

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

# gauntlet

VOLUME 49 | ISSUE NO. 33 | MARCH 19 | 2009



Women's hockey wins ACAC, sets sights on CIS

sports, page 21



# STUDENTS' UNION HAPPENINGS

## MARCH 23 - 27 EVENTS:

### MONDAY

Mundane Mondays, That Empty Space 9 - 11am  
 Cinemania: Labyrinth, ICT 102, 6:30 & 9pm  
 Sexual Awareness Week - all week long in MSC

### TUESDAY

Clubs Night at the Den, 5pm - close

### WEDNESDAY

25¢ Wing Night at the Den, 8pm - close

### THURSDAY

Student Appreciation Night at the Den

### FRIDAY

Governance Review Committee Meeting - every Friday at 11am. Visit [www.su.ucalgary.ca/grc](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/grc)  
 That Empty Space: The Summerlad and Brock Geiger, 3 - 6pm

## GET YOUR TAXES DONE FOR FREE.

The Students' Union Volunteer Services (SUVS) Tax Program is available to all campus students, faculty, and staff and is running this year from

### March 2 - April 9

**SU Volunteer Services**

So come check us out at MSC 202, right by the bank machines in the MSC food court, or visit us online at [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca), email: [vstax@ucalgary.ca](mailto:vstax@ucalgary.ca)

Students' Union, Sexual Awareness Week PRESENTS...

# KABUKI GUNS

- Burlesque Show -

Tuesday, March 24th

That Empty Space  
11am - 1pm

## PEROGIES AND PORN

EXPLICITLY EDUCATIONAL FILMS

THE VICE GUIDE TO SEX:  
GENKI AND THE ART OF EEL PORN

AND

YOUNG PEOPLE F&DKING

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM  
THURSDAY, MARCH 26  
THAT EMPTY SPACE

Join us at the Women's Resource Centre for a presentation by

a little more *Interesting* a local sex-positive boutique with a woman-friendly, non-judgmental approach.

## Sex Toys For Single Women

Monday, March 23  
Women's Resource Centre, MH318  
4pm - 6pm

This empowering workshop will highlight the importance of taking charge of your own sexuality through understanding your body while showcasing a variety of ethically made, non-toxic and tasteful toys.

To register please visit the WRC in person or email us at [women@ucalgary.ca](mailto:women@ucalgary.ca)

# QUEER Speed Dating

FRIDAY  
March 27  
7 - 10pm

Participants will meet all genders. All orientations are welcome.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED.  
For more information and to register please email: [qcampus@ucalgary.ca](mailto:qcampus@ucalgary.ca)

MARCH 19 2009

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#### Golden Spatula

Mohammed Omar. For writing a great first opinions piece and helping out on Wednesday night. And Invisible Bob. For being so damn awesome at everything.

#### 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 inflammatory musings in the small text based ink. We urge you to recycle/not burn the *Gauntlet*.

#### Letter Policy

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

#### The Cover

Photo and design by Geoff MacIntosh



# The suit against responsibility

It is impossible to deny that Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is an enormous problem. Nor that it demands swift and serious action. The question of how to address it, though, is not so clear. Speaking to the CBC earlier this week, a pediatrician from Prince George suggested that class action lawsuits should be filed on behalf of those suffering FASD against alcohol companies. Again, while it is indisputable that something must be done, this particular proposal is deeply problematic.

Dr. Marie Hay advocated launching class action suits against alcohol companies, hoping that the legal battle would produce similar results to the class actions against tobacco companies: cut down on the propensity for this type of abuse taking place and increase the financial means for dealing with its resultant problems. The comparison with the tobacco suits is interesting, but troubling. In that case, there was the problem of the nature of advertising for those products and the dubious denials of the harm and addictiveness that accompanied smoking. In the case of FASD, this does not seem to apply nearly as well.

The damage done to fetuses by alcohol has not been expressly denied and alcohol, though obviously marketed, is not done so specifically to pregnant women. The argument would seemingly have to be that it is addictive and therefore women who are drawn in by advertising and then become pregnant may have been affected by that advertis-



ing. This leads directly to the major problem indicated by this proposal — the complete erosion of personal responsibility that continues to infect our culture.

Though Canadian litigiousness has not reached the absurd level that it has in the United States, this type of case can only degrade us. It is not the alcohol companies that are ultimately responsible for the injuries incurred by alcohol consumption during pregnancy, but the mothers of those unfortunate children. Proposing a case like this effectively diminishes their culpability in this deplorable practice and gives it an

air of acceptability. It reinforces the notion that an individual can't be blamed for an action and as such can't be in control of it. This is necessary for the argument because if it were admitted that an individual does have the power to avoid consuming alcohol while pregnant, suing alcohol companies for FASD cases would be incoherent. This, then, actually promotes irresponsibility, claiming that women are powerless to take care of themselves and their yet-to-be-born offspring. It is not *my* fault that my child is sick, it is *yours*.

Seeking legal recourse against

alcohol companies for FASD cases is a poor decision. It would be much more appropriate, indeed beneficial, to pursue other options. Educational opportunities for communities experiencing higher than normal instances of FASD is a good option. So is increasing the availability of substance abuse programs for those who need it. Certainly there are many other options.

This is not a problem that can be solved by abdicating responsibility. Just the opposite, actually.

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

## Editor, the *Gauntlet*: Beer, brats and Bach, study in Hamburg!

The University of Calgary recently signed an exciting student and faculty exchange with the Helmut-Schmidt University in Hamburg, Germany. HSU, an entirely civilian university with civilian professors, is the main education institution of the German armed forces (Bundeswehr). It offers BA, MA and PhD programs in traditional areas such as Arts, Engineering, Sciences, International Relations and Management; it offers no programs in military studies.

Under the agreement, students will remain registered at the University of Calgary throughout the

period of the exchange, pay tuition to their respective programs at the U of C and receive credits (to be predetermined by the U of C) for courses taken at HSU. They are expected to meet the language proficiency of the Host University — except in the PhD programs in Computer Science and Computer Engineering, where HSU faculty offer an all-English language program. The exchange is designed to remain small, high-quality, and personal, with two or three exchange students per year.

Studentships ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 are available on a com-

petitive basis through the Centre for International Students and Study Abroad, 275 MacEwan Hall. The application deadline is March 30, 2009. The German Academic Exchange Service in Toronto ([daadca@daad.org](mailto:daadca@daad.org)) also offers Undergraduate Scholarships for study in Germany.

Hamburg is a beautiful city sitting astride the Elbe River in North Germany. With 1.8 million people, it is Germany's second largest and the European Union's most populous non-capital city. Its harbor is the second largest in Europe. It is well connected

through Germany's famous ICE bullet trains — Berlin is only 90 minutes away — and it annually attracts four million visitors. In short, a modern metropolis that offers all the amenities (museums, opera, theatres, sailing, professional sports) of a big city and yet is surrounded by verdant green fields and parks.

Detailed information on the exchange program can be obtained from Colleen Packer, Study Abroad Advisor, 275 MacEwan Hall.

**Herbert Herwig**  
U of C Professor

# Bush comes to Calgary

## Mixed reactions from the crowd, shoes and toast welcome former president

**Katy Anderson**  
Features Editor

Perhaps the most powerful man in the world for the last eight years, former president of the United States George W. Bush, gave his first speech since leaving office in Calgary on Tuesday.

The setting outside the Telus Convention Centre was intense as approximately 200 shoe-baring protestors rallied outside — four of whom were arrested — and at least two snipers were visible on the rooftop of a neighboring building.

The Calgary Police Service separated the activists from the 1,500 guests who had paid \$400 to hear the Texan speak. Guests included members of Calgary's economic elite — one protester suggested to a friend that these were the real capitalists, “all they were missing was a monocle” — to two of Calgary's aldermen, John Mar and Ric McIvor, and former-Alberta premier Ralph Klein.

The lunch not only garnered front pages in the city, but across the continent. MSNBC's Keith Olbermann featured the event on his *Countdown* program, bringing Canadian Gail Davidson of Lawyers Against the War onto his program.

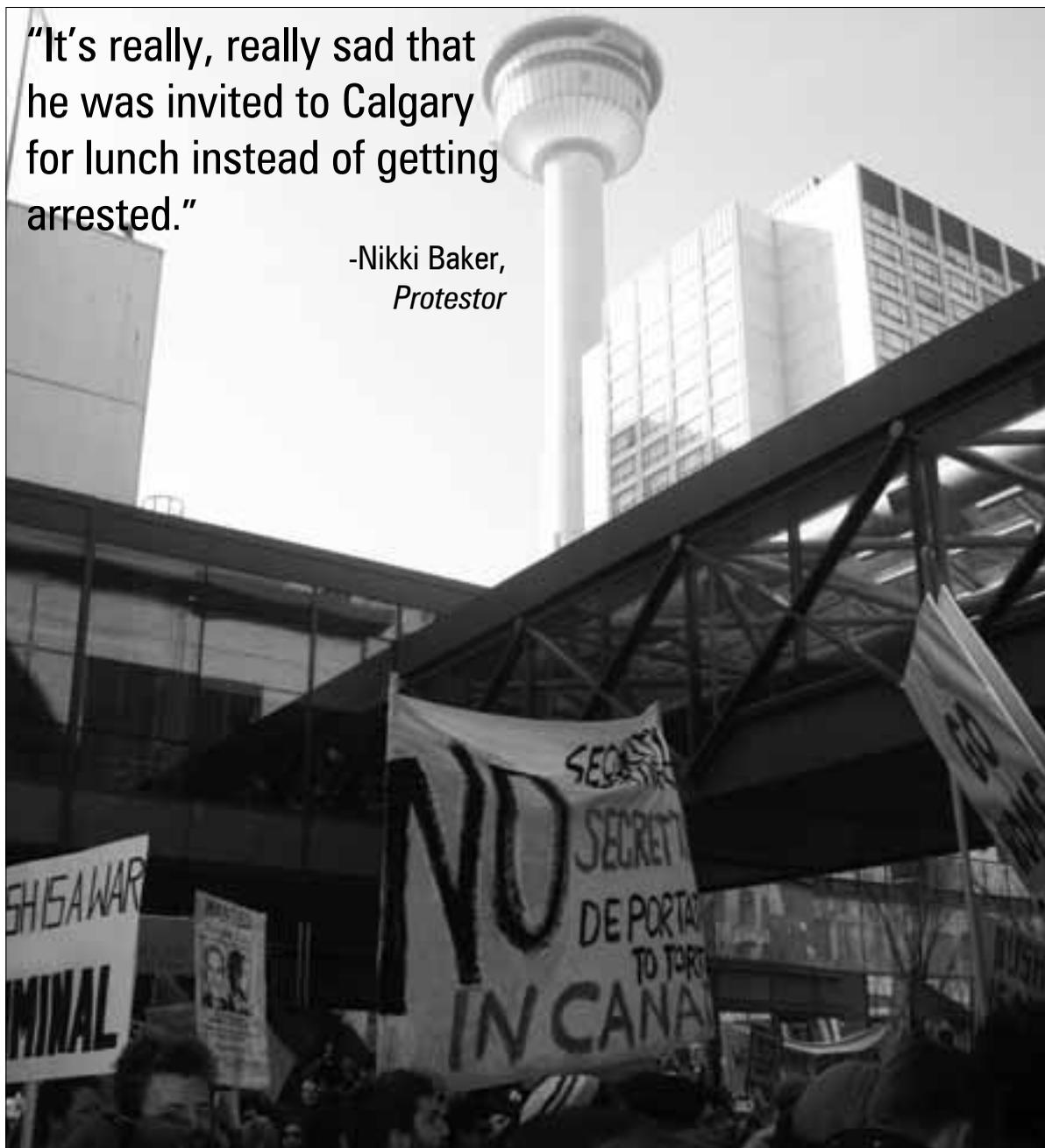
Davidson led the fight in calling for Stephen Harper, who declined to comment on Bush's visit, to bar the former American president from Canada.

Davidson told Olbermann and his viewers that Canada has a legal obligation under the Convention Against Torture to either prosecute him or extradite him to a country that is willing and able to do so.

“The fact of the matter is, if we're going to look at stamping out torture, the torture created and administered by the Bush administration has to be remedied and one of the

“It's really, really sad that he was invited to Calgary for lunch instead of getting arrested.”

-Nikki Baker,  
Protestor



Lindsay Goodwin/the Gauntlet

1,500 people paid \$400 to see Bush speak at the Telus Convention Centre.

principal remedies is criminal prosecutions of those people that are responsible,” she said.

Conservative MP for Calgary-Centre Lee Richardson was on hand for Tuesday's lunch. Richardson said he wasn't sure what to expect, but

thought the speech was “remarkable.”

“He had a grasp of the issues that surprised me, frankly, from seeing him on television and throughout his presidency,” said Richardson. “He must have stiffened up in front

of a camera and he just didn't relate. He said very many of the same things, but he didn't say them as awkwardly.”

Pengrowth Corporation vice-president Charles V. Selby, who had the opportunity to meet Bush before

the speech, said Bush came across as a very thoughtful, principled man.

“Given the opportunity to explain a lot of the decisions that he made, we can see that there's a real rationale behind them and I think he will be judged more favourably by history than perhaps most of the commentators in the press have given him credit for recently,” said Selby, noting Bush was “certainly among friends here in Calgary.”

The protesting crowd outside, however, indicated not all Calgarians were pleased Bush chose their city as the friendliest option to test out his speaking career.

Protestors yelled at many of the guests, alleging they were complicit to war crimes and should be ashamed of themselves for paying the large amount to dine with a criminal.

Nikki Baker, who held a sign calling for Bush to be arrested, said she thought it was important that the world saw that there are people in Calgary “who do not think Bush is welcome here,” noting the invitation made the city look “barbaric.”

“George Bush is an enormous war criminal and he should be in jail,” she said. “I think it's really, really sad that he was invited to Calgary for lunch instead of getting arrested. He should be tried for war crimes.”

Not everyone at the event thought of Bush's visit in black and white terms. Peter Yates, a lawyer who received a ticket to the event from his company, said, if nothing else, the speech was entertaining.

A dual citizen, Yates registered to vote in the 2004 U.S. election so he could vote against the unpopular president.

Yates said Bush reiterated a lot of positions he'd already told, adding, “It was as you'd expect from George, a lot of personal stories about growing up on the farm.”

## Should Canada try Bush for war crimes?

## campus quips



“That's stupid and whoever thought of that should feel stupid.”  
- David Knippers,  
fifth-year  
chemistry and computer science



“My answer would be yes. Basically.”  
- Izza Humayun,  
first-year  
engineering



“Uh, no. Even if we're well within our legal rights, the retaliation from the States would be overwhelming.”  
- Jeff Yip, first-year  
engineering



“I don't think we should because when I think of war crimes, I think of the Holocaust.”  
- Katie Rudolf,  
first-year English

# Centralized applications for post-secondary on the way

Ryan Pike  
AP Editor

Students applying to Alberta universities will soon have fewer hoops to jump through, thanks to a streamlined application process set to launch in the fall.

Apply Alberta is a program that will process applications to Alberta's 21 post-secondary institutions through a government-run website designed to centralize the process. Advanced Education and Technology Minister Doug Horner noted that while the initiative was originally driven by universities, the passage of the Access to the Future Act in 2005 allowed the provincial government to get involved.

"When I became minister a couple of years ago and I saw what they were doing, it became pretty clear to me that you could turn this into an application that could be tremendously useful for students," said Horner. "Both in respect of figuring out what institution they should be going to or should be applying to, but also in insuring that you don't have to fill out the forms 15 times."

University of Calgary Students' Union vice-president academic Pamela Weatherbee said that the introduction of Apply Alberta will make the application process easier for incoming students, although the system may take some getting used to.

"I think it's a really easy service



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

Horner hopes the website will be useful for students.

for students to use," said Weatherbee. "They're going to have to communicate well with incoming students and high school students [and] transfer students."

Weatherbee admitted that while Apply Alberta will reduce student stress by providing one location to apply, costs will not be reduced initially. Horner said that the user costs of Apply Alberta are in line with a similar system in Ontario. Weatherbee noted that existing fees will be consolidated, but recommends looking at ways to reduce costs in the future.

"I think [one application fee] would be more beneficial instead of a student coming in and paying fees

for each school still," said Weatherbee. "I understand right now that's how they're doing it, but in the future it'd be nice to see that cleaned up for students, too."

Horner said that Apply Alberta's initial roll-out will have basic functionality — applicants will be able to create a profile, apply to schools and send their transcripts out through a single source rather than being processed separately. However, more features will be added pending user feedback.

"We serve three clients in our system: students, taxpayers and society, and we need feedback from our clients if we're going to provide the best possible service," said Horner.

## Campus assailant sentenced to four years

Heidi Stobert  
Gauntlet News

The man who beat and sexually assaulted a woman at the University of Calgary in November 2007 was recently sentenced to more than four years in prison. However, he will be back on Calgary streets in only two years.

On Nov. 24, 2007, a young woman was followed from a downtown LRT station to campus by then 43-year-old Derek Ross Calf-Child. When the woman left the train, he followed her and threw her to the ground. She was punched in the face and fondled by the accused, but her screams were heard by a university security guard and professor who chased and tackled the accused when he attempted to flee the scene.

Calf-Child was arrested and



Paul Baker/the Gauntlet

WRC programmer Kelln said the case was especially worrisome.

charged with sexual assault causing bodily harm. Last week he was sentenced to 56 months in prison by Court of Queen's Bench Justice Bryan Mahoney. Mahoney granted Calf-Child double credit for time he has already served in the Calgary Remand Centre. Calf-Child will serve two more years in jail and three years probation.

While in custody Calf-Child was recorded in his jail cell saying that he wanted to suck the woman's toes and that he would go after the victim again if he were to see her on the train, according to a March 9 *Calgary Herald* article.

"I needed a woman," he said. "Every time I ask somebody to go out

see ASSAULT, page 7

## off the page

Join hosts Jon Roe and Katy Anderson for insightful interviews, commentary and analysis.

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7128 Ada Boulevard, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5B 4E4

# Mustard Seed finds a new home

Rhiannon Kirkland

Gauntlet News

Last week, the City of Calgary planning commission approved the Mustard Seed Street Ministry's application for a proposed affordable housing development in the Beltline. The 19-story building will feature 228 units of affordable housing and include ground-level retail space as well as three stories for Mustard Seed Street Ministry education and employment services.

"We have over 4,000 men and women that are living on the streets and if you just look at our own population, sometimes up to 60 per cent of our guests are working," said spokesperson Courtney Fliss. "They're dependant on the emergency shelter system solely because



Gauntlet file photo

Their new space will have beds for 228.

there isn't affordable housing for them."

The Mustard Seed hopes to begin construction in spring 2010 and has between

\$80 and \$90 million budgeted for the project Fliss said.

The provincial government has promised to contribute \$21.5 million to the project, according to Alderman John Mar.

The affordable housing project is part of Calgary's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, modeled after Portland, Oregon's plan of the same name. Affordable housing is a key part of Portland's plan, said Mar.

"[Portland is] in their fourth year and as a result they've seen over a 70 per cent reduction in the homeless population," said Mar.

The Mustard Seed's original proposal included 425 units, which was cut to 228 because some members of the community raised concerns over shelter space being included.

"We've addressed those [issues] by ensur-

ing that this is affordable housing and not a shelter," said Mar. "By doing that we were able to win the support unanimously of all members of council as well as the Calgary Planning Commission."

Some of the 371 individuals currently staying at the Mustard Seed's emergency shelter in the southeast or who are involved in Mustard Seed programs will be eligible to become residents.

Successful applicants will be decided on an individual basis, Fliss said. The building will be alcohol and drug free.

"Affordable housing is a significant part of what we do," said Fliss. "We recognize that having a place to call home for our guests is really one of the first steps to helping someone truly move forward in their lives."

## Canada after Afghanistan, peacekeeping role a myth

Chris 'Doc' Pedersen

Sports Editor

When the war in Afghanistan ends, Canada will need a new policy to deal with international crises.

Retired Major General Lewis MacKenzie spoke at the Military Museums in Calgary on March 5 to discuss the role of Canada's military in the world after the Afghanistan conflict. His speech focused on the creation of an amphibious task force, designed to respond to international situations.

"Of all the countries in the world

that should have an amphibious expeditionary capability, it should be Canada," said MacKenzie.

Starting his speech with a lighthearted tone, it then became more serious as MacKenzie turned to the myths of Canada's role in peacekeeping.

At the height of the cold war, Canada's priority was not peacekeeping, but protection of Western ideals against communism.

"The big myth, number one Canadian myth — we're a peacekeeping nation," said MacKenzie. "Bull crap. At the height of our peace-

keeping reputation, we had over 10,000 highly mechanized troops in the central front of Europe, navy at sea worldwide, airforce dominating over Canadian airspace and participating over European airspace armed with nuclear weapons. That was our number one foreign policy priority, not peacekeeping."

MacKenzie believes that Canada needs to respond to international crises quickly, with no delay in arranging transport or finding ships.

He wrote an essay early in his career, arguing that Canada needed two assault ships to imme-

diately carry troops to a crisis.

"Ralph Fisher, Admiral Harry Porter and myself put together a thing called Seahorse [in 1993]," said MacKenzie. "The whole idea was to have an assault ship on each coast. That ship would have 1,000 to 1,100 soldiers, helicopters, vehicles, medical facilities and it would be available for rapid deployment."

Canada now has the troops and equipment to handle international problems, but action is delayed due to transportation problems.

"It is a real tragedy because we have this Canadian expeditionary force on 10 days notice to move," said MacKenzie. "We have everything to undertake a particular mission except the lift, the ship."

With the current war in Afghanistan, the military is in fi-

nancial troubles and it would take co-ordination between all three branches of the military to see the creation of an amphibious assault force.

"What's now happened with Afghanistan is the reduction of funds in the three services; army, navy and air force," said MacKenzie. "It is understandable that the two generals and admiral are fighting for survival financially. You need the three of them backing the concept together for an amphibious force."

MacKenzie speculated there is another reason that the amphibious force has been relegated to the backburner.

"The odds are not good that it's going to be approved because of one other factor, [the 2010] Olympics," he said.

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# Eel porn squirms its way into MacHall

**Morgan Haigler**  
News Assistant

**S**ex! It's a steamy topic that gets talked about as frequently as the Facebook craze, but do students understand it as well as they should?

To address sex in a fun and creative way, the University of Calgary Students' Union will run a series of activities in and around the MacEwan Student Centre during Sexual Awareness Week. The events will take place March 23-27.

Activities include a Belly Dancers Studio Sublime performance, a Culturally Sexy panel discussion, the Sex Fair, Love Knows No Gender dance party and drag queen and king show, a Perogies and Porn film

screening which will feature *The Vice Guide to Sex: Genki and the Art of Eel Porn* and *Young People Fucking*, Queer Community Resource Panel, the Snowboard Club's annual Porn Star Cab, Queer Speed Dating and four separate Photo/Voice Exhibits.

Jocelyn Kelln, the program assistant for the Women's Resource Centre, said her team will be hosting Sex Toys for Single Women, which will introduce the women's positive sex boutique, A Little More Interesting.

The shop will promote sex products made from non-toxic materials, including medical grade silicone and elastomer. A Little More Interesting owner Sue Naylen Sorrell is scheduled to discuss body image

and sexual empowerment for women in the WRC from 4-6 p.m.

"We think that this is a really good place to host a sex toy workshop," said Kelln. "Talking about sexual empowerment and owning your own body and knowing yourself because this is a safe place on campus — non-judgemental, open and welcoming. I think that really aligns with [the WRC's] values."

The WRC also plans to set up a booth at the Sex Fair on March 24 in the north courtyard. Kelln said the WRC will offer information about reproduction, sexual health resources and a chance to play some trivia games.

Additionally, the WRC plans to have AIDS Calgary talk about Shift — a program that helps sex trade workers reduce harm to themselves and improve their quality of life. Two film screenings will be shown through the campus-sanctioned club Feminist Initiative Recognizing Equality on March 24 and 26 at 5 p.m. The first will address violence, media and the crisis of masculinity and the second is about the medicalization of pregnancy and midwifery.

FIRE vice-president of events Delshani Peiris said Sexual Awareness Week is interesting because it covers a broad range of sexual awareness issues.

"We weren't focusing on just one



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet

Valentine gives David a massage after a long day's work.

aspect like we weren't just focusing on birth control or what it means by safe sex," she said. "We attempted to touch upon the entire spectrum of sex and sexuality and what it means."

Co-chair of the U of C Queers on Campus club Jasmine Ing added that an anti-homophobia campaign is in the works as well.

"I think that [the activities] bring an important dimension to sexual awareness, to the school," said Ing. "We don't really think you can talk about sexuality without talking

about people outside of the heterosexual norm."

SU vice-president events Luke Valentine said he's excited about this year's Sexual Awareness Week and hopes that students will develop a healthier attitude towards their own sexuality.

"I think [Sexual Awareness Week] is important because a lot of students have sex and it's important to show sex in a positive way instead of saying, 'Don't have sex, don't do that,'" he said.

## Assault, cont'd from pg. 5

with me, they don't want to."

Jocelyn Kelln, a program assistant from the U of C's Women's Resource Centre, expressed her concerns about the troubling nature of this case. In most sexual assault cases the victim knows their attacker, but in this particular case the attacker was unknown to the victim. She also pointed out that the motivation behind this type of attack isn't just about fulfilling the sexual needs of the attacker and this case in particular is a perfect example.

"The judge in this case specifically noted that the accused was motivated by his anger against women, illustrating... that sexual violence is more about power and control rather

than about sexual gratification," said Kelln.

Third-year communication and culture student Jacqueline Smith thought the sentence was too lenient.

"[Calf-Child's] sentence definitely says something about our justice system and where their priorities lie," she said.

That Calf-Child will be out of jail in just two years and that he admitted he would want to attack again leaves an uneasy feeling for students and the public.

"[The police] can just catch him again," said Calgary Michelle Fong. "Unfortunately someone will probably suffer for it."

## SAFE AND SOUND DEFENCE COURSE

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**U of C - THIS IS NOW**

# News for the unnewsed

**Rudy Rocque and Joseph Tubb**

Gauntlet News

## Shoe thrower handed three-year sentence

Muntadhar al-Zaidi, the Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at former President George W. Bush, was sentenced by an Iraqi court to three years in prison for assaulting a foreign leader. Dhia al-Saadi, the head lawyer of al-Zaidi's defence team, promised to appeal his client's sentence. He said the verdict "is harsh and is not in harmony with the law," according to a March 12 CBC article.

Al-Zaidi has been in police custody since the infamous shoe throwing incident occurred on Dec. 14 and had faced a maximum sentence of 15 years.

## Pro-life plans second coming

Campus Pro-Life released a statement Monday announcing that they will return to campus March 25 and 26.

The controversial Genocide Awareness Project display compares abortion to the Holocaust and the Rwandan genocide using graphic images. It led to six stu-

dents being charged with trespassing.

The six students will be in court early November.

## Madoff pleads guilty to \$50 billion fraud scheme

United States financier Bernard Madoff pleaded guilty March 12 to all 11 charges pertaining to financial fraud worth \$50 billion. The 70-year-old Madoff, who headed Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities, ran a Ponzi scheme in which early investors were paid off with the money of new clients.

The scheme, Madoff admitted, began in the early 1990s and defrauded thousands of investors, many of which lost their life savings as a result. Madoff is set to be sentenced in June and faces a maximum sentence of 150 years.

## Obama ends ban on stem cell research funding

U.S. President Barack Obama made a monumental reversal in U.S. policy March 9 when he issued an executive order that removed a congressional ban on federal funding for stem cell research.

The move overturns the policy of the George W. Bush administration, which blocked federal funding on human embryonic stem cell lines created after August 2001.

The decision is being praised by scientists and other advocates of stem cell research who believe that funding for research could lead to a number of medical breakthroughs.

However, the decision to overturn the congressional ban has been met with considerable opposition by a number of religious groups.

## Helicopter crash off the coast of Newfoundland claims 17

On the morning of March 12, a helicopter carrying 18 people crashed into the Atlantic Ocean 87 kilometres off the coast of Newfoundland after it reported technical problems.

The S-92 Sikorsky helicopter was transporting workers from St. John's to oil platforms in the White Rose and Hibernia oil fields.

Despite the efforts of an air and sea rescue operation launched by the Canadian Coast Guard, only one person was found alive at the scene of the crash.

# Spandex reappears on campus

**Roman Auriti**

Gauntlet News

What is more satisfying when it's pumped up with air and rides smoother than a vibrating bed, especially when it isn't cooped up in some dark corner of your basement where no one can see it? Well, one thing comes to mind and it's definitely a bicycle.

The Bicycle Root, the University of Calgary's own volunteer-oriented and driven bicycle shop, began operations in September to promote bicycling and environmental sustainability.

"[The Bicycle Root was] founded back in August, inspired by the Right to Move Collective in Montreal," explained Lance Ayer, a founding member. "[I was] just hanging out in Montreal and stumbled upon that place and thought it was awesome. I thought Calgary needed something like that."

The Bicycle Root is hosting its grand opening event at 4 p.m. on March 21, with live music at the Den at 6 p.m.

Ayer explained that their mandate was threefold. He hopes to pro-



Roman Auriti/the Gauntlet

## A bike library is coming soon.

promote a sense of community, foster healthy lifestyles and also promote environmental sustainability.

"Beyond fixing bikes, we are launching in a week the lending library," said Ayer.

The bicycle library will let anybody borrow a bike and return it within a few days.

Visitors will also have access to couches, a minifridge and bike-related art.

"Cycling is so important, so huge, for a student, it can really lead to a successful university experience," he said. "It helps stay active, it helps get around, it helps to have a social network. It's very affordable, it's very easy to get involved in and it tends to compliment university study very well."

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Opening Worlds

# Ehud Olmert must pay, literally



**Mohammed Omar**  
Gauntlet Opinions

The recent siege of Gaza by the Israeli Military left the world in a state of shock. With a death toll between 1,250 and 1,400, not to mention 4,000 injured, more than one third of who were children, it is a tragedy that has gone by with little reparations to those affected.

But according to *Al Jazeera English*, perhaps the only English news channel that reported directly from Gaza during the siege, a Palestinian family that lost 29 family members in the recent siege is suing Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert for \$200 million in damages for “criminal negligence.”

In December 2008, Israel launched Operation Cast Lead against Hamas, the political party that controls the Gaza strip, in defence of itself against Hamas-launched rockets that terrorized its citizens. The Israeli Defence Forces used fighter jets, tanks, infantry and controversial white phosphorus all in an

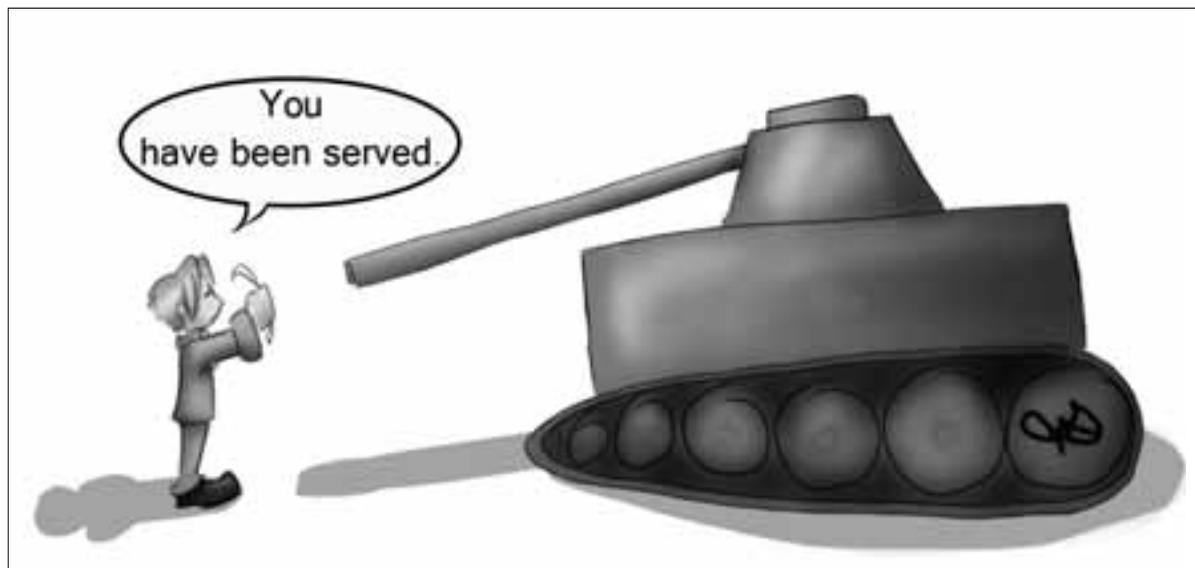
area half the size of Calgary that has one of the highest population densities in the world. The IDF said the targets of this operation were Hamas militants who continued to fire rockets into southern Israel. Unfortunately, the main victims of the conflict were the women and children of Gaza.

The severity of the conflict and its massive human and material costs could have led to the al-Samouni family’s decision to sue the Israeli PM. They feel powerless. They *are* powerless. The al-Samounis say Israeli soldiers raided their homes in the middle of the conflict and moved the extended family together into one house. According to the survivors’ accounts, the Israeli military then fired shells and missiles towards the house the following day, leaving 29 dead.

The al-Samounis must have

**Assuming this lawsuit is actually taken seriously, it would mean the family is willing to value the loss of 29 loved ones at a mere \$200 million.**

thought that if the American lady who sued McDonald’s in 1994 could get \$2.86 million for burn-



ing herself with hot coffee, then surely they too could get compensation for their loss.

While it is understandable that a family that lost 29 members would want compensation, asking for \$200 million, or any amount of money, in return is a very dangerous request. Assuming this lawsuit is actually taken seriously, it would mean the family is willing to value the loss of 29 loved ones at a mere \$200 million. What would this mean to the rest of Palestinians?

Should everyone start their own lawsuit? Do they stop complaining about the economic blockade on Gaza and the constant showers of attacks because they get compensated? If the IDF decides to wipe out a whole city in the West Bank some day, do they just stick \$5 bills on to each missile and bullet?

Mohammad Fukra, a Palestinian Israeli attorney, filed the lawsuit and said that the family had the right to sue Israel and its officials. In response to that, Mark Regev, an Israeli government spokesman, claimed that Hamas was responsible for the family’s loss by using civilians as human shields. Perhaps Regev forgot that humans aren’t the best shields

against F-16 missiles and heavy artillery. Regardless, innocent lives were lost and things are not getting any better.

Will the al-Samouni’s lawsuit be taken seriously? And if it is, do they have a chance of winning? Both of those questions are irrelevant. The main question lies in if there will be similar hopeless, desperate acts for compensation in the future.

This family’s story, the remainder of whom live in a tent amid the rubble of their former home, is a sign of how awful the situation is for the population of the Gaza Strip. This lawsuit can be symbolic at most and indicates that something must be done to alter this status quo we live in.

## Don’t read this article: IT SUCKS!

A restaurant’s creative response to distasteful reviews



**Meagan Meiklejohn**  
Word Playa

Remember when you were told that if someone makes fun of you it’s because they like you? Regardless of whether they like you or not, what counts is that you have got them talking. Good or bad, being the hot topic of discussion gives you more cards in your hand than you would think. Restaurant reviews operate in much the same way. Yelp.com, a popular review site critiquing businesses in 24 U.S. cities, offers an outlet for impressed or distressed customers to voice their opinions about the places

they eat. While many small businesses may feel voiceless against the poor reviews they receive, Pizzeria Delfina, a Mission District institution in San Francisco, boldly advertises these critiques on staff T-shirts in an attempt to lessen the seriousness of the site.

Started in San Francisco, Yelp has grown into an online epidemic that has many restaurant owners feeling attacked by less-than-thrilled customers. However, like much of what is posted on the Internet, viewers should read these comments with a critical eye. Similar to a blogging site, Yelp is a resource available for people to express the opinions they have about their personal experiences. With personal being the operative word, opinions are formulated subjectively. The enjoyment of

a customer depends on a variety of factors, some of which may not even concern the restaurant. In such cases, said person who is particularly impatient would have a completely different experience than someone happy-go-lucky who is just thankful that someone else is cooking. With this in mind, Yelp’s credibility is questionable. While potential diners may benefit from reading the experiences of unhappy customers, small businesses are kept out of the loop as to how their reviews are ranked and whether every one submitted is posted. Furthermore, Yelp lacks control over who sends in evaluations. For all the owners know, competing restaurants could be targeting them in an attempt to promote their own business.

Pizzeria Delfina, owned by Craig

and Anne Stoll, holds an esteemed four out of five star rank with Yelp users. However, sifting through some 623 comments, bitter remarks do come up. “This place sucks,” and, “The pizza was sooooo greasy. I am assuming this was in part due to the pig fat,” are two Yelps that have been proudly reprinted on staff members T-shirts for all to see. The motive behind this publicity stunt was not to advertise their restaurant in a bad light, but to turn the negative reviews they receive into jokes. As a result, some believe that users may consider this a challenge to write the funniest or worst remarks in an attempt to get them on a T-shirt.

“That’s kind of the point,” Anne Stoll told the *New York Times* Bits Blog. “Are they doing it to get on a

T-shirt or did they have a bad experience? They can’t trust it — it takes away Yelp’s power.”

In addition to providing a voice to small businesses as they struggle with Yelp, creatively advertising harsh comments has proved to be a masterful marketing tactic. Creating a trend among fellow restaurants, Pizzeria Delfina’s hate-shirts have amplified their popularity. Not only do they catch the attention of potential customers and remind current ones to return, they spark curiosity as to why any business would do such a thing. Naturally, the only way to find out is to go to the restaurant yourself, instead of relying on Yelp for an answer. All things considered, it seems Yelp’s bark is worse than its bite.

# *the fifth estate* investigates the death of Brandon Crisp

It's not what fans of games want to hear

Andrew Swan  
8bit



Hindsight is 20/20. In the case of the tragic story of Brandon Crisp, hard lessons have been learned and those we must now take it upon ourselves to learn are more important than ever. It is easy under such terribly tragic circumstances as the death of Crisp to have an intense desire to answer unanswerable questions. In the case of a recent episode of CBC's *the fifth estate*, the first place in which to find answers, and thus to shoulder the blame, are video games themselves.

Fifteen-year-old Crisp ran away from home Oct. 13, 2008 after his parents took away his Xbox 360 and *Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare* game. Three weeks later, a party of hunters discovered Crisp's body in a field. He had died from chest injuries consistent with falling out of a tree.

In *the fifth estate's* hour-long report on Crisp entitled "Top Gun," there was, of course, a degree of bias. There were no constructive suggestions for parents to inform themselves about what is in the games they allow their children to play, nor suggestions for how to prevent such a tragedy from occurring again in the future. Instead, *the fifth estate* stopped just short of condemning the entire video game industry for the death of Crisp, while at the same time alluding to the powerful allure

and mystique of the professional video gaming circuit as another contributing factor. Regardless of opinion as to whether or not video games are to blame in this situation, we find ourselves at a crossroads.

No longer can we deny the powerful nature of the video game medium. Games have quickly become the premiere form of escapist entertainment, as they facilitate our desire for new experiences in poignant ways. By design, video games fulfill just that: the opportunity to enter into an alternate reality, oftentimes different, but sometimes similar to our own. We can experience enriching narratives or simply cut loose and de-stress. Either way, the influence that this medium has is undeniable and in no uncertain terms this has been proven through the tragedy of Brandon Crisp.

But where do we go from here?

There needs to be a greater emphasis placed on understanding the content of video games and, as a result, the rating system that is in place. The rating system for video games is a safeguard in much the same way as the rating system is for film and they translate in nearly identical ways. It is more important than ever to understand that certain games do have questionable content and some younger individuals will not have the coping mechanisms to deal with it. Careful consideration must be given to video games, especially ones rated mature, not just because it is a good thing to do, but because the medium demands it. Uncertainty surrounds the content of video games and there is concern about the effects of video games on



the children, teenagers and even adults who play them. However, despite this uncertainty there still remains a large gap between the perception of what video games are and what they have become. Video games are no longer simply Mario trying to save the princess. They are a powerful and important media form whose complexity has reached

staggering heights; not only in the design, look and feel of the game itself, but in the messages and narratives that are conveyed. They must be respected as such or else we run the risk of abusing their intention.

If anything, the lesson is that video games are complex, influential and can be compelling when consumed in large amounts. We

should not be quick to blame them whenever we get the chance, but we should reflect upon the actions of ourselves and others in regard to video games to make inroads into understanding just how consequential this medium has become. By doing so, we will not allow Brandon Crisp to die in vain.

Such is the power of hindsight.

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# Rated R for ridiculous

## Breaking the bad news to 13-year-olds

**Kiva Ferraro**  
Gauntlet Opinions



The Alberta government is revamping the Amusement Act, which governs the way films are rated in this province and sets up age requirements for viewing movies with adult content. Presently, a panel at the Alberta Film Commission, a governmental body, rates theatre films, while rentals are classified based on the average rating of a film nationwide. The current range of classifications are: General (G), think Walt Disney; Parental Guidance (PG), contains bloodless fighting or sexual innuendos; under-14 requires adult accompaniment (14A), has lots of swearing, relatively bloodless fighting or perceived sexual activity (what's happening under those sheets!); under-18 requires adult accompaniment (18A), movies with drug use, excessive gore (i.e. surgery with a hacksaw) or crude sexual material (there's thrusting going on); restricted to 18 and over (R), graphic anything basically; and finally Adult or XXX for the layman.

While we rarely see an R-rated movie in theatres, movies with an 18A classification are common. Undoubtedly, many under-18 do attend these movies with an adult, but apparently there is a growing problem of unaccompanied youth viewing 18A films. While there are



no statistics for Alberta, there were a number of complaints in Ontario. In one year, out of an estimated 30 million theatre admissions in Ontario, 12 people (possibly the same person 12 times) complained about youth viewing 18A films. Alberta's solution to this perceived threat is Bill-18, which will disallow kids under 14 in to 18A films even if an adult is present. To enforce the new rules, Alberta's Culture Minister will hire movie inspectors with the authority to fine theatre staff and companies for violations, in addition to confiscating films ("Movie

Police! Now hand over the tape nice and slow like!"). An executive director position, dubbed "film czar" in the press, will also be created with the power to unilaterally classify or reclassify films.

The number of problems and lapses in common sense associated with Bill-18 are only attainable by government. If kids under 14 are able to get into 18A movies now, how will things change with the new law? Theatre staff will have to demand photo ID from everyone who looks under 18, even if a parent is present, which will no doubt

lead to angry and frustrated parents in the ticket lines. How many of you had government issued photo ID before you turned 16? ("Okay, off to the movies. Money, check. Snacks hidden in pocket, check. Passport, check.") Furthermore, if a film is considered so psychologically damaging that the government feels it must decide for parents whether a child under 14 can view the film, why not just rate the film R? The most ridiculous of all is the film czar position. Now this is a job I want. Sit around watching movies and rating them without the risk of

anyone being able to question your decisions, all the while earning a fat government pay cheque. The influence of the classification of a movie on its commercial success at the box office is no secret. Giving this power to one person just screams a) for under the table bribes for a favourable rating, b) for indirect censorship based on the individual's personal tastes, c) a gigantic waste of money, d) all of the above.

Exposing minors to graphic violence, sex and language is not a trivial issue, but we already have inspectors for just this thing: parents. The issue would be better addressed by running a public awareness campaign to educate or remind parents about the effects graphic material can have on young people. If more inspectors are needed anywhere, or a czar of anything created, the effort should be put towards a larger and more pressing issue, like regulating the development of the tar sands. Perhaps if there were more inspectors around last April, Syncrude's noise makers would have been active and prevented the deaths of 500 ducks. But then, a 13-year-old seeing some big screen nipples is more of a concern. Think I am being a bit too facetious? The maximum fine a theatre would face for letting someone under 14 view an 18A movie with his or her parent will be \$100,000. The maximum fine Syncrude faces under Alberta's Environment Protection and Enhancement Act is \$500,000. Yeah, that seems balanced.

## University Policies Need to Keep With the Times

**Pamela Weatherbee**  
VP Academic



Last week's Facebook incident saw an undergraduate student placed on academic probation for six months due to Facebook comments about an instructor. The event puts the spotlight on how rapid change, technology, and the internet are affecting academic policy and how the University is responding.

Undergraduates use of Facebook, Twitter, e-grading and podcasts has increased rapidly and our University policies are out-of-date. Several faculties are turning to wireless clickers for class work, others are using online testing and grading, and much of our personal and group work is being

done online.

A student should not be expected to constantly apply dated University policies to changing technology and teaching methods.

Not keeping policies in line with our every changing technologies used in academics presents unending challenges.

For example, a student writes an online exam for an economics course, receives a contested grade, and wishes to appeal. The student approaches his faculty member to appeal the grade and when the US-based company providing the software for the online exam is contacted, they inform her that it's not their responsibility to keep the grades on file, directly violating our University policy and leaving both the faculty member and the student between a rock and a hard place.

Another technological advancement increasingly used in the classroom is the "clicker" – a personal, portable remote each student can use to interact during lectures with their faculty member and class. Some faculty members are even using the "clicker" for in-class quizzing for grades or participation mark. However, what happens if a student can't afford to register it, or if batteries run out during an exam? Furthermore, should a clicker become mandatory for class?

These are just a few issues that students and members of the University community need to proactively consider rather than awkwardly reacting.

The Students' Union is concerned by the slow policy response to these and other technological changes. The SU, on

behalf of the students we represent, is encouraging clear and direct guidance to students from the University about these tools.

This Wednesday, we hosted the 3rd annual Discussion Deli and two of our topic questions dealt specifically with these issues. We will use this information to make recommendations and find solutions along with the University to these ambiguous and important challenges that students are facing.



**VIEW**  
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# Erotic resort: tales of lust in Mexico

## Bringing a new meaning to the term “all-inclusive”

**Lesley-ann Barrett**

Gauntlet Sexpert



If you've not been able to experience the energy and adventure of an all-inclusive vacation yet, I suggest that you start saving for next year. The market offers vacationers an assortment of packages to choose from that will fulfill any desire. I recently visited a specifically adults only resort. When my partner suggested it, I did some research and thought it could be a lot of fun for the open-minded or the single. I got in touch with the resort and they met with me for a tour and history while there.

The company, Original Resorts, offers four different themes from family oriented to full-out partner swapping; I thought I was in the swap resort at first and I have to say I don't share well. It turned out we were staying in Desire, an adults-only, topless (in restricted

areas), sexy fun place for anyone from age 21 to 81.

I would recommend the resort to anyone who is not a jealous person. The nightly entertainment includes a casino night with fake chips and the only way you can get more is if you take off your top. There is a karaoke contest and of course what sexy resort doesn't have some pole and lap dancing for the guests.

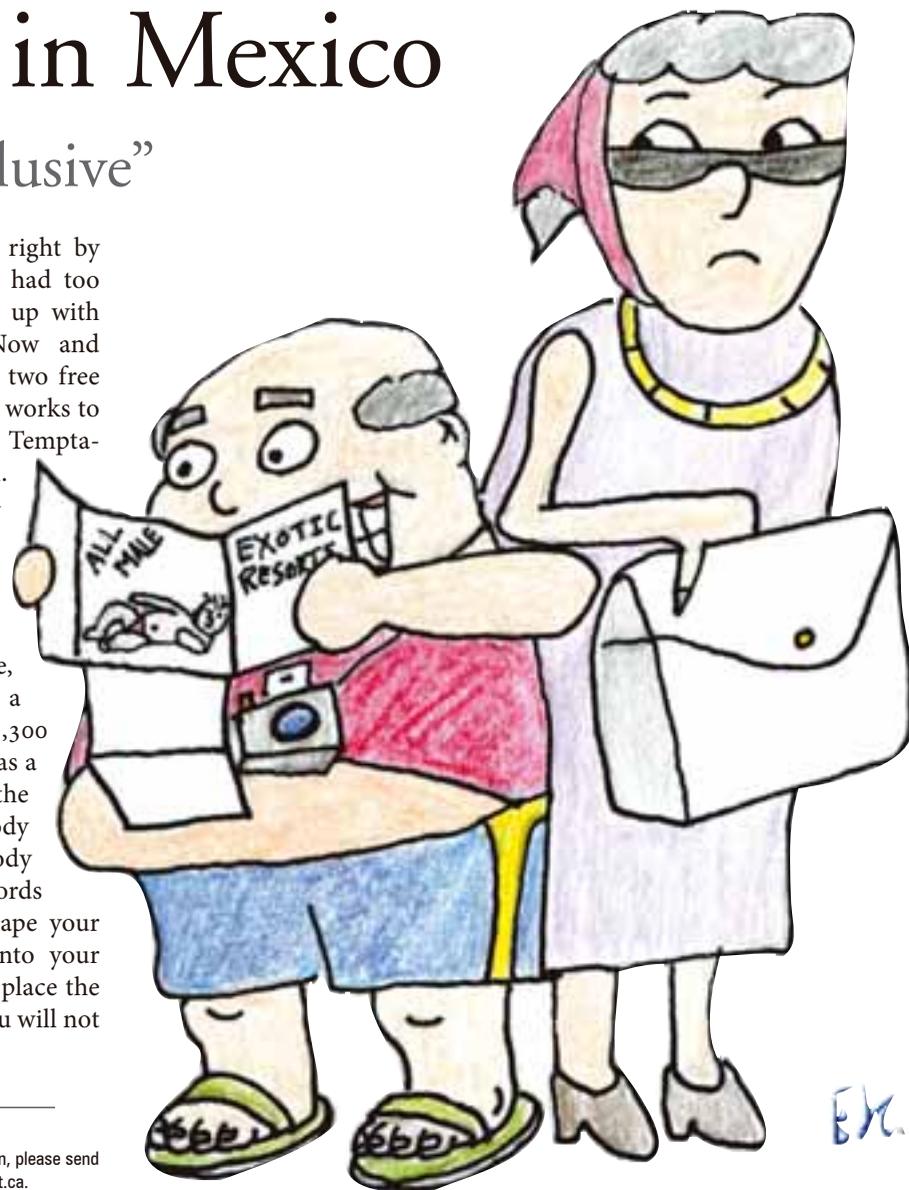
The food is above average with different buffet offerings daily. Included in your price is the choice to make reservations at any of the five restaurants. I highly encourage trying them all. In the day by the sexy pool, the only place where being topless is allowed, they have belly dancing classes, yoga and a new contest for the guests everyday that usually involves drinking if you lose.

Every room is decorated in contemporary furniture, with sexy red lighting on the wall and nightstands. The rooms admittedly have a humid, musty feel, however, there is air conditioning and hey,

you're in balmy Mexico right by the ocean. When you've had too much sun you can cozy up with Mr./Mrs. Right/Right Now and enjoy your choice of the two free porn stations. This resort works to ensure your orgasms at Temptation are never forgotten. Temptation is an arousing resort that can make anyone feel sexy — and a little horny too.

This is a vacation for those that crave romance, fun and erotica, all at a great price (less than \$1,300 per person). The resort has a motto that you can hear the guests shouting, “Nobody knows you and nobody gives a shit!” These are words to live by when you escape your everyday life and slip into your idea of fantasy. Give this place the chance to turn you on, you will not be disappointed.

If you have any questions for Lesley-ann, please send them to [sexpert@thegauntlet.ca](mailto:sexpert@thegauntlet.ca).



## Reconsidering the recession

**Sara Rooseboom**

Gauntlet Opinions



Each morning I pick up the paper as I catch the train to campus or work. Each day, it seems, there is nothing new to read. I am beginning to wonder if journalists have taken to ad-lib in order to free up some spare time for moonlighting.

Each morning I read a multiplicity of articles in which “recession” appears at least once per sentence and writers imply that we will all soon be eating SPAM-knockoffs and potato peelings, typically concluding with a “be scared . . . be very scared” in one form or another.

I, for one, am tired of it. I am tired of being constantly bombarded with reminders that I will earn less than usual this summer and all my poor friends back in Ontario will probably be unable to feed them-

selves adequately on their meager (if existent) summer earnings. Do I care? Obviously. But I, along with every other person on this planet with some form of social contact, already know this is happening. Most of us, in fact, never even needed to be told. It's pretty clear that the economic shit has hit the fan when we lose our jobs, can't find another, have our real wages reduced, see our savings disappear and wonder where the hell all the scholarships have gone. To remind us every day

is cruel. To predict every other day that we will be out of this hole in six months, only to predict it's deepening the next, is even worse. I have only one thing to say about these flip-flop, nonsense predictions — economics is not a science. It does not follow any laws of nature (in your face, Friedmanites!). We got to where we are as the result of human decisions and we will get to where we will go because of human decisions.

Where are all the stories of hu-

man triumph over adversity, of the resilience of communities, of the limitless opportunities arising in this crisis, amidst all the doom and gloom? Has optimism become passé?

Yes, the recession is painful. Yes, those of us at the bottom will, as always, hurt the most. Yes, times are tough. No, our world is not coming to an end — just the world as we know it and, really, is that such a bad thing? This crisis is a prime

see RECESSION, page 13

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# Turning court into a game

## Absurd lawsuit strikes the states

**Josh Dyck**  
Gauntlet Opinions

Last week the CBC reported that a 21-year-old Yale University student has filed a lawsuit against US Airways because his Xbox 360 with specialized harddrive went missing from his luggage.

Let us attempt to pick out all the things that are horribly, horribly wrong with this. Yale. Ohio. \$1 million. Video game console. Twenty-one-year-old. Xbox 360. Specialized hard drive. Luggage.

Allow me to explain my logic here and why it seems to be running headlong into a brick wall. The kid is from Ohio, not exactly universally acclaimed for the quality of its education. He's attending Yale, which is. Either there has to be at least some spark of intelligence in him or he's at the centre of a very devious plot by a very rich daddy. A film major, perhaps, but he is, as we have already established, 21-years-old. This individual — who is past the age of majority just about anywhere on Earth — is suing US Airways for \$1,700 in system reimbursement plus a million dollars for “non-economic distress.” Statisticians will simply mark him as an outlier and move on with their lives, but the rest of us must wonder how Maiman intends to claim \$1 million for a \$300 console.

It is worth noting that a US Airways spokeswoman has already commented: “Our publicly available baggage policies specifically exclude liability for electronics checked in luggage,” as well as, “Regardless of the figure in the complaint, there are federal loss limits applicable to all airlines on their liability for lost luggage and belongings, which are currently set at \$3,300 per bag.” Which, in spokeswoman-ese, roughly translates to “HAHAHAHA I ALMOST FEEL BAD FOR YOU I MEAN SERIOUSLY WHAT WERE YOU THINKING DID YOU EVEN READ THE RULES BEFORE BRINGING US THIS SHIT?” Roughly. In any event, it's fairly obvious that, unless the relevant judge is asleep, Maiman will almost certainly never see more than his \$1,700 reimbursement — and even that will be an uphill battle. While fortune favours the bold, the system favours the pragmatic.

Even if we assume Maiman is completely self-interested (he probably is), it's mindboggling when one stops to consider several of the details of this case. First of all, the man is taking his Xbox on a trip. While this is only somewhat abnormal behavior, it could be indicative of a man who likes his gaming just a bit too much. He placed this \$1,700

setup in his luggage, which he then entrusted to baggage handlers. I cannot do the same with my \$50 MP3 player.

Finally, we have Maiman's startling willingness to allow his tomfoolery to become public — basically declaring to the world that he is not only a massive geek (in the conventionally embarrassing way), but essentially a conman.



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## Recession, continued from page 12

opportunity for the middle and lower rungs of society to hold our elites accountable for their horribly flawed economic paradigm. We have the opportunity to force inquiry into risky, speculative markets. We have the prime opportunity to make a strong case for the elimination, or at least regulation, of speculative transactions, for the need to regulate interest rate variability and put an end to white-collar theft. In essence, we have the perfect moment to rise up and challenge the irresponsible deregulation of domestic and global markets, the

absolute freedom of enterprise and the exploitation of the middle and lower classes that got us into this mess and to return to the glory days of the responsible, Keynesian-style capitalism that gave us healthcare, social security, minimum wages and, most importantly, regulated markets, which provided the average person the ability to survive and prosper post-Great Depression.

So there you have it — a spoonful of (realistic) optimism to draw you out of your media-induced recession depression. Take it or leave it. I think I'll take it.

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# Alberta's foster child system under fire

**Eric Mathison**  
Fighting Words



Since a 15-month-old boy from a foster home in southern Alberta was hospitalized earlier this month, questions have been raised regarding the conditions foster children face. RCMP are investigating the circumstances that led to the injury; no comments have been made regarding criminal charges. The foster program in Alberta did not receive much attention before this incident and the state in which it is run is certainly in need of review.

The most remarkable statistic is that while four per cent of Alberta's

population is native, native children make up 63 per cent of foster children. What's more, the media has given lots of attention to the concerns of the biological mother. Her statements demand comment.

The 21-year-old woman from the Tsuu T'ina Nation gave two children up for adoption. It isn't clear whether they are fraternal twins or were born at different times. What is also unclear is why the mother is being questioned at all. While any mother has an interest in knowing the well-being of her children, it is a right that should be considered compromised when she chooses not to raise the child herself. The system we should promote is one where the children, when they reach an age where they are able to make the decision, choose whether they wish to have contact

with the parents. Every member of society should be upset that an accident has occurred (and there is not yet reason to think it was not an accident); the mother's views should be treated with the same weight as my own.

Of more concern, the mother has stated her disappointment that the children were given to non-native foster parents because no native parents on reserve were available. Short of that, she says, they should have been placed with native parents in Calgary. What the ethnicity of parents has to do with this case is cloudy, but two things should be noted. First, if the foster parents passed the screening process, then there was no way to know that this incident could have been prevented by the child staying on reserve. Second, while First Nations people are the most vocal group in Alberta in terms of cultural survival, would similar efforts be made to put a child of Irish parents with Irish foster parents? Should such efforts be made?

While it is a good time to review the foster program, it is also important for the aboriginal community to address this issue as a group. Forces within and without have contributed to the high suicide, crime and substance abuse problems of native people. There is no ethnicity in Canada that faces worse discrimination and, like so many indigenous groups around the world, the attainment of equality has been a constant struggle. Steps should be made to provide greater access to sexual education, contraception and abortion services.

While abortion is never a preferred option, the worry that you won't be able to look after your child should provide reason for thought — at least enough to use protection. Should the child be born, the point of adoption is a bad time to start negotiating the conditions the child will be placed in once adopted. The community focus of First Nations has done a tremendous amount of

good, but a group already burdened with so many problems can not be expected to take on more. The solution must address all issues and must come from within the communities themselves.

The foster system is the next best solution for parents that can't look after their children. The sacrifices foster parents make are tremendous and the work they do — always with children from troubled backgrounds — is not commended enough. In fact, many aspects of determining foster parents would do well to be applied to all potential parents: courses on parenting, perhaps an interview to ensure they meet requirements and a long talk so they know what they're getting into. Many churches require it before marriage, kennels suggest it for dog owners and universities demand it for admission. Not all people should get married, own dogs or go to university — we should stop assuming all people can be good parents.



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# Tying campus together, one lost dignity at a time

**Daniel Pagan**  
Gauntlet Opinions



Why do engineering students love pieing for local charity and how did it get started in the first place? Pieing became popular in slapstick comedies where one can easily see the humour in pie fights: the absurdity of a harmless and delicious food being used, the victim's surprise, humiliation and the mess. People just love seeing other people being embarrassed. Also, a pieing is easy to clean up and far from disastrous, as long as one has a spare towel. How popular was the pieing gag with audiences? Over 3,000 pies were used in a 1927 Laurel & Hardy short film, *The Battle of the Century*. Several comedians and cartoon characters like Charlie Chaplin, Monty Python and Bugs Bunny counted pieing amongst their comedic tricks. Clowns still use them at circuses. People love seeing others pied, as long as they're not the victims.

Embarrassment and humiliation allowed pieing to move from comedy to political act. Several controversial politicians, celebrities and CEOs have been pied in the past, as Bill Gates, Jean Chrétien and Ralph Klein can testify. Some critics feel pieing is only a silly stunt that hurts the credibility of protesters and their movement. For example when the British media focused on a protester pieing Britain's business minister, Lord Peter Mandelson last week, they covered the act instead of the protests against the expansion of Heathrow airport. Some victims don't have a sense of humour, like Stéphane Dion, who pressed charges against two pie throwers in May 1999. But pieing can be important for getting attention: how many politicians actually read letters from their constituencies or even pay attention to causes on Facebook or other social networks? What about companies that ignore laws and governments like Microsoft? Environmental protesters argue that only drastic actions can draw attention to a problem like global warming, which otherwise gets ignored by politicians and corporations. Successes have been mixed so far re-

garding pieing, but it's an easy way to grab attention. All you have to do is buy or bake a pie.

Considering its slapstick and political effects, pieing can be useful to raise a charity's profile. Like the crazy engineering students on the University of

Calgary campus, who pie other students and professors to raise money for the Calgary Urban Project Society. CUPS is a Christian organization which helps people move away from poverty by giving them healthcare and education and helping applicants

find stable housing. Being pied directly helps fight homelessness. Pi week can be controversial on campus, however, with some professors and students getting upset about disrupted classes. But they can get the pies redirected and the pie squads wait until the

end of class. The pieing also helps combat student apathy: it's the only tradition that unifies people on a notorious apathetic campus apart from Bermuda Shorts Day. In the end, even if pieing is considered assault in some cases, it is a valuable tradition.

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**StatoilHydro**

by Sarelle Azuelos  
photos by Geoff MacIntosh

# Burning down racism

## The Aryan Guard in Calgary

had my first experience with anti-Semitism when I was 11. My synagogue, Agudas Israel, was hit with a Molotov cocktail in the middle of the night and over \$130,000 worth of old books and foundation was destroyed. Many were brought from Israel and could never be replaced.

I grew up in a small town in Saskatchewan as part of the only Jewish family and really didn't think it was a big deal. Despite Canada's strong multiculturalism, rural prairie towns are mainly Caucasian and I matched the physical profile enough to fit in. Coming to Calgary I didn't expect to encounter public racism. But I only lived here for a few months before I heard of the Aryan Guard — a Calgary-based neo-Nazi group.

### Saturday's Rally

This Saturday, the Aryan Guard's roughly 40 members will march in a white-pride rally downtown. Calgary is also home to Anti-Racist Action and the group is gathering support from locals to come out to actively oppose the AG. A similar march took place last year when about 40 AG members were confronted by the Calgary branch of ARA and its almost 200 supporters.

ARA spokesperson Jason Devine is the go-to man for the group since he is one of the few members willing to make his affiliation public.

"There's the fear of retribution or shame or guilt and you can definitely understand that coming from hate crimes," said Devine.

Many activists wear masks at rallies to avoid being recognized. Guard members maintain a website with a list and photos of those they label "white traitors."

Devine, whose photo is on the website numerous times, knows this better than most — his home was firebombed with his four children and wife inside in February 2008. No one was ever charged but Devine is sure the Aryans are respon-

sible. At later rallies, AG members taunted him, asking if his home was warm enough for comfort.

Devine pointed to the majority of AG members who have been charged with violent crimes. Last summer, a Japanese visitor was attacked by a member of the white supremacist group outside a downtown bar. The 17-year-old male was convicted of assault with a weapon earlier this month.

On a Facebook event page for the march to celebrate their Aryan heritage the AG asked members not to bring Nazi paraphernalia. The page has since been taken down. However, while a similar call went out last year, it doesn't stop members from showing up with "Kill Jews" tattooed on their shins.

### Police and violence

On the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, members from the Calgary Police Service will escort the neo-Nazis from City Hall to the Harry Hayes building. Because the group has applied for a permit, the CPS aren't able to step in unless the AG break any laws.

"Basically our goal is just to make life difficult," said an ARA member who asked to go by Lev. "The ARA is composed of a lot of different viewpoints on the best ways to stop them, but the guiding principle is that something has to be done."

Devine said CPS' priority was to avoid confrontation. Last year they built a human fence between the groups to keep them separated.

ARA members consider their group to be an anarchist body calling for a classless society and as such they don't make demands or restrictions on anyone who comes out to counter-protest.

"Every person has the right to choose the level of their own involvement," said Lev.

Some have approached the group, asking them to take a purely non-violent approach, but Lev argues that people should be allowed to be confrontational as long as they don't endanger other activists. They want to "put the fire out first," saying that an unopposed racist group would stain the city.

However, they do support community involvement. They

used the example of The Final Solution, an Edmonton-based racist group that gained popularity in the late '90s. Edmonton businesses teamed up to ban teens wearing racist paraphernalia from rock shows. This proved useful as this cut off many of the young, new members from their peers. Quickly, being part of a scary and tough group didn't matter as much if you couldn't show it off.

### Activism techniques

The Aryan Guard and other anti-Semitic, racist organizations have a strong history of recruiting youth and teens. Dr. David Lethbridge, former research director of the Canadian Bethune Institute for Anti-Fascist Studies said the groups often hang around schools giving out pamphlets and stickers. In July 2008, a suspected neo-Nazi was trying to recruit at Shaw Millennium skate park. ARA members showed up and a fight broke out.

Lethbridge explained that there are two major techniques for fighting against racists: activism like the ARA or legal battles like those put on by the Southern Poverty Law Center in the United States, founded in 1971. While many of their cases fight for equal rights for minorities and women, they also targeted prominent American racist groups, Southern Klans and White Aryan Resistance.

By 1990, WAR's influence was essentially ended after they were ordered to pay \$12.5 million in damages to the family of an Ethiopian victim. Unable to pay, the WAR's assets were sold off and their influence came to an end.

Lethbridge pointed to Canadian Richard Warman as an example of using legal strategies north of the 49th. Warman has approached the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal over a dozen times and is always successful. Earlier this month he won a complaint against the now bankrupt leader of the defunct Northern Alliance, a white nationalist group based in Ontario. Warman is a former employee of the Canadian Human Rights Commission and brought more cases before the tribunal than any other Canadian.

Lethbridge said legal battles like this are successful, but

not his favourite method to combat the extremist groups.

"What it doesn't do is arm the people with knowledge," he said.

In his past participation with the Salmon Arm Coalition Against Racism, Lethbridge tracked racist organizations and gave public seminars about their recruiting methods. He explained that groups like the Aryan Guard don't approach people with a full agenda, but instead promise companionship. The assurance of a tough group of friends won't seem as gratifying once the overt racism that comes with it is pointed out.

Devine explained that the ARA holds workshops to educate people about racism in Calgary, but they are sparsely attended.

"What we focus on is speaking with people at work, home, school," said Devine. "Discussing with people what the issues are — leafleting, pamphletting, showing our support for different groups."

### A quick history of economics and racism

Activists across Canada continue to struggle against racist groups, but compared to numbers in the late '80s and '90s, the racist groups are at a weak point. Lethbridge warned, however, that their popularity could rise again given the current economic climate.

"I've been really concerned over the last six months," he said. "When times get bad financially, economically, people look around for others to blame. The enemy is not their neighbour, but the capitalist system itself. It is my general feeling that the economic recession will result in unfortunate but fruitful grounds for far-right and neo-Nazi recruitment and activity."

Traditionally, economic recessions have led to peaks in racist activity. The Great Depression in the '30s resulted in restrictive immigration laws and wide-spread anti-Semitism. After extensive job losses in the '80s, North American racist groups started to shave their heads like the anti-racist skinhead punks in Britain. By using the image of the popular skinheads, but twisting their ideology, racists were able to gain support from the general populace.

Lethbridge said that racism does seem to be more prevalent in western Canada compared to eastern provinces. He suggested a strong history of political conservatism and the relative absence of visible minorities as sources of

the issue. According to the 2001 Canadian census, Alberta and B.C. have about seven million visible minorities, while Ontario and Quebec have over 18 million.

On most weekends, my family would drive two hours to the Saskatoon synagogue for services.

On one such Saturday, the morning of our day of rest, *Shab-*

*bat*, we got a call from some family friends explaining what had happened. Yet congregation members had decided to carry on with the planned service despite the Molotov cocktail. Community members huddled together in pews with blankets because the furnace was turned off. The windows had been kept open to let the smoke from the night

before escape and early April in Saskatoon is not a pleasant time of year.

It's not hard for strong communities to join together to show racists like Calgary's Aryan Guard that they are not welcome. The synagogue in Saskatoon united and started up a wildly successful fundraiser to replace the destroyed library. It re-

opened a year later after support poured in from all types of communities.

Calgary could easily overwhelm this small group before it even has the chance to grow. To get involved with the ARA or to show your support for an inclusive Calgary, come to the rally Saturday at City Hall or visit [aracalgary.com](http://aracalgary.com).

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# Dinos fly high at Final 8



Top left: Boisterous fans filled Scotiabank Place all weekend. (photo by Jon Roe)

Middle left: The Dinos season is on the brink. (photo by Brad Halasz)

Bottom left: Carleton Ravens win their sixth CIS Final 8 title in seven years. (photo by Jon Roe)

Top right: Ross Bekkering sets up for the slam. (photo by Brad Halasz)

Bottom right: Dinos forwards give a Stinger player a pink belly. (photo by Jon Roe)

# Ballers sting Concordia in O-Town

Flying Bekkering brothers help push Dinos past quarters at the CIS Final 8

## men's basketball

Brad Halasz  
Sports Editor

If the Concordia University Stingers took away anything from the 76-67 beating handed to them by the University of Calgary Dinos in the quarterfinal game at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Final 8 men's basketball tournament last Friday at Scotiabank Place in Kanata, Ontario, it's that size does indeed matter.

The free-wheeling brothers Bekkering proved too much for the Stingers as their small but speedy style did not match up to the frames of Henry and Ross.

"We don't have guys that size," said Concordia head coach John Dore. "We had trouble with them on the boards. The guys we put in didn't do the job inside. We didn't have one of our better games today."

Making their first trip to the Final 8 since 2004, the Dinos looked shaky out of the gate and found themselves trailing 23-14 after the first quarter, admittedly letting the gravity of the tour-

nament become a factor in the opening frame.

"In the first quarter there was a little bit of nerves and we expected that, it's a national stage, but we worked real hard on how to handle that and control it and kind of harness it in the right way," said Ross.

Proving it's not just the size, but what you do with it, the Dinos found their legs in the second quarter going on an 18-9 run capped off with a huge three from first-year guard Andy Rochon to tie the game heading into the break.

"For our guys to battle back and tie the game up at half was big," said Dinos head coach Dan Vanhooren. "That just helps our guys realize that even when they're playing poorly that we can come out and we got the fuzz off and could refocus ourselves."

Vanhooren said the Dinos played "some silly basketball at times" in the opening two frames. Missing for most of the half was starting forward Robbie Sihota who was limited to just six minutes of floor time in the first after getting into foul trouble early.

"We're obviously a bit different team when we have him on the

floor and it makes a big difference with him there," said Vanhooren.

Not one to bow out quietly the six-foot-six 225 pound forward made a statement early and quickly with a huge drive that resulted in a highlight-reel slam that opened the scoring for the Dinos in the second half and simultaneously turned the tide of the game. The basket sparked an 18-0 run that saw Ross and Henry make crowd-pleasing dunks.

Tyler Fidler — who in his second year has had a breakout season — was again solid in the paint with 12 points thanks to a reliable midrange jumper.

"When a good team gets their flow it's hard to stop," said red-eyed Concordia guard Dwayne Buckley following the tilt. "They got their flow."

In his fifth year, Buckley wasn't going down without a fight in what was his last bid at the CIS title. He led his squad with 19 points and was named the Stingers game MVP for his efforts.

"We wish we had 11 other guys with his heart because he works like a dog," said Dore.



Jon Roe/ the Gauntlet

AHHH! Henry Bekkering puts the ball in its proper place.

SCORE	
DINOS	STINGERS
76	67

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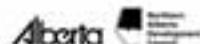
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# Dinos downed by UBC rivals in Final 8 semis



Brad Halasz/the Gauntlet

Ross Bekkering (#33) converts on a second effort.

## men's basketball

Jon Roe  
Editor-in-Chief

Four points. Five points. For this year's Dinos men's basketball squad, those numbers ultimately defined their season. There were only four points between the Dinos and the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds in the Canada West Final, which the Dinos won 80-76. And there were only five points between the two teams in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport semi-final, this time in favour of the T-Birds, 79-74.

But for Dinos fifth-year forward Henry Bekkering, it came down to a different number. One play.

"Our team had a chance to win and a call, it could either be a charge or a block, and they called it a block," Bekkering said.

With UBC leading by just one point in the dying minute of the fourth quarter, Bekkering stepped in and was called for blocking an aggressive move to the net by T-Birds guard Chris Dyck. Dyck nailed both of his free throws and put the T-Birds up by three with less than 35 seconds left in the game. The Dinos called a timeout and fourth-year forward Robbie Sihota missed his three after the inbound. The ball bounced to Henry's brother Ross, who missed his shot. Forward

Dominyc Coward missed another conversion until finally sinking the ball for two points with 20 seconds left to bring the Dinos within one. But that was as close as they would come. The Dinos were forced to foul Dyck, who sank both of his shots, and were unable to recover.

The game started off evenly. It was a match-up between the Dinos dominating interior game and the T-Birds quick perimeter play. Neither squad led by more than five points in the first half as the Dinos scored in the paint and the T-Birds hit seven of 15 from beyond the arc. The score was 45-42 for the T-Birds at half.

But things started to go awry for the Dinos in the third. UBC built an eight-point lead in the first three minutes of the quarter until Tyler Fidler, who led all Dinos with 23 points, sunk two free throws and a jumper to bring the Dinos within four with 6:27 left. The Dinos didn't score again until the end of the quarter and missed all five of their shots and turned the ball over three times during a six-minute-span that saw the T-Birds establish a 13-point lead.

"We weren't executing at all," Fidler said. "We weren't getting to the inside, we were taking a lot of outside shots,

we stopped playing D for the moment... We could've done a way better job in the third."

The T-Birds outscored the Dinos 16-8 in the quarter. Dyck thought the T-Birds' defence was the difference in the third.

"If you can hold a team at nationals to under 10 points in a quarter, you're laughing," he said.

The Dinos walked off the court at the intermission behind by a 61-50 score, staring at elimination.

The teams traded scores until Sihota hit a three to bring the Dinos to within three with 1:54 left in the game.

But Dyck stepped up for his team in the final two minutes, nailing nine of 10 free throws in the fourth quarter, including all eight after Sihota's three. Dyck, who had a tournament-high 31 points, redeemed himself after missing key free throws in the Canada West final.

"Canada West, that was definitely in my mind, but once you hit a couple, you kind of forget about that and just kind of get the feel," said Dyck.

Fidler fouled out with 1:32 left in the game, called for illegal use of the hands on Dyck, who then hit both of his free throws.

The Dinos did make it close, bringing the game to within one on two separate occasions. Bekkering nailed what would be the final shot of his CIS career with 52 seconds left and Fidler's replacement Coward also sank two to bring the difference to one with 20 seconds left. But the Dinos were forced to foul Dyck, who sank both of his foul shots.

T-Birds coach Kevin Hanson gave full credit to Dyck for hitting those key free throws, including the two on Bekkering's foul. The T-Birds' win put them in the CIS final for the first time since Hanson was a point guard on the team back in 1987.

The T-Birds lost that final 74-66 to the Brandon University Bobcats and it was a repeat result for Hanson as UBC lost again Sunday, this time to the Carleton University Ravens dynasty, which has captured six of the last seven CIS titles. The Ravens took the final 87-77.

The graduating Bekkering was sad, but proud of his team.

"It's a disappointing way to go out, obviously you want to win a national championship," he said. "I think we played hard as a team and we had our chance to win."

## SCORE

DINOS

74

vs

T-BIRDS

79

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# Dinos good as



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

# GOLD

## women's hockey

**Chris 'Doc' Pedersen**  
Sports Editor

The Dinos waited a long time to avenge last year's championship defeat but finally finished the job and claimed the top prize in the province this season. The Dinos finished the year with drama on Sunday and lifted the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference championship trophy with a 1-0 win over the Mount Royal Cougars, winning the series 3-2. The final game was filled emotion and

suspense, and saw pivotal action at both ends of the ice determining victory and defeat. At the end of the contest the tears of the Dinos flowed with happiness, and heads were lifted to the sky in awe of the prize, while the Cougars hung their heads low to the ground to shield the display of defeat in their eyes. The Dinos used their physical forecheck and quick offence to wear down the Cougars and win the prize.

"Fuck yeah," said Dinos co-captain Cait O'Hara. "We knew what we had to do. We had to keep the game simple and outwork them. We knew we were the better team."

The Dinos came out strong,

controlled play for the opening 10 minutes of the first period and used a ferocious forecheck to constantly keep the puck in the Cougar zone, leading to several scoring opportunities. The Dinos kept up the offensive firepower as Dinos forward Tiarra Schoenroth nearly scored early on a partial breakaway, only to be stopped by Mount Royal netminder Sarah Oswald. The period ended with Mount Royal applying the pres-

sure, but both teams left the ice deadlocked at zero.

There were some scary moments in the second period for the Dinos,

SCORE	
DINOS	COUGARS
1	0

as they almost let the Cougars take the lead. Midway through the frame the Cougars went in alone on Dinos netminder Katie Urness, but before they could produce a shot, defenceman Melissa Zubick dived and knocked the puck away, sending the Cougar player into the boards headfirst. It

was an all-out effort by Zubick, one that showed the Dinos came ready to play and were hungry for the gold.

"We finally finished, last year we didn't and it feels good to finally do it," said Dinos co-captain Beccy Niehaus.

While most of the period was evenly contested, the Dinos committed several turnovers off failed clearing attempts in their defensive zone and, if not for some excellent saves by Urness, the Cougars would have taken the lead. Nothing was decided after 40 minutes and the two teams had 19 shots apiece.

see GOLD, page 22

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# Gold, continued from page 21

There was now 20 minutes left to decide who would win gold and who would walk away with the silver.

Calgary head coach Danielle Goyette made some line changes during the intermission, hoping this would produce a spark to get that all important goal.

Elana Lovell was switched from her usual line with forwards Schoenroth and Shelby Davey to the line of Erin Davidson and Niehaus. Tanya Morgan replaced Lovell on the rookie line.

The Dinos got the boost they needed in the third period from Sinead Tracey, the Dinos' leading scorer in the playoffs. With 4:08 gone, Ali Webb skated hard into the Cougars zone with the puck and forced the defender to chase. Webb then passed the puck to a streaking Tracey who ripped a quick wrist shot over the blocker of Oswald. The Oval erupted as the Dinos section of fans began beating on drums, metal barrels and the bleachers.

"It was a huge weight off our shoulders," said Dinos forward Shannon Davidson. "We waited so long to get that first goal."

In sports, players get a gut feeling about the outcome of games, something inside telling them this is their day. In the gold medal game O'Hara got that feeling once Tracey scored.

"Once Sinead scored we knew we had it," said O'Hara.

Despite the celebrations and gut feelings, the work was not done, and there was still an entire period to finish. Like any great championship, there was drama until the very end. With five minutes left, the Dinos were issued two penalties and

the Cougars had a five-on-three power play for a minute and a half. The Dinos mustered all their strength and cleared the puck numerous times, keeping the Cougars from scoring.

"It was terrible," said Shannon Davidson. "There's not much you can do because you only have three girls on the ice. We have a lot of trust so it worked out for us."

With the penalties killed, the Dinos managed the puck well in the final minutes and were rewarded with their first ACAC championship.

**"It feels unreal, I don't even know what to say. Our whole team played unbelievable."**

**—Sinead Tracey  
Dinos forward**

for trading in their last place finish in the season for a silver medal. They pushed the favoured team to five games and only lost by one goal.

"It was a great series," said Goyette. "I think the two teams showed a great level of hockey. One-nothing who expected that, I think we have to give credit to the players. The [Dinos] worked hard all year and I think they deserved what happened to them today."

The Dinos are poised to leave the ACAC next season, as they are close to confirming their spot in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport women's hockey league. In this league they will play other universities such as the University of Alberta and the University of Saskatchewan and have the opportunity to compete for a national championship.

"It feels unreal, I don't even know what to say," said Tracey. "Our whole team played unbelievable."

"We deserved this," said Davidson. "We worked hard all year."

The Cougars deserve to be given accolades



Geoff MacIntosh/the Gauntlet

The Dinos celebrate a goal during game four of the series.



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# Vanhooren reflects on successful b-ball season

## men's basketball

Jon Roe

Editor-in-Chief

It's hard to believe that the defining moments for a year's worth of work and effort could be just a few games. But that's what most sports teams experience and that's what the Dinos men's basketball team experienced this weekend when they flew out to Ottawa to take part in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Final 8 tournament for the first time since 2004.

The tournament started promising for the Dinos, with a 76-67 win over the Concordia University Stingers in the quarterfinals, and ended suddenly, with a 79-74 loss to the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds in the semis Saturday. For Dinos head coach Dan Vanhooren, not reaching their ultimate goal of a CIS championship does not mean that this year was unsuccessful.

"There's no question," Vanhooren said a day after the loss, "All the guys can do is look in the mirror and ask themselves, did they put their best effort forward. The only answer to that is yes. . . . Just because a shot doesn't fall here or there doesn't mean we're not good enough."

"We basically came down to one possession with UBC," he continues. "We beat them in the Canada West championship. We're as good as anybody here, it's just whether or not

the shots go in or they don't go in. And they just didn't happen to fall yesterday."

The Dinos were in a weird situation this year after being incredibly successful last year during the regular season and falling short in the playoffs. The team finished 18-4 last year and won all of their regular season home games, only to flame out spectacularly in two disappointing home playoff games during the Canada West final four. A 77-69 heartbreaker to the T-Birds cost them the chance of a guaranteed spot in Ottawa last year and a 97-83 loss to the Brandon University Bobcats shut the door on a slim chance of making it in as a wildcard.

Despite those losses, Vanhooren said the Dinos walked in to this season looking to the future.

"Last year's in the past," he said. "One of things we needed to do coming here and certainly the lesson that we learned from the past season is just that. There are things that are history and there are things that are in the future. . . . This year's team, even if you look at the games in B.C., they really took away that pressure from the previous year, because our guys performed in the final four."

This year the Dinos finished the season on top of their division for a second year in a row with a 17-5 record and followed that up with a successful playoff run, claiming the Canada West championship with a win over the T-Birds.

Though they couldn't du-

plicate that result against UBC on Saturday, the players walked off the court proud of their efforts and their accomplishments. They also had high expectations of the future.

"I think coach Vanhooren is a great recruiter and I think he's the best recruiter in Canada West," said fifth-year forward Henry Bekkering, who leaves the Dinos after two electrifying, dunk-filled seasons. "He brings the best talent every year and next year we have some good guys coming in, plus we have our whole team back. I totally expect our team to be back in this position next year."

Bekkering is the only Dino on the squad who can't come back, and though Vanhooren understands he will be hard to replace — he led the Dinos in scoring this season with 20.2 points per game and last season with 21 — he has a lot of confidence in his core group.

"To lose anybody with his capabilities is a big loss," said Vanhooren. "We're going to have to find a way to change what we do and replace what he does with numbers he puts up. The one thing that I've come to understand from coaching for a few years, no matter how many great players you have, other ones come along. Other guys step up."

One of those players might be second-year guard Tyler Fidler. He took a big leap this year as a starter after having a fantastic season as the Dinos' sixth man last year and being named to the CIS all-rookie team. He led the team in scoring and was named the MVP of the Dinos' semi-final match-up with the T-Birds.

"As a second-year kid to be here, and to experience what he did last year and this year, going forward he's only going to be a leader for us," said Vanhooren. "He'll be better next year than he was this year."

In the end for Vanhooren, it's not about wins and losses. It's not about basketball. It's about teaching kids and giving them different opportunities to learn.

"It has a lot more to do with the guys," he said. "It helps me stay young, I gotta say, I really enjoy being around them, but in addition to that, the whole goal of this is to make them better people. Every opportunity we have to do that, we will. Yesterday, we took them to the parliament building. Most of our guys hadn't been there before. That's just a great experience for them. Out west, we don't have the same kind of history around us."

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# three lines free

Yay TLF space! Too bad I got like five submissions this week... guess I'll have to do something kooky to compensate. Not comics, I've done those... maybe some tunes! To avoid such terrible creativity on my part from happening again, please! bring your TLF submissions to MSC 319 or send them to [tlfs@thegauntlet.ca](mailto:tlfs@thegauntlet.ca). All submissions must include your name, phone number, ID number and signature. Submissions judged to be sexist, racist, homophobic or an attack of a personal nature will not be permitted.

"I am the boogie man/And I boogie down whenever I can."

- www.ChrisGheran.com

Is there such thing as "not obsessed enough"? Explain and provide examples. (100 marks)

To the cute econ major I met at the stor I'd love to hear that joke sometime... funny or not

- girl

DODGEBALL! What more needs to be said? Gather 5-6 members from a club you belong to (or have made up) and show 'em what you've got! \$5/person to raise money for micro-credit. Friday, March 27 6:30pm-7:30pm in KN gym. email Jenni: [japanec@ucalgary.ca](mailto:japanec@ucalgary.ca) only space for 3 more clubs!

To Concerned, whoever you are. Dairy is awesome and I'm going to pull out all the stops.

- ED a.k.a. Adequate

I once had a deep friend double cheeseburger; I was digesting it for months.

- not Gina

Dear people who stop in doorways to talk: please die and/or stop doing that.

- love G

Seen on campus: a lonely goose lurking on top of education.

Also seen: a very uncute bunny.

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- pikism #42069

There once was this guy named Henry, and every time he cried pansy, a big truck would appear, filled to the roof, of delicious popcorn and candy.

There once was a girl named Lil, she had two boys after her grill, she cried and she shouted, but Dan only gloated, as he unload till Rocky was full.

Since there are no more TLF submissions to be had, it's time for Guess That Tune. Yay happy fun time!

"This is not a small cut that scabs, and dries, and flakes, and heals."

"A purple little little lady will be perfect for dirty old and useless clown..."

"Brother Pele's in the back/Sweet Seena's in the front/Cruising down the freeway/In the hot, hot sun"  
[hint: I once requested this song on X92.9 and they were appalled.]

"I got a girl she has girlfriends/I got a girl I like her girlfriends"

"This way is a waterslide away from me that takes you further every day, hey! So be cool"

"We'll all just keep waiting/you'll just keep waiting/in the cold, the supplement"

"We'll have halloween on christmas, and in the night we'll wish this never ends."

"click clack boom boooooom click clack boom boooooom yeahhh"  
[this one is a big hit in the underground mob scene.  
- aidEd]

"I like beating kids for no reason at all/I like doing drugs and beating up kids"  
[hint: this one did not come from a disney commercial...or did it?]

"The picture is far too big to look at, kid. Your eyes won't open wide enough."

"Na na na na na na/Na na na na na na/Na na na na na na/Na na na na na na"  
[hint: na na na na na na na na na]

"Hoping for the best just hoping nothing happens/A thousand clever lines unread on clever napkins"

"And though spring, it did come slowly, I guess it did its part - my heart has thawed and continues to beat."

"And in the deafening pleasure I thought I heard someone say/If we walk away, they'll walk away"

"I'm a giraffe, and it's been 30 days since -"  
[hint: you should know this.]

"And maybe I just don't wanna know/How low you're ready to go"

"Hold on if you feel like letting go!"  
[jampEd]

"Death's gotta be easy, because life is hard."  
[hint: get rich or die keggin']

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Director Bruce McDonald takes on unconventional zombie flick

# DON'T SPEAK

courtesy Maple Pictures

**Pontypool** film interview

**Jordyn Marcellus**  
Entertainment Assistant

The English language can be, at best, maddening at times. With homonyms, parallel structure and the horrors of their, there and they're, the language's ec-

centricities can drive a person to kill sometimes.

In Bruce McDonald's latest horror flick, *Pontypool*, a virus infects the townspeople's speech, slowly and insidiously destroying the small town community of Pontypool, Ontario. People — dubbed conversationalists by McDonald — have their ability to communicate via speaking ripped away from them. They can only

vomit out terms of endearment and gibberish ad nauseum, finally losing their sanity from it all with particularly bloody and gory results.

"As a conversationalist, you are in a high state of agitation and you just want to get it all out," says McDonald, sitting in the loft of the Uptown Cinema. "You want to communicate what you're thinking and feeling, but you can't. The only

way for you to do that is to chew your way through another person's mouth."

The film originally started out as a book by author Tony Burgess, a surrealist post-modern novel titled *Pontypool Changes Everything*. McDonald was drawn to the story's premise and its manipulation of the mundanities of talking into an unconventional horror plot.

"I've always loved the idea because it's so nuts," McDonald says. "It always appealed to me because people are so desperate to communicate. It's like [Alfred Hitchcock's] *The Birds*. You know these things so well and then suddenly it's like you don't know anything at all about them."

For an independent filmmaker like McDonald, working on small budgets and on a tight deadline is usual fare. But *Pontypool* was another beast altogether. The film was privately financed, shot for only half a million dollars over the course of two weeks in a small church basement. This was the first time McDonald used private funding to make a film and his broad face smiles warmly when discussing how he was able to procure funds for the movie.

"It's a fucking miracle," he says. "It's great as a signal to other filmmakers that you don't have to go to Telefilm to get your funding. It was a very radical financing process."

With actor Stephen McHattie (Elaine's therapist in *Seinfeld*) and Miraslaw Baskzak, (cinematographer for *Land of the Dead*) behind the camera, McDonald's producers went looking for the cash to make the film. While it wasn't the easiest process, they were able to procure the necessary funds to start shooting. McDonald explains how they were able to convince people to give up their hard-earned cash in a recession economy.

"It has McHattie, Miraslaw and McDonald," says McDonald. "It's contained, it's a genre pic, it's doable and fun."

For a filmmaker like McDonald, renowned for working on the road with films like *Hard Core Logo* and *Highway 61*, there were some initial worries about working on the film. It was mostly set in a radio studio in a church basement, a small and cramped set, nothing like the vast and expansive wilderness that he was more accustomed to shooting in.

"I was scared to shoot there," says McDonald. "I've always had an open canvas. I love that I can go and explore things. It wasn't just a challenge to make a film in a closed space for two weeks. I felt like I had cabin fever by the end of it."

## Chilling beginning, confusing ending

**Pontypool** film review

**Jordyn Marcellus**  
Entertainment Assistant

Most Canadian horror films are shlocky exploitation films. Shot quickly on the cheap, they're often nothing more than direct-to-DVD teen slasher films, immediately disposed of after one viewing.

*Pontypool*, theoretically, could have been another crappy Canadian horror film. Shot for half a million dollars over two weeks in Ontario, it could have been nothing more than another *My Bloody Valentine*. Instead it is a tense, taut horror film that actually manages to do something shocking in hor-

ror cinema: be creepy as hell.

The film centres around the titular town of Pontypool that is ravaged by a virus that infects the English language itself. Hopping from person to person by speaking, anyone who catches it becomes an obsessive conversationalist — a.k.a. pseudo-zombies constantly trying to communicate with people, finding themselves unable to say more than one or two words. Trapped in their own heads and unable to tell anyone how they're feeling, these conversationalists inevitably go mad from their inability to talk to anyone.

The film's opening is just especially jarring. Director Bruce McDonald opens not with some grand, sweeping scene or bloody murder but a tremendously off-

putting narration over an oscilloscope. The narration, which plays an important part in the story later on, makes no sense out of context but keeps the audience off-kilter.

The film is a hallmark in creeping terror. Outside of a few bloody scenes, most of the film is very tame in its content. The horror does not come from any graphic content, but from a stream of scenes that are incredibly off-putting. A woman tries desperately to communicate, only to repeat one word over and over again, her face increasingly shocked and dismayed as she stutters and stammers, only to repeat herself. We start empathizing with her character, only to see her lose herself to her madness and attack the survivors, Grant  
*see ZOMBIES, page 31*

# Segel and Rudd are funny guys

**I Love You, Man**  
film interview

Hoang-Mai Hong

Gauntlet Entertainment

The buddy movie has been a popular brand of entertainment for decades, but it seems that only recently has it delved into the softer complexities of male friendship and mined homoeroticism for comedy.

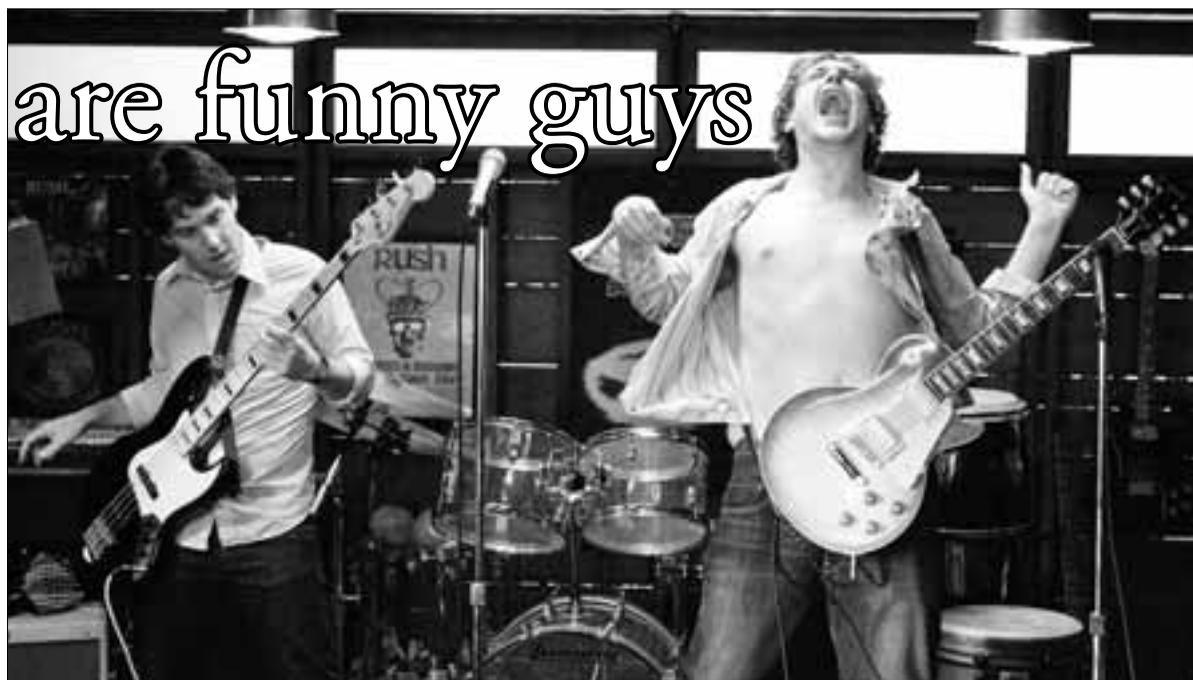
*I Love You, Man*, the latest buddy-comedy to hit theatres attempts to do precisely that. Terms like “bromance” have been tacked onto this new way of looking at male friendships. *I Love You, Man* sets out simultaneously to endear audiences to this gushier side of male friendships while poking fun at all the awkwardness that can result from trying to understand them.

“What we’re going for is a good male, platonic comedy,” says star

Jason Segel. “We got as close to the homoerotic line as possible, which, uh, I think we both [Paul Rudd and I] found comedically satisfying . . . I think my favourite bromantic comedy is *Midnight Cowboy*. *Twins*, that’s a great buddy movie. Also not bad is the follow-up, *Junior*. *Dumb and Dumber*, too.”

“And *Schindler’s List*,” adds Rudd. Rudd and Segel’s latest is another movie coming from what Rudd terms as his “Komfortable Komedie Coalition” featuring a good portion of comedians and writers grouped around the successful Judd Apatow comedies. All involved are simply a good group of friends fooling around and making movies together. The camaraderie between them, Rudd and Segel in particular, is evident as they describe their “prep-bonding sessions” for the movie.

“We had a couple of hangs,” Segel says. “We went to the bar a couple of times, scored a few brews.”



courtesy Paramount Pictures

Yeah, this is happening. At least it isn’t Jason Segel’s (R) penis this time.

Rudd has another set of terminology for it.

“We pounded some brains . . . and thankfully we knew each other and so there was already a built in familiarity and we made several, several boner jokes before we ever started filming this one, so we already spoke the same language a

bit,” he comments. “And when I say boner jokes and language, I mean it’s an actual language called bonerist. We both speak bonerist.”

Poking fun at full-frontal male nudity has also been ushered in with the bromantic-comedy it seems. Perhaps baring your nether regions goes hand-in-hand with male bonding and understanding the male psyche. Or maybe it’s just another, until now, unmined area of comedy.

“Well, I was the first to show my dick [in *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*], as far as I’m concerned, in a comedic sense,” says Segel.

Rudd disputes Segel’s claim.

“I think there was a dick in *Walk Hard*,” he adds. “But you only saw dick, [Segel] kind of put dick and face together. That came out wrong. As soon as that sentence left my lips, that also came out wrong.”

“Let me tell you something, between my dick and your ass, we’re

pretty funny,” Segel quips.

Male nudity in the bromantic comedy has also had some unforeseen benefits in real life for Rudd, who “went ass in *40-Year-Old Virgin*” and the especially for the still single Segel.

“[On dates] it actually makes things more comfortable because they know what they’re going to get,” says Segel. “There’s no mystery or awkward moments where it’s like, ‘Yeah, this is what I’m working with.’ If they want to go out on a date, they’ve already checked out the goods, and on the big screen, too, which is only more helpful.”

Rudd cautions that philosophy can backfire.

“Unless there’s a chance that they downloaded it on iTunes and they’re watching it on their iPod,” he warns. “Gives you an iDick.”

*I Love You, Man* hits theatres Friday. For more info, go to [iloveyouman.com](http://iloveyouman.com).

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# No alternatives to Plants and Animals

## Plants and Animals

music interview

Amanda Hu

Entertainment Editor

Nobody really knows what alternative music is anymore. The days of Bush, Alice in Chains and the Foo Fighters are in the past, while the section devoted to the genre grows bloated with unclassifiable music in CD stores. Montreal's Plants and Animals' newest release, *Parc Avenue*, was recently nominated for best alternative album and best new artist at the 2009 Juno Awards, though many say the album's sound is highly indefinable and certainly not simply "alternative."

"It used to make sense," lead singer and guitarist Warren Spicer says. "They used to have whole radio stations for that kind of music, but I don't think we sound like that. I don't know what that means besides we've made some sort of a rock record that we've been nominated for an award for. Going to the event will be an interesting day."

*Parc Avenue* was a three-year project for the group, made up of Spicer, drummer Matthew Woodley



courtesy Indoor Recess

These windswept indie rockers are ready to touch down in Calgary.

and bassist Nicolas Basque. The result was a highly-orchestrated romp through sometimes-theatrical rock with interjecting strings, horns, steel drums and everything else in between. Spicer says the recording process played a large part in the creation of the songs, helping the trio to hone their songwriting skills.

"It was the only way that made any sense to us," Spicer says. "We kind of had to go through it to get an understanding of it. It helped us make songs that we liked because we didn't just jump into it and record a bunch of songs and go, 'It's done,' and then a week later realize that we didn't like any of the songs

we did, which probably happens quite frequently actually."

Though they're being nominated for best new group as well, the Montreal trio has been creating music since 2000, exploring many different musical avenues before coming upon the sound of *Parc Avenue*. Spicer says the move

from strict instrumentals to music with vocals has changed the way they look at their songs and increased interaction with their audiences.

"It makes you economize in a whole different way with less space and you want to make it count," he explains. "You want to find a way to keep the good ideas and get rid of the bad ones. The narrative is completely different than with words because with instrumental music you still have the melodies but you don't have any content or words. The thing that makes the song or tune could be very different. Sometimes even in a song with words, the words are meaningless and it's the melody and the way the words sound."

Instrumental music isn't the only different music tack they took in the past. Spicer recalls being in bands with Woodley in high school, noting how it affected the music they make now.

"We were into weird free jazz in high school, like really bizarre stuff," he recalls. "We had this saxophone player and it was just super-improvised. It taught us how to communicate musically and build a musical vocabulary and helped us play our instruments better. We don't really do that anymore, but if you're having a cocktail party or something, me and Nick sometimes do jazz gigs."

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Plants and Animals hit up the Marquee Room March 21. The show starts at 8 p.m.

# U of C dancers celebrate the body

Mainstage promises to delight audiences with works devoted to the human form

## Mainstage dance preview

Roman Auriti  
Gauntlet Entertainment

Dancing events usually go unnoticed among the crowds at the University of Calgary. Midterms, exams and last night's party usually dominate a student's mind while major drama and dance events are largely ignored. Although this is unfortunate, now is the best time to break a dramaless habit and head out to watch Mainstage, a long-standing U of C event, showcasing brilliant choreographers from the United States and Canada and U of C's dance degree students.

"It has a festival feeling in that it's eclectic pieces," says Mainstage's art director Michèle Moss. "It works between four or five choreographers that set work on [auditioned] students with no par-



Paul Baker/the Gauntlet

It's not kung-fu, but with high kicks like those, it's pretty damn close.

ticular theme, so it's whatever fancy comes to the choreographers and whatever the theatre will accept. What can be put in it, is what I'm trying to say, things like swings, tra-

pezes and open flames." Not only does Mainstage provide its audience with a variety of imaginative idioms and themes, but dances and movements that are

familiar to everyone as well, like contemporary dance, classical ballet and jazz.

"There was a time where I choreographed for like three, four or

five years in a row," says Moss with a twinkle of experience flashing in her eye. "But lately I've been doing it every other year. So I kind of save it up and been chewing it up a bit and anxious to make a dance [for students I know]."

Moss is a veteran of choreography at the U of C, being a dance graduate that has moved on to teach here as well.

"Certainly if you're teaching in the faculty, you have your eye on students," she says. "I get to look in my class to see who is good."

This comes in handy when talent is a resource that is in high demand for a production like Mainstage.

"Opening the production is my piece," Moss says. "It's a jazz piece and it celebrates the body, the body in all of its glory accomplishing a goal . . . so it's the sporting body that has inspired me. [A] very functional body, you know?"

Mainstage runs in the University Theatre from March 19-21 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for students.

# CJSW ON-AIR GUIDE

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



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► 24 hour request line: 403.220.3991 ► email: [cjswfm@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cjswfm@ucalgary.ca)  
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VOX

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- \* Denotes Canadian Artist  
\*\* Denotes Local Artist
- JULIE DOIRON\*** *I Can Wonder What You Did With Your Day* (Endearing)
  - NEKO CASE\*** *Middle Cyclone* (Anti)
  - THESE ARE POWERS** *All Aboard Future* (Dead Oceans)
  - M. WARD** *Hold Time* (Merge)
  - FAUNTS\*** *Feel. Love. Thinking. Of.* (Friendly Fire)
  - BON IVER** *Blood Bank* (Jagjaguwar)
  - MR. SCRUFF** *Ninja Tuna* (Ninja Tune)
  - COTTON JONES** *Paranoid Cocoon* (Suicide Squeeze)
  - THE INVISIBLE HAND\*\*** *Cash Money EP* (indie)
  - MARISSA NADLER** *Little Hells* (Kemado)
  - BELL ORCHESTRE\*** *As Seen Through Windows* (Arts & Crafts)
  - GENTLEMAN REG\*** *Jet Black* (Arts & Crafts)
  - DD/MM/YYYY\*** *Black Square* (We Are Busy Bodies)
  - ABE VIGODA** *Reviver* (Post Present Medium)
  - INDIGONE TRIO & STRINGS\*** *Cycles* (indie)
  - KNUCKLEHEAD\*\*** *Hostage Life* (Longshot)
  - ANDREW VINCENT\*** *Rotten Pear* (Kelp)
  - TWO BEARS\*** *Eight Ice Cream Cones* (It's A Disaster)
  - DENT MAY AND HIS MAGNIFICENT UKULELE** *The Good Feeling Music Of Dent May And His Magnificent Ukulele* (Paw Tracks)
  - LORRIE MATHESON\*\*** *In Vein* (Saved By Radio)

## JAZZ

- INDIGONE TRIO & STRINGS\*** *Cycles* (indie)
- CURTIS ANDREWS\*** *The Offering Of Curtis Andrews* (indie)
- BEATS ON CANVAS\*** *Beats On Canvas* (BOC)
- PATTI LITTLEFIELD & MARK WEAVER** *Resonance* (Plutonium)
- BEN HENRIQUES\*** *The Responsibility Club* (Rare Bird)

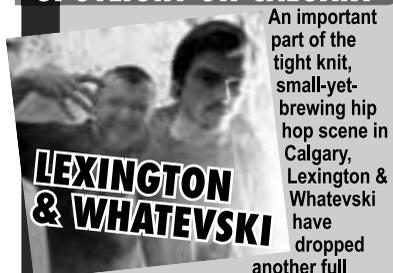
## FOLK/ROOTS/BLUES

- JUSTIN CURTIS & SALLY JO\*** *Shoulda Known Better* (Lazy J)
- HORATIO LEE JENKINS** *Drunker Than Satan* (indie)
- WILLIAM ELLIOTT WHITMORE** *Animals In The Dark* (Epitaph)
- VARIOUS\*** *Tether, Hooks & Velcro* (indie)
- PHOSPHORESCENT** *To Willie* (Dead Oceans)

## MYKE'S PICKS

- BONNIE PRINCE BILLY**
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[www.myspace.com/olivehour](http://www.myspace.com/olivehour)

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## Fanning the flames of bromance

I Love You, Man  
film review

Silvia de Somma

Gauntlet Entertainment

*I Love You, Man* takes the concept of a man who is most at ease with those of the opposite sex and sticks him in a situation where having guy pals is kinda important: a wedding.

The movie is a refreshing and amusing look at the relationship between two very different men brought together by circumstance. Peter Klaven (Paul Rudd), a mildly-successful real estate agent, just proposed to Zooney (Rashida Jones), his girlfriend of eight months. Both are extremely excited about the upcoming nuptials and are making big plans for both the ceremony and their future together. However, they hit a snag fairly early on: Zooney has a large group of girlfriends, including the perpetually single Hailey (Sarah Burns) and the acerbic, married Denise (Jaime Pressly), all of whom she wants in her wedding party. Peter, on the other hand, has no close friends of the same gender and is worried about having a mismatched number of groomsmen and bridesmaids. He decides to go on "man dates" in search of a potential best man, under the urging and guidance of his brother, Robbie (Andy Samberg). Despite his best efforts to make new guy friends, Peter just doesn't seem to hit it off with anyone, until he meets Sydney Fife (Jason Segel) without even try-



courtesy Paramount Pictures

Paul Rudd watches some serious adult-rated bromantic videos in *I Love You, Man*.

ing at an open house and things just click. Soon, they're spending hours together in Syd's "man cave," drinking beers, jamming and just hanging out to the increasing displeasure of Peter's fiancée.

The movie is refreshing because it's pretty rare to find a buddy comedy, or "bromance" if you will, that gives an honest look at the relationship between guys. It doesn't try and hide the fact that they swear, fart and talk about sex and can sometimes act like idiots, but still shows how even guy friendships, that might seem shallow and super-

fluous to women, can be important and meaningful.

*I Love You, Man* isn't groundbreaking or award-winning material. It's a bit lacking in the plot department and, like a lot of comedies these days, it relies heavily on sex-related humour, scatological references and lots of profanity to amp up the funny factor. Thankfully, the characters are original enough to avoid stereotypes and the writers stopped short of taking the predictable way out of tense moments or stripping heartfelt scenes of their sincerity. The supporting cast is

amazing and provides a lot of genuine talent to the movie, which really excels because of its actors' performances. Segel isn't exactly outside his niche on this one, but Rudd really makes his mark as someone with leading man attributes. If you don't mind crude comedy or a slightly pedestrian storyline, *I Love You, Man* is an endearing and funny movie about how friendship are made, how they are kept and how they can change you for the better.

*I Love You, Man* opens nationwide Fri., March 20..  
For more info go to [iloveyouman.com](http://iloveyouman.com)

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## Zombies, cont'd from pg. 25

(Stephen MacHattie) and Sydney (Lisa Houle) in a violent and bloody way.

One of the film's greatest successes is its ability to actually play with the conventions of speech in film. In most horror films, characters scream, cry and yell at one another, but not in *Pontypool* — that's the easiest way to transmit the virus. The survivors instead try numerous different ways to communicate with one another without speaking, some of which would seem terrifyingly boring. McDonald somehow manages to make writing on a whiteboard incredibly tense.

Another surprising element of the film is that once it enters into its main set piece, the radio station where MacHattie's character works, it doesn't leave. McDonald

manages to keep the film very interesting visually, even when it's in the booth for the radio show. Cross-cutting wide shots with extreme close ups of MacHattie's craggy face as the horrified reports come in from all around town, the small radio booth becomes infinitely larger.

The film, though, falters in its third act. The two survivors seem to find a "cure" for the virus that seems more comical than it does serious. The constant repetition of the cure ends up becoming a punch line instead of a moment of salvation. While this doesn't ruin the previous 60 minutes, it does make the movie a little bit frustrating and unfulfilling. The creepy vibe that was built up so brilliantly ends up being washed away in a tide of eye-rolling dialogue.

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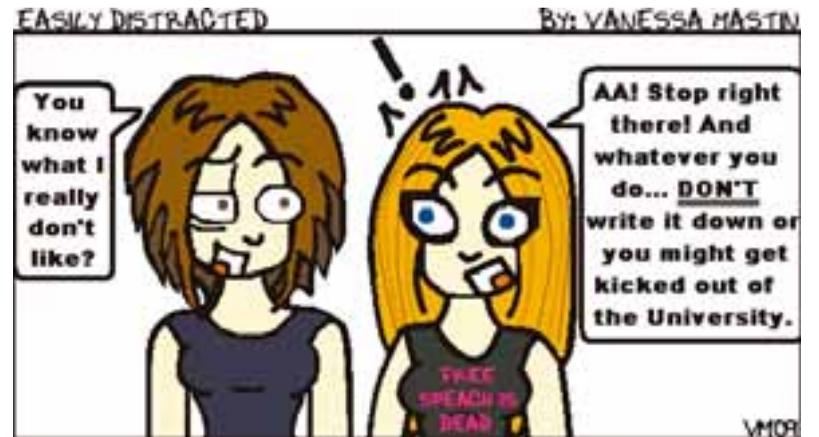
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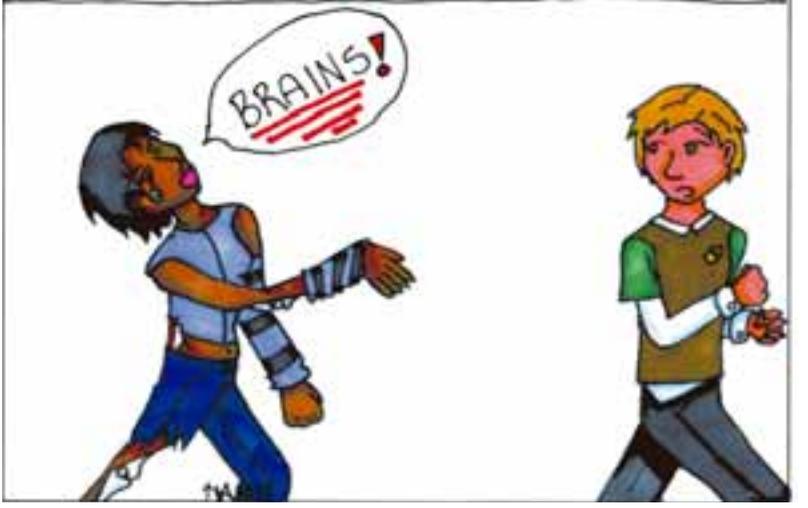
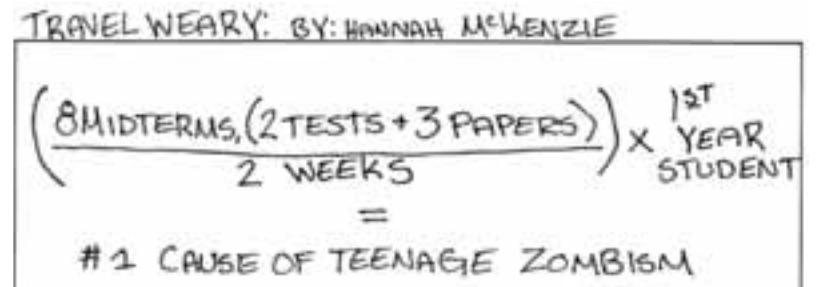
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