

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

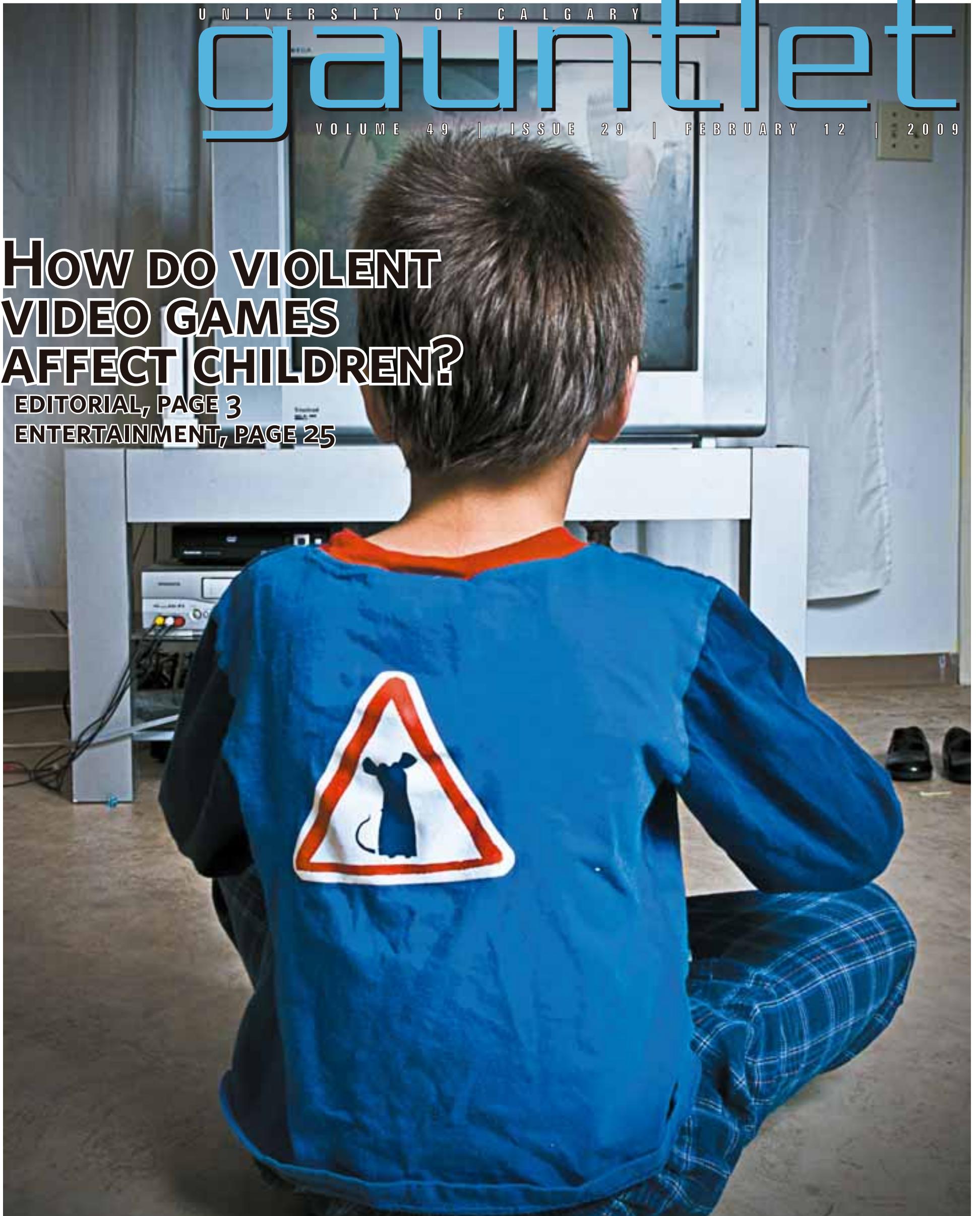
gauntlet

VOLUME 49 | ISSUE 29 | FEBRUARY 12 | 2009

HOW DO VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES AFFECT CHILDREN?

EDITORIAL, PAGE 3

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 25





STUDENTS' UNION HAPPENINGS

Happy Reading Week
(February 15 - 22)

Eric Lahoda Memorial

SU Club Scholarship



This SU Club Scholarship honours Eric Lahoda, former student and dedicated Students' Union club member and club executive. It is awarded to members of SU-sanctioned clubs who have contributed significantly to the success of their organization and to student life on campus.

AWARDS ARE VALUED AT \$1,000
Ten awards will be provided this year.

Applications are available on the Clubs website <http://su.ucalgary.ca/clubs> or at the Clubs Office (MSC 279L).

Completed applications must be received no later than March 1st, 2009.

If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact Justin Brown at 403-220-2233 or clubsoff@ucalgary.ca.



INTRODUCING SU CONNECT

Quick public internet access.

The Students' Union is proud to offer visitors to the MSC free internet access with the introduction of our **SU CONNECT Public Access Internet kiosks**. To mark the occasion The Students' Union is giving away two \$125.00 UofC book store gift certificates!

Students must visit kiosks by Monday, March 9 to enter the draw.
Kiosks are located in MacEwan Student Centre, near the east elevators on the main level and at the bottom of the east stairs on the lower level (by Speaker's Corner).



The Laurence Decore Award



**Are you an involved student?
Need extra cash? Read on...**

The Laurence Decore Award for Student Leadership is intended to recognize post-secondary students demonstrating outstanding dedication and leadership to fellow students and to their community. Applications now available! (More than one award exists.)

Nominees for this award must be Alberta residents, as defined by Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund Regulations, and currently enrolled in a minimum of three full-time courses at a designated post-secondary institution in Alberta in the year of application. Nominees should display commitment in one or more of the following areas:

- 1) student government at the local, provincial or national level;
- 2) student societies, clubs, organizations or non-profit community organizations.

Award Value: \$500
Nomination Deadline: Feb. 27, 2009

Pick up and submit nomination forms to the Students' Union (MSC 251). Forms can also be found at www.su.ucalgary.ca.

For more information, call the Students' Union at (403) 220-3000.



THE HAIC GIG CLUB PRESENTS

THIS IS THAT EMPTY SPACE AT NOON



WEDNESDAYS
FEBRUARY 11 AND 25, MARCH 25, APRIL 1 AND 15
11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM
THAT EMPTY SPACE



Nominate a Kick-Ass Professor or TA

for a



The Teaching Excellence Awards Committee of the Students' Union accepts nominations for Teaching Excellence from students & faculty. If your instructor or TA has made an impact on your learning then nominate them today by filling out a form at www.su.ucalgary.ca

Professors and TAs require 5 nominations to be considered officially nominated.

Spring Term Deadline: March 27, 2009

Choose Your WEAPON



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4
11 am - 2 pm
South Courtyard Stage
MacEwan Student Centre

OPEN CALL FOR PERFORMERS!
Register for the SU's Open Mic Session and show us what you're got.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 27

Contact VP Events, Luke Valentino
super@ucalgary.ca
for more information or to register.



FEBRUARY 12 2009

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Golden Spatula

Claire Fenton, for writing an amazing last-minute story. And
 Andrew Swan, for his great cover feature and movie review,
 both submitted on Sunday night. And Allison Cully, for the bad
 assness on page 11.

Furor Arma Ministrat

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The *Gauntlet* is the official student newspaper of the University
 of Calgary, published most Thursdays throughout the year by the
 Gauntlet Publications Society, an autonomous, incorporated body.
 Membership in the society is open to undergraduate students at the
 U of C, but all members of the university community are encouraged
 to contribute. Opinions contained herein are those of the individual
 writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of the entire
Gauntlet staff. Editorials are chosen by the 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 mustachioed-based
 ink. We urge you to recycle/gaze at the *Gauntlet* in reverence.

Letter Policy

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

The Cover

Photo and design by Paul Baker
 Cover model Ethan "The Trouble With" Tribble



Handling violent video games

While the war between gamers and computer-generated enemies wages on consoles around the world, another battle is being fought irl (in real life, for all those non-gamers) as the argument surrounding the increasing popularity of violent video games and their effect on those playing them is coming to a head. With the media and critics making the connection between aggressive events, like the Columbine High School massacre and the shooting in Taber, AB and video game play, the general public is quick to point an accusatory finger towards first-person shooters and other violent games.

The jury is still out on whether the content of video games plays a significant role in the real-life behaviour of those playing the games and there is a lot of research supporting both sides of the issue. Game developers claim that youth violence rates haven't shown a significant increase since the advent of violent games, chalking up a lot of the controversy to media sensationalism, while cognitive psychologists propose that children's tendencies towards aggressive actions increase if they are exposed to such images in their formative years. They also assert the ever-more realistic qualities of first-person shooters blur the line between fiction and real life for young gamers, causing even more aggressive and violent behaviour, not to mention extreme desensitization to similar images.

In order to deal with growing criticism from parent groups and researchers, the industry is attempting to put restrictions on games with rating systems such as the one instituted by the Entertainment Software Ratings Board, as well as

place filters on websites for violent games such as *Call of Duty* which requires viewers to enter their age and redirects them to the developer's general website if they do not meet the requirements. With that said, images of children holding well-known violent games with "M" ratings clearly denoted in billboards, advertisements and mall displays are common and don't help quell the problem of rated content reaching those that are technically restricted by the rating.

Overall, researchers agree the majority of flaws are not in the use of rating systems themselves, but the process used to create them and how parents utilize them in an attempt to regulate what kind of content their children are being exposed to. There are valid questions to be raised in regards to these ratings, namely surrounding who assigns the ratings — for example, if parties with financial holdings in a company provide the ratings — and how useful they actually are to parents. Even with these systems in place, and assuming they do provide enough information about a game's content, many parents seem to underestimate the actual level of violence or inappropriate content in their kids' favourite pastimes, often gawking when they discover little Jimmy has been killing hookers and stealing their money or shooting and maiming Nazis from the trenches all day.

Editor, the *Gauntlet*: electricity rules

Editor, the *Gauntlet*,

This article ["'Good' advertising gone wrong," Rinaldi Gulinao, Feb. 5] highlights a conundrum faced by most utility companies in North America: they are aware of the external social and environmental costs of generating electricity, yet how are they to tell customers to buy less of their product? And what incentive is there for them to do so? Thankfully, several states in the U.S. have decoupled the utility's revenues from their sales volume and numerous other states are be-

ginning to follow suit. Rather than build a new power plant, a utility can focus instead on harvesting wasted energy from their customers and still make a profit that makes it worthwhile for them to stay in business.

Along with their stated passion for conservation, Enmax is also doing the right thing in a few other ways. They're building their newest generating plant close to Calgary, where the majority of their customers are, to avoid the need for long and inefficient transmission lines.

For years, they've given the option of purchasing wind power and are now ramping up to lease solar panels to customers in the year 2010. And they are building the Calgary Downtown District Energy Centre, which will efficiently provide heat to several downtown buildings, eventually using waste heat from electrical generation facilities.

This is an exciting time to be looking at electricity. Germany has created over 200,000 jobs in renewable energy and increased their use of renewables from six per cent to 14.2

per cent, since the year 2000. At least one utility in the U.S. is beginning to take advantage of "smart grid" technology, by remotely managing their customer's power demands. Does a massive beer refrigerator or large industrial pumps need to be running during peak hours? Generally not, so the utility lets them run during low-demand times when electricity is abundant and cheap, but cuts them out when the spot price of electricity jumps up. Tools like this also shoot holes in the argu-

see LETTER, page 13



Amanda Hu

Entertainment Editor

Pro-lifers lose club status

Katy Anderson
Features Editor

University of Calgary's Campus Pro-Life club was disbanded by the Students' Union on Tuesday afternoon.

The council chambers in MacEwan Students' Centre were packed as media crowded into the circular room to hear the su's verdict on whether or not the club would remain sanctioned.

The hearing was called last week after university administration charged members of the group with trespassing for ignoring requests by the university to turn their display inwards. The display, titled the Genocide Awareness Project, juxtaposes graphic images of the Holocaust and the Rwandan genocide with abortion.

The committee ruled that CPL violated the su's Club Procedure 17.1 F which reads "The Club Committee may remove a club, a fraternity or a special event organizing group's sanctioned status or withhold funding or services from a club, a fraternity or a special event organizing group at any time if the group violates the Students' Union or university constitution, bylaws, procedures or policies; or any federal, provincial or municipal laws and legislation."

Asia Strezynski, CPL club secretary and Tuesday's official speaker, said the decision was unjust because it didn't specifically state what rule the club had violated.

"The su again failed to specify what policies,

bylaws or regulations we were breaking," she said. "The section 17.1 that they made reference to, references further policies which they failed to provide."

CPL lawyer John Carpay said the club will appeal the decision, which will see the students lose funding opportunities, the use of meeting rooms and the ability to borrow equipment.

"It's going to become quite evident that the clubs committee couldn't provide any answer of any policy that existed," said Carpay, executive director of the Canadian Constitution Foundation. "An arbitrary censorship letter that signals out one group is not a policy of the university and if it is, we're in big trouble."

However, su president Dalmy Baez insisted the issue is clear-cut, the university policy the club broke was ignoring a stipulation on the event — placing the signs inwards.

"For us to repeal [the bylaw] — we wouldn't make any exceptions for any organization, no matter what there mandate is — but doing so would probably put more harm on the Students' Union than benefit," said Baez.

su social science representative Teale Phelps Bondaroff said he was concerned that he first heard of the su's plans when he read them in the news. As an elected official, he felt that because the issue was so contentious, it should have gone through the Student Legislative Council, the highest governing body of the su.

"What if the university's policies are bad?" said Phelps Bondaroff. "What if a club violates the university policy which is not a good poli-



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

SU president is bombarded by media after the SU's decision to disband the club.

cy? There's no provisions for that. By enforcing university policy without looking at the policy itself, we become a tool of the university."

He added that he believed the su should protect clubs from "bad" university policies.

Baez, however, asserted that if the su felt the university was making an unjust decision they would fight it.

"In this case we feel that the limitations imposed on this event were reasonable," she said.

CPL treasurer Alanna Campbell understood that the su had an obligation to stick to their word — the su served the club with notice in November that if the club violated university policy they would be punished — but said they missed the opportunity to present CPL with the policy that the club had actually violated.

"I was very disappointed that our student representatives, people that we voted for to represent us, would blatantly ignore justice or ignore facts and would fail to give us reasons — basically do the same thing the university has been doing," said Campbell.

CPL was also concerned that Alex Judd, su vice-president operations and finance and club committee chair, sat on the review panel. Judd served three years as president of the Feminist Initiative to Recognize Equality, a group that has actively protested against the GAP display.

Baez was confident Judd's past involvement in FIRE would not sway the outcome of the decision.

The university and CPL will head to court Feb. 27.

Big Harv takes the money and runs

Ryan Pike
AP Editor

After steering the University of Calgary for over eight years, Dr. Harvey Weingarten will soon abandon ship.

In a news release on Tuesday morning, Weingarten announced plans to step down from his positions as president and vice-chancellor effective Jan. 1, 2010.

Weingarten explained his reasons for departure had nothing to do with any precipitating event.

He said he felt he accom-



Paul Baker/the Gauntlet

Dibs on the sweet office.

plished everything he set out to do when he took the job.

"I was pretty articulate when I got

here about the things I hoped to accomplish and I decided to go because my sense was I had done what I was

asked to do, maybe even more," said Weingarten. "It's really not deeper than that."

Weingarten came to the U of C in 2001 after two decades at McMaster University, replacing Terry White as U of C's president.

Although he still has over 10 months left on the job, Weingarten leaves behind a legacy that includes transforming the U of C into a more research-focused institution and boosting its reputation in research circles.

"I think we've made quite good progress on many of those fronts and

so that's when you decide [that] we've pushed this as far as we can and it's someone else's turn," he said.

Reaction to the announcement of Weingarten's imminent departure came immediately from a wealth of campus groups. In a press release, Graduate Students' Association president Rithesh Ram praised Weingarten's contribution in the development of quality money.

"In the past, as part of the tuition consultation process, the University of Calgary has committed to re-investing money into student-driven
see HARVEY, page 6

campus quips



"A voted representative. Democracy rules!"
— **Kevin Wong, fifth-year engineering**



"A bug, just cause it flies and doesn't do anything."
— **Kristen Turi, third-year archeology**



"I think there are too many deans so a dean should be reshuffled."
— **Madelynn Matthews, fourth-year psychology & anthropology**



"Barack Obama because it's hot!"
— **David Piotto, fourth-year communications**

Downtown, here we come

Sarelle Azuelos
News Editor

The University of Calgary has taken another small step in its long, long journey downtown.

After a promise of \$5 million annually from the province for a lease this summer, the U of C chose the home of its future downtown campus.

The site, at 906 Eighth Ave. sw, isn't the first location the university had in mind, but the original complex proved too complicated to pull together, said U of C president Harvey Weingarten.

The original East Village site was a partnership with Bow Valley College, SAIT, Athabasca University and the U of C that would house up to 15,000 students.

"It was a difficult, complicated project with many, many partners

and elements to it and it just didn't happen," he said.

The current project is smaller, with space for about 500 full and part-time students. Weingarten expects the high level of community involvement to bring this number up to several thousand people walking through the space each day.

"If you look across campus, it's interesting, almost every program and faculty at this university has ways in which they engage with the community," he said. "Students benefit tremendously from those interactions. Their course-work becomes real, they understand immediately the relevances."

The space will be split between students who take all their classes there and others who commute between the downtown and main campuses.

Programs like continuing education and business will remain down-



Ali Obad/the Gauntlet

The downtown campus will open fall 2010 thanks to a new lease.

town permanently, while others like nursing, fine arts and law will move back and forth depending on when courses are offered.

The building will be gutted and refurbished by developer North West Properties, said vice-president capital and planning Bob Ellard. He estimated the construction costs for NWP to be around \$50 million. The

U of C will then equip the space with classrooms for between \$10 to \$15 million. The building previously housed a Calgary Health Region facility.

"The intent is not to duplicate what is on this campus, but more to compliment it," he said.

Ellard added that the building will have a leadership in environmental

energy and design silver certification. Silver requires developers to recycle waste from construction and install energy saving water management, lighting and heating facilities.

In a *Calgary Herald* article Saturday, alderman John Mar said a new complex and students would help revive the "dodgy" area.

Second-year community rehabilitation student Kayla Timmins said she wouldn't want to travel to the west side of downtown on her own.

"I'm not really trusting of the downtown area unfortunately," she said. "I don't think I'd feel that safe or comfortable [travelling there]."

The campus is scheduled to open fall 2010. Weingarten thanked the provincial government for their support.

"This is an innovative way to create the space for post-secondary institutes," he said. "It's a little unusual, but it gets us good space quickly."

SU tackles costly textbooks, smartly

Rhiannon Kirkland
Gauntlet News

Every year university students spend hundreds of dollars on textbooks and it seems like prices are always going up.

A new campaign, set to begin in March, is trying to tackle the cost of textbooks. The Be Book Smart campaign, put on by the University of Calgary Students' Union, is modeled after a similar campaign at the University of Alberta. It will

teach students and professors ways to make academic materials more affordable.

The U of A started its Be Book Smart campaign after a series of Canadian Roundtable on Academic Materials discussions. CRAM brings together academic vice-presidents from 21 university students' unions

in nine provinces. It was started as a forum to discuss the cost of textbooks and other academic materials.

"The Be Book Smart campaign is kind of a sub-project of CRAM," said SU VP academic Pamela Weatherbee.

The campaign targets both stu-

dents and professors. The student awareness campaign features a website and bookmarks that list alternatives available to students. SU faculty representatives and commissioners will talk to students about their options and rights. The first stage of the student campaign will launch in March and a second phase will take place September.

Be Book Smart will encourage professors to request textbooks early and educate professors about their rights when dealing with publishers. It will also teach them about alternatives like not having a textbook or using a course pack.

U of A SU VP academic John Braga said they received a positive reaction to their campaign. Professors reacted more enthusiastically than students because they saw the problem of expensive books develop over a longer time frame.

Braga said that encouraging professors to have publishers compete on prices for selected books was effective.

"The last two main semesters, the fall and the winter, we've had great

buy in from the faculty ordering their books much earlier," said U of C bookstore manager Brent Beatty.

Beatty said the bookstore has been communicating with faculty for a number of years to get professors to request early. This allows the bookstore to find more used books

and students to sell back their textbooks.

The Be Book Smart campaign will be continued by acclaimed SU VP academic Megan Martin and new commissioners taking their positions in three months. Martin hopes to expand the program after

they have an opportunity to gauge its impact.

"It's not the type of thing that will be effective for a couple of months," she said, adding that the SU is instituting a new culture around textbooks that will require more than just bookmarks.

What you can do

- Buy used.
- Find public domain and open source texts.
- Scan or copy 10 per cent of a text without breaking copyright laws.
- Use the library reserve.
- Share a textbook with friends.

DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

JOIN US FOR THE JOURNEY.
descend with us into madness

hamlet

BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

FEBRUARY 17 - 28, 2009, 7:30 PM
EXCEPT FEBRUARY 23 & 24
2 FOR 1 SUNDAY MATINEE: FEBRUARY 22, 2 PM
UNIVERSITY THEATRE

This production of Hamlet will include a Gala Opening on Tuesday, February 17th and a one-day Hamlet Symposium featuring experts from various fields and a special public lecture by Shakespeare Scholar Jim Black.

www.finearts.ucalgary.ca

\$15 Adults
\$10 Students/Seniors

TICKETS
403-220-7202

INFORMATION
403-210-7576

Discounts available for groups and with your U of C Alumni, Friends of CJSW or LivePush cards.

UofC - THIS IS NOW

Beer, sex and . . . bugs?

Nicole Dionne
Gauntlet News

Nestled in the industrial section of south-east Calgary is a rather conspicuous building that looks much more like a country house than a manufacturing plant or a distributor.

Inside, a group of people get together — some are new, but most are regulars.

They meet here almost every month on a Wednesday night for an educational experience, last week's focused on alcohol, sex and . . . bugs.

Big Rock Brewery turned up the heat for the start of the winter semester of Big Rock University by hosting a scintillating lecture titled "Sex on Six Legs."



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Look at them sexy ants.

To the disappointment of some, the climax of the evening was not a daring exploration of sexy aerobatics involving chairs or *ménage à*

trois, but rather a look into the fascinating world of insect mating behaviour.

"I wanted a title that would inter-

est people who have little knowledge of insects," said University of Lethbridge president William Cade in an e-mail. "The word 'sex' usually grabs interest and the six legs is a play on insect morphology of course, but lends itself to other interpretations as you know. The title 'Insect Mating Behaviour' might have been boring to some folks."

Cade talked about the evolutionary principles of sexual selection and explained the basis of male mating behaviour.

Examples from across the crawly kingdom included dragon flies, preying mantids and Cade's personal area of expertise, crickets.

"Insects are really fascinating in their behaviour and beautiful in their appearance," said Cade. "Insects own the planet, so to speak,

and we are just passing through."

Founded in 1984 by Ed McNally, Big Rock Brewery has been crafting beer and ale locally for 25 years.

The company has done a lot to enrich the university experience for students, but not just by selling Grasshopper to the Den.

The proceeds of Big Rock University go towards eight Dr. Ed McNally Graduate Studies Nursing Scholarships available to University of Calgary students.

With seating sold out, the evening was a huge success and Cade largely attributed that to the Big Rock staff.

"They went out of their way to make it a good evening," said Cade. "Linda and Ed McNally are top notch folks. They are a perfect example of Albertans who had a dream and did it."

Harvey, cont'd from page 4

initiatives to improve the quality of the student experience," said Ram. "Without Quality Money, the GSA wouldn't be able to fund many of its basic programs, such as our Career and Mentorship program, our Ombuds Office, as well as many of the programs offered to help grad students become better teachers and researchers."

U of C Faculty Association president Anne Stalker wished Weingarten well in his future endeavours.

"At the same time, we look forward to working with the Board of Governors as they plan for the transition to the next president," she wrote in a release.

In Student Legislative Council, Students' Union president Dalmy Baez confirmed that the SU will be involved with BOG in selection of Weingarten's successor.

"As mentioned by the chair of BOG, the SU will most definitely be part of choosing a new president," said Baez.

As he prepares to complete his term and move on to life outside of the U of C, Weingarten expressed gratitude for his time at the university.

"I'm incredibly lucky," said Weingarten. "I'm lucky because when I go to work and I do things, I have the opportunity to work at an institution, a university, that I believe is critical to the future of the nation and a critical part of the fabric of any country. I get to work with young people, which is actually very neat to do. It keeps someone like me young."

GET BOMBED THURSDAYS

\$2 BEER

\$3 Jägermeister

\$3 Red Bull

\$3 SKYY VODKA
PASSIONFRUIT
CITRUS
RASPBERRY
ORANGE
VANILLA

1/2 PRICED PIZZA

10% OFF MENU/DRINKS
REGULAR PRICED FOOD AND DRINK ITEMS
WHEN YOU SHOW YOUR STUDENT ID

PURVEYORS OF MOMENTS TO REMEMBER
HALF PRICED HAPPY HOUR 4 TO 7 PM

AMSTERDAMRHINO
607 11th Avenue S.W.
WWW.RHINONATION.CA

News for the unnewsed

Heidi Stobert
Gauntlet News

Tenured professor loses job over teaching practices

University of Ottawa professor Dr. Denis Rancourt recently lost his job due to questionable teaching practices. He was suspended from teaching and banned from campus for telling his fourth-year physics class that they were all getting an A+ in Dec. 2008.

After showing up on campus two weeks ago and getting charged with trespassing, he was let go. Rancourt also received complaints and grievances from the university and staff members after teaching activism in his physics course and encouraging student input on course curriculum over the past couple years.

Merciless robots will fight future wars

Defence researcher at Brookings Institution Dr. Peter Singer warned that robot technology is progressing to a point where robot armies will one day be doing battle in place of humans.

Robots have no emotions and no mercy making them more ideal to do violent work, which Singer finds disturbing. He pointed out many military superpowers already use robots such as attack drones and bomb-handlers in battle and that nations are continuing to expand their robotic technology research. Although Singer is not sure when robots will completely replace humans in war, he predicted that U.S. military units will be half-robot by 2015.

Sixty-year-old Calgary woman gives birth to twins

A 60-year-old Calgary woman became a first-time mother Feb. 3 after giving birth to twin boys at Foothills Hospital. Ranjit Hayer is believed to be the oldest woman to give birth in Canada.

The story has sparked debate as

to whether Hayer is too old to be a mother. She was refused in vitro treatment in Canada because her age posed a significant threat to the health of her and any fetuses. She received the treatment in her homeland of India.

Despite criticism, both Hayer and her husband are ecstatic about the birth of their sons.

India wants Pakistan declared a terrorist state

India is urging the international community to declare Pakistan a terrorist state in light of the country's release of Abdul Qadeer Khan, a nuclear scientist. Khan was placed under five years of house arrest after confessing to selling nuclear secrets to Iran, North Korea and Libya in 2004.

The Indian government argued the lack of punishment proves Pakistan is becoming an increased security threat and fears that nuclear technology will become more accessible to terrorists.

Expansion of Alberta parks concern environmentalists

The Alberta government is planning to expand and create new provincial parks. The recent population increase in Alberta and the demand on the parks are the main reasons for this plan.

However, some environmentalists are concerned the government is focusing too much on the recreational purposes of provincial parks and not on the protective function they serve.

Calgary Mountie faces 17 criminal charges

Constable Hoa La, a Calgary-based RCMP officer, is facing 17 criminal charges including extortion, harassment, fraud over \$5,000 and perjury. The RCMP began their investigation of this unusual case involving purchases of residential properties in 2006. La will make an appearance at a Red Deer court Feb. 24.

MRC name change in the works

Sarelle Azuelos
News Editor

Mount Royal College will soon face a signage crisis.

Provincial advanced education and technology minister Doug Horner is introducing legislation this spring which would allow MRC and Grant MacEwan College to change their names to include 'university.'

The proposed Post-Secondary Learning Amendment Act would let institutions that give out baccalaureate degrees to ask the minister for a formal name change.

"Your label should reflect what

you are," said MRC president Dr. David Marshall.

The college currently offers 23 bachelor's degrees in seven areas including science, arts and criminal justice. Marshall hopes to expand that to 30 majors. In the future, there will be 8,500 MRC degree students.

"I think it's a positive move, it recognizes the high level of those programs at Grant MacEwan and at Mount Royal," said advanced education and technology spokesperson Rachel Bouska. "I think it will allow for more students in those programs to go on to graduate programs at the comprehensive aca-

demical and research institutions."

The name change wouldn't affect the institutions' role as a baccalaureate and applied studies institution, as specified by the province. Research will remain unique to the University of Calgary and other Alberta universities.

At MRC, 85 per cent of students are currently securing a degree of some sort — the others are in certificate or diploma programs.

"This is the final step in a long process," said Marshall, adding that the name change will make resumés "easier to explain" to employers.

MRC was the first institution in Calgary to offer degrees, he said.



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To conceive or not to conceive:

When age becomes the question

Kive Ferraro
Gauntlet Opinions



The marvels of modern technology continually break down barriers previously thought to be absolutes. Many challenges have now moved from the realm of “can we?” to “should we?” Through advances in fertility research and *in vitro* fertilization, many would-be parents, whose only previous option was adoption, are now able to have children of their own (albeit through donor eggs or sperm in some cases). Scientifically, the breakthroughs are exciting and herald an end to the disappointment faced by couples unable to conceive.

This past Tuesday, a 60-year-old woman in Calgary gave birth to twins, delivered seven weeks premature through an emergency caesarean section. She and her husband had struggled through multiple miscarriages and earlier IVF treatments. She was turned down for IVF here in Canada due to her age and sought treatment in her native country of India. At 60-years-old, the woman is believed to be the oldest Canadian to give birth. The birth of the twins and survival of both mother

and babies are evidence of our scientific prowess. Our growing ability to overcome our biological limitations is nothing short of astonishing. However, the social and ethical implications of this woman's case are as complex as the science that brought the twins into the world.

News of the birth made headlines across the country and under those headlines debates have begun to rage. Anonymous bloggers and callers to radio shows have called the woman and her husband medical tourists and accused them of being irresponsibly selfish in their desire to have children so late in life. Initially I too felt their decision was ill conceived (pardon the pun). On the surface it does seem unfair that people can travel abroad for procedures or treatments, only to return to Canada and have the taxpayers pick up the cost of post-procedural treatment.

On CBC radio, a Calgary doctor raised an interesting point to this argument: Canadians currently pay for the health care of smokers, who knowingly engage in an unhealthy habit. What then is the difference between paying for the care of this woman and her twins or a smoker with lung cancer? And though you can counter that smokers pay a form of subsidized health care through high tobacco taxes,

what about people who injure themselves in high-risk activities, such as skiing, skydiving or driving a motorcycle? Should they too be responsible for their own medical costs? The answer simply has to be no. It would be very difficult to start denying health-care coverage to Canadians based on choices such as these. A two-tiered health-care system would develop overnight to care for the risk-taking rich, leaving the less wealthy confined to lives of few choices and thrills, due to fear of injury. How many of you would have never snowboarded, enjoyed a drink or even eaten red meat if doing so held the potential of voiding your health-care coverage?

The woman and her husband chose to have children at an age when it may be likely that neither parent may live to see their twins graduate high school. Does this make them irresponsible people? Was their desire to have children completely selfish with little regard as to how their age would affect the lives of their children? While I find it hard to imagine being in my 70s raising young teenagers, I do not know how such a prospect affects the couple in question. And this is precisely the point, we do not know this couple. We do not know the community they live in, the support structure they have in friends and family,



nor the strength of will borne by a lifelong desire to raise children. What we do know is there are two parents, something many children do not have these days. Being able to travel to India and pay for multiple IVF treatments is no small thing either, suggesting the couple has the financial means to care for the children properly. Noth-

ing outside of personal prejudice gives us reason to believe that the couple will be bad parents or that their age will cause the twins to suffer. Surely the family will face challenges different than those encountered by younger parents, as well as many the same. I, for one, wish the family all the best in facing those challenges.

Giant rats once again permitted in New Jersey sky

A strange case of freedom of speech comes to a head

Elijah Stauth
Crude Dialectics



In our Western culture, we generally don't get on too well with rats. They're chubby, furry, unclean and vicious. Eastern cultures give rats credence as being creative, honest, generous and ambitious. But down states-side, when you see the depiction of a rat standing on his hind legs and bearing his teeth, you're not supposed to think of any of the above attributes.

That growling, standing rodent

is used by organized labour to signify a labour dispute and that's exactly what the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers union local were trying to let people know when they floated up an inflatable three-metre rat in New Jersey.

The New Jersey police, apparently upset by the menacing image of an angry rat in the sky, enforced a law that bans banners, streamers and inflatable signs with the exception of ones that announce grand openings. The rat had to come down and a labour official was forced to pay a whopping \$100 fine along with \$33 in court fees.

An appeals court affirmed the

police's decision and determined that the town's law was content-neutral and only aimed at enhancing aesthetics and protecting public health and safety (because the balloon rat might spread disease?).

The labour union was understandably upset with the monopoly that grand opening signs, streamers and oversized balloons now had on the sky and so the case went to the state Supreme Court. Justice John E. Wallace Jr. determined that, “The township's elimination of an entire medium of expression without a readily available alternative renders the ordinance overbroad.”

In other words, they've gone too far this time. The decision was further explained when it was stated that an ordinance “that prohibits a union from displaying a rat balloon, while at the same time authorizing a similar display as a part of a grand opening, is content based.”

We tend to have some funny dispositions towards free speech when it comes to words or images that we find disagreeable. We'll fight for our freedoms to speak our truths and even for our neighbor's freedoms to speak their truths. But when there's something that shows up in front of our eyes that our mind doesn't

like we're often a little too quick to try and silence it for one reason or another.

There are a lot of silencing tools at our disposal. We can say it's done in the name of “enhancing aesthetics” or “protecting public health and safety.” At times there's the supposition that if, by saying, or showing, something that might incite a touch of violence, it's better not to communicate it at all.

Any place a sign goes up or a word gets printed, someone has to take responsibility and when it comes to angry phone calls from the public or the exchange of blows, no one really wants to deal with the headache.

I do, Inc.

The corporatization of marriage

Jaya Dixit
Gauntlet Opinions



The “veil of ignorance” is a phrase that most of us have come to know through the writings of contemporary philosopher John Rawls. Recently, it’s become somewhat analogous with the modern wedding, fraught with the trickery of sneaky vendors, more fine print than a constitutional amendment and all of the illusory and bogus pomp you could possibly imagine — to the power of 10. In fact, I suspect that some married couples’ commitments scarcely outlast their wedding debts.

Corkage fees, decanting fees, cake-cutting fees, SOCAN (music) fees, bartending and gratuity fees all figure into the huge sum of money that you can expect to see (in some cases, only through a magnifying glass) in your wedding expenses. My own

nuptials are scheduled to take place in July and it seems as though everything under the sun, from intricate floral arrangements to weight-loss supplements, have successfully legitimized themselves as wedding must-haves.

A few weeks back, Bridal Fantasy, a wedding exhibition, hit Calgary with more dry ice than a high school dance and more crinoline than a Victorian wardrobe, legitimizing the purchase of every imaginable good and fashioning a successful wedding (and even marriage) as primarily contingent upon material conditions. Although I did not attend Bridal Fantasy, it was reported by a friend of mine (who attended under familial coercion) that the corporate blurring of tradition into trend has driven many women to become bridezillas of the highest order.

I’ve decided to adopt the term “party” rather than wedding as part of my renegade bride stance against the wedding industry. Although the focus on bridal appearance is a key engine for the propagation of

the wedding industry, all vendors are interested in getting in on the money-fest. Some examples of the benefits of having a “party” rather than a “wedding” are manifest in the huge price hike in flowers or clothes for weddings, while their identical “party” counterparts run for much less. We churn out weddings in mass quantities, encouraging each one to be unique while still aggregating a blend of genuine and mock tradition. I can’t help but think that the wedding industry, for its emphasis on consumption and commodities, can take a seat right beside other vilified industries such as fast food, wireless technologies and insurance.

The proverbial kicker might just be the fact that the commoditization of marriage begins even prior to planning the wedding itself; it all starts with the (recent) advent of the engagement ring. DeBeers will be the first to tell you that a diamond is forever and in a world where we can scarcely churn out a majority of successful marriages, a diamond can outlast 50 per cent of marital



“forevers.” In fact, the notion of the dual rings (engagement ring and wedding band) is a modern phenomenon, and as to men’s rings, according to sociologist Vicki Howard, “The groom’s ring only became ‘tradition’ in the United States when weddings, marriage and ‘masculine domesticity’ became synonymous with prosperity, capitalism and national stability.” And suddenly, flashing back to the Simpsons episode where Homer proposes to

Marge with an onion ring, I am gravitating toward the enjoyment of an onion ring (meaningful symbolism notwithstanding) over the price tag of a wedding ring.

Although discussions of wedding commoditization are largely gender-based, I’m starting to think that the best argument for keeping my own name — which I likely will — is that it’s free. I’ll toast to that — once I’ve scanned the contract for toasting fees.

Saint Valentine’s charm

Laura Bardsley
2 Legit 2 Quit



St. Valentine’s Day is coming and it’s coming fast. Yeah, yeah, this must mean that it is time to truly

show one’s hate for “corporation-created, greeting card holidays.” But Valentine’s Day, although decently rooted in the greeting-card business, is so much more than a money-making scheme. It gives a definite date to something one should do everyday: show appreciation to those close to them.

This holiday is mostly thanks to a

bishop named Valentine who married soldiers in secret and left a note to his “beloved” signed “From your Valentine.” Said bishop was then executed on Feb. 14. Geoffrey Chaucer was first to mention St. Valentine’s Day in his poem *Parlement of Foules*, where he correlated the saint’s day to one of romance and love. After Chaucer, Shakespeare

mentioned it in *Hamlet*. From this, the holiday gained popularity and Esther Howland took advantage of lovers and their purchases and started a greeting-card business based on it.

From then on, Valentine’s Day has been second only to Christmas for the most greeting cards sold in the United States (approximately one

billion, according to the U.S. Greeting Card Association). This still isn’t a bad thing. With the state of the economy as it is right now, one billion greeting cards sold seems like a whole lot of stimulation right when it’s needed. All the grouches who hate Valentine’s Day and all it stands for are probably just lonely.

see VALENTINE’S, page 13

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Darwin part deux

An exposition of why natural is not necessarily good

Eric Mathison
Fighting Words



Last week I finished by pointing out the difference between a scientific truth and a political (social, cultural) ought. Many people, including some well-known scientists, have confused this issue. Science is not in the business of telling us how we should live; rather, it describes the world and defines the implications of philosophical ideas. Darwinian theory is frequently attacked on mistaken grounds, so it is im-

portant to look at the effects of the misunderstandings and why they are wrong.

Many people hold the view that nature is a good thing and that whatever comes from nature has value. It could have been called the Ben Harper Fallacy, but the philosopher Hume seems to have got there first. We should, says Harper, smoke marijuana because it's from the Earth, "and what's from the Earth is of the greatest worth." In fact, there are a great many things that come from the Earth that are bad for us. Harper may be right and we should all smoke pot, or at least decriminalize it, but not for the reasons he gives in his treatise, "Burn One Down."

Another example of confusing descriptions with prescriptions is the work of biologist E. O. Wilson. When Wilson published his work *Sociobiology* in 1975, he was attempting to show that some behaviours have a genetic component and therefore can be inherited, leading to adaptation through natural selection. It was the last chapter on humans that sparked controversy. Some scholars, the most famous being Steven J. Gould, felt that the political implications of the theory, should it be true, were too disturbing. He invoked Nazism and eugenics in his attack.

Was Gould mistaken? If a politician ran for office saying she would begin by instituting sociobiology (as well as eugenics, and thought Hitler had been misunderstood), then we would have cause for concern. It doesn't follow that because something is true in nature we should elect people to make it a social reality.

Genetic variation does exist among populations — I am lactose intolerant, which is common

in about 15 per cent of those from Scandinavian descent, whereas around 90 per cent of the African Bantu can't digest milk products. This fact is not problematic for most people. However, what if 90 per cent of Bantu were stronger, faster and smarter than everyone else in the world? Would that be justification for them to kill or enslave everyone else? Certainly not. They may dominate the Olympics, win more Nobel prizes and have more chess grandmasters, but that would be all.

Much opposition to Darwinian theory stems from its implications. If you were brought up thinking you were designed (with a plan!), and even the hairs on your head are numbered, it is a shocking realization that you really aren't the centre of the universe. But people mistake it for an alternative philosophical model to their past view. We have

to let the fittest survive? We must live "red in tooth and claw?" We won't get the most grandmasters? No, no and possibly.

Science done right has no political agenda and every scientist knows exactly what it would take to change his mind on any issue: evidence to the contrary of the current view. Evolution is as substantiated as gravity. The only people making concerted attempts to disprove it are those with a faith to uphold, which requires no evidence and can never be changed. The rest of the world has figured out that, although it is just a theory, it is one that works whenever it is tested and therefore has necessitated no revision.



WORK FOR THE GAUNTLET

The hiring process for Tier II positions (Production Editor, Entertainment Editor, Sports Editor, Features Editor, Illustrations Editor, Photo Editor and Opinions Editor) will begin Fri., March 20.

All U of C undergraduate students are eligible to apply for these positions. Applications must be received in the Gauntlet office by Tues., March 17 at 5 p.m.

Applicants must be available for a one-hour editing test Wed., March 18 to Fri., March 20 and an interview Sat., March 21 or Sun., March 22.

For more information, please contact Jon Roe, Editor-in-Chief at eic@thegauntlet.ca

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Setting The Record Straight

Alex Judd
VP Operations
and Finance



With all the media buzz and public commentary about the Campus Pro-Life Club in the past few months, it's hard to get a clear picture of the issue at hand. The SU would like to set the record straight in regards to its role in the current issue.

In late 2008, the Campus Pro-Life Club decided to hold a display on the lawn east of the MacEwan Student Centre, an area under the

jurisdiction of the University of Calgary. The University approved this location. The U of C also outlined certain limitations including turning billboards inward, so people could choose whether they wanted to view the images.

When the SU was informed of the University's limitations, we issued a letter to Campus Pro-Life approving their application to hold a display. However, we also stipulated that this permission did not absolve the club from following any of the rules or limitations imposed on this event by the venue provider, in this case the University.

After the event was held the SU learned the club had intentionally violated the limitations set out by the university.

The SU has measures in place in the event any Club violates University regulations including penalties and possible de-sanctioning. The Pro-Life Club is no exception.

While some recent media coverage and stakeholder comments would have one believe this issue and subsequent SU actions is more about subject matter rather than a violation of regulations – this is not the case.

The SU has supported the Campus Pro-Life Club for over ten years in its

public awareness efforts. However, as with all SU sanctioned clubs, the SU does not tolerate any Club that violates university regulations.

The SU has utilized the appropriate measures we have in place when regulations have been violated and as such, stands by its decision to hold the Campus Pro-Life Club accountable for its actions.



VIEW
www.su.ucalgary.ca

Hits from da bong

Phelps goes a little insane in the membrane

Savannah Hall
Gauntlet Opinions

Last year was Michael Phelps' year. Phelps won eight gold medals in the 2008 Olympic

summer games resulting in over \$50 million in endorsement deals for the 23-year-old from such companies as Subway and Kellogg's. But one month into 2009, pictures of the Olympic hero smoking mari-

juana from a bong surfaced, causing an uproar.

Back in 2004, at the age of 19, Phelps was caught driving under the influence and faced an 18-month probation. Now, many

feel that Phelps should be dropped from endorsement deals because he is a role model and has been caught, again, doing something illegal.

The first incident is a good indication that this guy should not be a role model for your kids. He is an athlete, not a church group leader. He trained his ass off for one thing — to win, not to help raise your

children. There is no reason why young adults in the spotlight have to be slapped with the label of role model and be forced to live their lives accordingly.

Phelps has become a household name with millions in the bank after many years of hard work and sacrifices, so of course he is going to party. It was only weed. It wasn't cocaine or crystal meth, he didn't kill anyone and it is doubtful he is a chronic user. He probably got shitfaced at a party, was offered a hit and accepted, no big deal. The man won eight gold medals, so are people really going to let something as minuscule as this overshadow that accomplishment?

How many 23-year-olds does anyone know who have started a foundation of any sort? After winning big in Beijing, Phelps started a charitable foundation to help kids learn to swim. If he has already given back much more than his peers, then why is what he does in



his personal life a big deal?

The Sheriff of Richland County, South Carolina, where the incident took place, says he will press charges if he can prove Phelps smoked the marijuana in his jurisdiction. Kellogg's will not renew the contract they held with Phelps, because the incident conflicts with their image. Also, USA swimming withdrew its funding to Phelps and banned him from competition for three months. He is not getting away with it without a slap on the wrist; he is facing more punishment than most have.

So, within five years Phelps has either just slipped up or was dumb enough to get caught doing something illegal, not once, but twice. If you have people investing a lot of money into you, you should probably make sure you are partying with people you can trust not to sell you out to the tabloids. He says that these incidents were big mistakes and he has learned his lesson, so now everyone should go get their own bong out, take a big hit and relax.

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Valentine's, continued from page 9

Anyone who has received a cheesy valentine card has always taken it with a grin on their face and enjoyed it. Even the creepy ones show affection — something which no human being can hate.

Also, who doesn't love candy handouts? Valentine's Day is like a happy-go-lucky Halloween, with slightly more sex. Not only is the candy awesome on Valentine's Day, but when it goes on sale the next day, it really is like Christmas has come all over again for candy lovers.

One cannot really claim to hate Valentine's Day without sounding like a bitter jackass. To hate the one day where it is widely promoted to show affection to those around you

doesn't really make any sense. This is a practice that should be promoted as a daily ritual, not just one day every year. One does not need to go all out — displays of affection don't need a price tag. Not everyone likes chocolates, nor flowers. Homemade valentines or the cheesiest ones possible are the best bet, because everyone loves a bad pun in a cute format.

So yes, Valentine's Day was snapped up early on by commercialization — the candy and greeting card sales ring in enough to make anyone's mouth drool — but the message behind it is still the same: "I appreciate you and I want you to know that."

Letter, continued from page 3

ment that wind power can only fill a small portion of our energy requirements, only producing power while the wind blows. Using a variety of power management tools, Spain often provides over 20 per cent of their country's electricity with wind; on one day last March, they reached 40.8 per cent.

Energy conservation, energy efficiency and increased use of renew-

able energy can slow the pace of global warming, improve air quality, stabilize and secure our energy supply as well as our economy and provide long term jobs. With Alberta receiving far more wind and sun energy than Germany, we have no excuse for continuing with business as usual.

Roger L. Gagne

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Valentine's Day is coming, stop hating it and embrace love for a day. If you do love something, like TLFs, please bring your TLF submission to MSC 319 or send it to tlfs@thegauntlet.ca. All

submissions must include your name, phone number, ID number and signature. Submissions judged to be sexist, racist, homophobic or attacks of a personal nature will not be permitted.

Hey flower girl I have your foot. Come to the market to get it.

- Fishguy

"You have to revamp your whole way of thinking, so that you truly don't think from the standpoint of the state and the culture, but from what people need and suffer from. Then you arrange social institutions accordingly."

- Illusions

It takes a real douche to run an unregistered campaign.

- be fucking democratic!

Niku ga suki desu. Totemo niku ga daisuki desu.

The medium is the message. Especially TV, which puts you in a trance and fills you with *@#/. Please, go read a book.

- Illusions

To the 2 d-bags in FNCE 317 MW @ 2:00, SHUT UP!! We get it, you're smart, you think FNCE is easy, that's fantastic. However your comments are neither witty nor funny now shut it. Also, maybe you are unaware but you are both nerds so stop talking about the good-looking girls in class it makes me want to punch you.

- love from extremely irritated girl

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7th year male needs a date for Saturday... I know it's short notice... but I don't want to be all alone when I know I could be having some fun! E-mail desesperado88@hotmail.com

(Two girls sitting in the loft reading Cosmopolitan) Girl 1: I always read the dirtiest chapters, you know, where they come up with 26 ways to say "pulsing member." Girl 2: Yeah, those get me really hot, but I don't think we should read it in public. (Girls continue to read about how an uptight secretary finally let her hair down behind one of the bookshelves). Apparently we aren't the only ones who have our minds in the gutter.

- The Girls Who Talk About Fellatio in Public

The only flexibility I have is moral flexibility.

- not Ryan

"Well go away because you're only going to lie to me/say I look OK but I'm really quite frightening"

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- KD3

U R A Qt3.141592653589793...

13 hours of sleep over 3 nights, and in the end I'm too caffeinated to fall asleep...bah!

- Picto

To the attention-starved drama queen with the crutches who shows up late for ENME 599 every day: we're all crying you rivers here, but your injury isn't an excuse to be consistently late.

Class super boring? No pretty girls/boys to day dream about? Well why don't you doodle, sketch, or draw on your notes, paper or the doodle cards around campus to have it displayed for everyone to see! Entry drop boxes @ the Gauntlet HQ (MSC 319), Art building or KNES student society room. www.redbull.ca/doodleart

Did you lose your camera at the start of January? Email foundyourcamerauofc@gmail.com and describe it.

We didn't sign on to be censored by the university, so sign the petition for Free Speech at <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/free-speech-university-of-calgary.html> instead.

- Very Unamused

Vote Kat Lord for VP Events! She really is an event.

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Over the past four decades, Isaiah Zagar has covered more than 50,000 square feet of Philadelphia with stunning mosaic murals. In A Dream is a documentary feature film that chronicles his work and his tumultuous relationship with his wife, Julia. It follows the Zagars as their marriage implodes and a harrowing new chapter in their life unfolds.

2008, 78 mins. I contains adult content | indreammovie.com. Presented by The Epcor Centre and TRIMEDIA (CJSW, The Gauntlet and NUTV), with kind support from FFWD Weekly and Servantage.



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BY RYAN PIKE

PHOTOS BY GEOFF MACINTOSH

WHY THE KIDS DON'T VOTE

HERE'S A HINT, IT'S NOT APATHY

The University of Calgary is at the centre of a perfect storm of political apathy. Every member of Parliament from Calgary is a Conservative. Same goes for the majority of the Alberta legislature. The mayor's office changes occupants only when the incumbent decides to retire and changes in aldermen tend to have little effect. Student government has been trying to combat tuition hikes for years with no success.

The overall outcome of these trends isn't surprising. Voter turnout for the most recent federal election was the lowest in history at 59 per cent, with only 53 per cent of eligible Calgarians casting ballots. That said, Calgarians are far more likely to vote in a national election than any other: last year's provincial election had a dismal 41 per cent turnout and on the municipal front only 22 per cent of voters showed up to the polls. Students' Union elections have even more dismal engagement numbers. In recent years, average turnout is in the teens.

Researchers are saying that low voter engagement is not a new phenomenon. In fact, turnout has been dropping in Canada, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and France. A 2003 joint study conducted by Carleton University, the University of Toronto and Elections Canada found that only 22 per cent of 18–20 year olds voted in the 2000 federal election. The study found that electoral participation numbers dropped consistently

as the age group grew younger. In fact, the single most effective determinant for whether a person voted was their age. More troubling, the study found that successive generations of voters were less likely to vote than their once-young counterparts were when in the youngest age bracket.

"If in the past young people were less likely to become involved in community and national politics than their 30- and 40-year-old counterparts, today they are much less likely to be involved, so the gap between younger people and their older counterparts has

OUR VOTING SYSTEM WAS DESIGNED BY OUR GRANDPARENTS. IT HASN'T CHANGED WITH THE TIMES.

grown," says Dr. Keith Archer, a U of C professor and expert on electoral politics.

Why aren't we voting?

Archer notes that the demographic trend could be due to modern living conditions. Prospective voters in the 18-to-25-year-old range often live away from their home constituency or travel for work or school, so they don't establish the same ties to their community that older voters with kids or mortgages have.

"For those reasons of greater mobility and

less rootedness within the community, it's long been the case that younger people are less likely to be engaged in politics," says Archer. "Yet, what we've seen in the last generation is really a major generational shift downward in the amount of engagement we see from young people."

Ilona Dougherty, executive director of the Montreal-based group Apathy is Boring, believes that the decline in youth voting doesn't necessarily mean they're not engaged. A 2004 McGill University study noted that while voting has declined, vol-

unteerism has remained strong among Canadian youth.

"It's not that young people aren't engaged in their communities," says Dougherty. "It's that they're not connected to the sort of traditional institutions where decision-making is happening. A lot of us are involved in projects on the ground, grassroots stuff, but not seeing the relevance of why it's important to get involved in politics."

Teang Tang of Calgary-based Y Vote explains there are many reasons why young

people are not voting, from lack of clear political information to antiquated and inconvenient poll locations.

"Our voting system was designed by our grandparents," says Tang. "It hasn't changed with the times. For example, in the '60s, if you were a young person, 20 or 30, you were usually married and had two kids. People who are married and have two kids are usually going to schools to vote or churches to vote."

With recent generations getting married later in life and an increasing reliance on public transit in light of soaring gas prices, Tang says that the old polling locations aren't nearly as convenient now as they used to be.

Dougherty adds that political information isn't nearly as accessible as it should be.

"It's not that there are too many parties, but that the information is not presented in an accessible way," says Dougherty. "It's not made relevant to our lives. It's really hard right now when we go to any of the parties' websites to understand how that affects you as a young person."

Would changing our electoral system solve the problem?

Canada's electoral system is commonly cited reason for low voter turnout. The current single member plurality system, nicknamed "first-past-the-post," has been lauded for its sheer simplicity, but criticized for distorting results. For instance, the Green Party secured

continued on page 16

A SUCCESS STORY

Despite the national trend towards political disengagement, not all student elections are dull affairs with low voter turnout. St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish boasted a 60.4 per cent voter turnout in this week's general election.

Their secret? In an interview with the *Xaverian Weekly*, chief electoral officer Michael MacIsaac mentioned a focus by the St. FX Students' Union on promotion, including multiple candidate debates and an election blog run on the SU website.

On our own campus, the Students' Union has utilized a two-pronged approach. Not only are they attempting to raise awareness about the importance of voting, but of becoming a candidate.

"I always feel that the more candidates you have, the higher votes are going to be," says University of Calgary SU president Dalmy Baez. "Mostly because those candidates will have their own fan-base within the student population. So this year we really tried to throw out a campaign before elections, not so much about voting, but actually running in the elections."

Recently, St. FX's sky-high turnout prompted a challenge by the Student Federation of the University of Ottawa to its members to top their eastern counterpart. The St. FX SU stepped up in response, resulting in the phenomenal turnout.



no seats despite having 6.8 per cent of votes, while the Conservatives garnered just under half of the seats in Parliament with just over a third of voters.

On a local scale, the Green Party tends to field younger candidates and focuses more on issues important to youth, such as the environment, than any other party. Yet despite recent strong, and growing, showings in Calgary ridings — they finished ahead of many Liberal and New Democrat candidates — the Greens appear no closer to a breakthrough than they were years ago. Archer suggests that frustration on the part of some young voters could contribute to their dwindling engagement.

"It's for people that are voting

for the opposition parties and finding over a number of elections, "There's not really a chance for my candidate to win under the current system so why should I turn out to vote?" Archer says. "That's

UNTIL YOUTH ARE MOBILIZED AT THE POLLS, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE PARTIES WILL DEEM THEM IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO CATER TO IN ANY MEANINGFUL FASHION.

one of the difficulties within our electoral system, particularly if people find themselves supporting what are usually described as minor parties — parties that don't really have a realistic chance of

winning a constituency contest." However, there are two lingering questions: would changing the electoral system solve the voter turnout problem, and if so, do Canadians even want the system to change?

UNTIL YOUTH ARE MOBILIZED AT THE POLLS, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THE PARTIES WILL DEEM THEM IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO CATER TO IN ANY MEANINGFUL FASHION.

Germany has utilized a mixed proportional system in its parliament since 1949, electing roughly half of the 598 members of the *Bundestag* proportionately, but has seen the same erosion of its electorate

that other Western countries have. New Zealand began using a mixed proportional system in 1996, voters choose a local candidate as well as a party to ensure proportionality, but has seen a similar drop in participation — from 88 per cent in 1996 to 79 per cent in last year's general election.

But, while the 2003 study showed that a significant proportion of respondents, 71 per cent, categorized themselves as "very" or "somewhat supportive" of a switch to proportional representation, the electoral system was not the top reason identified by young people for not voting. The most common reasons given by those under 25 for not voting were that they felt distanced from politics by their age, they were uninterested

in the process and that political information was not readily available to them.

What can be done?

"We need to find ways to help our democracy evolve," says Dougherty. "I think that's important and I think that's a way of engaging people. It's, 'Okay, how would you like this system to work if it's not working for you?' But I think it goes beyond that. There's a bunch of different things that need to change and we need to look into how to make the system function again."

Barring a large-scale change, the prime movers behind disseminating political information will likely be the parties themselves. The inherent bias with relying upon the parties for platform information places a renewed impetus on agencies like Elections Canada and the news media to provide prospective voters with each party's positions.

"If politicians were to address those barriers, I think they would see more youth turnout — making the Elections Canada website easy to navigate; helping us understand what each party stands for," says Tang. "Ideally you want to be able to type in a topic, let's say global warming, and you want to know immediately what each party's platform stands for without getting a biased opinion."

Archer notes that while final statistics are not yet available, there is a strong suspicion in the political science community that voter turnout in the United States election saw a surge largely due to young voters. He feels that the reason for the success of the Barack Obama presidential campaign wasn't just their utili-

zation of technology, but that they effectively courted and mobilized young voters with a candidate and platform that energized them.

"I think it's fair to say that if you look at the recent Alberta election from last spring, neither of the major parties had a candidate that really was appealing to the sentiments of younger people that sort of turn them onto politics," notes Archer. "When we find that 41 per cent of Albertans show up at the polls, maybe that's partly connected to them not being inspired to turn out."

The role of the education system in influencing youth engagement is key. A 1996-97 study conducted by political science professor Andre Blais examining the electorate of nine countries concluded that the two largest determinants of voting were education and age. A 2006 University of Sydney study found that roughly half of 5,000 Australian high schoolers polled felt they lacked enough knowledge to understand political parties, but also identified teachers, parents and the media as the most influential groups in terms of providing that knowledge. The 2003 Elections Canada study concluded that increased attention to civics education in schools would be effective in interesting young people in the political process.

The chicken and the egg dilemma

The ability to solve youth apathy seems to be in the hands of political parties or governments, both often having an obvious partisan agenda. Dougherty says that political parties are still unsure about how to approach youth voters.

"Young people are not a group that these political parties are ca-

tering to because our vote doesn't matter because we don't vote," says Dougherty. "So, you know, they don't want young people to start voting because they don't know how they're going to vote. So, in a way, it's one of these funny catch-22s where we need to get involved for them to want to present that information in a way that is relevant to us."

In the meantime, it may fall upon

the media and activist groups already involved in politics to get more people engaged in the process. Groups like Y Vote and Apathy is Boring are actively engaged in getting young adults involved in politics, while Canada's mainstream media is increasingly becoming involved with Twitter feeds and blogs, joining an already thriving alternative media base. The increas-

ing wealth of political information available to web-savvy young Canadians may hold the key to more engagement at the polls.

Nevertheless, Canadians under 25 years of age remain the least politically active group in the country. Until youth are mobilized at the polls, it seems unlikely that the parties will deem them important enough to cater to in any meaningful fashion.



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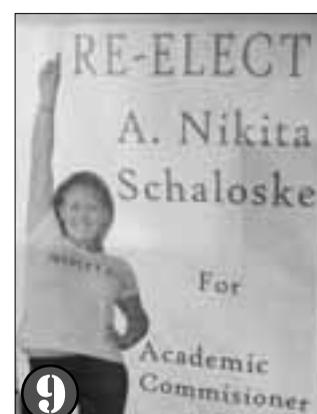
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2009 GAUNTLET ELECTION SWAT



The middle of February is generally a time devoted to love and affection. That is, unless you're a student at the University of Calgary and have to suffer through the annual Students' Union election campaign. In the spirit of the season, the Gauntlet's Academic Probation section has collected the three biggest assholes in the office to tear apart the hard work of others for their own amusement.

The Judges: Jordyn Marcellus, Ryan Pike and Jon Roe

[1] Lance Stewart

Ryan: This guy must be a narcissist, look at how many 'I's are over the page!

Jon: I believe that no one is going to do that much reading.

Ryan: I believe the Obama two-tone just made my eyes vomit.

Jordyn: He's totally missing the most important 'I': "Ingratiating himself to admin for a reference letter."

[2] Ola Mohajer

Jon: I have no idea what to think of Ola's campaign. She has 6,000 ideas and they're all lazy. It's as if she rolled out of bed the day before the deadline and went "Uh, I guess Obama won. Let's do that."

Ryan: Change? Really? How will she change anything as an academic commissioner?

Jon: Judging by their posters, commissioners are lucky if they can change a light bulb.

[3] Charlotte Kingston

Jordyn: Apparently the presidential skill set does not require you to make sure your head is centred in your headshot.

Jon: Her poster looks like something you'd hang at a funeral.

Ryan: Who has an epitaph that reads "environmental responsibility, community, leadership?"

Jordyn: The '60s.

Ryan: That explains her other posters. "Her grass is greener?"

Jon: Where can we buy some?

[4] Yisha Pang

Jon: First time I saw this poster I had no fucking clue what her name was.

Jordyn: Ninety per cent of the vote is people recognizing your name. You have failed your first test, Haskayne Rep.

Ryan: With Haskayne churning out students like this, no wonder the economic future looks bleak.

[5] Teale Phelps Bondaroff

Jon: He didn't put up any posters for a long

time. I was worrying that he wasn't "the real deal" anymore.

Jordyn: He obviously doesn't have enough experience to spell Board of Governors right — maybe three more years as social sciences faculty rep will fix that.

Jon: Way to go Teale. You can obviously tell that he's getting lazy: this is the same photo from his NDP election campaign.

Ryan: Just like his provincial and federal campaigns, this one was doomed to failure before he even started.

Jon: At least he won't finish last — his other competitor, John Evans, dropped out.

[6] Sam Singla

Jon: I know what part of the body the taint is, but I'm scared to find out what the gaint is.

Ryan: He obviously has a spelling handicap. Why can't our academic commissioners spell?

Jordyn: Is our academic commissioners learning?

[7] Chris McMillan

Jon: Kudos to the idea. I found this in the washroom and I sure would try to piss away this poster if I could arc it that way.

Jordyn: Well, running for president is just

like Master Debaters — you're yelling at two people who just don't give a shit.

Ryan: What's Master Debaters?

Jordyn: Exactly.

Jon: I guess being the president of debate club doesn't prepare you to do anything worthwhile.

[8] Alyssa Stacy

Jon: Someone who's clinically depressed shouldn't be an op-fi commissioner. Especially with the recession.

Ryan: The reason she looks so forlorn is because she's psychic. She's seen the future and it's worse.

Jordyn: I really hope she isn't actually clinically depressed. Or psychic.

Jon: Whatever it is, all the red ink on the su financial statements won't make her any happier.

[9] Nikita Schaloske

Jon: Dude, look at the slogan on her shirt: Nikita — for girls who like to ride.

Jordyn: It's a gutsy move to out yourself like that.

Jon: She looks awfully excited to wear a shirt with her own name on it.

Ryan: NIHIHIKITAAAAAAA!

see SWAT, page 20



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SWAT, CONT'D FROM PG 19

[10] Luke Valentine

Jordyn: Luke Valentine — because it couldn't possibly get any worse.

Ryan: How about a second term?

Jon: Ooooh. Tough crowd.

[11] Christian Loudon

Jon: He looks awfully dignified for a man who once shit in a garbage can.

Ryan: The smell still lingers. It's been a year-and-a-half.

Jordyn: He's your problem now, su!

[12] Dan Pagan

Ryan: Speaking of the su's problem...

Jon: If you're going to directly steal from something, get it right.

Jordyn: I can make a poster and so can't you too!

Jon: And also, you as well.

Ryan: And additionally, you also.

Jon: Man, that's harsh. It's a good thing he won't hear any of this.

Ryan: Jon, we're actually printing this.

Jon: What?

[13] NUTV Levy Campaign

Jon: I don't think students really love campus community television — didn't they vote "no" last time?

Ryan: It's one macaroni smiley face from being an elementary student's Valentine's Day card.

Jordyn: Well, obviously elementary students love NUTV.

Jon: Guys, seriously. We get it,

you're not clever. We know that NUTV actually stands for new TVs. We're not going to pick up the tab for your plasma screen, Tinu.

[14] Kat Lord

Jon: I've been to parties with Kat Lord — everyone's expression tells the story. She's not an event.

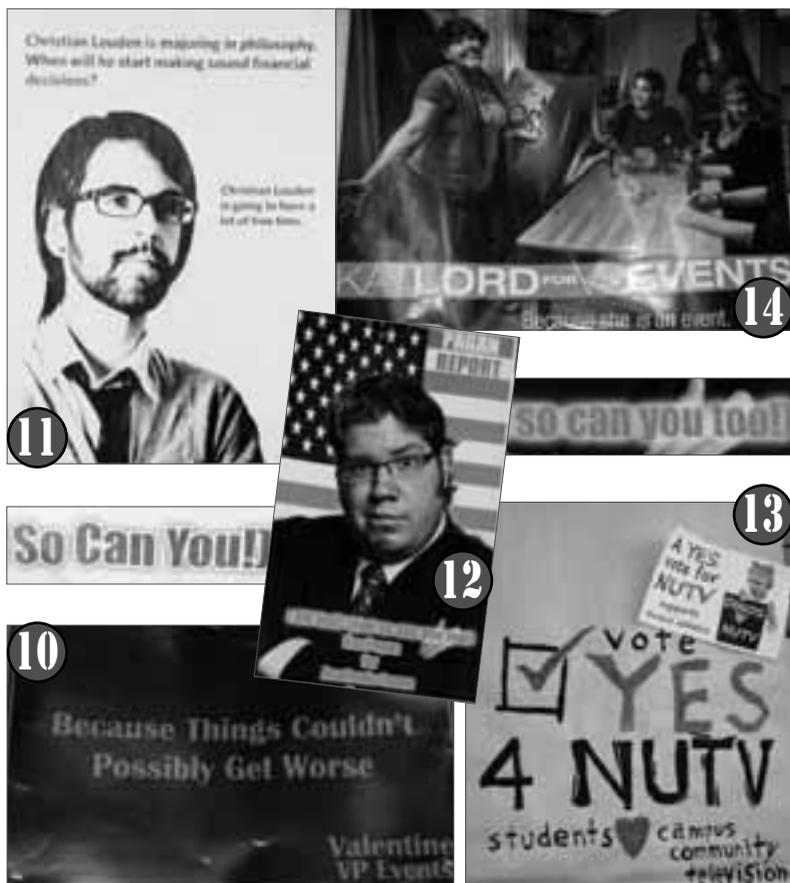
Ryan: It looks like no one is having fun. Way to go Kat.

Jordyn: Guys, let's be fair here. Kat is an event — a party apocalypse. She is the end-bringer of fun.

Jon: If party death had a costume, it would be Kat Lord's wardrobe.

Ryan: Who even plays Monopoly or Twister anymore?

Jon: Where is the penis safari board game? We miss that.



COOLEST THING I SAW IN THE GALAPAGOS: DARWIN'S FINCHES

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I'm still searching for my motto.

Spent a summer in Kunming, China, helping people living with HIV/AIDS.

Africa next.

Science is creativity. That's what I try to get kids to see.

I volunteer, teaching kids SCIENCE.

Some roll a tennis ball down a hill. I ask them to think what if it was a bowling ball?

VERIFY YOUR THOUGHTS.

I study the "drill" part of the HIV virus. I'm trying to stop it from working.

Protecting the environment is good. Living in harmony with it is BETTER.

Helped build my college's spiritual centre.

WORKING ON A VACCINE FOR HIV.

There's no such thing as a "rapid" infection.

WORKING ON A VACCINE FOR HIV.

STUDENTS TAKING ACTION IN CHIAPAS.

I speak 3/4 languages. (I'm learning Mandarin.)

一起 (together)

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Millennium Excellence Award Recipient

Le difficile n'est pas de monter, mais, en montant de rester soi.
- Michellet

Volunteered to do recreation for young kids.

Helped build my college's spiritual centre.

Did field research on endangered Alouatta Palliata monkeys in Ecuador.

Internship in France for HIV prevention campaign.

I love to hike.

I've done fundraising for Kosovo refugees.

Gun and rehab in Haiti, Canada, PA

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ERICA MORNINGSTAR

Swimming
Erica Morningstar was a record-breaking machine at the Canada West Swimming Championships in Victoria, leading the Dinos to the conference title. The 2008 Beijing Olympian brought home six gold medals and six Canada West records, along with one silver medal. She and the Dinos go for their first-ever CIS women's title Feb. 19-21 in Vancouver.



DAVID WOODMAN

Swimming
Calgary native David Woodman was named the Canada West rookie of the year after helping the Dinos to their third straight conference title. In his first varsity competition, David picked up bronze medals in the 100- and 200-metre freestyle events and swam in the Dinos' gold medal-winning 400- and 800-metre relays.

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Lady Dinos are aces of ACAC

Goyette's squad looks to enter playoffs strong

women's hockey

Chris 'Doc' Pedersen
Sports Editor

Grant MacEwan has flashier jerseys and socks that are modern, streamlined and flashy, but everyone knows that the aesthetics of a team only carry it so far. The Dinos women's hockey jerseys, on the other hand, have not received the upgrade that is deserved, but there is little upgrade needed for their skills.

On an exciting Friday night at the Olympic Oval, the Dinos did what was expected and defeated the Grant MacEwan Griffins 2-1. The Dinos followed up the win with a 2-1 victory in the rematch in Edmonton on Saturday.

The Dinos controlled the scoreboard for 59 minutes on Friday, only allowing one late goal.

"Although we had some ups and downs, in the end, we pulled it off," said Dinos forward Shelby Davey.

Throughout the last several years, the Dinos have faced a tough test in the Griffins, who step up their play when visiting the Oval.

"I'm not too sure about in the past, but I feel we have been able to handle them this year," said Davey. "I don't see any challenge with them."

Defenceman Danielle Braaten also expressed her feelings regarding the Griffins and the Dinos inconsistencies.

"The thing is, we have been off our game since Christmas," said Braaten. "We have been really inconsistent and I guess every team has been a struggle so far. We play a good first period and then shit the bed in the second period."

The goal lights did not flash often on Friday, but both teams had numerous scoring chances. Goalies Katie Urness of the Dinos and Alycia Monahan of the Griffins made tremendous saves, keeping the game tight.

In the first period, the Dinos missed a big opportunity to score, as Monahan was lying on the ground in the crease after making a save, and the puck was shot towards the gaping net. It hit a defenceman at the last minute, saving an almost sure goal for the Dinos. The Dinos outshot the



Photos: Geoff MacIntosh Design: Jon Roe, Chris Pedersen and Paul Baker

Dinos have the upper hand going into the ACAC playoffs.

Griffins 9-4 and the teams went to the locker rooms tied at zero.

The board-shaking hits happened early in the second when Dinos forward Erin Davidson drove behind the Griffins net, where she was checked, head first, into the boards. Davidson would be fine and she immediately jumped up and continued play. That hit sparked the Dinos momentarily,

and on a four-on-three powerplay, Shannon Davidson got revenge, putting the puck through Monahan's five-hole for the first goal of the game. The goal provided some relief for the Dinos, who looked overwhelmed at the end of the period.

"The first two periods were pretty shaky," said Braaten. "It kind of got

scary, but we pulled it off again, another W, and that's all you can ask for."

The game turned interesting in the third as the teams battled hard, barely giving an inch. The Dinos took the first chance, but the shot bounced off Monahan's glove, went straight in the air, and with Monahan looking around for the puck, it bounced just inside the post, on top of the net. It was as close as

a team can get to scoring — without scoring.

The Dinos responded positively and only moments later Davey redirected a Braaten point shot past Monahan. Davey was modest about the goal after the game.

"I just try and get the puck on my stick and hopefully it goes somewhere good," she said.

The goal provided the Dinos with some needed breathing room on the scoreboard. The teams traded break-aways close to the end of the period, with both goalies making difficult saves to preserve the score.

The Dinos were able to stymie the Griffin's offence until just over a minute left in the third. The Dinos took a penalty and with their goalie pulled, the Griffins were able to score a late goal to make the game interesting.

Right from the faceoff the Griffins crowded the net, and after the initial shot, Leanna Kordyban took the rebound and blasted it past Urness.

"Oh God," said Braaten. "We had a setup that we were supposed to do, a certain play, and right from faceoff, it screwed up and we were running around like chickens with our heads cut off."

The goal inspired the Griffins and they continued to put pressure on the Dinos for the remaining minute, but were unable to the score. The

Dinos held on and came away with the win.

The Dinos have two games left before the Alberta Colleges Athletics Conference playoffs, both against the SAIT Trojans.

"We're just keeping up our training and we will get back to the team we used to be before the Christmas break," said Braaten.

The Dinos have a first-round bye and host the ACAC semi-finals. It will be a tough road for the Dinos through the playoffs, but they are confident and looking to improve upon last year's second place finish to the Griffins.

"I'm feeling good because I have confidence in these girls," said Davey. "In the end, we pull it through, as you guys have seen. We'll do well and make a run for it."

The Dinos wrap up the regular season with a two-game series against SAIT this weekend starting with an away game on Feb. 13. They host SAIT on Feb. 14 at the Olympic Oval. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

SCORE	
DINOS	GRIFFINS
2	1

Dinos have sights set on CIS gold

Swim team knows winning takes more than lucky beards

swimming

Moira Wolstenholme
Gauntlet Sports

If you've been in the vicinity of the University of Calgary Kinesiology complex, more specifically Baron's Court, over the past two weeks, you may have noticed an overwhelming presence of scruffy young men, perhaps in the process of eating a breakfast bagel or two.

If so, you have witnessed firsthand a small glimpse of the Dino men's swim-team in their final preparation for the Canadian Interuniversity Sport championships, which will begin Feb. 19 on the pool deck of the University of British Columbia Aquatic Centre.

The beards are the swimmer's equivalent of the playoff beard donned by NHL teams contesting for the Stanley Cup. After weeks of whiskered existence, the Dino men will emerge on the pool deck next Thursday clean-shaven and ready to race. These beards have been weeks in the making and

are a somewhat light-hearted echo of the weeks, nay months, of intense preparation to which they have dedicated themselves in the pool and weight-room leading up to the CIS championships. The breakfast bagels are a favourite post-workout snack.

The anticipation for next weekend extends, of course, far beyond the facial hair of the men's team. Although already having established themselves as Canada West champions for two years in a row, both the men and women have kept their sights on the glittering title of CIS champions.

"I am so incredibly pumped to race," says Jessika Craig, second-year team member and winner of the 200 metre backstroke at this year's Canada West championships. "This year, we are confident we can win."

This tone of confidence echoes across the U of C pool deck, but

it does not indicate any underestimation of the challenge facing the Dinos as they again go head-to-head with the UBC Thunderbirds

"There has been so much hard work and incredible commitment put in to recruiting and building this amazing team."

**—Katelyn Murdoch,
Dinos swim team**

on their home turf. Both Canada West swimmers of the meet were awarded to Thunderbirds this year and UBC was still able to hold off the Dinos for the women's CIS title last year, keeping them from their first championship in history.

However, it is this lack of overt bravado in the Dinos' comportment that leads the observer to believe strongly in their ability to win.

It is a confidence that stems not from a self-conscious effort to intimidate, but from a simple knowledge that they have done

what it takes to come out of this varsity season victorious.

"There has been so much hard work and incredible commitment put in to recruiting and building this amazing team," says Katelyn Murdoch, who recently returned from a semester of intense training in Australia, "Both the swimmers and the coaches have

been completely dedicated, and it is going to pay off this weekend."

It is possible that this year's swim team has been described using the words "cohesive" and

"dedicated" more than any previous year. Although the men and women must win separate titles, both are actively anticipating each others' win. They are united in the desire to make history, knocking the Thunderbirds off the top of the podium once and for all.

Both Dinos teams are ranked first in the country heading to UBC, placing high expectations on their shoulders.

At this point, it is merely a case of racing exactly how they have trained all year long and Murdoch believes that the Dinos are more than ready.

"All the work is done, now it's our time to shine."

The swim team will compete at the CIS championships Feb. 19–21. The meet will be held in Vancouver at UBC.



Gauntlet file photo

Grunt! Mike Brown and Chris Tobin work on their beards.

Senior trio gets proper send-off, kicks more ass

Harper, Young, Perry have endured five years of sacrifice, hardwork and glory

women's volleyball

Brad Halasz
Sports Editor

Where do you see yourself in five years? Will you have the same job, friends, lifestyle? Chances are you won't. That is why the longevity of senior trio Holly Harper, Julie Young and Lauren Perry is to be admired.

The veteran Dinos women's volleyball stars took their final regular season game in stride at the Jack Simpson Gym on Saturday and did so with their trademark dominating style, beating the Simon Fraser University Clan in just over an hour (25-9, 25-18, 25-13).

"To me it's the most important night of the year because it's about those girls," said Dinos head coach Jesse Knight. "To accomplish a five-year career is such a tough thing. The reason it's so incredible to be a five-year athlete is because of everything you have to endure, and that's on and off the court, from injuries, to sacrificing."

The Dinos used the energy of Senior's Night to maintain a focused but relaxed pace — a game plan that they hope to carry over to the playoffs.

"Our plan was to go out and have

fun, we already clinched a second place spot for playoffs," said Harper. "It was about having a good time, a nice relaxing game right before playoffs before the pressure starts."

Knight echoed Harper's comments, adding that the game wasn't meaningless.

"The direction can only be progressed," said Knight. "Anytime that you're stationary, you're in trouble. It's about keeping balance, not just

going with what they give you. It's always a new challenge every night to try and read people defensively."

When the first set ended Harper had five kills, Spence followed with four.

The onslaught didn't wane as the three seniors were responsible for 21 of the team's 38 kills on the night.

While the game was a playoff tune-up, it also served as a cathartic outlet for the ending of an era.

The focus of the night was to have fun, but keep the play consistent in preparation for the Canada West quarter-finals. The Dinos face the University of Regina Cougars for a second year in a row in the quarter-finals.

This is the final year Harper, Young and Perry have to add to their legacy. Four consecutive bronze medals in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport

championships is more than enough to constitute a legacy, though Young sees it as a nagging chip on her shoulder. She's after that illustrious gold.

"Bronze doesn't cut it for us this year," said Young. "We have to play to the max, play our best. For the three seniors, it's do or die now and we have to give everything we got. It's all about owning the court."

Harper, too, sees the opportunity to play two more games at home as the real send-off.

"We're all aware we're playing Regina and we know they're going to be a tough team to beat, but we know we can beat them and it's going to be a really fun weekend," she said. "It's going to be a closer game; it's going to come down to the wire with them."



Paul Baker/the Gauntlet

In your face! Fifth-year Lauren Perry (#12) goes for the block.

SCORE

DINOS CLAN

3

SETS

0

The Dinos host the University of Regina Cougars in the Canada West quarter-finals Feb. 13-14 in the Jack Simpson Gym. Both games go at 6 p.m.

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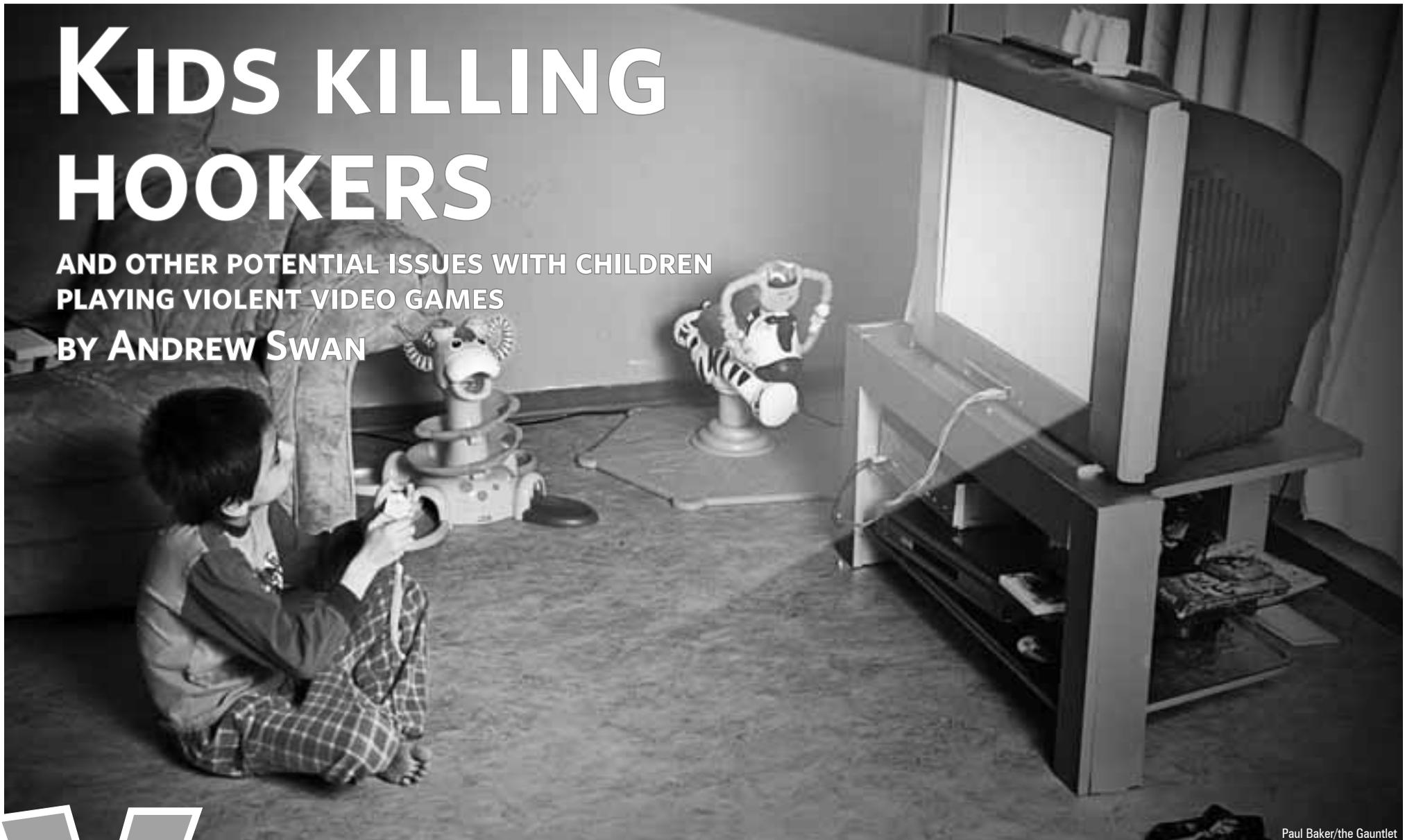


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KIDS KILLING HOOKERS

AND OTHER POTENTIAL ISSUES WITH CHILDREN PLAYING VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES

BY ANDREW SWAN



Paul Baker/the Gauntlet

Video games have become an undeniable part of our entertainment culture. The gaming industry continues to grow and is gradually appealing to a wider and wider audience. Millions of video game consoles are sold every year and the same can be said of the multitude of games that are accessible for those consoles. But not all games sell millions — some barely make it to the million mark. Strangely, the recent trend, at first glance, appears to have violent video games dominating the market. Many people gravitate to the games with violent content — *Grand Theft Auto IV* and *Gears of War* to name just a pair — when searching for a new entertainment experience on their video game platforms. However, the focus in the morality debate surrounding violent video games has settled around children playing games rated “M” for Mature. In recent years, a great movement to target the developers and publishers of such games has attempted to bring about a change. This attack surprisingly, aims at forcing these kinds of games from even being made.

Developers and publishers of video games are, respectively, the companies that design and create the games and market and release the created games for sale. In the United States in particular, the focus of criticism falls on them. Companies like Rockstar Games, most known for its *Grand Theft Auto* series, have come under direct fire from high-powered moral critics. But are the developers and publishers of violent

video games the groups that should be focused on?

University of Calgary professor Dr. Jim Parker has been involved in game design and development, researching the design process and creating innovative games in the Digital Media Laboratory at the U of C since 1998.

Parker says the assumption built in the previous years that games with some violent content are synonymous with games in general is false.

“Violent games are a niche market,” he explains. “It is not the majority market, it’s quite the contrary. A relatively small percent of games are [rated M], 15 per cent maybe.”

He says violent games make up a very small

“IN ORDER TO WIN A VIDEO GAME, YOU HAVE TO ADOPT THE MORALITY OF THE GAME DESIGNER. IN OTHER WORDS, A GAME DESIGNER SAYS, ‘RIGHT, IN ORDER TO WIN THIS GAME YOU HAVE TO KILL PROSTITUTES.’ ”

corner of the gaming industry overall, and though they are often successful, they are by no means the most popular.

“The really popular games are games like *the Sims*, which is the most popular one in the market,” he adds.

The Sims, which is rated “T” for Teen by the Entertainment Software Ratings Board, is a hugely successful game franchise. As of April 2008, *The Sims 2* has sold over 100 million copies worldwide. Though violent games are popular, none have come even close to the popularity of the non-violent *Sims* franchise.

For the violent game market however, the fact

that there is a rating system in place as sufficient enough warning for consumers.

“As far as they’re concerned, the ‘M’ on the box is good enough and, frankly, there’s something to be said about that,” Parker says.

The Entertainment Software Ratings Board assigns classifications to games to determine which age group they are suitable for and these ratings have been successful for the industry. Not only have they inspired developers to eliminate some controversial content, they also serve as a means to deflect criticism should children play them.

“You can now say, ‘Well, we told you it was M,’” Parker says. “I think that’s reasonably accurate.

—DR. JIM PARKER

A lot of game developers think ‘M’ is the kiss of death for their game, so they struggle to get [a rating of] ‘T’ or below.”

Parker notes, though the ratings do tone down content, the controversy is not just about the content itself, but what it means for the gamer.

“The designer builds into the game the goals,” he explains. “In order to win a video game, you have to adopt the morality of the game designer. In other words, a game designer says, ‘Right, in order to win this game you have to kill prostitutes.’ Well, that’s what you have to do to win the game.”

But should it really be the game developers

that receive the brunt of criticism for how it affects children playing? Not necessarily. Parker says parents are the first line for defence.

“Parents should understand better how video games really affect their children and they don’t,” he says. “Media affects people. [They] tend to oversimplify things by saying, ‘It’s obvious that...’ or, ‘Anyone can see that this game will affect their child in this way.’ ”

While certain developers continue to create violent games, Parker says the access to these games should primarily be the responsibility of the parent.

“Parents have to pay attention,” he says. “They’ve got to watch. If you send your kid to a 14A-rated movie and your kid is 12, the theatre is supposed to keep them out. But there’s some variation in ages and they can’t always tell. So let’s face it, that’s not going to work. You’ve got to pay attention.”

The big question in this debate is whether violent games are truly as pervasive and dangerous as many are made to believe. Parker says the bottom line of the current gaming climate is surprising.

“The truth is — and this is a big truth — if video games and violence in them affects children negatively, then why is youth violence at an all-time low after 20 years of video games?” he asks. “It doesn’t make sense.”

If violent video games possess very negative influences as the strongest critics claim, it still remains that violent games are a small segment of the overall market. Ultimately, whether or not these games should be created is not the question; it’s how the impact of these games is perceived by the public.

U of C spins Shakespeare classic

H a m l e t
t h e a t r e p r e v i e w

Roman Auriti

Gauntlet Entertainment

Love, betrayal and stress are all feelings that present day university students face during their university years. William Shakespeare understood this when he wrote *Hamlet* and managed to express these emotions in a very human way that, literally, people of all ages could relate to in some way. The University of Calgary drama department will channel his words Feb. 17–28 as they embark on their own version of the play.

U of C has never attempted one of Shakespeare's four big plays (*Macbeth*, *King Lear*, *Othello* and *Hamlet*) and director Patrick Finn says they're adding in a twist.

"It's an all female cast," he explains.

"Calgary is loaded with brilliant female actors. There are a lack of roles for all of these brilliant women. I can't imagine why anybody would stage a Shakespeare play without doing gender-blind casting. I said that anybody could try out for any role, and when you do that, what you find is that you have so many brilliant women actors that you're going to be able to stage just about anything as long as you give them the chance to do the roles."

Finn also explains they decided to stage everything in the original time period as well as alter all of the University Theatre for their purposes. *Hamlet* is also getting its own unique score written right here at the U of C.

"I'm really interested in music and wanted really good music for this show," says Finn. "The difficulty with that is what people often do is that people will pick songs that they like and stick them into the show, but that

doesn't make them fit. Songs have been composed for when Ophelia's mad and for the grave diggers singing in the graveyard and those songs are specifically based off Danish folk songs directly from that time period. [Our composer has] gone back and researched those things, [including] all natural instruments [and] tunings from that time period."

The drama department has put in an incredible amount of detail. Finn says it's all in an attempt to emulate Shakespeare's vision.

"Including intermission, it's less than two and a half hours, just like how Shakespeare did it," he explains. "When Shakespeare did this, it lasted two hours. That's the way ours is. *Hamlet* is an exciting, fast-paced play with ghosts, sword fights, love, jealousy, murder, betrayal and a climatic ending."

Hamlet runs Feb. 17–28 in the University Theatre.
The show starts at 7:30 p.m.



Amanda Hu/the Gauntlet

This is quite the face-off.

It's 365 days and 12 months a year of DD/MM/YYYY

D D / M M / Y Y Y Y
m u s i c p r e v i e w

Jordyn Marcellus

Entertainment Assistant

For DD/MM/YYYY ("day month year"), making music is a 24/7, 365 days a year gig. Yet somehow in the hustle and bustle of transcontinental rock touring, they found some time to actually record a new album, *Black Squares*, dropping via digital release next week.

The band has spent their time crisscrossing Canada and the United States *ad nauseam*, playing innumerable basement shows and even booking a rad pool party at a YMCA located in a mining town in northern Alberta.

With *Square*, the band has refined their sound and added some jazz experimentalism to help mix things up a bit. They recorded with Roger Leavens at Boombox Sound — a music and film design company — which was an atypical studio for the band to record in.

"What he does in the day is that he records jingles and does overdubs for video games," says drummer Moshe Rosenberg. "But at night, he likes to rock out so we come over there to crank up the volume."

Since they were recording in a

space that was meant for commercial work, the band wasn't able to spend their waking daytime hours in the recording studio. Rosenberg says the stop-start recording process helped make the album take even longer in the minds of the band.

"When we were recording it was at night and usually only for three hours at a time," says Rosenberg. "You just spend most of your time hearing things back, setting up microphones, so it felt like we were working on it for eight months or something."

The time spent on the record shows though. It's easily their most refined album to date, retaining the fluid, skronky noise-punk of their past albums, but with longer, more exploratory tracks. There's a little less of DD/MM/YYYY's trademark musical-ADD, adding a lot more maturity to the mix.

"We took all the different noises in our heads and we actually went ahead and refined them," says Rosenberg. "We were picky with it. In previous albums, we just wanted to give everybody insight into what we were thinking. We didn't care if it was a complete thought. We just wanted to give them what we were thinking. This time around we chose the highlights."

Because of the occasional frustrations of the logistics of record distribution, the boys in DD/MM/

YYYY felt releasing *Squares* digital-only in the first month was the best plan. Hard copy purists will still be able to get their own CD or record a month from now, but the fanatics won't have to wait. Rosenberg explains it was just a desire to fi-

nally get the record complete that spurred the choice.

"It's been such a long time coming with this album and we just wanted it out already," he says. "When it comes to releasing stores, I don't know how it works, but you

have to be more strategic about it. With digital, we said, 'Fuck man, the songs are ready — why don't we just let people listen?'"

DD/MM/YYYY plays Broken City on Feb. 20. Doors open at 8 p.m.

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February art has something for the attached and the lonely

Olivia Komorowski
Art Action



Ah February, the official month of over-priced rushed meals for two and tacky stuffed animals. Sure, you can celebrate the relationship you have with your significant other(s) in this potentially phony manner or you can do something thoughtful. Take your sweetie to an art show or literary event and not only will they be impressed, but you will have the opportunity to get to know each other on a new level. However, just because Valentine's Day lasts only 24 hours, doesn't mean you shouldn't show your affection all month long, so take advantage of as many artsy goodies as you can. And if you're flying solo this month, there couldn't be a sexier place to meet your future bed partner than one of these art gigs.

There are only 10 days left to see what will certainly be one of the Glenbow Museum's most popular exhibits, "Marilyn Monroe: Life as a Legend." The show, covering her life from her

humble beginnings as Norma Jeane to the bombshell sex icon of Marilyn Monroe, contains many well-known paintings, dresses and photographs. In conjunction with the exhibit, an award-winning one-woman play, *Marilyn: Forever Blonde*, is showing at the ConocoPhillips Theatre (in the Glenbow), Thursdays to Saturdays at 7 p.m. and weekends at 2 p.m. Tickets don't come cheap at about \$30, but they include admission to the exhibit.

TRUCK contemporary art gallery, at 815 First St. sw, is hosting their opening reception of Brendan Fernandes' "Mutual Surrender," on Feb. 20. The artist, who works out of New York City and Toronto, was born in Kenya of Indian heritage. He examines the return to his birthplace by comparing stereotypes, documentary footage and his own experience. Fernandes has exhibited all over the world and has received various grants from the Ontario and Canada Council for the Arts.

The Art Gallery of Calgary brings together renowned Canadian artist Iain Baxter with four promising ACAD students to collaborate on an experimental installation that will attempt to demonstrate the vital role of

contemporary art in developing new perspectives that directly influence our culture. Come see the culmination of the two week creative process, on until Apr. 4.

Also a must-see at the gallery is Jon Pylypchuk who, through sculpture, paintings and installation, explores the uncomfortable realities of finding ourselves between humour and tragedy and touches on topics of corporeality and mortality.

The University's Nickle Arts Museum is not one to miss out on the fun. They are hosting "Fragments of Infinity" by Ronald Bloore, a talented artist who innovated painting techniques early in his career. Interestingly, Bloore has spent the last 40 years creating non-representational white on white paintings. However, he has slowly come over to the coloured side, increasingly adding dabs of colour to his works since 2002. Today, his paintings are represented in full-blown colour, a sample of which will be in the show. Though you don't have to understand it to enjoy it if you need a guiding hand through this, come to the curator's talk Mar. 5 at 12 p.m.

Also at the museum is a selection of works stretching back to 1968 by

Walter Jule in the show "SKIN." Jule, an Edmontonian, is considered one of Canada's premier print artists. Throughout his works he investigates the metaphors drawn between insignificant objects and human existence so that a ball of aluminum can represent our subjective human experience. Both shows run until April.

If all these big official galleries make you shake in your boots, there is an alternative. One of Calgary's most indie art galleries is 809 Gallery at 809 Fifth Ave. nw. This make-shift gallery, which you enter through the alley, is hosted in a Kensington garage. It was established with a predestined life expectancy of 809 days by four young ACAD graduates. This means the gallery is closing by July of this year, so get your fix now. Their open-minded approach to art spaces is mimicked in the kinds of shows they host, giving opportunities to artists that wouldn't otherwise get the exposure.

"[Our mandate is] to show people that are really important to the Calgary [art] scene but don't have means," says Shawn Mankowske, co-owner of the gallery. "It's a really cool house party for intelligent people."

He adds the shows often have a re-

laxed vibe which definitely juxtaposes with the often-starchy reception at larger venues. Their last show, curated by Mikhail Miller, was packed with young people and featured a rap-playing DJ, a fridge of beer and possibly the smell of green freshness in the air.

Their next show, featuring "Making It," by Heather Smith, is opening Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. Her drawings and sculptures explore invisible social structures that reinforce conformity and status quo especially in relation to women.

Finally, if you aren't too superstitious to leave your house tomorrow on Friday the 13th, venture down to Pages in Kensington to fill your mind with books and music. Dave Bedini from the Rheostatics will read from *Five Hole Stories* and *Around the World in 57 1/2 Gigs* then the band will play a selection from their CD, *Music from Five Hole: Tales of Hockey Erotica*.

That should be enough to keep you preoccupied with your special someone during the day, but what you do at night is a whole different art form!

Stay tuned for Film Festivities in the Feb. 26 Gauntlet!

this is BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

P u s h
m o v i e r e v i e w

Andrew Swan
Gauntlet Entertainment

So many movies based on comic books are being made these days and it is no wonder that some of them fall tragically short in comparison to their print counterparts. Very few comics or graphic novels can translate into silver

screen gold, but *Push* finds a way to do just that. It is a refreshing and enjoyable sci-fi thriller that leaves a pleasant aftertaste and a big desire for more. Following the pair of Nick (Chris Evans, *Fantastic Four*) and Cassie (Dakota Fanning, *War of the Worlds*), *Push* travels through Hong Kong on a twisting plot complete with intrigue, humour and action. Nick and Cassie are just two of many hundreds of individuals who have various psychic abilities at their disposal, the result of Nazi war

experiments in the 1940s that have been passed down genetically from generation to generation. Nick is a "Mover" — an individual who can use telekinesis — while Cassie is a "Watcher" — an individual who can see future events.

Nick and Cassie find themselves trapped in an intricate web when they unite with another psychic named Camilla (Kira Hudson), who is a "Pusher," a person with the ability to implant lies and false truths in the minds of their intend-

ed target. All the while, the three are being tracked by the devious Agent Henry Carver (Djimon Hounsou, *Blood Diamond*) and his gang of psychics from "Division," a clandestine government agency devoted to researching and using people with these abilities.

Push is an action thriller that pays off in spades. Not only is the plot original, it is also gloriously complicated and won't make complete sense until the final scene. While this might sound unfortunate, the fact that it connects so well is what makes this movie great. The cast also shines as Evans pulls off his role with a charm similar to that of his Johnny Storm in *Fantastic Four* and Hounsou is the bad guy you can't help but love because of his cool demeanor and cunning mind.

Fanning's performance is probably the best in the film, acting beyond her years as she plays a fiercely independent young teenager with a deep intellect and understanding of the world.

The action sequences are tastefully done and aren't too overbearing or draining. They are snappy, clever and make great use of the various abilities the characters have — and there are lots: Bleeders, Stickers, Shifters, Sniffs, Wipers, Shadows and more. Everyone will pick out a favourite ability they want to have because they are all just way too cool. *Push* easily invigorates the comic book movie genre with its clean action approach.

Push is playing in theatres everywhere. Check out myspace.com/pushmovie for more info.

JOSHUA JACKSON

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courtesy V Kelly & Associates

That's quite a bit of telekensis there!



Brent Randall and his Magnificent Pinecones
We Were Strangers in Paddington Green
(Just Friends Records)

This album begs to be made of summer, light as leaves and drifting on its breeze and probably would, before being blown off completely.

Brent Randall is from the east coast, but this album sounds more like it belongs to the forlorn moments in old summertime movies, where someone stands in the sunset and sad sounds waft over the montage until blasting into a concert hall playing to over-insulated walls for an off-Broadway musical enduring its final night, smiles stretched manically, the house band playing Iron Butterfly covers acoustically. The vocals all dress up like any number of narrators, incapable of telling a tale, who switch from tongue-in-cheek sly arrogance to ignorable whispers of a plotless story. If the backing instrumentation could be considered candy, the pianos, trumpets and sometime harpsichords would be over-dyed, made of high fructose corn syrup and shaped in child friendly forms, gladly sending your ears into hypoglycemic shock. Even in the moments where the horns blare and the drums are tuned low and the vocals are fluttering, “like bluebirds, flowers and other things,” there are Beatles crawling on it with little interest.

All told there are moments to applaud on the album, ironically excluding some of the tracks’ handclaps, but the guitars maintain poise and tone and the arrangements switch instrumentation in quick, inspired bursts. Though sadly, *We Were Strangers in Paddington Green* means an overall sparseness — like Paddington Green is a place where retiring cabarets play to empty fields on too cold summer nights where trees suck up the echoes, and drink in the sound leaving it flat.

..Garrett Hendriks



Calm Asa Coma
Calm Asa Coma
(Independent)

Calm Asa Coma’s self-titled debut album is an obvious freshman effort, but has enough charm to warrant future listening. Their CD opens with very literal introductions, each member playing their instrument or singing in seeming succession so you can get to know them. By the third song, you know what you like and what you don’t.

The song “Brittany” makes a good first impression after introducing itself with some interesting vocal harmonies. It leads well into the thrilling “Wandering,” showcasing some lesser-used guitar sounds.

The album’s unity comes from the vocals, which are charming at first, but eventually fall victim to monotonous refrains in the later songs. The band may have anticipated this, however, so in “Old Mr. Boston” they start throwing in surprise

endings to their songs with sudden intense instrumentation and vocals.

These surprises are less striking by the time you get to “The Trouble With,” but Calm Asa Coma seems to switch up their formula again. The first half of “Falcons” is more similar to the first section of the album with some clever instrument use that is rejuvenating. Unfortunately, they run out of lyrics again by the second half and fall back into a boring refrain.

Just when you think the album might be warming up again, the final song delivers another average performance. Fortunately, there is a hidden bonus track that again displays the band’s instrumental versatility with a charming acoustic performance. After the last half of the album, this surprise ending is welcome.

..Joseph Tubb



The Hylozoists
L'Île De Sept Villes
(Outside Music)

The Hylozoists’ latest release is a vocalist-free, orchestrated delight. Chock full of bountiful string arrangements and vibraphone melody lines, *L'Île De Sept Villes* skillfully jumps from ambient-sounding distorted strings and bowed percussion instruments at the beginning of the CD to triumphant movie soundtrack-esque tracks and classy pop rock in the latter half, all the while maintaining a cohesive and coherent feel to the album.

“Bras d’Or Lakes” stands out with its striking ability to emote with lamentful minor key string

vamping. Paul Aucoin’s vibraphone works perfectly in place of a vocal line and plays flawlessly towards the song’s chorus that builds with more and more strings. The climax of the song is powerful with all the group’s instruments in full force with melodica adding some understated grittiness underneath it all.

L'Île De Sept Villes proves the Hylozoists’ abilities as musicians and composers, solidifying their spot as contenders for Toronto’s best soon-to-be-recognized musical treasure.

..Amanda Hu



Christer
Techna
(CD Baby)

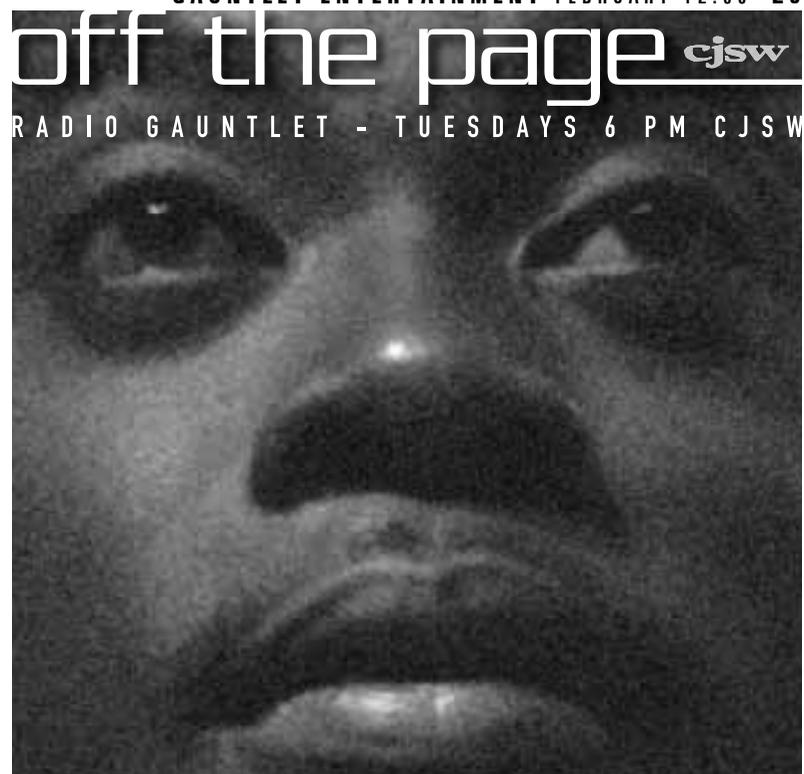
Christer’s *Techna* is one really long, bad song. It beckons memories of how excited everyone was when they discovered GarageBand on their MacBooks.

Throughout this awful project, Christer’s lyrics vary from “No one dances anymore! Let’s dance,” to “Yes, he has all my body parts in bags,” to “Koochie-koo.” Although she does take advantage of popular modern slang and drops the word “steeze” in her song “Trees and Rockets,” she is still limited to sounding like the

Postal Service if they had absolutely no talent. She describes her songs as “uncomplicated and accessible,” which one would have to agree with, seeing as a 12-year-old could replicate her songs exactly in an hour with their monotonous backing beats.

All in all, *Techna* is headache-inducing. Here’s hoping that Christer wakes up from her drug trip with a broken MacBook in hand.

..Laura Bardsley



HOSTED BY JON ROE AND KATY ANDERSON - INTERVIEWS - COMMENTARY - ANALYSIS
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OFFTHEPAGE@THEGAUNTLET.CA - BEDOUIN SOUNDCLASH PHOTO BY KEN CLARKE

RUN THE GAUNTLET

On Wed., March 11, the Gauntlet Publications Society will be holding elections for Tier I positions (Editor-in-Chief and News Editor).

All University of Calgary undergraduate students are eligible to run for these positions. Students interested in these positions must declare their candidacy by Wed., March 4 at 5 p.m.

Applicants must be available for a one hour editing test Thurs., March 5 or Fri., March 6 and a forum Fri., March 6.

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

VOX

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TOP 20 for the week of **FEB. 2.09**

- 1 **VARIOUS*** *The Hydeaway Issue No. 1 Winter 2009* (Push Pins)
- 2 **ANDREW BIRD** *Noble Beast* (Fat Possum)
- 3 **ANIMAL COLLECTIVE** *Merrweather Post Pavillion* (Domino)
- 4 **MT. EERIE, JULIE DOIRON & FRED SQUIRE** *Lost Wisdom* (P.W. Elverum & Sun)
- 5 **THE HYLOZOISTS*** *L'île De Sept Villes* (Outside)
- 6 **VARIOUS** *55 Years Of Jazz* (Delmark)
- 7 **WOODPIGEON**** *Treasury Library Canada / Houndstooth Europa* (Boompaa)
- 8 **MADLIB** *Beat Konducta: Vol. 5-6* (Stones Throw)
- 9 **SUPERSUCKERS** *Get It Together* (Mid-Fi)
- 10 **PARTS & LABOR** *Receivers* (Jagjaguar)
- 11 **LAND OF TALK*** *Young Bridge* (One Little Indian)
- 12 **ANDRE ETHIER*** *Born On Blue Fog* (Blue Fog)
- 13 **HOWLIES** *Trippin' With Howlies* (Overunder)
- 14 **COTTON JONES** *Paranoid Cocoon* (Suicide Squeeze)
- 15 **VARIOUS** *Dark Was The Night* (4AD)
- 16 **MODERN SKIRTS** *All Of Us In Our Night* (indie)
- 17 **PAINS OF BEING PURE AT HEART** *Pains Of Being Pure At Heart* (Slumberland)
- 18 **ISOBEL CAMPBELL & MARK LANEGAN** *Sunday At Devil Dirt* (v2)
- 19 **THE BICYCLES*** *Oh No It's Love* (Fuzzy Logic)
- 20 **ELECTRIC FRANKENSTEIN / MAXIMUM RNR** *Life In Rewind / Turmoil* (indie)

WORLD

- 1 **BENAÏSSA** *Tables Turn* (Silver Kamel)
- 2 **MIKEY SPICE** *Walk A Mile* (VP)
- 3 **MR. VEGAS** *The Hits* (Greensleeves)
- 4 **VARIOUS** *Penthouse Showcase* (VP)
- 5 **KAYA PROJECT** *And So It Goes* (Mariko)

JAZZ

- 1 **VARIOUS** *55 Years Of Jazz* (Delmark)
- 2 **RON DAVIS*** *The Bestseller* (Minerva)
- 3 **BEN HENRIQUES*** *The Responsibility Club* (Rare Bird)
- 4 **MATTHEW SHIPP TRIO** *Harmonic Disorder* (Thirsty Ear)
- 5 **THE PEGGY LEE BAND*** *New Code* (Drip)

MYKE'S PICKS

- 1 **ANTONY & THE JOHNSONS**
- 2 **MALE**
- 3 **PHOSPHORESCENT**
- 4 **BEIRUT**
- 5 **J. TILLMAN**

SPOTLIGHT ON CALGARY



Calgary's Woodpigeon has signed on with the newly rejuvenated Boompaa label. I honestly thought the label was dead

after not hearing from them in a while, and they're back with a bunch of great new releases, including a reissue of Woodpigeon's *Treasury Library Canada* with the *Houndstooth Europa* record as an added bonus. And if you thought that's a lot of output, the band will be having a new full length out on the label sometime soon.

woodpigeon-songbook.com
www.myspace.com/woodpigeon

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The sexy space between the goalie's legs

One Yellow Rabbit reprises one of their most well-known acts for a national tour

F i v e H o l e
 t h e a t r e p r e v i e w

Claire Fenton

Gauntlet Entertainment with files from Jordyn Marcellus

A five hole, in hockey terminology, is the space between the goalie's legs. There could not be a better metaphor to aptly describe the union of One Yellow Rabbit artistic director Blake Brooker, writer Dave Bidini and the *Rheostatics* bringing Calgary theatre a little taste of erotic hockey and all the hilarity that goes with it.

Five Hole: Tales of Hockey Erotica aims at entertaining on the basis of Canadian culture, desire and humour, all shown through the retrospective lens of hockey. Derived from the hockey erotica book by Dave Bidini, the play also has a unique musical touch. Toronto rock band the *Rheostatics* add even more eye-opening curiosity to the series of plays.

"It's got two of Canada's favourite pastimes — sex and hockey — and also a third, rock and roll," says Brooker. "So it's a common issue of those things and it's quite funny."

The show, back after a hiatus, is in Calgary for only one night and then begins a Canadian tour starting in the Yukon of all places. But even way up north, Brooker expects the show to resonate well.

"The response we had from the first run was very strong," says



courtesy One Yellow Rabbit

Hockey is sexy times, apparently.

Brooker. "It's very satisfying to bring it back."

The play consists of everything from a Bobby Hull-based character, to the escapades of a co-ed beer league and some 1940s Chicago "Original Six" era references that all hockey fans will appreciate. The culture of hockey and those who play it are core Canadian concepts and Brooker emphasizes the play shows the impact of that on Canadians.

"The thing about hockey is it exists in the big cities of Canada in the NHL, but it's very popular in small towns, very popular," says Brooker. "The rink is the place where the town gathers."

But the show is not all old-fashioned hockey humour — it is entwined within the tales of erotica. The erotic importance is not only great for its sex appeal but adds a relatable theme. One character's storyline narrates his dirty dreams and attraction to a teammate. But it's not all naughty — it's natural, too.

"It's called erotica, and I think it's erotica not because it's pornographic, but because it contains a desire that humans seem to have, and always will have," Brooker says.

Brooker believes U of C students should take an interest in this par-

ticular show as it is different from ordinary theatre. Considering the stereotypical theatre production, one lacking in originality and realism, this show offers a refreshing twist for hockey and humour loving audiences.

"Theatre can be somewhat dull sometimes, and I don't think this is dull," he admits. "There are some beautiful qualities in this and it's funny."

Dull? Considering the main themes are sex and hockey, chances are it is anything but.

Five Hole: Tales of Hockey Erotica hits the Jack Singer Concert Hall on Feb. 16.

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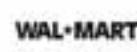
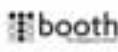
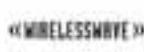


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...and all i can think about is you

Julie J. Phillips © 2009

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There's a fedora and a pirate hat hanging on the hat rack.



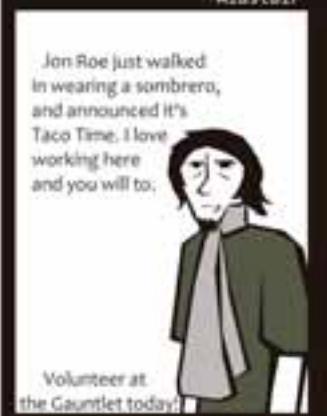
Ryan and Cam are having a discussion on time travel's role in law enforcement.



No, the Police would ride the Velociraptors!

-Alastair

Jon Roe just walked in wearing a sombrero, and announced it's Taco Time. I love working here and you will to,



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