links to the SU website, U of C webmail, myUofC and campus maps.

"There's a fixed number of links that you can go to, keeping in mind

that it is a pilot project," said Campbell. "It would be nice to see things like Hotmail, Yahoo and Google added in the future, but right now we're just piloting it, seeing how it works and what people think."

Judd added the next step in the project will be a survey implemented through the kiosks assessing the usefulness of the computer system. The results of the survey could potentially serve as the basis for expansion of the project to the rest of the campus, should demand warrant it.

How would a tuition increase affect you?



"It won't really affect me because I've allocated my money to education and see it as a top priority."
— **Laura Black**, fourth-year engineering



"It won't, really. They'll still increase books or other hidden costs."
— **AJ Lifshitz**, third-year law and society



"I'll have to work harder in the summer, but if it's necessary I'm okay with it."
— **Maxine Bennett**, first-year English



"Not really much because my parents pay for it, but it sucks for them."
— **Christopher Pereira**, second-year science

Zimbabwe's violence leads to inflation

Chris Pedersen
Gauntlet News

With the Zimbabwe government perpetrating violence against its people, a group of lawyers works amidst destruction to protect victims.

Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights executive director Irene Petras and member Andrew Makoni were at the Glenbow museum Nov. 27 to speak about the human rights violations and hardships that Zimbabweans endure every day.

ZLHR is an organization that promotes and protects human rights in Zimbabwe and ensures that the government adheres to international standards for human rights.

The speakers covered problems such as the judicial, medical and education systems and organized violence against those who did not support the government.

"Zimbabwe, as many of you know, is a very complex situation," said Petras. "We have been in a crisis which has remained unresolved for a period of 10 years. There is a culture of impunity and it is very rife in the country."

The two Zimbabweans are in Canada to accept the John Humphrey Freedom award for their commitment to seeking justice for human rights victims. The award is given every year to individuals and organizations that embody the values of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights through their work. Petras and Makoni are giving speeches in five Canadian cities and will accept the award in Ottawa on Dec. 10.

Before the speeches, the audience was shown a 15-minute video that detailed the extent of the violence committed and shared personal stories of Zimbabweans.

Many of the problems facing Zimbabwe have stemmed from the leadership of the ruling Zanu-PF political party led by Robert Mugabe. His regime has been charged with committing violent crimes aimed at supporters of his opponent Morgan Tsvangirai, the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change.

"In the March 2008 elections, the MDC won a majority of the popular vote and what followed was the worst and most political retribution we have witnessed in the country since the 1980s," said Petras. "All the time that the political crisis deepens, the humanitarian catastrophe also deepens."

Ordinary people affected by the violence cannot access the judicial system because they are too poor to afford legal aid.

"There is a lack of access to justice for the ordinary Zimbabwean because we have hyperinflation," said Petras. "The rate is 231,000,000 per cent and the unofficial rate is in the quadrillions. It is impossible for a Zimbabwean to pay for law services to protect and realize their rights in the courts."

Zimbabweans are also unable to afford basic necessities such as food or bus fare to work due to the money shortage in the country. They are only allowed to take out a certain amount of money each day.

"We cannot access enough cash from the banks," said Makoni. "We can only access 500,000 [Zimbabwean dollars] a day and that amount is not enough for a single bus trip to town and back. People would have to be in the queue for several days to get bus fare. Instead of being at work, people are queuing for food or money."

With people unable to work, feed their families or gather enough



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet

Zimbabwean schools closed because bus rides are a day's wages.

money for simple things like bus fare, other institutions are collapsing around the country. Makoni spoke of the collapse of the medical and educational facilities which

have been shut down for much of this year.

"We are facing a very serious crisis in the educational sector," said Makoni. "My son was supposed

to be in grade seven this year. For the better part of the year, schools were not running because no teachers were coming to schools because they can't afford bus fare. And yet at the end of September they were expected to write exams."

Makoni also commented on the closure of the University of Zimbabwe. Students registered, but were told there were not enough resources to support them.

Doctors and nurses have been on strike for much of the year, leaving the provision of health care to medical students, Makoni said. This is especially deadly with the recent cholera outbreak that has killed over 400 people since August 2008.

They ended the speech answering questions and explaining that they have hope for their country despite the turmoil it is caught up in at the moment.

"We are a country of hope and a peace loving nation," said Makoni. "We are hopeful that this page will be closed one day. Our hope is to see the future."

Alberta Liberal race holds friendly debate

Roman Auriti
Gauntlet News

Camaraderie runs deep in the Alberta Liberal Party's caucus. Unlike most brothers, there is a certain political trio that doesn't fight.

The Alberta Liberals held a forum in the John Dutton Theatre in downtown Calgary's library last Friday to answer questions about the leadership race and how the Liberals would change Alberta's government if they were elected into power. The three candidates looking to replace current Liberal leader Kevin Taft are former Member of Legisla-

tive Assembly Mo Elsalhy and current MLAS Dave Taylor and David Swann.

Those that attended looking for arguments to break out however, were disappointed because of the intense camaraderie present amongst the individuals. The Liberal leadership candidates had other priorities to discuss, like the reconstruction of the provincial Liberal party.

Among the questions asked by people attending the forum, the one which received the most response from the Liberals concerned the oilsands. They promised to clean up the oilsands and reinvest money in

corporations developing the oil into something that won't deplete Alberta's surplus. None of the three Liberal leadership candidates expanded how they would accomplish this and their views reflected one another.

"If I win, and I can speak for my colleagues if they win, we all win," said Taylor. "This will be a team effort going forward. I don't think any of us . . . did this just for personal gain or glory. We do it because we fundamentally want to leave this place in a better state than we found it."

Elsalhy agreed, saying there would

see LIBERAL RACE, page 8

SPRINGS
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Students' Union midterm reviews

Take a walk through the Hundred Acre Wood with the *Gauntlet* as it does its annual midterm review of the Students' Union executive. This is an opportunity for you to get a glimpse into

the inner workings of the executive, what kind of job they've been doing and how they can improve. The reviews are based on a number of factors including feedback from the commis-

sioners, reviewing the executive's platforms, a panel interview with the *Gauntlet's* midterm review team and a comparison to performances of executives in the past.



Dalmy Baez,
President



Pamela Weatherbee,
VP Academic



Luke Valentine,
VP Events



Alastair MacKinnon,
VP External



Alex Judd,
VP Operations
and Finance



Luke Valentine,
VP Events

Eeyore and Students' Union vice-president events Luke Valentine have a couple of things in common — they both have quiet, melancholic demeanours and have a tendency to not bother. Unlike Pooh's friend, Valentine recently began to break out of his doldrums and apply himself fully.

Year-round events like Cinemania, That Empty Space and Mundane Mondays have been consistently solid, with improvements in the planning and content as the semester moved from month to month. Cinemania hit a snag early on when the room usually used by the event was scheduled for a class by the registrar. The attendance dipped somewhat, after moving from ST 147 to ICT 102, but this can't be blamed on Valentine as he advertised the change.

That Empty Space's programming

seemed a bit slapdash at times early on in the semester, but the event has found its sea legs as of late. With interesting bookings like the Shagbots, the Ex-Boyfriends and Ubiquitous Synergy Seeker, it promises to continue its proud tradition of being the premiere destination for hanging out on a Friday afternoon.

Valentine chose the newly revamped U of C 101 and ArtsFest as his greatest achievement. The su ran out of food on Red Friday, which is always a good sign, and U of C 101 helped increase volunteerism and campus engagement. ArtsFest provided numerous opportunities for people to draw, listen to music and see fellow students' art projects. A lot of credit must go to su fine arts faculty representative Joey Brockie as he helped with a lot of planning and implementation for the week-long festival.

While Valentine said his biggest challenge is delegating tasks to commissioners, this may be in fact his greatest strength. Commissioners do a lot of work with That Empty Space and Cinemania and Brockie was given a great deal of leeway in planning ArtsFest. While some commissioners have said that Valentine tends to choose projects based on personal preferences — disregarding events that don't appeal to him even if they might be popular with students — he denied this.

Not everything has been rosy. The *Gauntlet* criticized Valentine for not doing a traditional Alcohol Awareness Week, but he argued it tends to overwhelm students as it quickly follows U of C 101. He instead chose to host more awareness events, throughout the year. This includes partnering up with Molson to help promote responsible drinking in the

..Jordyn Marcellus



Dalmy Baez, President

The Students' Union presidential position keeps Dalmy Baez bouncing around the entire campus much like Tigger. Although she doesn't have a tail, Baez does have the boundless energy that is necessary for her workload. As president, Baez directs the vice-presidents and tries to keep the su and administration's focus on student needs.

After a long year that started with figuring out what she wanted to do, campaigning and winning her spot, Baez quickly took to her role. She continued former president Julie Bogle's professionalism and close relationship with the university administration, but also worked hard to maintain a healthy relationship with students.

This can easily be seen in this year's tuition consultation. While

last year the su took a new approach by asking the university for specific changes to benefit students if tuition was raised, Baez went a step further by actually meeting with students for feedback. The major themes brought up were then included in the document that will be presented to the Board of Governors, although some may argue that students took a minor role in it.

The recommendations in the document are less measurable than last year's. While Baez is very approachable and willing to listen to students, she needs to present their communication more effectively to administration.

Several commissioners felt that after the university failed to reach the goals set in last year's proposal and that asking for more instead of

having a stronger anti-tuition increase stance goes against the role of the su.

But Baez is making good use of student clubs to gauge students' needs. One of her biggest projects this semester is the su leadership conference taking place at the end of January. She even secured funding from the university for the event. It was initially going to be this semester, but the planning turned out to be more than expected.

Herself and vice-president operations and finance Alex Judd have met with several different clubs to expand su sustainability projects on campus. This is positive given complaints from commissioners about her struggle with delegation. Baez likes to know what's going on in her own projects and therefore needs to

be aware of the helpful resources she's surrounded by. She is always there to help commissioners, but needs to remember that they are there to help her as well.

In the next several months, the su will be faced with the arts faculty amalgamation. Baez has already increased the participation of su members in the decision making process and plans to do even more so in the future.

Overall, Baez has been a gleaming, energetic face for the su. She's had plenty of communication with students, university administration and the community (even if she wasn't the best liaison) and her vps have accomplished many goals under her direction.

..Sarelle Azuelos



Alastair MacKinnon,
VP External

Oh bother. Much like Winnie the Pooh is for the Hundred Acre Woods, Alastair MacKinnon is the outward face of the Students' Union. As vice-president external, MacKinnon lobbies governments at all three levels to help improve student life.

Because the effects and success of lobbying is long term, it's difficult to measure whether or not MacKinnon has been successful so far this year, but he is a hard worker. He lobbied hard to get a polling station on campus for the federal election, but was ultimately given only a half victory when there was a station in residence only for rez kids. This is not his fault and the fact that Elections Canada did anything at all is great.

Pooh got stuck in a tree disguised as a rain cloud while trying to steal honey from bees. Though MacKinnon wasn't trying to jack any honey, he himself was stuck fall semester in

a tree full of federal election themed events, diverting his focus from a secondary suites campaign he had hoped to start. But the election events were successful and this temporary distraction bore plenty of fruit. Conservative member of Parliament Rob Anders attended a campus forum after a long time as a notorious no-show to public gatherings and the Black Lounge was packed with students for a perogy and coloured beer event for election night.

Whether or not the su was successful in encouraging more students to vote might never be determined, but MacKinnon and his commission at least raised awareness and increased access.

MacKinnon is chair of the nascent Calgary Student Caucus, a group of student leaders from the Calgary-based post-secondary institutions, and he is working hard to build it up so that students have a unified voice grabbing the atten-

tion of municipal politicians. In the long run, this could be incredibly beneficial for U of C students if csc can affect change in policy regarding secondary suites, rez property taxes and the U-Pass.

The only criticism leveled at MacKinnon from his commission is he, like many of the executives, doesn't involve them enough in some of his projects. But it seems that the group has been successful and they are working together under MacKinnon's leadership, whether or not he has involved them enough or not.

MacKinnon speaks like an individual who has done plenty of lobbying. Whether or not there are any immediate successes, students should be happy they have someone like MacKinnon vouching for them and continuing to focus politicians on student issues.

..Jon Roe



Pamela Weatherbee,
VP Academic

Just as Kanga watches over the denizens of Hundred Acre Wood, Students' Union vice-president academic Pamela Weatherbee watches over the academic rights of undergraduate students and co-ordinates a brood of eager commissioners and faculty representatives. Despite the large amount of duties on her plate, Weatherbee built upon the work of her predecessors and caused significant change for students.

This year's two big, fancy projects have been co-curricular transcripts and the online exam bank, much as they have been for the past few years. Under Weatherbee's watch, co-curricular transcripts have become a reality and the pilot will be officially implemented in January. As a result, no longer will the volunteer work of students play second fiddle to their academic pursuits, but rather volunteering will be displayed prominently alongside them.

The online exam bank, a subject of much concern amongst clubs relying upon exams for revenue and faculty members with intellectual proper-

ty concerns, has overcome many obstacles during the past year. Weatherbee relieved the concerns of the university's faculty by making participation in the exam bank voluntary, a policy she hopes to have mandated by the General Faculties Council next semester. She also plans to meet with student clubs to make exams centrally-located while still paying clubs for exams they own. The exam bank website is slated to be unveiled in April and will become operational in time for the beginning of the fall semester in September.

In addition to the two major projects, Weatherbee has increased nominations for the Teaching Excellence Awards nearly eight-fold by holding a contest amongst her commission for whoever could contact the most students. The result was a jump in nominations from around 20 to 159. In addition, she has also been part of updating the university's academic plan with student input, a process which has already seen USRTS return to paper form in a pilot project this semester and fully in the future.

Weatherbee serves as the co-national spokesperson for the Canadian Roundtable on Academic Materials, a lobby group dedicated to ensuring that academic materials used in university classrooms are high quality and cost effective for students. While CRAM is just over a year old, Weatherbee has already begun forming a bookstore advisory group on campus to lobby publishers on textbook concerns.

Weatherbee's accomplishments thus far as VP academic would have been impressive for someone with extensive executive experience, let alone an acclaimed candidate whose experience beforehand was in a different commission. Her success speaks to the amount of work she and previous vp Brittany Sargent put into preparing her for the job. The fact her commission has done so much with only a handful of experienced representatives is even more impressive and attests to the quality of the team and its leadership.

..Ryan Pike



Alex Judd,
VP Operations
and Finance

Much like Piglet from Winnie the Pooh, Alex Judd seems like your soft-spoken sweetheart, very approachable and easy to please. But don't underestimate her tenacity when it comes to taking care of business. Although she may be quieter than most, Judd goes above and beyond her role as Students' Union vice-president of operations and finance. In times of high stress, she ensures everything is running smoothly and efficiently within the su's budget, overseeing \$25 million in assets and over \$12 million of annual revenues.

Before becoming a vice-president representative of the su, Judd was an operations and finance commissioner for two years. An active member of multiple clubs, she was also committed to the Women Resource Centre, Campus Recreation

Committee, University International Grants Committee and Teaching Excellence Award Committee. Her familiarity with the su's diverse programs and services has inspired her to move beyond the scope of business and operations-related tasks successfully.

Judd identified her top three priorities as being student space, infrastructure, and clubs and diversity. First, she works with the external portfolio and the university to address short- and long-term solutions concerning the space crisis on campus. She also interacts more with clubs and utilize Club Survival Seminars and Clubs' Week to promote more scholarships and committee opportunities to students. Because the su doesn't have a diversity policy, Judd also plans to develop and implement a su diversity policy. This

was one of her original goals, but she hasn't yet found the time to get it started. In doing so, she hopes she can share ideas with student clubs and other university organizations to make a variety of programs and opportunities available on campus.

A person of many interests, Judd is most proud of her commitment to sustainability initiatives. Part of this involves eliminating non-biodegradable Styrofoam on campus, replacing harsh chemicals with green cleaners and introducing the Campus Composting Pilot Project which encourages U of C students, staff and food vendors to compost organic solid wastes. Currently, she chairs the Students' Union Sustainability Board and hosts Green Café to raise awareness about students' sustainability projects. This was an unexpected accomplishment

that she should be proud of.

Her future plans include finishing the su's new vision care package which will be added to students' dental and health plans, helping cjsw being able to go to tender and renovating the What's Up space.

So far, Judd hasn't received any major criticism from her commissioners. Most describe her as a well-organized, patient and thoughtful person. No matter how hectic her schedule may be, she always finds time to answer questions, offer advice and help commissioners with their pet projects. The only weakness that was mentioned was delegating her work to commissioners as she tends to be overcommitted to new on-campus projects.

..Morgan Haigler

U of C professor finds meteor and fame in north

Brad Halasz
Sports Editor

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a freakin' meteor!

And it has taken Superman's strength to deal the ensuing media frenzy surrounding its arrival in Saskatchewan late November.

Since the Nov. 27 discovery of meteor fragments that landed on Ian Miller's farm near the Saskatchewan-Alberta border, University of Calgary graduate student

Ellen Milley and U of C geophysics associate professor Dr. Alan Hildebrand have been swarmed by media requesting interviews, other universities and institutions requesting information and queries from the general public who have taken an unexpected interest in the sighting.

"It was obviously a dramatic event when it happened on [Nov. 20] because it happened just after 5 p.m., so a lot of people saw this fireball," said U of C research com-

munications manager Grady Semmens. "They happen every year somewhere on the earth. This one was in a good spot for a lot of people to see it, so it certainly caused a lot of attention and excitement when it happened."

Because the event was seen by so many, Semmens and Hildebrand have been working tirelessly to gain as much scientific information as they can — unfortunately many of the 800 plus e-mails in Hildebrand's inbox do not

hold scientific research value.

"It's definitely led to quite an avalanche of interest and people wanting to keep us informed and let us know what they saw even though the vast majority of cases it might not be useful for research purposes," said Semmens.

Despite the bombardment of inquiries, including calls from as far south as Texas and Louisiana by people who saw a similar meteorite at the same time and wondered if it was the same one, Semmens said

the questions are welcome.

"It is good to have that kind of awareness because you never know when someone might have something useful from a scientific point of view," he said.

The discovery of the fragments by the U of C team will raise the profile of an already strong research department, he added.

"It's showing we are definitely leaders in that field as far as North America goes," he said. "It's a good feather in our cap, definitely."

Liberal race, continued from page 5

be no difference in terms of policy between candidates.

In a Conservative-dominated province, the Liberals achieved a quarter the popular vote and garnered 11 of Alberta's 82 seats, making them the official opposition.

"We have a job to do to create credibility as politicians and as a party," said Swann in response to how the Liberals were going to reintroduce and remarket themselves as a legitimate party for the future. "We are a party of the centre and we stand for the public interest

for the longer term and it's something we need to communicate."

Declining popularity has helped lock the Liberals out of provincial government for 37 years and the three candidates weren't slow to remind the audience of this fact.

"I have identified four growth markets, areas or openings that we have that we should investigate; that we should expand on," said Elsalhy.

He described youth, immigrants, migrants and First Nations peoples as being these four growth markets. The Liberal party will need a variety

of Albertans to join their cause, or their "tent," especially if they want to enter provincial government. According to all three candidates, a plan is paramount to instigating change.

"It's clear when you don't have a plan, you're going to fail," Swann said. "I have a plan, a plan for renewing the Liberal party and of new politics that's not left or right. It's not Edmonton versus Calgary, it's not rural versus urban. It's going forward in the public interest for the long term."

Ballots are due Dec. 12 for count.

Subjective science

Jonathan Davies
Gauntlet News

Contentious scientific issues such as climate change and food safety have been dominating news headlines recently, with contradictory data frequently emerging to cast doubt over conclusions and stall the decision-making process.

It has left some experts wondering what role science should play in informing government policy.

Communication and culture professor Dr. Patrick Feng studies the uses and abuses of science in policy debate and shared some of his insights at a colloquium last Friday.

"Towards the beginning of the 20th century, there was generally more public trust in the ability of science to provide answers, but more recently we're seeing different groups such as industry and lobby groups trying to position themselves as legitimate users of science," said Feng.

These groups aim at injecting ambiguity into a debate, which according to Feng, is seriously eroding public trust in science.

Feng advocates for "sound science," first coined in 1996 as a plea for the "triumph of sound science over politics." The statement originated from tobacco lobbyists accusing research that linked smoking to lung cancer of bias. Despite this abuse, Feng believes a clear definition of "sound science" is needed.

"The term has been used to cast

doubt over findings and hold off policy decisions until more research is done, which is really problematic because science will never deliver a finding with 100 per cent confidence," he said.

Feng said a distinction was necessary as to whether society wants science to provide all the answers for policy or if it should be a tool to help guide policy in the right direction.

"I think science, in and of itself, can never settle a policy question because the underlying factor is, 'How safe is safe enough?'" he said. "What level of risk are we willing to accept in order to take some sort of meaningful action?"

Feng believes there will always need to be judgement calls about there being enough evidence, but warns of the costs of inaction. He used the analogy of visiting the doctor when sick. A student wouldn't visit every doctor in town before taking action to getting better, as this would be too inefficient. They would likely end up in a worse condition than before. However, if they received suspect medical advice, they would probably go for a second opinion.

"I don't think there are any simple answers, which is why we need to agree on how we collectively deal with uncertainty," admitted Feng.

He was optimistic that "sound science" will triumph over its opposition.

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Somalia's turbulence on ground and sea

Daniel Pagan
Gauntlet News

Now is a good time to be a pirate, with all the hijackings in the Gulf of Aden near Somalia. A Ukrainian ship carrying 33 tanks on its way to southern Sudan was seized in September. Two weeks ago, a Saudi-owned oil tanker, the Sirius Star, was captured causing a media storm. Upward of \$30 million was paid out in ransoms to return 97 hijacked ships so far this year. All of this news has Centre for Military and Strategy Studies graduate student Daniel Fitzsimmons concerned with the heavy price of piracy.

"The Gulf of Aden leads into the Suez Canal, a passage through which an estimated 30 per cent of the world's oil is transported," said Fitzsimmons. "The capture of the Sirius Star is a recent example of the risks large tankers take to hasten oil delivery around the world. To avoid piracy, some cargo carriers would have to take the longer route around southern Africa, which takes more time and consumes more oil."

Pirate violence can be traced back to the failing conditions in Somalia where there has not been a functioning state for 18 years, noted strategic studies masters student Jean-Pierre Shamvu. The lack of a central government in Somalia, worsening poverty conditions, warlords, a civil war with Islamists and regions like Puntland and Somaliland fighting for their autonomy has created a perfect situation for piracy. Many failed states become easy prey to various criminal activities, with resources up for grabs by many people and organizations.

"Somalia doesn't create piracy, but



Chris Pedersen/the Gauntlet

Instead of chests of gold, modern pirates go for tanks and oil.

the latter thrives on Somalia's failure," said Shamvu. "These pirates claim to be attacking vessels because foreign powers have abused their waters through overfishing and dumping of toxic waste. These claims are taken seriously because they're shared by African states that are unable to control their coastlines."

He added officials said ransoms will be used to clean coastlines, but doubts their motivation due to ongoing corruption.

Political studies associate professor Gavin Cameron pointed out that the size of the Gulf of Aden means it is easy for the small boats the pirates use to slip through and few states are willing to commit the necessary resources to stop the attacks.

"The cost of enforcement would be borne by just a few relatively small navies like Canada," said Cameron.

"You can't change that piracy doesn't matter as much as Iraq or Afghanistan for the U.S. India is a better long-term bet, given the geography and because the economic cost of piracy may be greater for countries in the region."

The problem is not lack of laws,

but a lack of adequate enforcement of existing laws, he said.

"If the Royal Navy captured pirates and transported them to U.K., then pirates have rights to apply for asylum, so they have been told explicitly not to bring them back to British water," Cameron explained. "But where can we send them? Somalia, as a failed state, is clearly not an option either since that is the root of the problem to begin with."

Fitzsimmons noted there might be change in the future due to pirates awaiting trial after being captured by the French military in an operation in April 2008. The French are hoping to set a precedent by trying and convicting these pirates. The United Nations also established anti-piracy laws where countries can lawfully use "necessary means" to stop piracy in international

waters, though he warned they may not be enough.

"Their main priority is on protecting the United Nations World Food program shipments and the piracy falls outside the UN-NATO mandate," said Fitzsimmons.

Shamvu felt the media attention and military reaction ignored the issue of sending in heavy vessels and not enough attention is paid to rebuilding Somalia.

"The current deployment of navies from the military powers can be only a transitional solution," said Shamvu. "Vessels have been deployed in the Gulf of Aden for months now, but piracy is continuing despite their presence. Rebuilding and strengthening Somalia so it is capable of controlling all of its territory and cutting down on poverty is the solution."

Engineers see the light

Laura Bardsley
Gauntlet News

First-year engineering students might have found an answer for affordable and efficient housing. For their final project of the semester, they were assigned a seven-week endeavour to sell their version of a new and improved house. Starting Monday, the students featured the

projects on the second floor labs of the ICT building on campus, which are open to the public.

"We were asked to innovate a design [that was] low cost and highly efficient," said first-year engineering student Corey Jasinski.

The separate labs contain groups divided into smaller focus groups tackling humidity in homes and exterior design saving space. In the

dynamic functioning space presentation, tables, chairs and storage space were combined to create 12-in-1 pieces of furniture on wheels that could be stored anywhere in the room.

"My group in particular focused on minimizing the amount of lights used in the house, focusing on office space," said Jasinski.

see ENGINEERS, page 10

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News for the unnewsed

Morgan Haigler
News Assistant

Mumbai attacked

Indian authorities tried to gain control of Mumbai in the late hours of Nov. 26 after 10 gunmen invaded several hotels and major centres. Both Western foreigners and anti-terrorism officials were targeted and at least 172 were killed during the three-day siege.

Hitmen with a cause

The Calgary Hitmen are spreading a little Christmas cheer to kids receiving 22,722 teddy bears that were tossed in Sunday night's game at the Pengrowth Saddledome. The Western Hockey League team already delivered 400 teddies to the Alberta Children's Hospital on Monday

morning and is expected to reach an additional 50 agencies in the days to come.

Two dead after party stabbing

Brandon Kelly's birthday party quickly turned into a real-life nightmare after a man police identified as Gino Petralia, 47, went on a rampage in Oshawa, just east of Toronto. Stab wounds left the 11-year-old boy's mother dead and his father and two younger brothers seriously injured. Petralia was shot and killed by a Durham police officer. He had a history of mental health problems and threatened the family previously.

Left closes in on Harper

In an effort to topple the government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, New Democratic Party leader

Jack Layton, Liberal leader Stéphane Dion and Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe signed an agreement Monday. They hope they will be able to improve a weakened economy and provide a stable alternative for the governing Conservatives. Governor General Michaëlle Jean is left with the decision to offer the government to the coalition, call for an election or allow Harper to prorogue Parliament until late January.

Nestlé advertisement misleading

Nestlé could soon be facing charges for falsely advertising their bottled water. According to the Council of Canadians and similar groups, the ad which read "the most environmentally responsible consumer product in the world," is misleading. The Toronto City Council is debating whether banning the sale of bottled water at municipal sites would be a wise decision. If approved, Toronto could be the largest city to ban a commercial beverage for environmental concerns.



John McDonald/the Gauntlet

Engineers, cont'd from page 9

The groups built scaled down rooms to show how their innovation would perform better than the systems in traditional homes. All of the miniature groups that focused on lighting their spaces used LEDs in their presentation, cutting the ends of the strands into cones to maximize the surface area. One group said their idea was influenced by LiteBrite. Another set up a series of concave and convex mirrors high on the walls to reduce dark corners and focus the light evenly throughout the entire room, instead of only the middle.

Students also found a way to utilize the "do not eat" packages of silica

gel that come in retail products. The beads of gel can actually be used along with a humidifier to increase the humidity, as they absorb water from their container and then let it out into the air as their relative humidity levels change. The beads pose no risk to the environment or personal health as long as not ingested.

The website for Jasinski's larger lab group explained that the project was assigned as an introduction to Team Alberta's participation in the Solar Decathlon — an international competition to design and build a solar-powered, sustainable house. The house will be built by August 2009.

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Students' Union seeks student input for housing study



In response to concerns about the cost and availability of housing, Calgary's Students' Associations and the Province of Alberta are undertaking a student housing assessment. This assessment will help in identifying options and increase supply and availability, including a specific option for an inter-institutional student residence.

The Students' Union would like to hear your feedback! Take a few moments to complete the Student Accommodations Preference On-Line Survey. Your response will be very important in helping us gain an accurate understanding of housing needs unique to post-secondary students living in Calgary.

Please visit www.su.ucalgary.ca
for the link to the survey.



Considering political correctness:

Queen's and the collapse of clear thinking



Cam Cotton-O'Brien
Pigeon Talk

While the University of Calgary has been grappling with the incredible test of free speech posed by Campus Pro-Life, Queen's University has been busy committing much more egregious offences in the name of political correctness.

Queen's has decided to hire and train six students as conversation facilitators to wander around residence and listen in on conversations to ensure political correctness. While this may seem to some a positive step in the direction of tolerance, it is in fact a twisted plan that will stifle the all-too-necessary freedom of speech, invade privacy and undermine the very goal they have set out to accomplish.

By monitoring the private conversations of students, Queen's is dangerously eroding their freedom. There is something inherently wrong with imposing outside sanctions on such intimate conversations. Excepting, perhaps, an individual's diary entries, pri-

vate discussions are closer to an individual's own thoughts than anything else. As such, having an outside monitor of these discussions is one of the most corrosive invasions of privacy possible. For this reason alone, Queen's decision is reprehensible. But the problem runs much deeper.

Ignoring for a moment the scary Orwellian nature of this program, it is apparent that its practical application would encounter serious difficulties. Though there are certain words and phrases commonly accepted as offensive or hateful, there are sure to be other words, generally deemed harmless, that will be considered offensive to some individual or group. Indeed, almost anything could be construed as offensive to someone. This being the case, it is hard to decide exactly what should be censored. The decision of what words were unacceptable would become political, necessarily elevating some groups above others (unless, of course, everything one said would be subject to inquisition). Further, it would be entirely arbitrary. At some point the decision of exactly where the line between what is politically correct and not would need to be made. As there is no clear place for

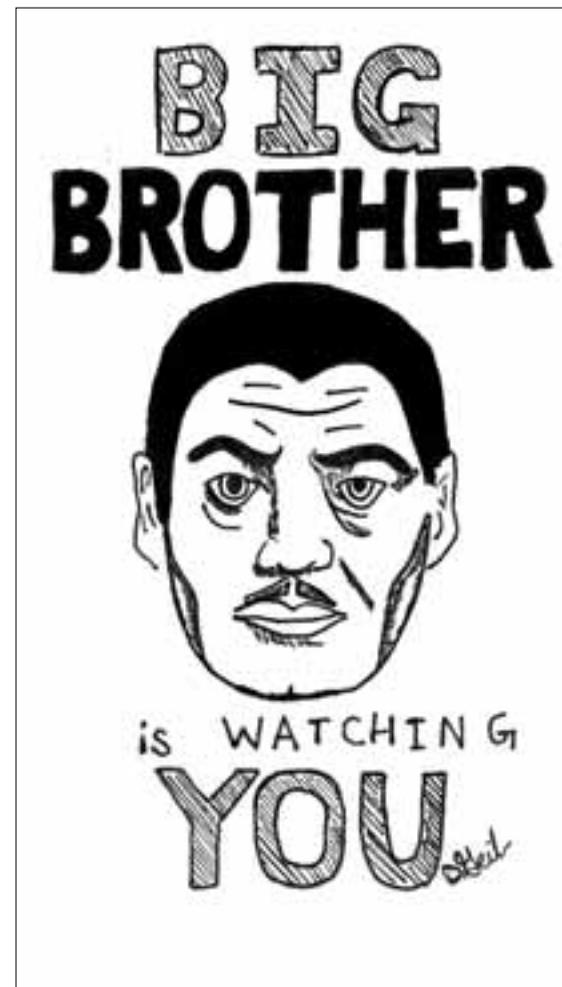
this line, given the different offences that different individuals would find in different words and phrases, it would have to be randomly placed. This is not defensible as a coherent policy to adopt.

Most importantly, this asinine policy actually undermines the very thing that Queen's is presumably trying to emphasize with it — tolerance. Instead of refraining from offensive or hateful statements because they recognize it is unnecessary or wrong, individuals would be doing so simply because that is what they were told. By imposing these sanctions, Queen's is robbing the choice not to say such things of any actual content. It is now a matter of blindly following the rules, which can have no moral worth.

Instead of imposing sanctions upon individuals caught saying offensive things, it would be much wiser to continue approaching the issue through education. A public campaign to make students aware of the concerns that may arise from careless or malicious speech would far better serve the cause of tolerance. Not only would this allow students privacy, but it would restore the decision of what to say to them, thereby giving students the capacity to exercise their own

judgement instead of reducing them to the meaningless practice of unthinking adherence to the rules. Students should be given the means to decide what is appropriate in what context. When they transgress these bounds, if there is a real concern, then their peers should be the ones to tell them that they have done so. This would be a much more thoughtful mechanism for the proper practice of tolerance and tact.

Particularly at a university this type of program should be rejected out of hand. It is one of the most radically inept policies to be articulated on a Canadian campus in a long time. Queen's needs to



give its students the responsibility they need to develop into responsible adults.

Carleton University students face recoil after dismissing cystic fibrosis as not "inclusive"



Elijah Stauth
Crude Dialectics

Canadian eyes have turned to Carleton University where, early last week, the Student Association voted to drop a cystic fibrosis charity as their annual Shinearama charity beneficiary. The Carleton University Student Association supported a motion that claimed cystic fibrosis is not "inclusive" enough because it "has been recently revealed to only affect white people and primarily men."

The motion passed almost unanimously with only one of the student representatives voting against it. The only opponent to the motion, Nick Bergamini, speculated about the actions of his fellow student reps.

"I think they see this, in their own twisted way, as a win for diversity," he said. "I see it as a loss for

people with cystic fibrosis."

This action by CUSA says a lot about the priorities of the new generations who are beginning to filter into the decision making process. The need for diversity is becoming more important than the individuals who make up those groups.

Surely the students voting on the motion were aware of the current proclivity towards diversity. In school we've been taught to include, not to discriminate and to be politically correct in all of our actions. When CUSA thought they had uncovered a hidden deviant to these golden rules it's no wonder they made short work in dismissing it. The genetic components leading to cystic fibrosis predominantly affects white men and as was stated in the motion, "volunteers should feel like their fundraising efforts will serve their [sic] diverse communities."

Canada, after all, is diverse. We fly the term multiculturalism like a brazen victory flag for all to see. And let's not forget what these students were

up against: when the primary recipient of their charity turned out to be white males, alarm bells must have been going off by the dozens. White males, after all, do not have a history of promoting heterogeneity.

When we're thinking of race, white brings to mind the oppressive forces of slavery and exploitation in the Americas. We think of the Europeans colonizing efforts, which exemplify homogenization. Diversity does not come to mind.

And males? They don't have a wonderful track record either. To this day, groups strive for gender equality and while progress has been made toward this end, we still find conversations turning to discussion over the male-dominated fields that women are only now breaking into.

White males are not champions of diversity. Out of the education Canadians receive, the white male systematically appears as the colonizer and the oppressor. So can we really blame these progressive students for

what appears to be a grave lack of understanding? Assuming their education was similar to my own, it might be hard to find fault, but in truth such ends lead from a misunderstanding of the goals of education.

While we may have had diversity beaten into our heads, the purpose of that teaching was never meant as a path towards a blind devotion to diversity. If anything, the lessons we receive should guide people towards critically thought-out solutions to problems on a case-by-case basis.

Many of the obstacles that we have seen in our past, problems that have led Canadians to focus on diversity and inclusion, have been caused because people were unwilling to think about their specific actions and instead regurgitated what society had forced into their minds as the proper sentiment of the day. While diversity is, more often than not, a favorable end, it can clearly be taken too far. In the case of CUSA's decision, the students simply misinterpreted North

American zeitgeist, but by no means is an attitude of inclusion a misnomer for a contemporary belief. It's simply a question of priority.

CUSA underestimated the human sensibility towards the reduction of suffering. To give funding to a group that reduces an individual's distress and increases their lifespan ought to be encouraged. But clearly, this reduction of suffering takes precedence over certain kinds of dogma that holds diversity as its *telos*.

So it looks like Bergamini was right, the movement was treated as a victory, as twisted as it may have looked to him. The comforting fact is that the public saw through the mystification and recognized the need for all people to be helped. Just because an ailment affects mostly white men does not exclude it from a list of necessary causes. Diversity is important. Inclusion is important. But race and sex should not be factors in any decision of what is and what is not a reasonable cause.

Concerning the coalition

Short-term gain for a long-term loss as the Liberals and NDP try to capitalize on Conservative blunder

Tyler Wolfe
Gauntlet Ramblings



It tends to take a lot to get Canadians really riled up over politics. The actions of the Liberals and the NDP over the last week, however, have Canadians calling for blood. Some respectable political commentators are even referring to the proposed coalition as a *coup d'état*. The Liberals, the socialists and the separatists are perceived to be hijacking our democracy. Of course perception is rarely based in reality.

The proposed coalition, while rare in Canadian politics, is completely constitutional. When the House of Commons loses confidence in the governing party, the government falls. There is nothing new or unique about this. No one cried foul when Stephen Harper, together with the same socialists and separatists, brought down Paul Martin's Liberal government in 2006. Upon the dissolution of the House, the Governor General is given the choice of calling a new election or asking one of the other parties to form a government if they are deemed capable of doing so. Because we have been to the polls so recently, the assumption is that Michaëlle Jean will favour the second option. Again, there is nothing unconstitutional about this.

This is not a coup or the hijacking

of democracy. It is a direct response to the Conservative's contempt for their opposition — an opposition which outnumbers them. Stephen Harper's government forced an election last fall when the other parties felt it was unnecessary. He gambled that he could win a majority. When he failed to do so, he claimed he would respect the mandate he was given — that of a minority government. And yet, since the most recent session has opened, the Conservatives have continued to act as though they hold a majority.

The economic update the Conservatives recently introduced was full of partisan measures. They planned on removing the public financing parties receive (\$1.95 is given to each party per vote they receive in a federal election), arguing that since they received the most votes, they had the most to lose. What they didn't mention is that other parties rely on this money to a much larger degree than the Conservatives. Public financing was put in place to ensure a proportional amount of money was distributed to the parties so there would be no need to rely on potentially dodgy connections to the business world. The Conservatives claim that the \$30 million dollars this would trim from the multibillion dollar budget would help save the economy is rubbish. It is nothing more than tactless partisan politics.

A further example of the Conservative's contempt for the opposition can be seen with their tap-

ing of a private NDP caucus meeting and releasing it to the media. Again, they claim to have done nothing wrong since they were mistakenly sent an invitation to the conference call. One does not need a class in ethics to realize that if you have been mistakenly invited to a private meeting, you should announce your presence and you should certainly not record and release the details to the media.

The Conservatives for too long have attempted to push their agenda through Parliament without regard for the majority opposition. Only the Liberals' fear of an election allowed Harper's first term to last as long as it did. And as it turned out, that fear was justified. The dismal showing of the Liberals led to the Conservatives' increased minority and Harper assumed he could continue with the

same tactics. It appears he was wrong. The Conservatives have no one to blame but themselves for losing the confidence of the Commons.

That being the case, the proposed Liberal/NDP coalition has the perception of illegitimacy for the reasons explained above. The timing of the Liberal/NDP motion so soon after an election suggests to Canadians that the vote they cast in October was meaningless. It will not go over well if Stéphane Dion, after leading his party to one of its worst defeats in history, becomes the Prime Minister.

Perception matters in politics. That Pierre Trudeau's National Energy Program is still embedded in the psyche of the West almost 30 years later is proof of this. The concept of the Liberal/NDP coalition is undoubtedly constitutional, but it is politically dangerous. Alienation in

the West will rise to levels not seen in decades and the repercussions will be long lasting. Dion and Jack Layton are salivating at the chance for power in the present; it will be in the future — when they face the wrath of the voters again — that the true consequences of their decision will be felt.

It is unfair and uncritical rhetoric which condemns the Liberal and New Democrat coalition as an unconstitutional seizure of power. If the process is undemocratic, it is our system which deserves this criticism. The Liberals and New Democrats deserve to be criticized for their divisive and short-sighted lust for power. Ultimately though, Harper and the Conservative deserve whatever fate befalls them. If they are defeated it is because of the way they have attempted to govern.

The new Canadian theocracy

Cam Cotton-O'Brien

Pidgeon Talk

Given all the attention directed towards the Conservatives' governing crisis in the last few days, it's hard to fathom how no commentator has yet grasped the True meaning of the issue.

Slightly below 60 per cent of eligible voters cast their ballots in the most recent Canadian election. Given that these were then divided amongst a number of parties, the plurality of eligible voters did not cast a ballot at all. Some take this

as the natural order of elections, while others, pointing to the fact that the number of voters has declined in recent years, argue that this is evidence of the breakdown of the electoral system. Both of these interpretations are wrong.

Eligible voters who declined to vote did not do so for any reason other than their righteous conviction that casting their ballot would be a sin. Elected officials have a primarily legislative task. They create law. Clearly, by virtue of their being humans, this law will necessarily be inferior to divine law. This being

the case, voting for an individual who will then develop law that will be promulgated as the supreme law of the land over and above revealed law is to elevate those lawmakers to a higher authority than God. Voting in an election is thus the active practice of false idolatry.

As can be seen, the current governance crisis is a simple matter of misunderstanding. The people of Canada, by giving the electoral plurality to none of the parties, have given a firm democratic mandate for Canada to be transformed into a theocracy.

GET READY TO CRAM

Pamela Weatherbee, VP Academic

SU VIEW



Eggnog, chestnuts and textbooks...

Fa la la la la, it's the most wonderful time of the year! Well, it will be after the last day of exams on December 17th.

In the meantime, while you are busy with finals and term papers, your Students' Union is fighting the cost of textbooks. As your Vice President Academic, I am serving as the National Spokesperson for Canadian Roundtable on Academic Materials (CRAM), a national lobbying organization devoted to finding solutions for affordable academic materials.

CRAM has been around for just about a year now, and we have 21 member schools across nine provinces. CRAM is a great example of different stakeholders coming together in the best interest of students. We are working with the University Bookstore (who are really not the bad guys) to lobby North American publishers (who are generally the bad guys). Our goal is to lower the cost of textbooks along with addressing a number of other issues such as unnecessary bundling (including manuals, CD's and answer keys with textbooks), new editions of books every year and pressuring faculty members to use these resources. All of these issues drive up the cost for students. And we, as the Students' Union, certainly know you definitely don't need any more financial worries.

CRAM will be meeting in Toronto December 1-3, 2008 to establish our priorities and goals for the upcoming New Year and garner some media attention to support our cause. You can help out and get involved by visiting www.theCRAM.ca. Sign up for the forum and check out local initiatives to battle the rising cost of textbooks and other academic materials.

Two other important notes:

- 1) Fill out your Course Ratings! You have until December 7th to complete them online.
- 2) If you have any concerns regarding grades, exam scheduling or anything related to your rights as a student — visit our Student Rights Advisor at the Students' Union Office in MacEwan Student Centre across from Campus Security.

On behalf of the Students' Union we wish you the best of luck in your finals and hope you have a great holiday break!

www.su.ucalgary.ca



A crisis of consumerism

Tyler Wolfe
Gauntlet Ramblings



Black Friday, the Friday after American Thanksgiving, is annually one of the busiest retail days of the year. Kicking off the Christmas shopping season, the idea behind the name is that it is supposedly the day in which all American businesses magically happen to begin turning a profit — out of the red and into the black. This year the name was particularly appropriate as a 34-year-old Wal-Mart employee was trampled to death by a ravenous, merciless consuming horde, concerned less with human life than being the first to get their fat, greedy hands on whichever cheap product they had been indoctrinated to buy.

The horde had yet to unveil the true extent of its sinister nature, however. Upon being informed that their gluttonous frenzy had resulted in the death of a fellow human being and that the store would be closing as a result, the mob grew indignant, some complaining that they had been waiting in line since the previous eve-

ning. They demanded to know what right management had in closing the store and denying them their dear consumables, their lust for things overwhelming any moral sense or human emotion.

While this disturbing example may not be the norm — although it is certainly not an isolated incident — it is nonetheless a representation of our consumption-centric culture. It's unfortunate, but it appears more and more that the highest ideal within this culture is to possess commodities — having the newest and greatest gadget before anyone else. What a great achievement it is to get the newest iPhone or the largest flat screen. And what the hell, you don't even have to pay for it — at least not now. Just swipe that plastic and it's yours. Spending within one's financial limits, to say nothing of savings, be damned!

However, is it really the consumer's fault? After all, we are bombarded with advertisements from all sides. The *New York Times Magazine* estimates that city dwellers are confronted with 5,000 ads every day. For every hour of television you watch, roughly 20 minutes are spent convincing you that there are items that you don't yet own and you need. Even

the American President is a slave to the hyper-consumption mentality.

Following the devastating attacks in September 2001, with a country confused and terrified, in need of strong leadership, how does he calm their nerves? He tells the country to go shopping. Buying more things will fix the problems we face or if it

doesn't, at least you'll have more stuff.

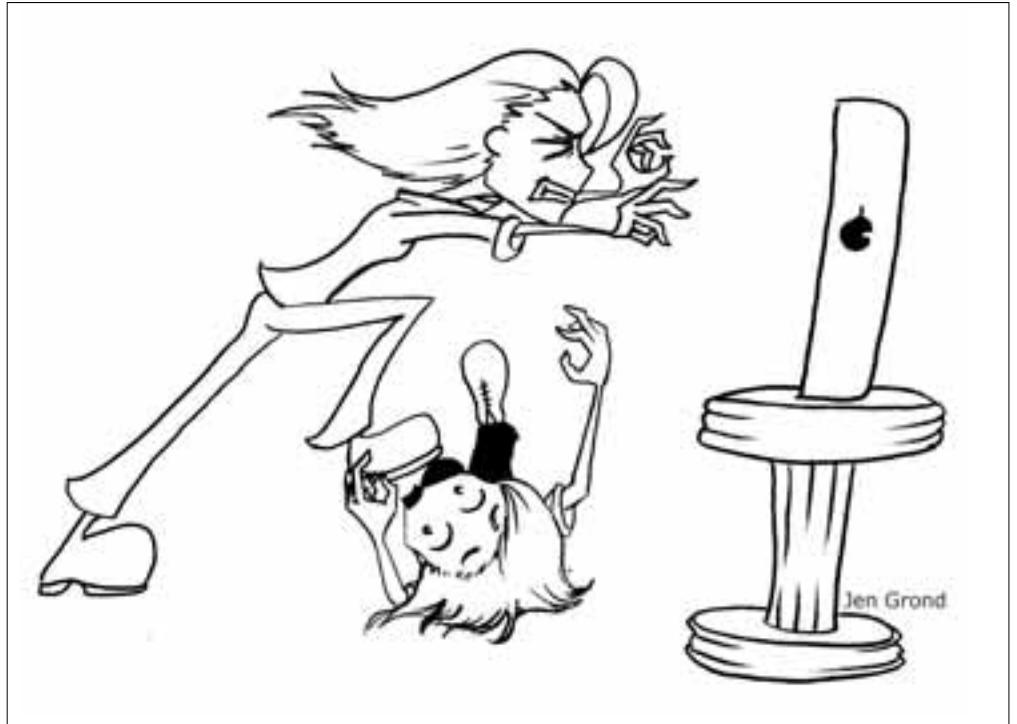
But this is a copout — it is the consumer's fault. Most people have a mind of their own and a perk of this is they possess the ability to make their own decisions. It's time more people took a second to reconsider how necessary that next big purchase is. If you don't need it, and especially

if you cannot afford it, perhaps it is best to postpone the purchase.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not some wing-nut communist suggesting we abandon the capitalist system. It's a fine system, in principle. Instead, I'm arguing it's time for people to open their eyes and acknowledge that this fine system is a little fucked up. The economy is collapsing around us, largely as a result of people taking out loans to buy homes they could not actually afford. Governments which have been committed to an unregulated market are now throw-

ing hundreds of billions of taxpayers' dollars at the problem in an attempt to prevent an even greater collapse. Meanwhile, CEOs of major corporations will be left without their multi-million dollar bonuses this year. A travesty if ever there was one.

I'm not an economist and I don't have the answers to the wider problems. There are however, a number of simple things you can do to help. This holiday season buy locally, look for Fair Trade and above all, avoid joining the orgy of unnecessary spending that is Boxing Day.



Holidays without the holy, but with wine

Eric Mathison
Gauntlet Opinions



My extended family has the bad habit of praying before holiday meals begin. I say bad because I find it an effective way of cooling food and little else. Also, they never consider it necessary for other meals. They don't go to church. No deity is invoked the rest of the year. Like many others that find Pascal's Wager so enticing, the holiday prayer almost begins with, "it can't possibly hurt..."

In an effort to elucidate the point they were missing, as well as missing warm food, last Easter I suggested we do away with the whole easiest-path-to-salvation business. My dear grandmother, never one to incite an argument, replied that the holidays were about much more: family, friends, reflection, sharing. I hadn't struck out in an argumentative fashion, nor could I proceed as such, because, well, she was right.

What are we non-believers to make of this festive spirit and general merriment? Should we not be brooding

ways to separate the "Christ" from the "mas?" I think not. The most interesting thing about Christmas is how little Christianity has to do with it. I mean this not in the secularism-is-taking-over-the-world kind of way, but the historicity of the whole affair. Fir trees, turkeys and Santa are some of the well known imports, but the very date of Dec. 25 comes from a Pagan celebration that had been taking place for some time prior to the messianic birth.

Matthew and Luke couldn't agree on the story, so we shouldn't be expected to either. In fact, we would be forsaking an important pastime if we neglected to make it up as we go. Let's throw out the baby with the proverbial nativity scene and keep the good parts.

Like wine, for instance. In the spirit of openness, if you choose to turn yours into blood, it's your call. It doesn't suit my palate, however. The feast motif was well-worn by those looking to have something to feel good about near the shortest day of the year. I would actually motion to have that idea made more frequent. We can do away with the bird on the table (or any other sentient creature for that matter). The command "Let the water teem with living creatures

and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky," from Genesis 1:20 is quite clear, making it obvious Christians didn't invent that part.

You can't spell aesthetic without the word atheist — you need to jumble up the letters a bit, but it's there. It is time we got rid of the more vomit-inducing aspects of the holiday. Not even Jack Johnson can make "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" a winner; I would take the Eagles' "Please Come Home for Christmas" any day. It's not religious bigotry to ask a shop to change the music if it's simply bad.

My grandmother doesn't know who Jack Johnson is. If she does, I don't know who she is. Family is important. My sister is returning home from a long trip just a few days before Christmas and the proximity to the holiday has no bearing on my excitement to see her. Friends, both near and far, will be on my mind. Combine them with wine and it would be blasphemy to only have it once a year.

Therefore, as those before us have done, let us make the holidays what we want them to be and just be good for goodness' sake. It is the very essence of humanism.



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Online doctor visits: what webcams should not do



Meagan Meiklejohn
Gauntlet Opinions

Remember the last time you went to the doctor's office? Perhaps for another one of those routinely intrusive check-ups or for a diagnosis of some curious illness that had set up camp in your immune system? As you sat in the waiting room, you may have thought to yourself, with society's growing need for speed and technology's rising influence, why hasn't something as simple as a doctor's appointment adopted some of these efficiencies?

Good things take time and indeed time is what it may take for Roy Schoenberg's solution to be accepted in today's health-care practices. As

co-founder and chief executive of American Well, Schoenberg wants webcam housecalls to take the place of today's bothersome trips to the doctor. However, there is something wrong about cutting corners when dealing with a patient's health.

In defence of his innovation, Schoenberg maintains that, in addition to acknowledging a patient's precious time during the day, patient's value face-to-face conversations with their physicians. Yet seeing one's face is not the only way this can be done. Sure, seeing your physician on the computer may create a sense of security and personalize an appointment in a way that phone calls or e-mails cannot, but what webcam appointments fail to provide are the concrete benefits of seeing a doctor in person. If "trips to the doctor" consisting of sitting at home or at work and conversing with a screen

are equally as beneficial as going to a doctor's office, what is the point of sitting through blood pressure, heart beat and external exams such as checking a patient's reflexes, eyes, ears and abdominal before actually getting to the point of the visit?

Aside from apparently providing a personal doctor-to-patient connection, the sight of a doctor's face through the use of a webcam is really no better at assessing any pains or illnesses than a phone call or an MSN or Facebook instant messaging session. A doctor needs to be able to see and touch a person in order to prescribe an appropriate treatment. If not, the doctor is only able to make predictions based on generalized symptoms memorized from a book. In that case, patients may as well do the research themselves and write their own prescriptions.

Furthermore, Schoenberg high-

lights the fact that patients find the use of webcam appointments favourable for asking their doctor about concerns and symptoms without having to wait weeks for an appointment. This would be convenient, but only assuming that your doctor is available to attend to your every worry. Being online enables doctors to address many more patients than he or she would be able to during a typical day at the office. This makes the waiting game predictably longer while the patient is unavoidably forwarded to another doctor who will inform the patient's doctor at a later time. In addition to this downfall, doctors do not have the time to deal with these types of issues, which is why services such as Health Link are available to patients 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A patient would simply be better off visiting a walk-in clinic if they felt the immediate need to consult a physician.

It seems that the only true benefit to using a webcam is allowing both doctors — who will have less paperwork to do under the American Well system — and patients to be more lazy.

Considering both the gains and losses of using Schoenberg's program, it seems that health-care practices would be neglecting the proper care of a patient in exchange for speed and an easy way out of necessary work. With technology inching its way into nearly every part of our lives, webcam check-ups are a definite possibility, but it runs the risk of patients being dealt the short stick and having to deal with the consequences of an improper diagnosis or an undetected illness. Essentially, what it comes down to is whether patients are willing to gamble with their health on a faulty technological innovation in an attempt to avoid a potential day off.

Gingers getting kicked — why do people take jokes so seriously?



Laura Bardsley
2 Legit 2 Quit

Our generation is slowly becoming more and more sensitive about each other's feelings. In our day and age, political correctness is a must to avoid offending anyone. We have established laws to protect each other from the lethal smoke of cigarettes, enforced helmets and vast arrays of safety gear on most vehicles and have laws in effect to prevent unnecessary profanity.

The unfortunate part of this sensitivity is that, although in good faith, it can become a burden and a useless

endeavour. Being politically correct about everything is quite a hard thing to do; referring to a black person as an "African-American" isn't entirely correct — not all black people are from Africa, neither are they always American.

So when *South Park* produced an episode named "Ginger Kids" in 2005, which inspired a Facebook group naming Nov. 20 National Kick a Ginger Day, our population reacted strongly. The joke was taken by some as a full-force bullying holiday. Anti-bullying advocate Rob Frenette was shocked when he found out about the group.

"We are very taken back that students would pick a certain group

of people to harass due to their hair colour," he told CTV News from New Brunswick.

Although it seems like the kids who created the Facebook group, (one a 14-year-old) were out to bully for all it's worth, they were actually just continuing the joke. The *South Park* episode was actually a satire of bullies and demonstrated that everyone should be accepted. But, of the people to hear of this event or join in, a few actually took it seriously. This is the problem. If people could take a joke and understand that kids are more likely to be hurt by falling down than by a joking kick, we would realize that this is actually a pretty ridiculous thing to get all fussed up about. But with all our fear in offending someone, our senses of humour have become

lost in the blur of correction.

The majority of the members in the Facebook group knew that it was a joke and quite a few of them were ginger themselves. In this wide majority of members, one could probably guess that most of them would not advocate bullying in any other sense, say calling a kid "four-eyes" because they are wearing glasses.

So our acts to not offend anyone have ended up in a heated fervour, ending in rumours of *South Park* being handed a hate crime lawsuit.

Some kids did take it too far Nov. 20, but the only incidents that were brought to light all ended in minor bruising. The problem is still that people have taken this joke way too seriously and ruined it in the process.

There are Facebook groups joking about everything. One group, "I Love Seals So Much I Want to Club Them" bears the description: "This is a group for those of us who support the time-honoured tradition of killing seals. This tradition, unfortunately, comes under attack annually at the commencement of the seal hunt. Anyone expressing anti-sealing opinions will be promptly removed from the group. Then shot," which is obviously a joke. Yet, this group as well as many others like it, hasn't been featured on the news as cruel and wrong. Maybe Facebook groups are the last leg of slapstick sarcastic humour, but one should hope not. Curse the day that our collective fear of offending anyone drives our jokes into hiding on the Internet.

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The University of Calgary Undergraduate Social Sciences E-Journal

Letters, continued from page 3

or to undermine the reputation of Russia and its leadership. If the latter is true, I don't doubt that those who ordered the crime will never be tried, because they are obviously too far away from the reach of the Russian justice.

Sergey Petrov

PhD candidate, Dept. of Religious Studies

On drinking and driving

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,

Another car "accident" linked to teenage drunk driving has stolen lives from this city and this young generation. One more life lost, but many more affected by this traumatic and most impossible to understand of events. In this lack of understanding, the question raised is but one word. Why? Why did someone have to get behind the wheel intoxicated? Why did someone, anyone, not take the responsibility to avoid the consequences?

It is almost impossible for someone who lives in this younger generation to understand how a teenager can be so naïve about drinking and driving. The presentations have been endless, from MADD Days to campus awareness clubs, students of my generation have been exposed to the stories. We know the words, the calls to be "responsible" and "smart." Nevertheless, just last week another death by drinking and driving at the hands of a teenager occurred close to my home. And again, we wonder, why? Let's stop wondering and let's start speaking the hard truth. If you drink and you get behind the wheel of a vehicle, your finger is now on the trigger. Many shots are fired wildly into the night; the sounds of mufflers are all that's heard. But eventually, a crowd is found and the bullets rip through flesh and bone and another innocent

victim falls to the ground. Drinking and driving is murder. It is not just irresponsible; it is pure evil, a decision to grab a weapon and kill innocent people because you needed "a night on the town." My generation asks for more freedom, more responsibilities and power over our lives and we ask not to be treated like "children." However, we fail to earn any of these wants.

We are children and blatantly stupid if we continue to be foolish enough to drive drunk. The options are endless, from taxi cabs to designated drivers. That is real responsibility and freedom. Being smart enough to ask someone in advance for a ride; to develop a plan like an adult. That's intelligence, but instead all those presentations that we chatted and slept through ring no bells of alarm. Maybe my words cannot either. But maybe the screams of the mother last week in the emergency room. "WHY?" The tears running down her face, the pain in her heart and the knowledge that everything she

wished for her child has now ended. It is not just his life that is finished, her's is as well.

Can we finally stand up and take some responsibility, ask ourselves a simple question. Why not? Why not ask for someone to pick us up from the party? Why not have a designated driver? Why not call a cab? Why not plan ahead? The label on our generation is earned until we are willing to prove otherwise.

Some have said our abuse warrants the consequences it has placed upon our society. But I refuse to believe that change is not possible. Because if we do, we are accepting murder on our streets. We are accepting needless death as a part of our society, but I just can't help but ask, why? Why in a society as smart as ours can we be so brainless and moreover, so heartless.

Please, as the holiday season approaches, where we will celebrate in the festivities, ask why not? Maybe, just maybe we can have Peace on Earth and good will towards all men, if we finally earn it. Drive safe and

responsibly this holiday season.

God bless you and yours,

Andrew B. Rodych

The trouble with rape jokes

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,

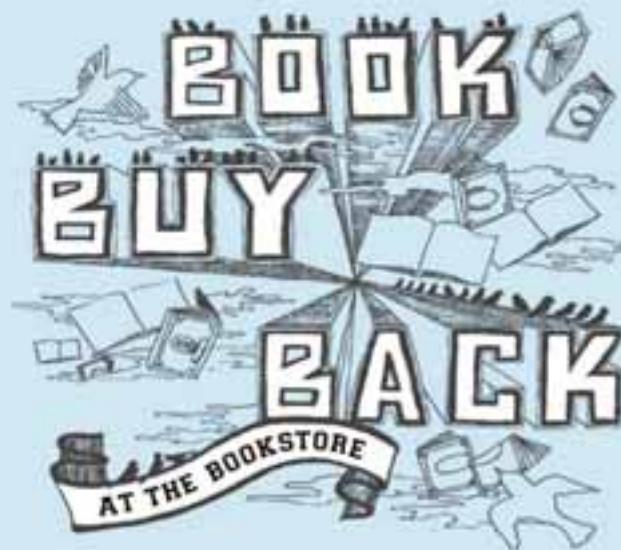
"Wow, that midterm test raped me."

Walking down the halls of the university, how many times do you hear this comment tossed around so frivolously? How many times have you yourself uttered this phrase? Have you ever stopped and thought about the implications behind your words? Sexual assault statistics show that one in four North American women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime and over 80 per cent of sex crime victims are women. This is quite a large number of women and chances are, when you toss around a phrase joking about sexual assault, one of these victims will overhear your comment. There have been countless occasions where friends,

strangers and even family members have so carelessly used the term "rape." And every time I hear someone joke about this subject, it turns my stomach and sends me into a downhill spin of torment and painful memories.

It is hard enough to see sexual assault portrayed so commonly in television and movies. We can choose to turn the television off, but we can not "turn off" your comments. If there was one goal that I could accomplish in my life, it would be to make you, the reader, aware that I hear your comments. We all hear your comments and your jokes about rape. And it pains us beyond belief. Representing women everywhere that have been sexually assaulted, I believe I speak for us all when I ask you to please stop with the sexual assault jokes. The University of Alberta Sexual Assault Centre provides an excellent resource online for assault victims: uofaweb.ualberta.ca/SAC/

That 1 in 4 North American Woman
more LETTERS, page 16



Extended Buyback Hours for December

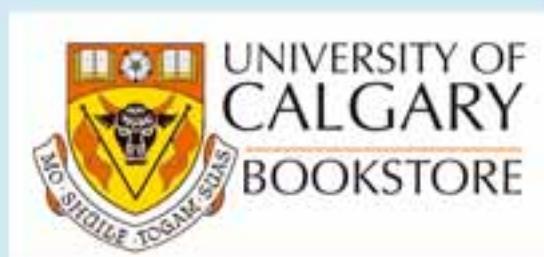
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The philosophy of needles

In defence of the defence your immune system provides

Labiba Majeed
Gauntlet Opinions



It's flu season and if you haven't already heard the rolling thunder of melodious sneezes in your classes, you may have at least noticed a few Rudolfs around campus. Better yet, you may have a flu or cold yourself. How glorious is it when oodles of work weigh down upon your weary shoulders and you are compelled to deal with irritating flu symptoms while being nagged by others to get a flu shot. This season, however, think twice before getting one,

as flu shots bring meaning to the phrase, "It's not what it seems."

Since the introduction of free flu shots, everyone has been raving about them — their benefits, the number of cases prevented, the boosted immune system, increased protection and so on. These benefits are not all true.

One should note that students are typically in good form and have stronger immune systems than children and seniors. It is a better idea for students to maintain their health and boost their immune systems the natural way so it is ready to ward off any viruses, rather than relying on vaccines and dealing with their side-effects. For students, it is simply not worth getting a flu shot.

The one pitch used to convince the

public to get flu shots is the one that backfires most. The public is advised to get a flu shot every year because the shot is different annually, as doctors include the newest strains of viruses in the vaccine. Yet, recently, they have failed to do just that.

"Every year, flu experts make an educated guess about which flu strains end up being the most common before deciding which ones to include in the vaccine the following year," Dr. Don Low, microbiologist in chief at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital told CBC news. "For 2007, flu experts chose the wrong ones."

As expected, the results were disastrous.

"... We had quite a robust year

for influenza," Low said.

Why do doctors and health-care systems try to convince the public of the benefits of flu shots, when the research being done is not adequate enough? In the case of a wrong guess, like in 2007, even a flu shot will not protect individuals from the current strain. Regardless of whether or not one decides to get the vaccine, avoiding sickness simply requires a strong immune system, one that students should be able to maintain.

Many people who take flu shots are unaware of the hidden presents you get with them — side effects. If the 28 per cent of Canadians over the age of 12 who get flu shots annually, according to Statistics Canada, found

out that flu shots carry some serious side effects with them, the numbers would take a nosedive. Fever, muscle pain and weakness are possible side effects of the flu shot. The flu shot may also cause a mild case of the flu and one in a million people will develop Guillain-Barre Syndrome, a nervous system disease. Most people would point out defensively that the odds are one in a million of developing GBS. But the mere possibility of getting a nervous system disease is daunting and sure to put off the many people who did get the shot.

For students, this risk doesn't make a lot of sense. It is much better to stay healthy naturally by eating well and staying active.

Letters, continued from page 15: A regrettable destruction of life

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,

In the article "A Regrettable Destruction of Reason," [Cam Cotton-O'Brien, Nov. 27, *Gauntlet*] the author says that GAP obscures abortion by focusing attention on the display and the event itself. Actually, GAP exposes the horror of abortion through the display in a way that words alone cannot. There are countless historical examples of injustice being exposed

through (often disturbing) pictures.

During the Vietnam War, a girl named Kim Phúc was photographed running naked down the street, screaming in agony from napalm burning through her skin and muscles. Her picture became famous and helped to expose the inhumanity of the war. *Schindler's List* uses powerfully shocking images to depict the injustices committed against the Jews. Did these graphic images take attention

away from the injustices they portrayed? I think not. Even though such imagery causes an emotional reaction in the viewer, it does not "eliminate any capacity for rational discussion." Instead, it ensures that discussion is made in light of the reality of documented photographic evidence. Nonetheless, viewing images of decapitated and dismembered unborn babies will undoubtedly be emotional for any viewer with a bit of compassion.

As for Mr. Cotton-O'Brien's claim that Campus Pro-Life is unclear regarding the links between abortion and other atrocities, perhaps he didn't read the essay called "Why Abortion is Genocide" that CPL members were offering at the display. This essay is available online at abortionno.org/pdf/abortion.pdf.

Chris Biernacki

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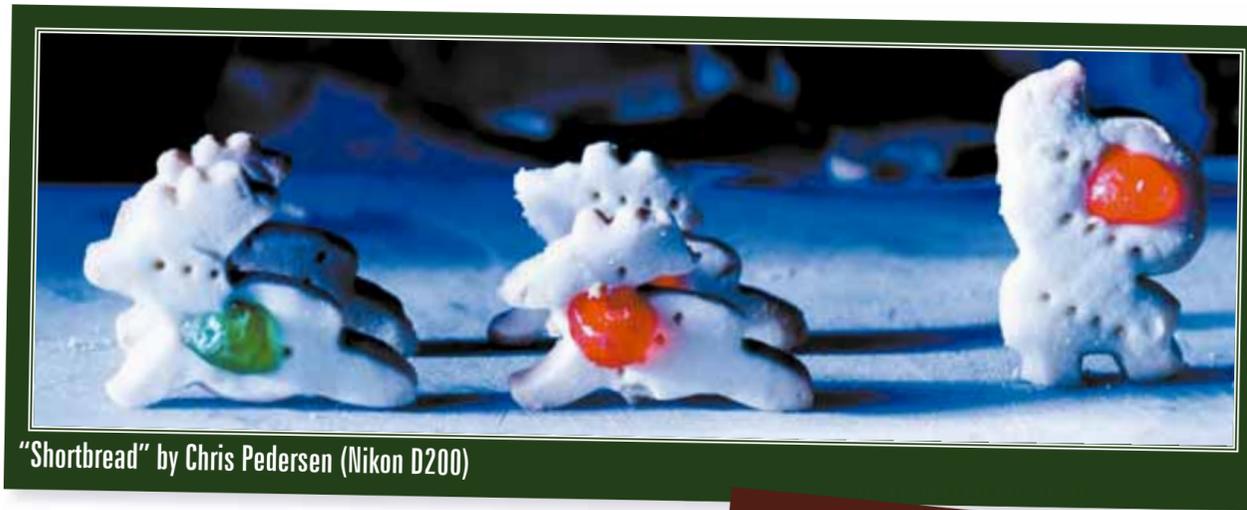
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Happy Holidays!

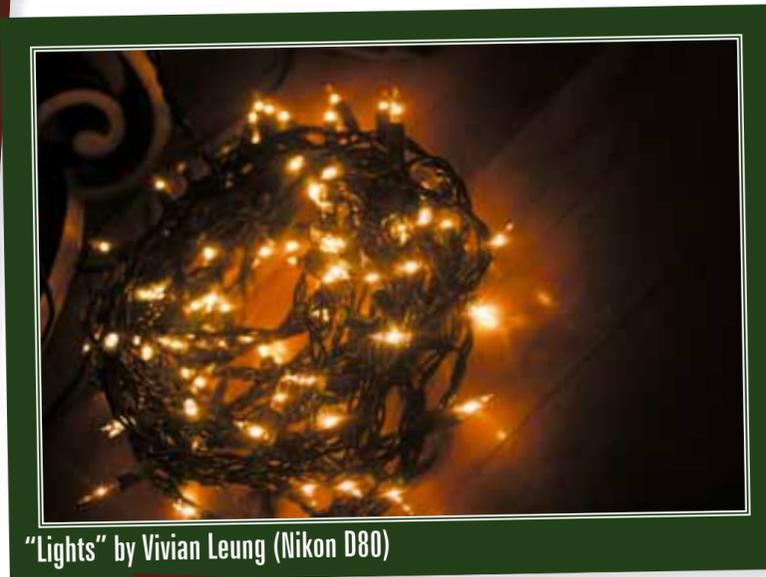
Gauntlet's Team Photo celebrates the holidays with a collection of fun wintry photos.



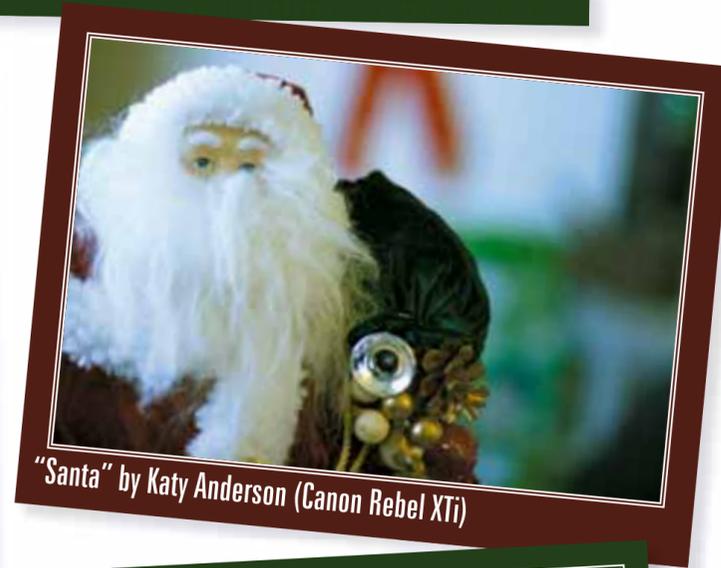
"Shortbread" by Chris Pedersen (Nikon D200)



"Tree Ornament" by Paul Baker (Nikon D80)



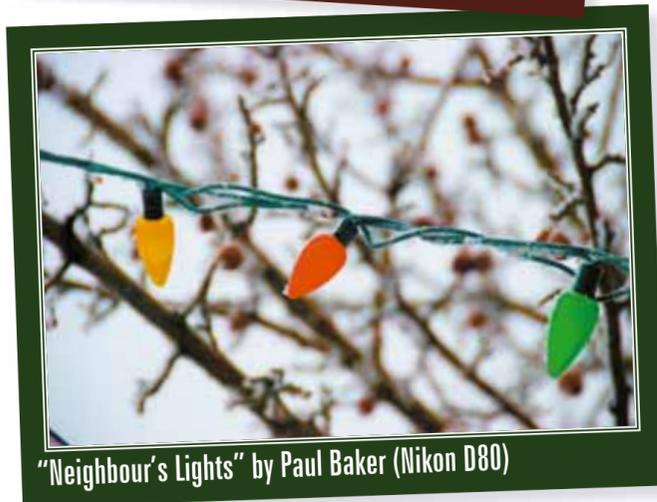
"Lights" by Vivian Leung (Nikon D80)



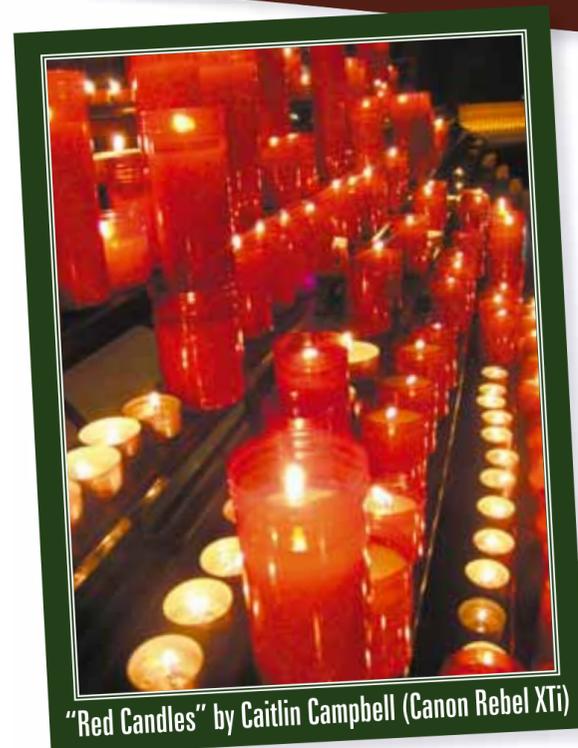
"Santa" by Katy Anderson (Canon Rebel XTi)



"Winter" by Vivian Leung (Nikon D80)



"Neighbour's Lights" by Paul Baker (Nikon D80)



"Red Candles" by Caitlin Campbell (Canon Rebel XTi)

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Chris Pedersen/the Gauntlet

In defence of hunting

Cutting out the middle man

by Chris Pedersen

Every year for nearly three decades, a group of friends drive for hours to the northern expanses of Alberta to get out and enjoy nature. They have been friends since high school, but now live all over the province. Every year, no matter the circumstances, they gather to go hunting. This group has been doing this for years and they will continue for many more. These men do not fit the stereotypical description of hunters. They do not go around in public wearing camouflage, spit tobacco on the ground or hang numerous animal heads in their basements or offices. In fact, most hunters are ordinary people, who lead ordinary lives.

This group is not alone. When the leaves change colour and the crisp, cold winds come, thousands of people across Alberta head out to go hunting. They travel to the woods to bond with friends, connect to nature, gather meat for their families and do something they enjoy. These are people who go out for recreation much like people play squash, run, hike and ski or even watch television.

There is no single reason that people grab their guns, don their coveralls and go hunting. The sport connects people to their environment and the animals that dwell there more than hiking or biking can. To be successful, a person must be immersed in the environment, taking stock of the surroundings. Hunters need to know the characteristics of the animals, how they will act and what their movements will be.

"I think when you boil it down, you get a much closer attachment

110,000

Albertans are licensed a year

to the land and the animals you are hunting," says Don Meredith, an avid hunter, nature writer and former wildlife biologist. "When I am out there things really drop away, like home and the job. In the process, I learn a lot about the animals that I am hunting. I see a lot of things in the bush I would not see otherwise. My senses are heightened when I am hunting."

Many hunters begin hunting when they are young as they go along with their father or grandfather. Hunting brings families together in a common activity. Parents spend days on end teaching their children about the techniques and regulations behind hunting. Fathers and sons take courses together to learn more about the skills needed.

Local hunter Duncan Daniels learned how to hunt from his father, who learned from his father.

"I grew up with hunting," says Daniels. "I went hunting with my grandfather and my father when I was young."

Along with the family ties to hunting, there is a large tradition of hunting throughout Alberta. The First Nations hunted for food to survive in the wild. When the fur traders came, they hunted for furs and profit and then the first settlers hunted for sustenance. This tradition continues in Albertans other activities.

"It is how we got a lot of our food and has definitely been built into our culture," says Meredith. "Today, not everybody can or wants to hunt, but I believe they use the techniques in a lot of other things, like business, by being aggressive. We channelled the things we learned from hunting into other activities."

While hunting is undertaken for many reasons by Albertans, it can be a misunderstood recreational activity. Many people believe that hunters are similar to poachers and group them together in the same category: people who hunt illegally. This is a misconception, as hunters constantly work against poachers, ensuring that hunting can continue in Alberta. Hunters are some of the main promoters of conservation in the province, working with many conservation organizations to ensure wildlife populations continue to grow and that the environment is not harmed when people hunt.

"People that hunt legally and ethically are part of 110,000 people that annually participate in hunting activity while the one to two per cent that disobey the law [are] poachers and these distinctions must be recognized," says Hunting for Tomorrow executive director Kelly Semple.

Meredith agrees the general public does not understand the distinction between hunters and poachers and stresses that hunting plays a large part in many peoples' lives every time they go to the grocery store and buy meat. Hunters are just skipping the middle man.

Recreational hunters are the main contact for the government when dealing with poachers. They are out there in the wilderness and have the best access to report poachers and save protected animals. In Alberta, people can call Report a Poacher when they see a poacher in the act. According to Hunting for Tomorrow, an Albertan website, 80 per cent of all calls come from concerned hunters and anglers who are interested in protecting the natural resources of Wild Rose country. Hunters' licence fees also contribute to wildlife

The connection between hunter and food is one that can't be replicated at the supermarket

management programs in the province.

"Licences that are purchased and funds from those licence fees and levies support a number of programs, not only to the provincial treasury, but to the Alberta Conservation Association, which funds management programs," said Semple.

The direct evidence that hunters are not eradicating the wild and endangering all the animals is seen in hunting itself, says Meredith. Hunting would not be so popular in Alberta if there was not an abundance of animals every year.

"Hunters in the bush are concerned about the game, if they are not seeing enough game, government agencies hear about it," says Meredith. "These are people in the field making sure there are viable populations."

Along with reporting poachers and working to sustain animal populations, hunters also enjoy sustaining themselves with the meat. As well as being delicious, moose and venison — deer meat — is healthier than beef and pork. Venison has only 1.4 per cent fat versus two per cent fat in beef and 4.9 per cent fat in pork. Moose meat is even healthier as it has only 0.5 per cent fat. Game meats have less saturated fat in them, as well as more lean body tissue, making them a healthy alternative to store-bought meat.

"Some people don't like hunting, but that seems to be changing as people realize the meat is healthier," said Daniels. "I like wild meat. Tonight we had duck stew and last night we had venison. When I bring home a T-bone steak and put it on the barbecue, my kids say 'ewwwwww,' then say they prefer the wild meat."

In Alberta, there are regulations set by

80%

of calls to Report a Poacher are made by hunters

the government in accordance to where and what people can hunt. Hunters must obtain tags for every animal they hunt and are only allowed to hunt during certain times of the year. They're also concerned that animals are killed humanely, aiming for a clean, one-shot kill so as not to cause the animals pain.

"It's all part of a managed harvest," says Daniels. "I really value making sure the animal is not hurt. I don't like to see an animal in pain. If it is not a kill shot, a shot which brings the animals down instantly, I will not take it and let the animal go without shooting it."

The government ensures sustainable hunting practices through a licensing process. Hunters are restricted in the number of ani-



Paul Baker/the Gauntlet

mals they can kill through a draw system. The government draws names and that decides what hunters get tags — an allocation of what animals you can hunt that year. This ensures that animals are not unjustly slaughtered.

"To ensure these populations rebound year-

"In our agricultural areas, one of the budgets the Fish and Wildlife [Ministry] have to deal with is crop damage," says Meredith. "Elk and deer are huge culprits as they will eat stored hay and crops. A lot of money is spent helping farmers protect their stored hay. To reduce the cost, they will increase the number of people hunting in an area. If there is not enough food going into the circuit, prices will go up."

Many Albertans choose to hunt because they enjoy the sport and want future generations to enjoy it equally. Reporting poachers is an important way hunters are able to continue the tradition. Along with being a major proponent of this work, hunters enjoy spending time in nature, spending time with family and gaining knowledge about the wildlife. The health benefits of wild game meat is also driving more people towards the sport and the connection between hunter and food is one that can't be replicated at the supermarket.

When the weekend of hunting is over, the group goes back to their normal lives, working ordinary jobs. But for the days between the hunt each person has a freezer packed tight with moose and deer meat.

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Photo by Henry Georgi

It's report card time!

At the end of every University of Calgary Dino season we here at the *Gauntlet* take time to give praise or criticism to those who are much more athletic than us. Chances are they are more popular, better looking and smarter too, but being unbiased journalists, we will not let that factor into our assessments. This year we offer an out-of-five rating to the men's and women's soccer squads, the field hockey team, the cross-country team and the football team. While some of these teams did not meet the expectations placed upon them at the beginning of the season, others greatly exceeded them, especially the football team, whose Hardy Cup winning season was the high-mark of the first half of the Dinos Athletics 2008–09 season.

—Brad Halasz
Sports Editor



Football

The Dinos football team met and crushed all expectations fans had this year. They were a young team boasting over 30 first- and second-year players, but they ignored their inexperience and created an extremely impressive season, winning the Hardy Cup. They made it to the national semi-final, losing to eventual Vanier Cup winners Laval Rouge et Or. The defence was the principal reason for the strong season put forth by the Dinos. They absolutely dominated opposing offences holding seven teams to less than 20 points per game in the regular season and in the two Canada West playoff games allowed only 38 points. In the national semi-final they were outperformed, allowing 59 points.

The offence performed adequately at the beginning of the season and then turned up the heat in the final three games. In the playoffs the offence scored 78 points in the three games. The Dinos had three all-Canadians this season with Andrea Bonaventura, Matt Walter and Nathan Coehoorn earning the honours.

With numerous returning players the Dinos will look to repeat as Canada West champions and get closer to winning the Vanier Cup next year. The Dinos unexpected losses to the Simon Fraser University Clan and University of Alberta Golden Bears during the regular season, along with their youth in key positions (resulting in moments of inconsistency during games) hurt them this year. Next year the team will be more experienced and may challenge Laval's recent dominance.

—Chris Pedersen

4 / 5



Women's soccer

The University of Calgary women's soccer team began the season with zero wins in their first six games. When a team goes through half a season without winning a game, one would think playoffs were absolutely unreachable. But the Dinos found life and won five of their last eight games, reaching the playoffs. It was a remarkable turnaround for the Dinos who found it difficult to score early in the season and were playing with a defence that was terrible. In the second half of the season they played with as much teamwork and motivation as any team in Canada West.

Caitlin Milne and Lindsay Burrowes earned Canada West all-star honours for their hard work. Overall, the team played well enough to make the playoffs but rarely played a full game without slowing down and allowing teams to control play and get back into games. With many of their players being first-, second- or third-years, they should be able to use the experience to improve on their sixth-place finish. Despite losing in the first round of the playoffs, the team can take their late success and look towards moving further through the playoffs in 2009.

—Chris Pedersen

3 / 5

Reports cards, continued

Men's soccer

The University of Calgary men's soccer squad truly merits two grades, as their season was essentially the tale of two different teams. The first half of the season saw them go 0-5-2 and have a goals scored/goals against differential of minus six, hardly a recipe for a competitive season in the Canada West conference. The turning point for the soccersaurs came after a disappointing 2-1 setback in Lethbridge against the Pronghorns on Sept. 27. Returning home to Calgary to play the rematch of their home-and-home set, Calgary stepped on the turf and put the boots to the 'Horns to the tune of 4-0, the largest margin of victory of the season for the Dinos. Following their first win, the Dinos would earn a mark of 2-3-2 down the stretch, including two terrific outings against national powerhouses University of British Columbia and University of Victoria. The Dinos first-half play earns them one and a half out of five, while their much improved second half is worthy of three and a half out of five for an average of 2.5.

—Austin Paladeau

2.5 / 5

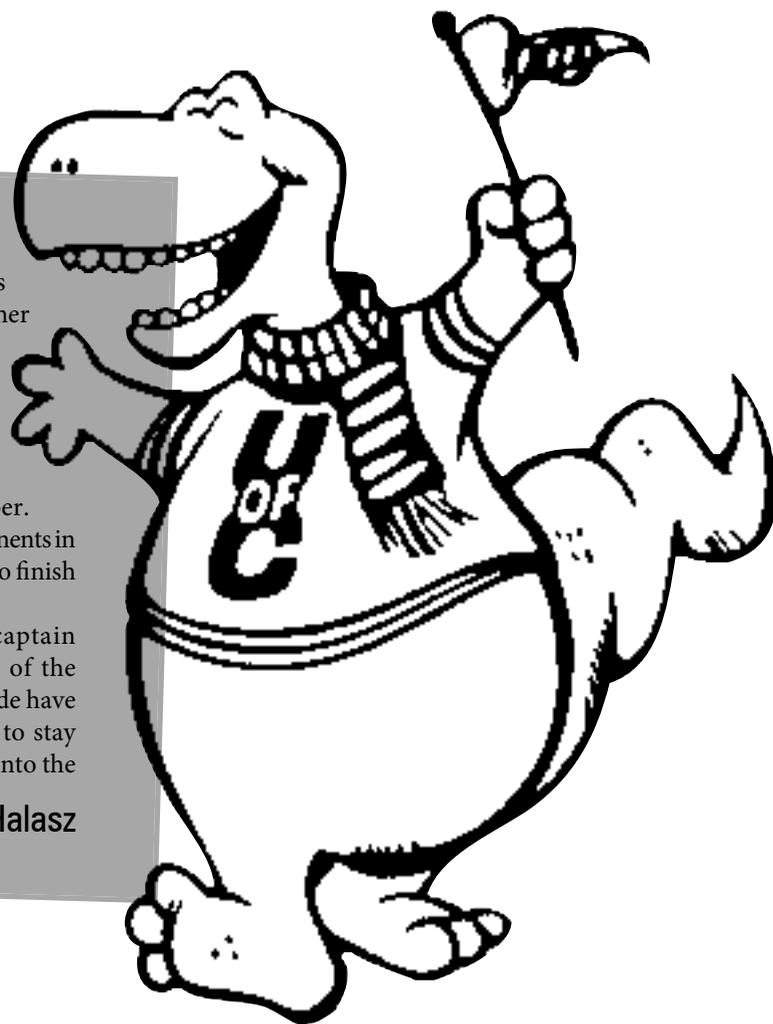
Cross-country

The University of Calgary Dinos cross-country team had yet another strong season despite the departure of star runner Geoff Kerr. Both the men's and women's teams won Canada West titles at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport championships in early November. They did this by overpowering opponents in a gruelling 400-metre uphill dash to finish the race in Quebec.

The leadership of women's captain Heather Sim and the CIS rookie of the year Nyial Majock on the men's side have given the Dinos the opportunity to stay on top of their game as they head into the indoor track season.

—Brad Halasz

4 / 5



Field hockey

Like a certain train engine, the University of Calgary Dinos field hockey team is the "little team that could" across that huge Canadian Interuniversity Sports landscape. Unfortunately, they could have tried harder this year, but their potential is starting to show. The year started off positively with head coach Jenn Swagar and experienced players like Courtney Campbell returning, along with a number of new players. They also scored a coup when phenom Carolina Romeo put her Dinos uniform on for the first time. However, they fell victim to pressure from strong teams such as the University of British

Columbia Thunderbirds. The team was an emotionally young one that was deflated by errors.

In the final four games they banded together to put on stellar efforts to win two games. Alas, it was too late to save their CIS Nationals dreams and they were denied once again. But unlike the humiliations suffered in the past, their record was 2-8-2, the best since 2003. Swagar has found a team chemistry she can work on in the off-season. If the team focuses on reacting positively to pressure, the Dinos field hockey team will be a serious contender next year.

—Daniel Pagan

2.5 / 5

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ROOKIES OF THE MONTH



ALEX COLE

Dinos Basketball

Alex has made an immediate impact on the Dinos in her rookie season, starting all seven games in the month of November. The 6-foot-1 social sciences student posted 18 blocked shots in the month and currently sits second in the conference with 23. She is also the team's leading rebounder, averaging 7.7 per game.



NYIAL MAJOCK

Dinos Cross Country

Nyial served notice in his first CIS event that he will be a force to reckon with in the coming years. The 18-year-old Open Studies student finished fifth in the 10km race at the CIS Cross Country championships, where he was named CIS rookie of the year and landed on the first All-Canadian team.

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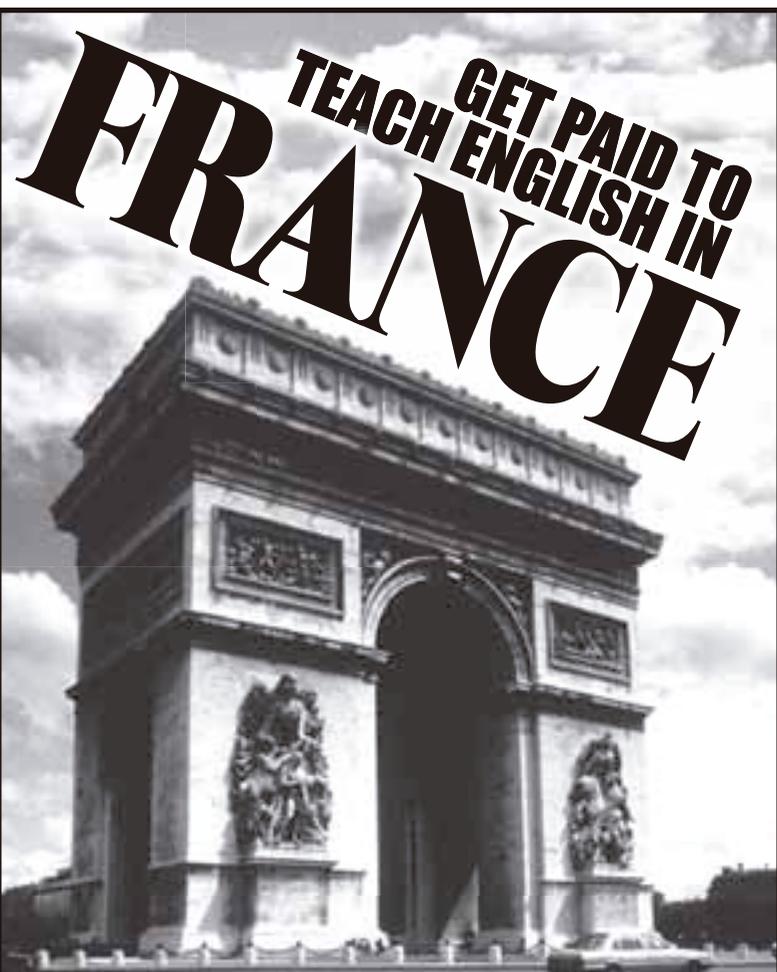


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Trojans fall to mighty Dinos

DINOS vs TROJANS

2 vs **0**

women's hockey

Chris Pedersen

Gauntlet Sports

The University of Calgary Dinos women's hockey team received the best Christmas gift since Pogs, Trolls and Lego as they unwrapped a 2-0 win over the SAIT Trojans Saturday night. The victory over the Trojans places the Dinos atop the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference standings heading into the holidays. The Dinos controlled the play for the majority of the game, outshooting the Trojans 34-11.

"This was the first game where we played a consistent three periods," said forward Shannon Davidson. "Everyone played really well and we had a lot of chances."

SAIT created the early chances in the first period, but the Dinos weathered the storm as netminder Katie Urness remained solid. The Dinos did not allow SAIT to control the game for long and soon created a three-on-one break with forward Sinead Tracy scoring the opening goal of the contest. Forward Elana Lovell led the charge into the SAIT zone before dishing the puck to Tracy who plunked the puck past goalie Lindsay Coghlan.

The game got physical in the second period and SAIT sent a painful message to Urness. The Trojans were controlling play and after several minutes of pressure, Urness made a brilliant glove save, keeping the game at 1-0. SAIT forward Tonya Faasse repaid Urness' effort with a full speed body check into the net after the whistle, knocking the Dino to the ground. Faasse was issued a five minute penalty and a game misconduct. Urness required assistance from the trainers, but was able to play the rest of the game.

"We've had problems with Faasse before," said Davidson. "She's not the classiest player I've ever played against and we've come to expect things like that. It was dirty and not necessary, but our team did a really good job of not retaliating and not doing anything after that to get ourselves in trouble. We didn't let it pump them up either."

The Dinos came out flying on the ensuing power play and peppered Coghlan with numerous shots. After SAIT cleared the zone, Lovell



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

The Dinos celebrate after scoring on the SAIT Trojans.

and Tracy scooped up the puck and broke into the Trojan zone on a two-on-one. Tracy held the puck and at the last possible moment slid it past the SAIT defender to Lovell who blew it past Coghlan for the second goal of the game.

The game remained physical in the third period as both teams were knocking players to the ice. Despite being proficient at hitting, the Trojans looked uninspired and lethargic on offence and mustered only two shots on net.

With all the rough play, Calgary made sure that Urness was protected. Whenever Urness covered the puck her teammates formed a wall to prevent any more cheap hits. On one particular incident SAIT rushed the net to try to knock the puck loose and Lovell and company formed the wall. With a Trojan lying on the ground Lovell stood over her with a glare so hateful that it caused the people in the stands to shudder.

"I thought we played well for all three periods," said Tracy. "Everyone played really well. They had some cheap shots, but we did not retaliate.

There is not much more to say."

The Dinos put together an impressive first half of the season as they earned a 9-2 record. The defensive corps has played extremely well and allowed a mere 14 goals in 11 games.

The rookies are playing well with the veterans and the team looks comfortable together on the ice. Rookies such as Tiara Schoenroth, Tracy and Lovell have contributed tremendously on offence and Nikki Love and Megan Frohaug have played well in goal and defence respectively.

"I think we're putting fear into a lot of teams and that is what we want," said Davidson. "Our ultimate goal is to win ACAC and this is just one step in that direction. Our coaches are really proud of us and we're all really proud of ourselves. I'm really excited for this team and feel we have a lot of talent."

The Dinos will host the Calgary Coyotes on Dec. 10 and the Edge School Dec. 16 at the Olympic Oval before returning to ACAC conference play against Mount Royal on Jan. 10.

What kind of suit will Don Cherry be buried in?

Austin Paladeau
Deathpinions



They say that the only things in life that are certain are death and taxes — I tend to agree. Death becomes us all at some point, but the impact of the loss of life is never equal in our society. There are certain individuals that transcend their everyday surroundings and have an impact on the wider society that leaves an indelible mark on people forever. I feel that Don Cherry is a perfect example of this.

Death is a morbid subject to talk about and it is especially so in this instance considering “Grapes” is still alive as I write this. Nonetheless, I have been thinking about death a lot lately, which I suppose makes me deviant or, at the very least, emo.

I should probably preface this with the factoid that I am neither suicidal nor an axe murderer, but rather obsessed with my own mortality, which is becoming a common theme in this article and is a fairly bizarre development in its own right.

Let me explain: I am at a point in my life where my future is a blank page and the decisions I make now about a profession, a girl and my education will likely dictate where I end up 10, 15, 20 years down the road. I’m sort of like Robert Frost’s wet dream: two paths diverge in a wood and I’m leaning toward taking the path less taken. One thing

that governs me in all of this is the overly idealistic and slightly grandiose idea that I would like my life to mean something when it is all said and done. Perhaps do something that adds to the world or at least my immediate community. You probably share the same feeling, and even if you do not I’m sure you can understand the sentiment.

This desire to do something impactful, but without the foggiest idea of what that might be, led me to thinking about other people in Canada that have had a far reaching impact on our society.

As is always the case, the first thing I think about when analyzing anything is sport, which in turn led me to thinking about the institution that is Don Cherry.

I should probably put one of my biases on the table right from the get go: I truly believe hockey is what tethers this country together from Victoria to Halifax.

I don’t think the average Canadian identifies with our bicameral legislature or Alex Trebek in the same way that Joe or Jill Canadian identifies with a sheet of ice, a stick and a puck.

Hockey is religion in most respects in Canada and Don Cherry is the archbishop of the diocese.

The man bleeds red and white and supports pretty much everything

that has a Canadian connotation to it. Unfortunately, this sometimes leads him to be controversial (read: biased and insensitive) about other cultures (especially visor-wearing Europeans), but at the end of the day what he is more than anything else is a proud citizen of this country with a track record of helping create and sustain a vibrant Canadian culture.

Sure, you could label him a lot of different things, but one thing you cannot call him is unpatriotic; he supports Canada’s finest soldiers who are spread across the globe but not just for the sake of rallying around the idea of Canada.

Cherry supports the individuals who do what they are asked to do and he recognizes the sacrifices made by the families and communities of those who participate in Canada’s foreign policy abroad, irrespective of ideology. He is a teacher and inspiration to the everyday working stiff and to young hockey players who dream of lacing up the skates in the greatest hockey league in the world.

He embodies the Canadian spirit in many ways and when he is gone he will have left a lasting legacy to Canadian culture — which is hockey. He too, may have chosen the path less taken, but at the end of the day his impact on Canadian society is undeniable and incredibly important.



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Best in show

As the holiday season draws near, the *Gauntlet* is here to provide you with our music and movie top-10s for 2008. Read on for great stocking stuffer ideas and more!

Amanda Hu/the Gauntlet

Amanda Hu

Wears a lot of American Apparel

This year saw wide musical variability with its musical offerings from folky riffs to poppy licks. There were also a ton of new players on the scene, making some tight competition for established groups.

10. Lykke Li — *Youth Novels*

Swedish cutie Lykke Li mixes delightful vocals with some familiar drum grooves — from producer and Peter Bjorn and John's Björn Yttling — and various electronic accents in *Youth Novels*. "Dance, Dance, Dance" takes the album's theme and colours it with floating string interludes, bouncing on top of simple bass and rhythm while "Little Bit" sees Li singing about her love in the most endearing way, all held together with a background pulse growing into the chorus with synth backing and random percussive hits.

9. Bodies of Water — *That Certain Feeling*

Few bands who all learn their instruments to be in the band experience the success Bodies of Water has this past year. *That Certain Feeling* includes Ghost Bees-esque female harmonies leading into full-sound-

ing gang vocals with ease and mixes conventional guitar riffs with surprisingly simple drum beats. "Gold, Tan, Peach and Grey" features powerful wailing with horn accents and a chugging groove, setting the tone for the whole album. Tracks like "Darling, Be Here" take a slightly more rock sound with distorted guitar and driving bass lines, acting as a good counterpoint for the more folk offerings.

8. Department of Eagles — *In Ear Park*

An audio representation of the autumn season if there ever was one, Department of Eagles takes a melancholy and personal turn in *In Ear Park*, channeling the sound and talents of its shared members from Grizzly Bear. The album makes positive light of slightly muddy production and an almost old-fashioned feel. "Herring Bone" takes affected vocals over heart-wrenching piano parts while "Balmy Night" features completely overtaking banjo picking with airy vocals and accent whistling sounds.

7. TV on the Radio — *Dear Science*

TV on the Radio's highly-anticipated 2008 release sees the group, yet again, undergo a highly successful reinvention of sound while still showcasing their undeniable musical talent. Tunde Adebimpe's

vocals are in fine form throughout the album, interacting on a familiar but still perfect level with Kyp Malone's cutting falsetto. "Halfway Home" features a sneaky and catchy, endearing double-time groove shift from verse to chorus setting the tone for the rest of the album, while "Dancing Choose" sees Adebimpe's energized rapping before it breaks into a boppy chorus, complete with simple yet effective guitar picking and underlying baritone sax.

6. Born Ruffians — *Red, Yellow & Blue*

Toronto trio Born Ruffians make some of the most fun music to listen to. Luke Lalonde's boyish looks and vocals drive the peppy offering, interplaying with perky, sporadic guitar strumming and unconventional melodic bass and drum lines. "Hummingbird" holds all the energy of twee without the unappealing saccharine sweetness, as Lalonde's voice bounces on top of a head-bopping bass part, rim hits and scale-climbing guitar, all culminating in a perfect gang vocal climax.

5. Chad VanGaalén — *Soft Airplane*

Chad VanGaalén's third full-length release shows most of the Calgary sta-

Ryan Pike

Only watches blockbusters

The past year has been strange in Hollywood. There was a lengthy writer's strike and another horrid Eddie Murphy sci-fi comedy, but 2008 also featured a series of tremendously fun movies. Bolstered by such sure-fire crowd-pleasers as comic book heroism and shock male nudity, this year's films shoved pretention and nuance aside and said, quite forcefully, "Movies are supposed to be fun, damn it."

10. *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*

Last year, *Juno* charmed audiences with indietasticness, wacky dialogue and Michael Cera. *Nick and Norah's* appeal was that it kept what worked in *Juno* — cute girls falling for Michael Cera — but didn't over-do it with pointless verbiage or teen pregnancy.

9. *Wanted*

Critically-acclaimed Scottish actor James McAvoy smashed a keyboard in another man's face — with the scattered keys and teeth spelling out "fuck you" — while being inducted into a secret guild of assassins in this film based on a comic book. Add in Morgan Freeman shouting profani-

ties and half-naked Angelina Jolie and you have one of the most fun films of the year.

8. *Zack and Miri Make a Porno*

Anchored by likable leads Seth Rogen and Elizabeth Banks and a surprisingly deft script by cult director Kevin Smith, *Zack and Miri* managed to combine random male nudity and poop jokes with a convincing love story.

7. *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*

Best known for his role on CBS' *How I Met Your Mother*, actor Jason Segal delved into writing for this film, which not only was a great showcase for Segal's talent, but also brought back *That '70s Show* star Mila Kunis to movies people actually watch. It also featured a vampire puppet rock opera as a major plot device, which is never a bad thing.

6. *Be Kind Rewind*

Written and directed by auteur Michel Gondry, who also helmed *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Be Kind Rewind* impressed on the festival circuit with its high concept: a pair of video store clerks accidentally erase VHS tapes and scramble to shoot replacements. A lesser director or cast could've made

see MOVIE BEST-OFS, page 33

Lamb of God reaches new audiences

L a m b O f G o d
m u s i c i n t e r v i e w

Mike Tofin

Gauntlet Entertainment

When it comes to touring, Lamb of God are about as ruthless as a group of war-torn killer chimps. They are in the midst of a world tour, including a December leg through Canada with Metallica to promote the release of their upcoming album, *Wrath*. Though they're still immersed in of spreading their music across the country, it's nearly time for these impervious relatives of man to brush the blood of touring off their teeth and get back to business.

"I'm excited about touring with Metallica," says guitarist Mark Morton. "I think that it's going to put us in front of a lot of the people that haven't seen the band yet. When we go out with Slayer, Ozzfest or Slipknot, I tend to feel that most of the crowd are aware of what we do. With a tour with like Metallica, who for the last 10 years have been such a mainstream band, I think there is going to be people there that haven't been exposed to us yet. It's a really good opportunity for us to play in front of some new faces and really

show people what it is that we do."

Lamb of God has been the dominant metal-ambassadors in the North American heavy-metal scene for the past two years. Morton explains his take on expanding the band's reputation into new territories and what he hopes to achieve with the new album.

"We are excited about working with Roadrunner in other territories, because heavy metal is what they do and, at the end of the day, we are definitely still a heavy metal band," he says. "We should have the whole world coming at this point. My goal with *Wrath* was to make a record that I really liked, which I would say applies to every time we go to make a record. We look at every record we do the same, from the very first Burn the Priest [Lamb of God's previous moniker] record to the latest one, we just want to write songs that we enjoy listening to and enjoy playing."

While recording *Wrath*, Lamb of God took 11 months off of touring, which resulted in some time for Morton to pursue some extra-curricular activities including race car driving and contributing to the world of gangster rap, collaborating with the crudest of crude, shock rapper Necro.

"I did a solo on his last record," says Morton. "I had actually been



courtesy Adrenaline

Intensity has a new middle name and it's Lamb of God.

aware of Necro for a long time. I definitely get a kick out of what he does. I take it all with a sense of humour and I always thought that he has an interesting take on rap and how he puts it into metal. Some of his subject matter, although I find it to be a little off colour, I get a kick out of it. My buddy that was managing him asked if I would be interested in contributing to the record. I did a solo on one of the songs and it

turned out really cool. It was kind of an off-the-cuff thing and when it all came together I was like wow, that solo turned out great."

All of his musical experiences are a far cry from his original aspirations as an alumnus of Virginia Commonwealth University.

"I didn't finish my graduate work, I got my bachelor's degree in political science and I was studying for my master's in international relations,

but I quit school before finishing to focus on music," says Morton. "I write a fair amount of lyrics for the band. If you go back through our albums and read the lyrics a fair amount of them are politically motivated, [which] are a result of things that have been on my mind along the way."

Lamb of God plays the Saddledome with Metallica on Dec. 4. Doors open at 7 p.m.

CBC radio favourite is a really hip guy

The Vinyl Cafe's Stuart McLean heads across Canada again with Dave and Morley

S t u a r t M c L e a n
r a d i o i n t e r v i e w

Jordyn Marcellus

Entertainment Assistant

Stuart McLean is cooler than any one of us. He spends his time writing his stories for *The Vinyl Cafe* while listening to albums like Wilco's *Sky Blue Sky* or Coldplay's *Vida La Vida*. Not only does he write stories about Dave, Morley and the family, but he also helps program the music and produce the show for the CBC. He also spends time behind the microphone as host for the show.

Coming to Calgary as part of *The Vinyl Cafe* Christmas tour Dec. 4 and 5, McLean has spent his time on the road in all sorts of places big and small. While the large cities are great audiences, he's found a special thrill from visiting the small towns — even finding a surprising connec-

tion between small Canadian towns and vast American cities.

"In Cleveland, Indianapolis and Detroit, people were coming up to us and thanking us for coming as if we were doing them a favour," explains McLean. "These are cities that we've only read about and we're getting thanked, which usually only happens in small towns in Canada. In big cities in Canada, people will thank us for the show, but the audiences in small towns will actually tell us thanks for coming because they usually don't get a lot of acts."

He's made it a specific goal of the show to help introduce Canadian musical talent to the world through *The Vinyl Cafe*. He's very proud to be helping promote young musicians to the world at large through his show — he played cuts off of Feist's records before she ever thought of wearing a sparkly blue suit for a music video.

"Part of the CBC programming should be devoted to new and inter-



courtesy The Vinyl Cafe

McLean's voice is recognized around the world.

esting music worldwide," explains McLean. "Because we're funded by the people of Canada, I thought one show should concentrate on the music from home. I thought that something for our show was to shine the light on people who might otherwise not have the light shone upon them. I wanted

our show to become the gathering place, where people who are interested in music that is happening now and today will come to us."

With the increasing availability of music on the Internet, much has been said about the explosion of Canadian musical talent making it big in the

world. McLean believes that this isn't a new wave of Canadian artists finally being recognized, but another generation of Canadian musicians getting the torch passed on to them from predecessors like the Band, Paul Anka and Neil Young.

"There have been lots of Canadian musicians have done well over the years," says McLean. "Neil Young who was the linchpin in Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. Look at the Band — four of the five guys were from Ontario and they revolutionized rock 'n' roll with *Music from Big Pink*. What's happening now is that the new generation is starting to march onto the stage. They're not the first to walk on, but it's great to see that this is a tradition that this is going to continue. Even though the world is a noisier place, it's great to know that our artists will still be heard."

The Vinyl Cafe Christmas Tour 2008 stops in Calgary on Dec. 4 and 5.

These guys are your super ex-bfs

The Ex-Boyfriends

That Empty Space

Jordyn Marcellus
Entertainment Assistant

The Ex-Boyfriends are out to melt faces.

Their music is a brain-pain searing sonic assault, led by the yowling Djewel Davidson — local DJ and Calgary music stalwart — with a pounding assault on guitar led by Michael Paton. Backing them up is drummer extraordinaire Dean Martin, who plays in numerous bands all across Calgary.

While the guys on the instruments are cool as cucumbers during their set, Davidson is a rock 'n' roll animal. Jumping around like a kangaroo and climbing on whatever is around like a spider monkey, this guy is the real deal.

“For as long as I can remember, which is long before I was in a band with him, Djewel’s been Djewel,” says Paton. “I don’t know exactly where it comes from, but on a good night that’s a great thing for one of our people on stage to be. Especially if you’re one of the lucky suckers in the audience.”

The Ex-Boyfriends are no strangers to playing That Empty Space at the University of Calgary. In fact, their last show was such a resounding

success they were asked for a rare encore from the crowd. Davidson is nonchalant about such a warm reception.

“There was one Empty Space show where people seemed inordinately impressed by my standing or lying on the couches and such,” says Davidson. “I’m often of the opinion that I’m getting relatively sedate as I ease into my dotage, but then I see all those boring do-nothing ‘singers’ and I feel okay about it.”

While the band was asked for an encore, they wouldn’t continue, instead yelling back to the audience to buy their CD *Coming Before the Next One*.

“It was me who started yelling back ‘buy the CD!’ at that show,” says Paton. “I think we just didn’t have any more songs rehearsed at that point. And to be honest, as much as I love playing live, our recordings are actually more where we’re at for me. I really do want people to hear them even if it means they have to buy them. The rest of the band does not disagree.”

Fans of the band will have another album to buy soon, as the Ex-Boyfriends are in the final mixing stages of their latest LP, *To the Lowest Bidder*, aiming at continuing on their trajectory of bringing the rock to Calgary with the vaunted double album.

“We’ve fully recorded 16 songs and the plan is for a double slab of vinyl,”



courtesy Kenneth Locke

This picture is next to the entry in encyclopedias that says “rocking out.”

says Paton. “There are 14 originals, one of which was musically composed by our departed bassist Chris Milne and two covers — one of the first Calgary punk rock records and a chestnut from Sun Records.”

Paton explains this album is the next evolution of their recorded ideas and sounds in *Coming Before the Next One*, they’re taking them and bringing them to the next level.

“When warranted we took a little time for a few of our favourite things,” says Paton. “Where *Coming* has tambourine, *To the Lowest Bidder* has enough tambourine to asphyxiate the Archies. I bought an acoustic guitar and slashed into it on a several songs. Other appearances include a horn section, a Hammond B3 and a walnut burl turn-of-last-century piano subjected to Jerry Lee Lewis levels of abuse.”

The Ex-Boyfriends aren’t trying to spoil themselves. They all have a mission. A mission to fucking rock.

“Everything is done to make the songs rock,” says Paton. “We’re not indulging anyone’s impulse to be interesting. This remains rock and roll.”

The Ex-Boyfriends play That Empty Space on Friday with Constant Season.

Dream of Life more for fans

Dream of Life Movies That Matter

Jon Roe
Editor-in-Chief

Patti Smith, *Dream of Life* is no ordinary rockumentary or biopic.

But because of this, it may have lost some of its general appeal in exchange for an adherence to an ideal. The film develops as a steam of consciousness, which makes it hard to follow. Scenes are connected tangentially, leaving the audience confused.

Director Steven Sebring followed Patti Smith, a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame artist who is often labeled as the Godmother of punk, for 11 years to shoot the film for *Dream of Life*. The documentary jumps sporadically around those 11 years in an attempt to frame Smith’s mind and give the audience insight into her thought pro-

cess. There is plenty of fascinating footage, including her interactions backstage with her band mates before shows and her at a political rally in Washington, D.C. Smith’s narration is the one constant and helps connect the varying scenes — slightly.

Smith is a very politically active artist and Sebring highlights this throughout the film. Her belief system parallels the 1970s peace and love mentality and is fascinating in its purity. But beyond that, for a movie with the artist in the title, it doesn’t do nearly enough to explain who Smith was and why she was important. Audiences expecting this from *Dream of Life* will come away disappointed. However, because the film focuses so heavily on Smith’s own thoughts and interactions, the film provides an intimate portrait of Smith for fans.

Sebring shot the movie beautifully and it’s hard not to admire the artis-

tic way every scene is filmed. This makes sense — Sebring is a fashion photographer who met Smith on the set of a *Spin* magazine photo shoot. Despite constant changes between colour-tinted film, black and white and standard colour, the artistic style of the movie is not distracting, but rather complements the content.

Dream of Life is a bit long at just under two hours, but there are plenty of great moments interspersed in the film to keep the audience’s attention.

Sebring’s film maybe wasn’t meant for a general audience, but its beautiful visual style and captivating subject matter is enough to keep people interested. Just don’t go in expecting to learn everything about Patti Smith, that’s just what another standard biopic would do.

Patti Smith, *Dream of Life* screens Jan. 15 in EDC 179.

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TOP 20 for the week of **DEC. 1.08**

- * Denotes Canadian Artist
 ** Denotes Local Artist
- THE BICYCLES*** *Oh No It's Love* (Fuzzy Logic)
 - MEGAZILLA** *Please, Please, Sorry, Thank You* (Australian Cattle God)
 - MENAHAN STREET BAND** *Make The Road By Walking* (Dunham)
 - DEERHUNTER** *Microcastle* (Kranky)
 - MIESHA & THE SPANKS**** *Miesha & The Spanks* (indie)
 - VARIOUS**** *Nothing On But Your Radio: Live From CJSW 90.9FM* (CJSW)
 - TIGERRR BEAT*** *Don't Bother Me While I'm Doing Magic* (indie)
 - GREGORY AND THE HAWK** *Moenic And Kitchi* (Fat Cat)
 - SOMA STATE**** *Reversals EP* (indie)
 - TY SEGALL** *Ty Segall* (Castle Face)
 - HUSH ARBORS** *Hush Arbors* (Ecstatic Peace)
 - DAVID BYRNE AND BRIAN ENO** *Everything That Happens Will Happen Today* (Todomundo)
 - THE SOUL JAZZ ORCHESTRA*** *Manifesto* (Do Right)
 - NIGHT HORSE** *The Dark Won't Hide You* (Tee Pee)
 - ROOMMATE** *We Were Enchanted* (Plug Research)
 - 10 DEEP**** *Demo* (indie)
 - MICHAEL RAULT*** *Crash! Boom! Bang!* (Chickadee)
 - SEVEN STORY REDHEAD**** *Seven Story Redhead* (indie)
 - THE HIGH DIALS*** *Moon Country* (indie)
 - TOTAL ABUSE** *Total Abuse* (Deranged)

- HIP HOP/SOUL/FUNK**
- MENAHAN STREET BAND** *Make The Road By Walking* (Dunham)
 - THE SOUL JAZZ ORCHESTRA*** *Manifesto* (Do Right)
 - NIKKA COSTA** *Pebble To A Pearl* (GoFunkYourself)
 - MOKA ONLY*** *Carrots And Eggs* (Urbnet)
 - HEADS CONNECT*** *Superstroke* (indie)

- WORLD**
- AMADOU & MARIAM** *Welcome To Mali* (Because)
 - BOMBAY DUB ORCHESTRA** *3 Cities* (Six Degrees)
 - BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB** *Buena Vista Social Club At Carnegie Hall* (Nonesuch)
 - LEE "SCRATCH" PERRY** *Repentance* (Narnack)
 - MICHAEL FRANTI & SPEARHEAD** *All Rebel Rockers* (Anti)

- MYKE'S PICKS**
- LEVITTS
 - JUST WEST OF SOMETHING BIG*
 - HILDE MARIE KJERSEM
 - JIM MCAULEY
 - HEARTSREVOLUTION

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The hunger of Sebastien Grainger

Sebastien Grainger music interview

Jordyn Marcellus
 Entertainment Assistant

Sebastien Grainger is hungry to play some shows. After releasing his self-titled LP this October, he's been on the road with his backing band the Mountains to promote the hell out of the record.

Grainger, the drummer and vocalist behind the phenomenal Death From Above 1979, is still haunted to this day by the DFA '79 brand. It's why he hasn't been as prolific in the music scene as his past partner-in-crime Jesse Keeler (now of the DJ duo MSTRKRFT). It's not to say that he hasn't been busy with projects. He built a studio with Jesse Shaw of Metric.

"The band has been together for nearly two years now," says Grainger. "December 5 is the two year anniversary of our first show, so there was this natural progression [from creating the band to putting out the album]. You can't fake hanging out in a van with four other guys, sharing a bed with another grown man and sharing terrible food — that's what builds band character."

After a late night show the previous night, the band was building character at one of the seminal American food emporiums — the mighty buffet. With so much food on the menu, and the hot plates, Grainger was almost at a loss to choose just what to eat.

"I'm in this weird buffet restaurant in western Illinois," laughs Grainger. "We just walked into this place called



courtesy Eva Michon

That's quite the coif he's got going there.

the Golden Corral Buffet and Grill, which is like this massive mall of buffets. I haven't really had a chance to explore, but it looks like Andrew had some fried chicken on his plate, so I might go that way."

Despite the desire for some heavy food, Grainger commented that his eating habits the night before called for something a bit easier on the ol' digestive tract.

"I fell asleep directly after eating pizza last night, so maybe I should go for something a bit lighter like spinach or something," he laughs.

It may seem strange for a musician to talk about food, but Grainger is a little bit different from the majority

of his fellow musicians. In his off hours, he runs a food blog called "Sebastien is Delicious" (sebastien-is-delicious.blogspot.com). While it's currently on hiatus due to the constraints of touring, it is still a great repository for dishes like duck soup or chocolate bread. The question remains though: how does a foodie survive on the road when all that's available is pizza and other assorted terrible food?

"I like all kinds of food," says Grainger. "I like really good food and really bad food as well. I'm not a food snob by any means. Sure, I love to eat really good food, but I like interesting food, really strangely prepared food

or food with weird textures too. It doesn't elbow out the options that you have when you're travelling the great United States of America."

Of course, when travelling the great states of America, there are numerous options with inane names to choose from. From Denny's, Stuckey's, TGI Fridays to Chili's, a touring band has seen them all. When questioned about the best place get grub, Grainger was quick to respond with his personal favourite.

"The Waffle House is pretty fantastic," he laughs.

Sebastien Grainger & the Mountains stop in Calgary as part of the Jingle Bell Rock tour Dec. 19.

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Concerts to warm your cockles

Paul Baker
Musical Musings



If you're looking for some marvelous melodies this holiday season to counteract the same old, tiresome carols, have no fear. There are plenty of bitchin' bands coming through town to warm the cockles of your winter-chilled, music-loving heart.

For those who enjoy some rock standards, check out **Metallica** at the Saddledome on Thursday and Friday. Tickets are sold out, but the more resourceful metalheads might be able to track some down. There are a few more options for those looking for music Friday to celebrate the last day of classes. If you'd like to chill on campus, the Nog Fest Warm-Up featuring the **Ex-Boyfriends** and **Constant Season** is going down at That Empty Space. Heading downtown, Broken City is hosting the **Hermit** with support from **Raccoon** and **Fox**



courtesy Tod Seelie

Uh... yeah, **Monotonix** looks pretty crazy.

Opera, who are playing their last show until February. Saturday, also downtown, the **Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir** is hitting the Marquee Room.

Hard rockers get a chance to rock

hard a few times in the next few weeks. Metalcorers the **Black Dahlia Murder** swing by the Warehouse on Dec. 10 with the **Misery Index** and **Soilent Green**. If you're tired of trying to beat "Through The Fire And

The Flames" on expert in Guitar Hero III, check out how the pros do it as **Dragonforce** shred speedily at MacEwan Student Centre on Dec. 16.

Calgary is in for an indietas-

tic mid-December. For an indie dance party, check out electronic Torontonians **MSTRKRFT** as they spin records at the Whiskey on Dec. 17. Campus will then get a double-dose as **Metric** and **Tokyo Police Club** rock on through Dec. 18 and 19.

Between all the Christmas and New Years parties, you might feel a bit worn-out by the end of the month, but **Monotonix** are reportedly a do not miss event. The wild Israeli rockers are bringing their frenzied live set to Broken City on Dec. 28 with locals the **Mad Cowboys** and **Mt. Royal**.

Good music continues into the new year with locals **the Summerlad** releasing a video. Broken City is hosting their video release party Jan. 8 with fellow Calgarians **Günther** and **Heat Ray**. Then head back to see west coast indie poppers **Hey Ocean!** who are back again, coming to SAIT's the Gateway on Jan. 17.

Stress out over exams and celebrate the holidays before checking out Drama and Dance Delights in the next Gauntlet!

CJSW ON-AIR GUIDE

	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun	
MORNING MIX	6 am	her royal opinion	breaking the tethers	jazz stairs/ lush life	morning joy	jazz for quantum cats/ pound cake jazz	sunlight theory (continued)	
	6:30						mental brain thoughts (continued)	
ROOTS MIX	7 am	BBC WORLD SERVICE NEWS weekday mornings at 6, 7, 8 and 9 am					democracy now!	alternative radio
	7:30							
	8 am						bunte welle german	
	8:30						counterspin	
	9 am	cold smoke jazz	canadian music centre presents	bella musica	the soap box derby	the two and a half hour coffee break	calgary vietnamese radio	eritrean radio
	9:30						hrvatski radio croatian	
	10 am		deconstructing dinner				radyo pilipino filipino	
	10:30	cjsw news	roundtable	alternative radio	democracy now!	who shakes city calendar	helenic melodies greek radio	buscando america latin & south america
	11 am	counterspin (media watch)	so SU me students' union				audio verse	let's get baked with mat & dave vegan baking from ckdu
	11:30	sister sister	beet farm sponsored by the drum & monkey	mind grapes	pillage the village / failed pilot	fantastic plastic sponsored by beat route		level the vibes
AFTERNOON MIX	12 pm							
	12:30							
	1 pm							
	1:30							
	2 pm	the banshee beat	electric company sponsored by the inner sleeve	the ok ship lights	my public shame sponsored by melody records	my allergy to the fans sponsored by tubby dog	bikesheviks sponsored by cadence coffee	mental illness sponsored by the coup
	2:30							
	3 pm							
	3:30							
	4 pm	pop beats and cigarettes	jane & tasya's guide to everything sponsored by broken city	halfway home sponsored by the liberty lounge	alternative to what? sponsored by kerfmusic.com	road pops sponsored by fivd weekly	caribbean link-up sponsored by fivd weekly	
	4:30							
LATE NIGHT MIX	5 pm							
	5:30							
	6 pm	french transe en danse	off the page gauntlet	mezza l'una italian	writer's block	musiquarium everything from jazz to jungle sponsored by giant 45	voice of ethiopia	breaking techniques
	6:30						oh africa!	desi vibes
	7 pm	south louisiana gumbo	artslink	the blues witness with reverend ron sponsored by calgary dollars	folkcetera sponsored by the marquee room	full moon funkacious the latest & greatest in breaks & house	the nocturntable	speaking in tongues world music
	7:30		tombstone after dark sponsored by the palomino smokehouse & social club	lift the bandstand	film clips	dirty needles the best in funk, soul & hip hop		the chit chat
	8 pm	reverb	each one teach one	urban sex lesbian / bisexual / gay	noise experimental music	fat beat diet	megawatt mayhem metal	tokyo eye patch
	8:30	yeah, what she said womyn's programming	rack power	good character requirement / tuning radio		remote emissions hard hitting jungle & drum 'n bass		translucent dreams ambient, trance etc.
	9 pm	aubrey's shindig! sponsored by the marquee room	what will the neighbors think	am i right?				sunday night groove school
	9:30							
10 pm	katharsis	twilight banter	radio frankenstine / blue collar bravado	post-everything	dna hardcore techno	the sarcastic triangle / attention surplus disorder		
10:30					sound champion showcase			
11 pm								
11:30								
12 am	bass ackwards	late night	pardon me for keeping you up	rage cage				
12:30					sunlight theory	mental brain thoughts	straight on 'til morning	
1 am								
1:30								
2 am	bad dub							
2:30								
3 to 6 am								

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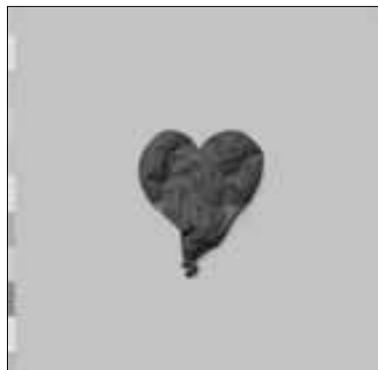
ALBUM REVIEWS



The next issue of the *Gauntlet* won't hit the stands until January 15. Meanwhile, you can listen to *Off The Page* every Tuesday!

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photo by ken clarke

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Kanye West
808s & Heartbreak
(Roc-A-Fella)

Following a tumultuous year characterized by both triumph and tragedy, Kanye West spins his most personal and ambitious album yet on *808s & Heartbreak*, a pop album by the rapper that contains little to no rapping at all. Rather than waking listeners up to the sounds of fame and fortune, West undermines his previously held perceptions of the good life as he comes to terms with his mother Donda's death, loneliness as a chart-topping artist and break-up with fiancée Alexis Phifer on the tracks littered throughout *808s*.

With the exceptions of wonderful collaborations with Young Jeezy on the overconfident yet catchy "Amazing" and Lil Wayne on the raw and haunting "See You in My Nightmares," West wears his heart on his sleeve throughout the album. Using Auto-Tune and the Roland TR-808 drum machine, West creates a fantastic album marked by vulnerability and humility, attitudes seldom seen in the Chi-town rapper. Standout songs, including the introspective "Street Lights" and poignant "Pinocchio Story," highlight the rapper's discontentment with his success. "Coldest Winter" shows a sad West responding to his mother's death, while the album's first two singles "Love Lockdown" and "Heartless" allude to the complicated dynamics of deteriorating relationships and heartbreak.

Each track carries moving melodies on innovative instruments that strongly complement the rapper's emotive lyrics. Not only is *808s* one of West's best works, but it also marks his growth both as an artist and as an individual attempting to make sense of ambition, hardship and life itself.

..Jennifer Trieu



Various Artists
We Wish You a Metal Xmas and a Headbanging New Year
(Armoury Records)

When it comes to the art of the Christmas carol cover, rock and roll always gets the glory, but now it's time for the metal kids to get their shot. With luminaries like Carlos Cavazo blazing the frets and Ronnie James Dio on the mic, *We Wish You a Metal Xmas* will now be required listening for the second graders who can't stand the boring songs sung at their school's Christmas concerts.

The various instrumentalists and singers on the tracks read like a who's who of the wild and disparate genre known as metal. Tracks like "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" feature Dio's high-flying vocals with blistering guitar work by Tony Iommi (Black Sabbath). Stand-out track "Silent Night" brings the double D-

dropped guitars of Scott Ian (Anthrax) and Jon Donais (Shadows Fall) together with lead singer of Testament, Chuck Billy, growling out the lyrics to the classic choral tune. It's a little bit overwrought, but tunes like the Alice Cooper-backed "Santa Claws is Coming to Town" are the perfect unserious topping to a CD made with a bit of a wink-and-a-nod for its audience.

The album nothing more than a kitschy piece of Christmas novelty, but that doesn't mean that it can't be added to the more easy-listening records like Hanson's *Snowed In* or Clay Aiken's *Merry Christmas On Love*. What's more, it's the perfect soundtrack to a child's orgy of destruction as he tears apart the wrapping for his presents.

..Jordyn Marcellus



The Matadors
Sweet Revenge
(Stumble Records)

Being a life-sized douchebag has never sounded as cool as it does on the Matadors newest release, *Sweet Revenge*. From binge drinking to womanizing, and everything in between, Hooch and his Lucifarian brothers jive their way relentlessly through this album without missing a step. *Sweet Revenge* coincides with about the same moral equivalency of finding something funny about peeing on somebody in the shower without them knowing it.

"I Love You When You're Dead," brings vivid

imagery of a bustling 1950s swing-genre dance hall party. Except, you are a zombie, dancing with the zombie love of your life. You are having the most romantic, defining moment of your relationship until the inevitable happens: you swing your partner too hard and their head snaps off from the whiplash. Only those who are satisfied with this scenario or ready for a party will appreciate what the Matadors have to offer.

..Mike Tofin



Billy the Kid
Lost Cause
(Lost Records)

Lost Cause by Billy the Kid is the perfect soundtrack for a lazy day in bed. Produced and mixed by Raine Maida, the album contains five songs that definitely moves beyond the expected 20 to 30 minutes of torturous twangy voices and corny lyrics that plague many folk albums. The tempo is just right and the acoustic guitar and the lead vocal sounds delightful. The album is very relaxing and

hummable even after listening to the songs just once.

The songs are all fairly catchy to the point of being hard to distinguish from a majority of songs from generic albums, but Billy the Kid shows promise as a musician. However, she should try to be more original if she really wants to stand out from a flock of equally talented musicians.

..Susan Park

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Movie best-ofs, continued from page 27

the movie silly, but Gondry and stars Jack Black and Mos Def were more than up to the challenge.

5. *Quantum of Solace*

Back in 2006, the James Bond series rebooted with Daniel Craig killing people and falling in love in *Casino Royale*. In the follow-up, director Marc Forster eschews plot for pure, mindless action. *Quantum of Solace* features car chases, boat chases, plane chases and gunfights inside a burning building.

4. *Tropic Thunder*

One of two amazing performances by Robert Downey Jr. in 2008, *Tropic Thunder* stands as Ben Stiller's most

triumphant film and a testament to his comedic timing as a writer, director and actor, as well as a searing indictment of the Hollywood system. The film also features some of the most inspired casting in recent memory, including Steve Coogan as a director and an unrecognizable Tom Cruise as a slimy entertainment industry executive.

3. *Iron Man*

In perhaps the most ambitious comic book adaptation in history, *Iron Man* featured likely the best casting choice in history, recovering drug addict Robert Downey Jr. as drunken technocrat Tony Stark, who wears a robotic suit of

armour to fight crime. Not only did the film make an ungodly amount of money — immediately prompting Marvel Studios to announce a sequel — but it managed to capture the spirit of the source material while eliminating aspects that wouldn't work on film.

2. *Wall-E*

Every year, Pixar releases a film that melts the hearts of audiences and makes a bunch of money. Following in the footsteps of *Finding Nemo*, *Cars* and *Ratatouille*, *Wall-E*

was no exception to the Pixar excellence rule. The injection of subtle political commentary into a story about two robots falling in love in a dystopian future elevated *Wall-E* from “just another good Pixar movie” into something truly special. Audiences will never look at robots the same way again.

1. *The Dark Knight*

Once upon a time, Batman movies were a joke — filled with corny one-liners and skin-tight costumes adorned with decorative nipples.

Director Christopher Nolan and new caped crusader Christian Bale stepped in for *Batman Begins* and created an acclaimed, nuanced origin story. Expectations were sky-high for the follow-up, featuring the much-hyped final completed performance for the late Heath Ledger as the Joker. Somehow, *The Dark Knight* actually exceeded expectations and delivered an affecting, triumphant film that not only captured the spirit of the Batman comic books, but also improved upon many aspects of the mythos.

Music best-ofs, cont'd from pg. 27

ple's quirky charm with a noticeably refined and pulled-together sound. Gone are the days of scattered collections of tracks like in *Infiniheart* and *Skelliconnection*, making way for *Soft Airplane's* cohesive sound. VanGalen delves into a more electronic feel for tracks like the perfectly danceable “TMNT Mask,” but manages to pull it back to his audio roots with “Willow Tree,” adeptly using simple banjo, understated accordion and accenting vibraphone in perfect harmony.

4. Beach House — *Devotion*

Beach House's 2008 offering starts off with the shaker-driven, pseudo-tropical track “Wedding Bell,” beckoning thoughts of waves washing over a pristine audio beach. Victoria Legrand's ethereal vocals paint the entirety of *Devotion* with a slightly melancholy and haunting feel, working well with the sparse drum machine beats and flowing guitar parts. “Gila” encompasses *Devotion's* laid-back feel with octave keyboard parts and floating background vocals permeating the track through out.

3. Women — *Women*

Calgary indie darlings Women came onto the scene with a vengeance in 2008 with their Chad VanGalen-produced, self-titled offering. *Women* is the result of running tracks through shitty tape recorders and megaphones, featuring an endearing and dirty-sounding lo-fi aesthetic. Flegel brothers Pat and Matt channel *Pet Sounds* with their Beach Boys-esque vocals, especially in “Black Rice,” and present the best use of completely out of tune guitars in the delightfully atonal “January 8th.” The track goes further in its excellence

with understated drum rolls underneath ongoing twangy hits. Women's variability makes it no surprise the band has garnered such high praise from gorillavsbear.net and indietastic stalwart Pitchfork Media.

2. Marnie Stern — *This Is It And I Am It And You Are It And So Is That And He Is It And She Is It And It Is It And That Is That*

Marnie Stern shreds on guitar harder than nearly anyone. *This Is It* features Stern's signature crazed guitar riffs and riot grrl-esque vocals mixed in perfect harmony with Zach Hill's (of Hella) superhuman drumming. Stern's creations take a decidedly math rock tinge before she melts your face away with an insane solo or two. “Simon Says” takes mind-bending time signature shifts and mixes Stern's insane riffs and Hill's fills with complete ease and demonstrates the sheer amount of musicality and adeptness on *This Is It*.

1. The Dodos — *Visiter*

Mixing hearty blues riffs and tom-driven grooves, duo Meric Long and Logan Kroeber create a surprising and delightfully full sound in their first LP. Long's folky finger picking and pitch-perfect voice flawlessly interacts with Kroeber, who uses his knowledge gained in the surprising arena of heavy metal to his advantage as well as contributing various yelps and falsetto vocals. “Red And Purple” displays the Dodos' virtues well with Long scrambling all over his guitar strings with thundering tom beats, trash can hits and mini piano tinkling accenting underneath. *Visiter* is a variable offering that maintains an impressive level of coherence as an album.

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Hey Brownie Boy, Ur rock hard, round and petite buns are screaming for my attention can u do us both a favor and let me squeez them?
- PervBunator Girl

I'm now posting my Engg notes online: www.dawning.ca/notes/ - Email me to add your own electronic notes: notes@dawning.ca.

- G33r Jaymus

You may wait on alumni to get you jobs, but they can't get you girls. And she'll be uglier than 59-10 now that you're washed up, about to throw on 40 lbs, and the track groupies are moving on to the next year. Nice hoodies.
- Reality is 200+ and goes by Bertha

Look at the person closest to you. Now, sneakily look in their ear. Nasty eh. Yours is probably no better. Remember to clean your chunky-wax ears people!
- Grossed out

God fucking DAMNNIT. Goddamn it goddamn it. I need another pencil so I can play drums on the monopoly set.
- I missed it

It makes for a surreal albeit enjoyable experience when a gorgeous and strange woman comes into your bedroom at 2am, sits down and proceeds to wake you up. 'I was told you were a dragon'.
[This is the best TLF I have ever seen. -impressEd]

To pro lifers: By your faith, do we not have a choice on what we can do and see? By you displaying your signs outwards, you take that choice away. Thank you to the university for giving me that choice back.
- 4_choice

"Dougy Freshh is back y'all!!!!!"

"Well if my opinion of religion is wrong I feel that I won't be here too long"

- www.ChrisGheran.com
[well timEd]

Jack & Gilles, scaled parliament hill to form a coalition, Dion came with, the whole countries pissed, And democracy came tumbling after.
- Grow Up

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39th Annual Business Day Conference, February 6th presented by the Commerce Undergraduate Society! register online at www.whatnowconference.com

While independently and neutrally covering Campus Pro Life's GAP event last week, I encountered a lot of hostility from a large number of people who did not wish to be filmed. At the time I wondered why, when usually, we're always welcome in and around most campus events. I soon realized that a lot of the CPL people had cameras of their own - filming for who knows what purpose - and that I may have been mistaken for being one of them. I am not.
- student reporter in red jacket

"I just love women that are always hungry."

- Jordyn on stoner chicks

"Look on branch above your head," said the Gnat, "and there you'll find a Snap-dragon-fly. Its body is made of plum pudding, its wings of holly-leaves, and its head is a raisin burning in brandy."

- Lewis Carroll

Brad didn't write Faust enough on his midterm.

- FailEd

"Dinosaur! Dinosaur! It's a dinosaur!"
- Amanda Hu jumping for joy

"Thou liknest it to wilde fir — The more it brenneth, the more it hath desir..."

- Geoffrey Chaucer

Since the interweb on Katy's computer fails hard, we must go on without twitter. Or facebook. Or craigslist. "I just think he's a fucking cock," will never be on my twitter while I reside on Katy's computer.

The story: I met this dude wearing tight black pants and he was neurotic. He exclaimed "I'm too art for this" through his eight chain smoked cigarettes. He refused to comment when asked his favourite band, and readjusted his hair. "I don't listen to music other people listen to. That's conformity and that's not who I am". There was and still is one word to describe this man: indietastic.

If you go your way, I'll go your way too.

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patti smith
dream of life
a film by steven sebring



dream of life is a plunge into the philosophy and artistry of cult rocker Patti Smith. This portrait of the legendary singer, artist and poet explores themes of spirituality, history and self expression. Known as the godmother of punk, she emerged in the 1970's, galvanizing the music scene with her unique style of poetic rage, music and trademark swagger. We follow this multitasking and private artist over 11 years of international travel, through her spoken words, performances, lyrics, interviews, paintings, and photos. Narrated by Patti Smith. 2008 / USA. Contains Adult Content.

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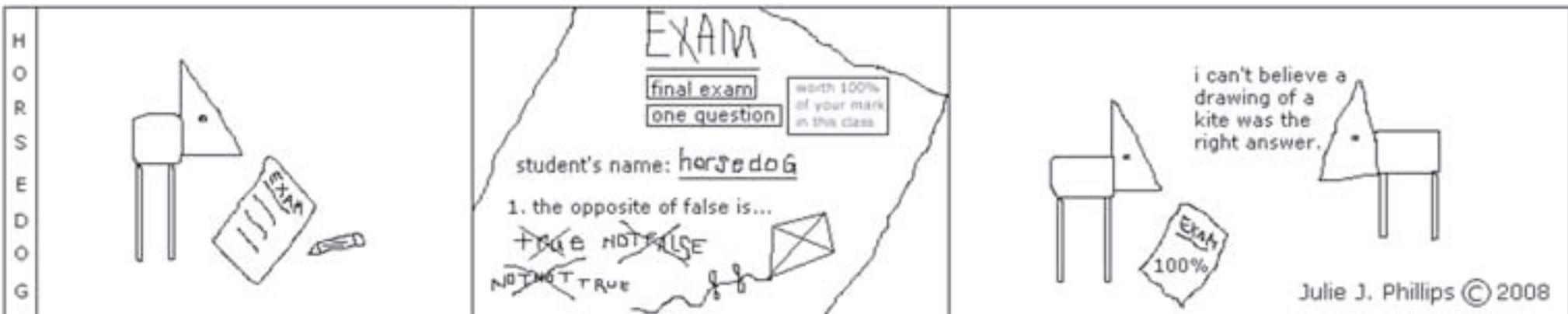
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