

Solar Power

Calgary post-secondary schools are working together to design, build and operate a highly energy-efficient and completely solar-powered house.

Students from the University of Calgary, the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, the Alberta College of Art & Design and Mount Royal College comprise one of 20 college and university teams from around the world invited to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon, a competition to create the most attractive and energy-efficient solar-powered house.

"It's a small home (800 square feet), just enough for one bedroom, an open kitchen/living area, bathroom, laundry facilities and a full complement of appliances, you name it we've got it all," said project manager Matt Ulinski. "Our home is built with products that are on the market now, some of the applications that we've done with them are new to the residential market and are commercial products. It's a smart home as well as a very energy-efficient home. It's all powered by our solar system on the roof."

see SOLAR, page 3

Story by Noah Miller, graphic provided by Alberta Solar Decathlon Team



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

gauntlet

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We don't need no education, we just need jobs

One enterprising young New York college graduate has found the best way to beat the recession unemployment blues. Trina Thomson, 27, is suing her alma mater — Monroe College in New York City — for her entire tuition because the campus career centre hasn't helped her find a full-time job. Her suit is worth \$72,000: \$70,000 in tuition and \$2000 for "stress over finding a job."

Now, the suit will probably be thrown out due to its absurdity. What's really disconcerting is how Thomson's suit reflects an attitude held by many university students: that post-secondary education is merely a stepping stone to a career, as opposed to a period of learning. People view university not as a place where it's honourable to hit the books to learn about the world, but a place where "Cs get degrees" and class is less important than living like Bluto from *Animal House*.

This de-valuation of education is seen in Thomson's foolish quest to sue her school: She feels she should be entitled to a job simply because she has a degree, not because of any outstanding merit on her part. In an



August 3 CNN.com report, Thomson is attributed as believing that her 2.7 (out of 4.0) GPA and a "solid attendance record" should have employers clamouring to give her a job.

The most damning quote, from the CNN.com report, is when Thomson was asked whether she would advise other students to sue their school. She said, "It doesn't make any sense: They went to school for four years, and then they come out working at McDonald's and Payless. That's not what they planned."

Many graduates feel they should

be entitled to a job just because they graduated. But we live in an era where receiving a great job right out of school is not necessarily the case, especially right now, during one of the worst job markets ever.

This post-grad entitlement is easy to understand in an historical context. Generations of young men and women were told that once they finished university they would be much more employable. Hence the common belief that going to school during a recession is a good investment. This can be attributed to the baby

boomer mentality of post-World War Two America — get a degree, get a job. For the boomers it was easily the case that a post-grad could get a job right out of university.

With the economy in the tank and degree inflation in the job market, post-grads are now feeling wrongly that their "investment" may be worth as much as a Bernie Madoff-sponsored hedge fund because they can't find jobs. But they are forgetting an important value of university — education for its own sake and becoming cognizant of the world around us. But, in this new era of "school is only as good as the job I can get out of it," awareness is useless because it's not a job skill, so they say.

Thomson is a fool, but her opinion represents a sizable portion of students. School hasn't been about getting an education, it's just an annoying four-to-five-year period that you need before entering the job market. It's sad and makes the entire undergrad cohort seem increasingly uninterested in the actual educational aspect of post-secondary education.

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Mike Tofin, for improvement in his writing week-after-week.
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Cover: U of C solar homes

However, the solar team faces another, even bigger challenge. Upon completion in September, its home must be completely dismantled and shipped to Washington D.C. for the competition, where it will not only be judged on efficiency, but also appeal.

“We have to reassemble it in four and a half days,” said Ulinski. “Our timeline is pretty tight.”

The ambitious Alberta team doesn't plan on producing just a run-of-the-mill entry for this competition.

“People like to design boxes because they are easy to ship,” said Ulinski. “We want to design a house that has appeal, to encourage people that the solar technology that they are slapping onto their roof doesn't have to look ugly. We are pretty confident that ours is really going to impress people. It's a departure from the houses we have seen in the past.”

The 2009 decathlon will also give the teams the opportunity to demonstrate the potential of zero-

energy homes to the public.

“The technology is out there, it's just a matter of getting people interested in it,” said Ulinski. “You could get by with a system that's half as powerful as ours and still do a lot with it.”

The hope is that value-driven consumers with extra income will recognize the advantages of these types of homes and their more sustainable living model.

“Banks don't quite understand the value of the proposition yet, of how much added value you can get by integrating [solar power] up front,” said Ulinski. “It's really hard to get that financing.”

Fortunately, Alberta energy distribution, supply and service giant ENMAX has stepped up as the project's primary sponsor, which has been named the ENMAX SolAbode.

“They're covering the majority of our budget for this,” explained Ulinski. “They will get the house after the competition is over.”

The contest begins Oct. 8 and will



courtesy Gerry Straathoff

Inside the ENMAX SolAbode.

draw to a close with the disassembly of the houses by Oct. 21 in Washington.

Ulinski added that the completely student-led initiative promises to be a real learning process for all team members.

College looks to avoid cuts

The City College of San Francisco is seeking financial aid to continue providing some of its classes. Due to a nine per cent budget cut from the Government of California, amounting to approximately \$360 million, community colleges will lose much needed funding.

“These cuts will really hurt the mission of the college,” said college chancellor Don Griffin in the June 22 San Francisco Chronicle. “Our goal has been to try to

keep the access.”

Over 800 CCSF classes are expected to be removed as a result of the cuts.

Community colleges in the U.S. provide relatively affordable post-secondary education.

Griffin was unavailable for further comment, but has been cited as saying he disapproves of the budget cut due to the negative impact it is likely to have.

In an effort to save classes, the college is

offering name sponsorship for them. For \$6,000, donors can not only save a class of their choosing, but have it named after them, too.

Sponsor names on educational programs is not a new idea. The University of Calgary has two such sponsored faculties, the Haskayne School of Business and the Schulich School of Engineering.

..Tristan Taylor

Record meteorite find

As technology increasingly allows us to explore the outer bounds of our universe, it is a magical occasion when a piece of the mystery falls through Earth's atmosphere.

The blazing Buzzard Coulee meteorite hurtled to Earth southeast of Lloydminster, Saskatchewan on Nov. 20, 2008. Soon after, University of Calgary department of geoscience associate professor and Canada Research Chair holder in Planetary Science Dr. Alan Hildebrand and graduate student Ellen Milley were the first to find and set out on a record-breaking hunt for fragments of the 10-tonne fireball.

Hildebrand discovered more than 400 pieces of rocky chondrite (H4), sporting hints that link the meteorite specimens to more than one parent body. He estimates

more than 1,000 specimens have been recovered by diverse collectors and local residents. This surpasses the previous 700-piece record set by the central Alberta Bruderheim meteorite fall in 1960.

According to a search agreement, the U of C legally owns one half of the Buzzard Coulee specimens for research purposes. Preceding the return of the remaining specimens to their landowners, collectors and volunteer searchers were invited into the lab to marvel at the numerous other-worldly findings.

Research has helped give an idea about the size of the Buzzard Coulee meteorite that entered Earth's atmosphere and the length of time since separating from its parent asteroid.

..Meagen Meikeljohn

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Pending pesticide bylaw sparks community interest

Paul Murphy
Gauntlet News

As the City of Calgary awaits independent reviews by an environmental advisory board to be released in October, community and interests groups have taken an increased interest in the potential cosmetic pesticide ban.

The pesticide ban that had originally been planned for implementation by 2010 on public lands and 2011 on private lands was stalled recently following an unresolved debate in council regarding a number of recommendations.

Concerns had arisen surrounding exemptions of those currently holding a pesticide permit, often associated with lawn companies, but also included health and safety questions.

Ald. Gord Lowe, who was opposed to the ban, emphasized that with respect to 2-4-D, one of the most commonly used pesticides, "Health Canada has ruled the product safe when used in

accordance with the instructions attached to the container."

The Municipal government's responsibility lies in the need to implement a "very strong education program, which advocates spot use rather than area spraying" and not a complete ban, said Lowe.

Many are criticizing the city for a lack of progressiveness on the issue. As many as 139 other municipalities throughout Canada have enforced similar bans on pesticide usage.

Peterborough, Ontario, provides the ideal model of a ban for Calgary: application of pesticides only in the event of public health concerns, said Coalition for a Healthy Calgary spokesperson Robin MacLeod.

Besides such extenuating circumstances, the city "must use a whole different approach with community integrative pest management as an alternative to the current pesticide-biased program," using methods of community education and awareness.

MacLeod pointed to tangible alternatives.

"Management programs that could



Daniel Pagan/the Gauntlet

Dandelions are difficult to eradicate without pesticides.

be implemented to allocate the 2,600 volunteers in the City of Calgary's Adopt a Park program," she said.

However, Maureen O'Hara, a

resident of Wilkie, Saskatchewan, voiced concerns about a ban that recently ended the spraying of dandelions in the Central Memorial

Park her home backs onto.

"Dandelions now cover the park without any hope of weeding," she said, voicing that pesticides are often the only effective means of eliminating exotic plants, disease spreading organisms, weeds or insect pests.

"Having grown up on a farm, I know that pesticides can be dangerous, however, across the road from town, farmers are dumping enough fertilizers to make any effort by our town hopeless."

Here in Calgary, hundreds of people, including swarms of young children, attended the recent fourth annual Park Party in New Edinborough, Calgary's first ever pesticide-free park.

Lance Ayer, a mechanic at the Bike Root's booth, was thrilled "to see greater sense of responsibility towards the environment."

"Pesticides have been used irresponsibly in the past and it's great to see that things are changing towards a more environmentally conscious approach," he said.

The ban will be taken up again in October at city council hearings.

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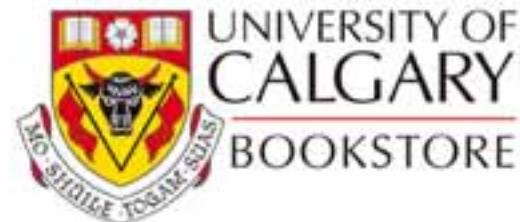
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Secret broadcasts beaming into minds

Secret Broadcast music interview

Allison Drinnan

Gauntlet Entertainment

Picture a local Calgary bar. A certain band is playing, beer is flowing and — in true Calgary fashion — the audience is standing stiffly around the stage, simply watching. Every now and then a couple of brave souls start awkwardly dancing, as others subtly tap their feet to the music.

All of a sudden a musical trio steps on stage, lead by a top hat clad singer with a commanding presence that forces the audience to forget their inhibitions. Scantly dressed women force their way on stage, unwillingly hauled off until the bouncers are overwhelmed by the persistent ladies. Soon everyone is dancing, shots are downed, clothes are stripped and, as the music finishes and the whirlwind of energy subsides, the audience catches their breath and thinks, “What just happened?”

The answer is the ultimate Secret Broadcast show, a pounding set at local hole in the wall, the Rusty Cage.

The surprisingly unassuming band, consisting of bassist John de Jesus, guitarist and vocalist Matt Lightstone and drummer Bryan Craig, laugh while humbly recalling that particular night at the Cage. The band ended up barely visible through the crowd of fans that rushed the stage to dance to their latest tunes.

“We encourage them,” Lightstone, almost unrecognizable without his signature hat, explains. “The Calgary mentality is very timid... It can be nerve racking to be the only



courtesy the band

The Secret Broadcast's August 15 CD release party in the Warehouse won't be nearly as fancy as this.

person dancing but once someone starts, it grows.”

Lately, the group have been busy in the studio with Juno award-winning producer Laurence Currie — who has also worked with Holy Fuck and Wintersleep — on their latest record, *Exploding Spiders*, which will be let loose on Calgarians August 15.

“It's a Jack Kerouac quote about excitement and living in the moment,” Lightstone explains as he discusses the title. “It's quirky and sticks in your head.”

Looking at Kerouac is a good way to better understand the philosophy behind Secret Broadcast. When it comes to describing the writing process of the album Lightstone easily relates to Kerouac's raw, free-floating style.

“He writes his books in a stream of consciousness, it's not overthought,” he says. “That's how our music is written. Spontaneously.”

Secret Broadcast have had a special relationship with release party partners and fellow x92.9 Xposure winners the Fast Romantics within the Calgary music scene. Craig has in fact played with the Fast Romantics' bassist before and almost joined the band. He describes the two bands' relationship as “very incestuous.”

“When we played the Hi Fi [Club] with them it was one of the busiest nights they have ever had,” says Lightstone. “It's a lot more exciting to see a couple of good bands... you know like Shout Out Out Out and Holy Fuck playing together. You want a night people will remember.”

You most likely have heard of one of their many wins in different musical competitions, including the Xposure contest and the “Oh Henry! What Feeds Your Hunger” Competition, allowing the band to play events such as the Virgin Festival in previous years. Don't let the competition mentality and hype fool you, the boys feel very little pressure.

“We feel like it has been a really natural progression for us,” explains Lightstone. “We are really good friends with all the bands we compete against, so we don't really like the actual competition part of it.”

The group maintains that competitions can be incredibly beneficial, though.

“Bands should really try going into competitions,” adds Craig. “We

couldn't have worked with Laurence without winning. It was a huge learning curve.”

The future for Secret Broadcast includes touring and looks to potentially be much like Kerouac's *On The Road*: a spontaneous trip searching for revelation, passion and meaning, but most importantly, seeking to deliver kickass shows and release their unique sounds on the rest of Canada.

“We are going to be focusing on touring Canada for the next few months,” Lightstone explains. “We will see what happens... our next move might be the U.S. or U.K. We want to take it slow and take on one country at a time.”

Secret Broadcast's CD release party is August 15 in the Warehouse. Show starts at 8 p.m.

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 - GOBBLE GOBBLE*** *Neon Graveyard* (Self-Released)
 - REVERIE SOUND REVUE****
Reverie Sound Revue (Boomba)
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 - LIONS**** *Live Love Laugh* (Self-Released)
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SPOTLIGHT ON CALGARY



HEAT-RAY
 Edmonton's Pop Echo Records has gone south for its newest release, and with good reason. The debut record from Calgary's Heat-Ray is packed with fuzzy pop-rock jams that will have you singing along in no time. Classic... www.myspace.com/heatray77

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August loaded with fun festivals

Jordyn Marcellus
 Entertainment Editor

In Calgary, August is the time for road trips, rafting and a whole bunch of festivals. This August, the *Gauntlet* takes a look at eight festivals — including music, cultural and food festivals — and gives you the low-down on where they are, when they are and some of the defining features of each.

Afrikadey! (August 6 – 8, various locations around Calgary)

Featuring traditional African music, hand drumming and dancing, this festival is a treat for those fascinated by a culture usually thought of as far-removed from typical cowboy Calgary. With free events like noon concerts at Olympic Plaza (Thursday) and Stephen Ave. (Friday), along with a mainstage festival at Prince's Island Park (Saturday), Afrikadey! promises to be an exciting festival showing the rich tapestry of African culture.

Calgary International Blues Festival (August 6 – 9, Pumphouse Park)

Calgary's beloved blues institution is back for another year of moody Americana and tales of loss and longing. This year features Watermelon Slim, playing Friday, a perennial favourite who has played Folk Fest, the Jubilee Auditorium and now graces Pumphouse Park. Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award winner Booker T is another blues luminary showcased at the festival. While the venue is a little out of the way, Blues Fest is one of Calgary's great musical secrets.



Ken Clarke/the Gauntlet

Watermelon Slim, pictured here at the 2007 Folk Fest, will perform at Blues Fest.

Virgin Festival (August 8 – 9, Canada Olympic Park)

Virgin Festival returns to Calgary with beloved groups like Pearl Jam (Saturday), Metric (Sunday) and Tokyo Police Club (also Sunday) taking the stage. Other great acts include Toronto's finest in booty-bouncing club beats, Thunderheist, as well as κ-os. Local boys Secret Broadcast are also set to perform, so this year's V-Fest will hopefully bring many new fans for their August 15 CD release.

Vans Warped Tour (August 12, Race City Motorsport Park)

This may be the last Calgary

Warped Tour ever, with Race City set to close October 20. Warped Tour favourites Bad Religion, Less Than Jake and NOFX all play this year. While there are always some questionable acts — does anyone really need to see Brokencyde's awful fusion of hardcore and blingstar rap? — Calgary punk music fans need to pick up their tickets and send Warped Tour off right.

Taste of Calgary (August 13 – 19, Eau Claire Festival Plaza)

Originally scheduled to begin August 6, Taste of Calgary has been postponed until August 13. Fear not, it just means that the food ven-

dors can cook their food extra slow to fully bring out the flavour. Foodies and fans of general deliciousness can check out the food available at Eau Claire Festival Plaza, right outside Eau Claire Market.

Reggaefest (August 15, Shaw Millennium Park)

Take a day off work, chill out and shake 'dem dreads at Reggaefest. If there ever was a good way of breaking out of the doldrums of day-to-day Calgary living, this is it. With performances by Edmonton-based Soulicitors, Mexican reggae act the Rastrillos and Newfoundland natives the Idlers, this is the perfect time to unleash the calm, relaxed inner Jamaican that we all wish we could show everyday.

Global Fest (August 14 – 29, various locations throughout Calgary)

Fireworks, a film festival component and even a Chinatown street festival are all part of this year's Global Fest Calgary. With international fireworks displays from Canada, Mexico, Spain and China, plus the always necessary beer gardens, this year's Global Fest is another in a great series celebrating the cultural diversity of Calgary.

Expo Latino (August 28 – 30, Prince's Island Park)

End August off right by cooling down with some hot Latin beats. Thursday opens up with a special Reggaeton festival, which will end in sweaty dancing for everyone who attends. Not only will there be the typical music events, but Latin dancing will be on display as well, which is always fun to see — as well as vainly try to participate in.

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Down, but they're not out

After cancelling Canadian gigs, heavy metal supergroup are raring to show their stuff.



courtesy Morgan Y Evans

Stereotypical band press photo pose #21: arms-crossed badassery.

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Mike Tofin

Gauntlet Entertainment

After having to cancel a few shows the last time they were through Canada, due to lead singer Phil Anselmo's throat problems, drummer Jimmy Bower and the rest of Down are set to rip through Canada. This time with a unique tour providing fans the opportunity to purchase tickets for a meet-and-greet and a free T-shirt for involved metal heads to include in their daily rotation of band tees.

"I think our fans are united in [their] lifestyle," says Bower. "We always walk around and talk to everybody and try to be personable with everybody. I think a meet-and-greet will make things that much better."

After touring, the group plans on heading into the studio starting October or early November to record a new album. This process is one that Down has become both famous and infamous for. Their second album, *Down II: A Bustle In Your Hedgerow*, was recorded amidst a 28-day bender — producing an album that ended up a cult classic despite bombing critically.

"I think with this one we are just going to go into the studio, jam and try to come up with it on the spot," says Bower. "Kind of like we always do. That always seems to work the best."

With their last album, *Down III: Over the Under*, gaining commercial and critical success, Bower suggests that the band is more confident for a return to the feel and creative synergy of an impromptu visit to the studio.

"Since we have taken Down a

little more serious over the past few years, [going into the studio] has become more of a tight knit thing and a lot more of a comfortable feeling," explains Bower. "Everybody has the same mind set now. There really is no brain surgery to it, it's just us trying to be Down. So we opted this time to go in the studio and say let's just do this. Just go for the throat."

Down plays at MacEwan Hall Aug. 8. The show starts at 8 p.m.

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français?**

Senior courses
EN FRANÇAIS
No prerequisites

Automne – Fall 2009

ARKY 325 Lo2 Ancient Civilizations T/R 17:00

Hiver – Winter 2010

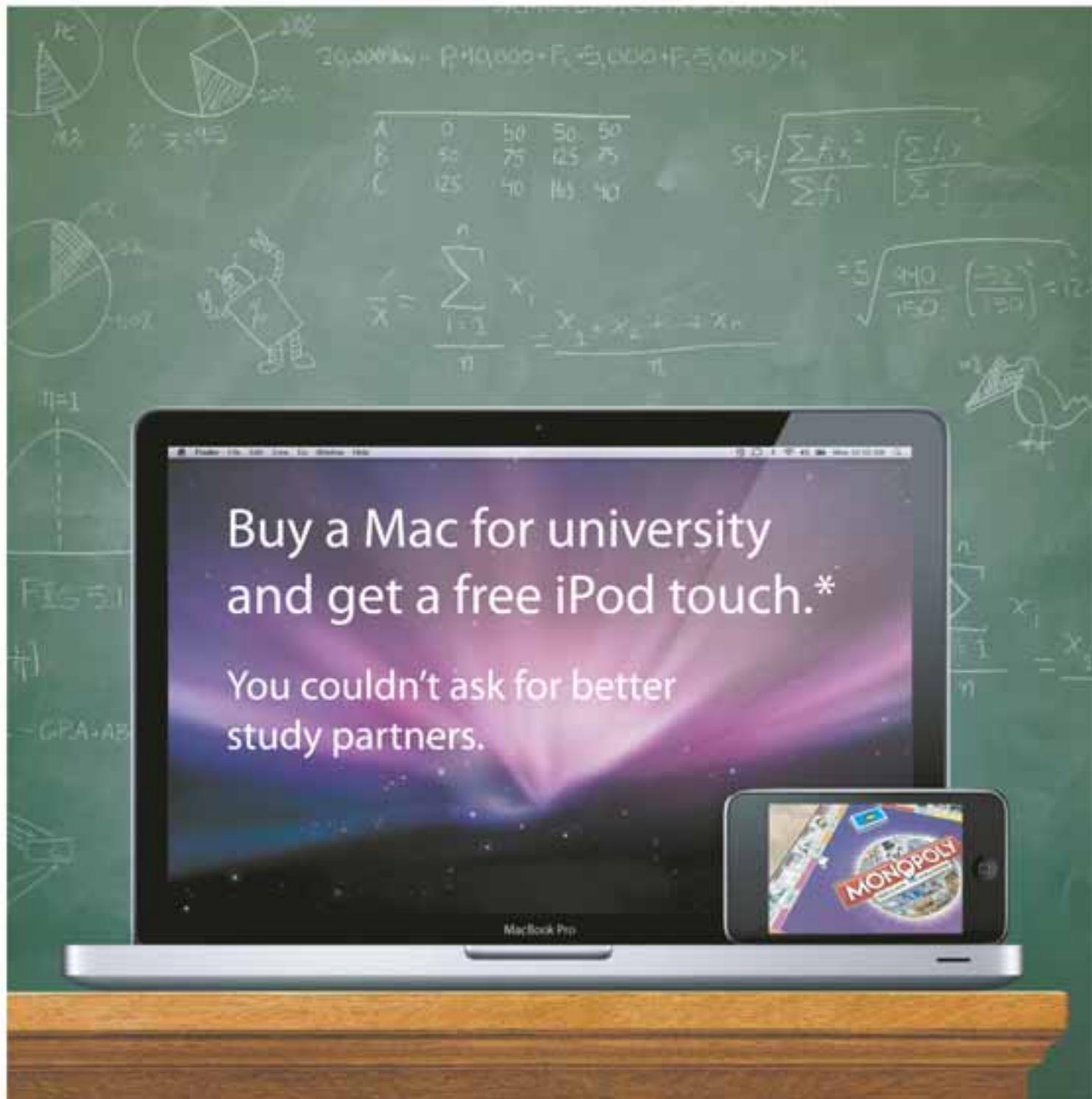
BIOL 305 Lo1 The Human Organism M/W/F 11:00

MUHL 311 Lo1 Composers and Musical Cultures – Masterpieces of Music R 14:00

RELS 333 Lo2 Religious Perspectives on Death and Afterlife M/W/F 13:00

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