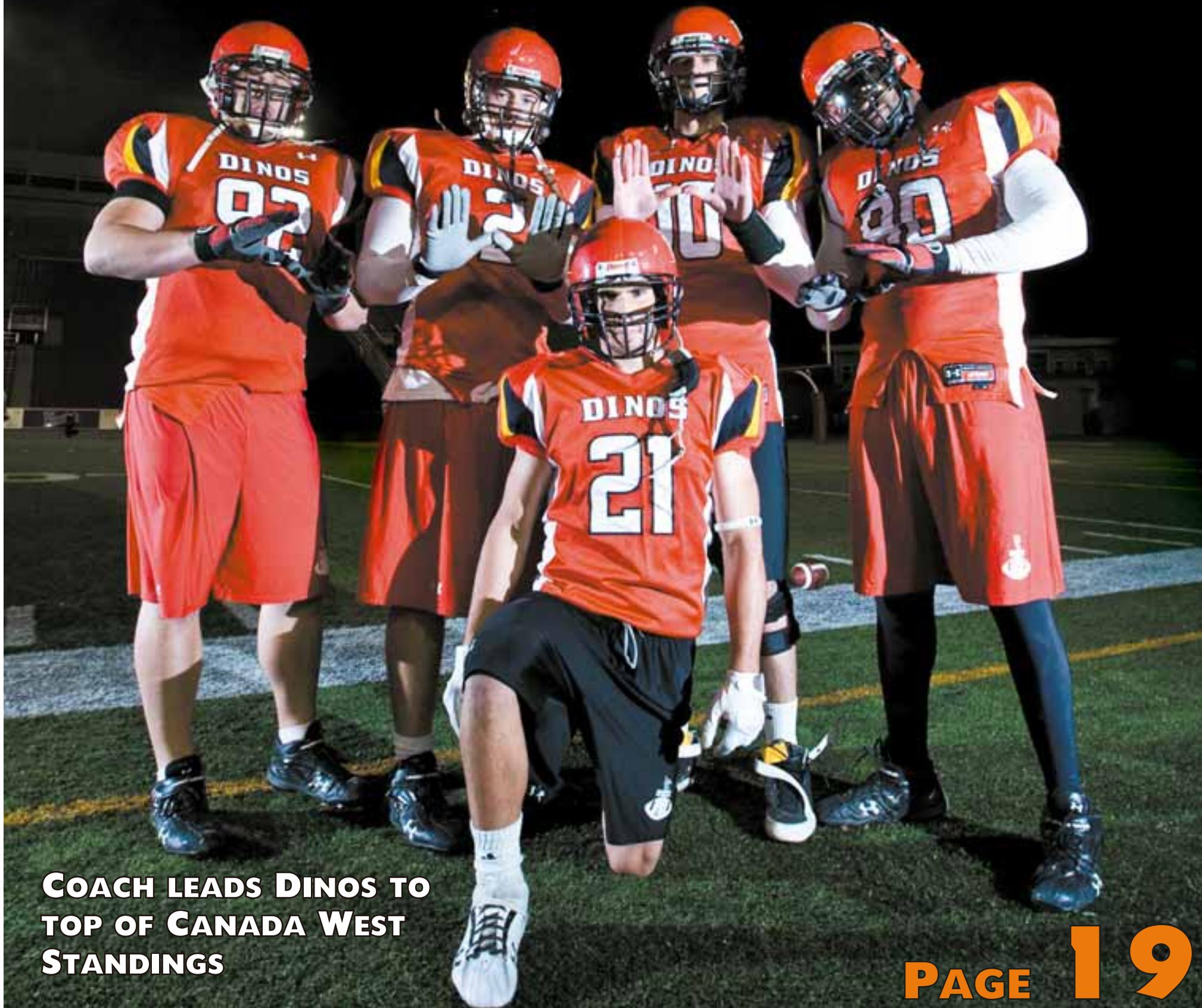


THE **CULT** **OF** **NILL**



**COACH LEADS DINOS TO
TOP OF CANADA WEST
STANDINGS**



STUDENTS' UNION HAPPENINGS

OCTOBER 5 - 9 EVENTS:

MONDAY

Cinermania: I Love You, Beth Cooper, ST148, 6:30 & 9pm

TUESDAY

Clubs Night at the Den: 15% off with your Club Card, 5pm - close

Debt City: October 6 - 8. Check out Tent City on the East Lawn and add a brick to our Wall of Debt!

WEDNESDAY

Yoga in That Empty Space: 12 - 1pm
25¢ Wing Night at the Den, 8pm - close

THURSDAY

80's for Lunch: That Empty Space, 12 - 2pm
Alcohol Awareness Day, various locations in MSC
Student Appreciation Night at the Den

FRIDAY

That Empty Space: The Stables and Cort Delano, 3 - 6pm

DEBT CITY
Education shouldn't be a debt sentence.

OCTOBER 6 - 8

Camp out on the East Lawn by the Prairie Chicken Oct 6 & 7 to take a stand against student debt!

Movie on the Lawn - Tues, Oct. 6 at 9pm
Mac & Cheese Lunch - Wed, Oct. 7 at 12pm

To reserve your FREE tent spot, contact your VP External, Kay at: suypext@ucalgary.ca for more information visit: www.su.ucalgary.ca

OCTOBER IS WELLNESS MONTH

Launch Party

October 1, 11 am - 1 pm
MSC South Lawn

My Market Launch

October 5, 10 am - 4 pm
MSC North Courtyard

Lunch and Learn Sessions

Topics: Nutrition, Sexuality and Mental Health/Stress Reduction
October 5, 19, and 28
12 - 1 pm, That Empty Space

Beer and Wine Tasting

October 7, 5 - 7 pm
The Den Red Room

Alcohol Awareness Day

October 8, 11 am - 1 pm
MSC North Courtyard

UofC Health Fair

October 14, 11 am - 3 pm
MSC North Courtyard

Sexual Awareness Day

October 22, 11 am - 1 pm
various locations, MSC

Movies That Matter

October 28, 6 - 9 pm
That Empty Space

Sustainability and You

October 29, 11 am - 1 pm
MSC North Courtyard



Check out www.su.ucalgary.com for more details!



\$99 TICKET TO THE GAME
Purchase your tickets at the Den.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

C VS C

GAME STARTS AT 7:00PM

UPCOMING GAMES
Friday, October 16th Thursday, November 19th

Buy 1 Entrée
Get the
2ND ENTRÉE FOR JUST A \$1

Friday Nights
5pm-9pm

Entrée includes any food item. Lower priced entrée will be discounted. Beverage must be purchased with meal.

Money talks, transparency walks

Changes to Plan It raise campaign finance concerns

Perhaps money talks after all. After a weekend of closed-door meetings with land developers, city council has removed an important density guideline from Plan It Calgary, the city's 60-year plan for urban development. The CBC quoted alderman Druh Farrell expressing her sadness that citizens were not brought into the discussion between the city and the land development industry that produced these compromises.

Now, this in itself is a frustrating development for local political activists looking to help reduce the city's incredible sprawl. But as *Fast Forward* reporter Jeremy Klaszus explained on his blog, there are some questions which will surely help to stoke conspiracies about Plan It's gutting.

Historically, land development companies have been a major player in municipal politics. In the 2004 election, Mayor Dave Bronconnier received approximately \$150,000 of \$673,498 — approximately 22 per cent of his total contributions — from various development agencies. Some of them, like Ottawa-based Trinity Development Group, which donated \$7,250, were based outside Alberta.

Bronconnier, in a 2007 FFWD piece written by Klaszus, explained these types of donations were a long-standing tradition. Developers gave cash to almost all candidates, especially incum-



bents. Bronconnier was also quoted saying, "The development industry is interested in what happens at city hall."

This quote is chilling in the context of what occurred over the weekend. Fundamentally, there are few rules when it comes to campaign donations. City council members, including the mayor, can legally receive campaign contributions at any time. There are no caps on donations either. Candidates need only disclose these contributions come election time. In other words, Calgarians won't know who gave money to whom until the fall 2010 election. Even then, candidates do

not have to disclose the exact date of these contributions, just who gave it and how much.

Klaszus explained in the 2007 piece how vague and inconsistent the reporting is, too. Mayor Bronconnier received a donation from "Graham" — just Graham, that's it — while former Ward 6 Alderman Craig Burrows received a donation from "Brichwood Prop" (sic).

This is troublesome in and of itself. What's even more problematic is a very simple thing which has some real worrisome consequences — if an alderman chooses to not run again, they can pocket whatever campaign funds they

have left. That's right: from a single dollar to 25 grand, a municipal candidate can keep whatever they've raised for their personal use if they so chose.

Calgary is the only city in Canada to have that particular rule about surplus campaign funds.

It's important to reiterate last weekend's meeting was closed to the public. As Farrell explained, no citizens were involved. There was absolutely no transparency in this at all. Calgarians cannot, and should not, say there was a payoff or bribery to kill off the less developer-friendly aspects of Plan It. We also cannot say definitively that this decision was done on the up-and-up either. There is the potential for shenanigans and this is the problem Calgarians will continue to face without campaign finance reform.

It's simple. City council needs to enact bylaws which bring greater transparency to the process. The spectre of payoff is great when council negotiates legislation in closed-door meetings with deep-pocketed parties. With some simple reporting consistency guidelines, as well as a more restricted donation time frame, these issues can be put on the back burner. Until then, the worrying taint of municipal corruption is a very real possibility.

Jordyn Marcellus
Entertainment Editor

contents

sports The U of C Dinos are now the third-best footballers in the land. Take a look at Dinos' head coach Blake Nill on **page 19**. Plus, Sportspinions about Michael Vick and a preview of the upcoming NHL season.

news

The Dalai Lama talks compassion at the 'Dome. Find out how to get free textbooks and showcase your research at a November symposium. Also, war, **page 4**.

opinions

Abortions! Tim Horton's! Stephen Harper! Written exams! Multiple choice exams! Iran! Foreign policy! Garlic farmers fighting technology! Opinions, **page 12**.

features

An average student will incur just over \$24,000 of loans during their education. Debt sucks. Find out how much, **page 22**.

entertainment

The first-ever Alberta Fashion Week takes runways by storm and the *Gauntlet* starts their coverage this week interviewing two must-watch designers, **page 24**.

Contributors
Emily Ask • A.M. Badry • Warren Bardsley • Chris Blatch
Allison Cully • Carla Heinrichs • Richard Lam • Rabiya Mansoor
Eric Mathison • Matt McGuigan • Colin Minor • Kim Nursall
Daniel Pagan • Kara Palmer • Alastair Starke • Sydney Stokoe
Adriana Sveen • Tristan Taylor • Nenad Tomanic
Alicia Ward • Andy Williams • Jeremy Zhao

Golden Spatula
A.M. Badry stepped up in the clinch and did some research for Features. Honorable mention to Matt McGuigan, who drew a freakin' awesome robot.

Furor Arma Ministrat

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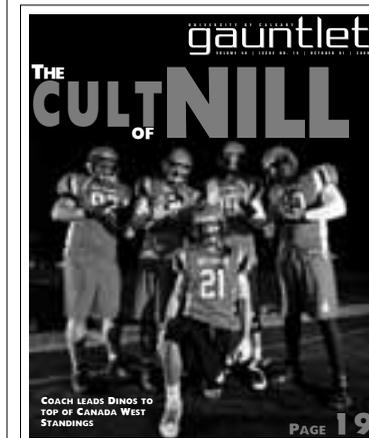
The *Gauntlet* is the official student newspaper of the University of Calgary, published most Thursdays throughout the year by the Gauntlet Publications Society, an autonomous, incorporated body. Membership in the society is open to undergraduate students at the U of C, but all members of the university 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 Oktoberfest-based ink. We urge you to recycle/enjoy lebensraum and beer with the *Gauntlet*.

Letter Policy

Letters must be typed, double-spaced and received by Monday at 4 p.m., and must include the author's name, student ID number, telephone number and signature. Letters will not be printed if they include attacks of a strictly personal nature, statements that discriminate on the basis of race, sex, or sexual orientation, or 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

Design by Chris Pedersen, photo by Geoff MacIntosh



Editor: Katy Anderson—news@thegauntlet.ca

Spiritual star rocks the Saddledome

The Dalai Lama inspires students, community as part of U of C's NOW conference

Annalise Klingbeil and Colin Minor

Gauntlet News

His Holiness the Dalai Lama shared his inspirational message of peace and compassion with approximately 18,000 listeners on Wednesday afternoon.

The Dalai Lama made his first visit to Calgary in almost three decades for the two-day NOW conference hosted by the University of Calgary.

"We must consider the entire world as a part of we," he said.

"Destruction of your neighbour is destruction of yourself."

The Tibetan spiritual leader spoke on a range of topics — everything from his recent gall-bladder surgery to former U.S. president George Bush. The theme of the talk was peace and the power of compassion.

"In our blood, the seed of compassion is there," said the non-violence advocate, dressed in a maroon robe with his right arm exposed.

Olympic gold medalist Mark Tewksbury and Grey's Anatomy actress Sandra Oh hosted the event at the Saddledome.

"Can you actually imagine promoting world peace?" Oh asked the audience.

"I'm having a hard enough time being the political and spiritual leader of my own life."

Local elementary school children, the Tibetan Association of Alberta's music and dance group and a youth choir were all included in the many performances that took place before His Holiness came onstage.

The audience, a mix of young and old, rose



to welcome the Nobel laureate, who was presented with the U of C's highest honour — a doctor of laws degree.

"His life's work has enlightened us all," said U of C president Harvey Weingarten.

Tibet's exiled political and spiritual leader said he was honoured to receive the degree and wore the red, white and yellow convocation hood he was presented with over his robe for the entire speech.

"I should say a special thanks because I'm quite a lazy student," he said before talking about his schooling as a child.

"I hope this degree may not waste."

The Dalai Lama geared his talk towards the



photos courtesy University of Calgary

The Dalai Lama received a white hat and an honorary doctorate of laws before speaking at the Dome.

youth in the audience. He said his generation comes from a century of violence.

"Now you belong to the new century," the exiled monk told the youth.

The Dalai Lama, who was given the name Tenzin Gyatso, was seated in front of a large

combination of Calgary youth choirs. Lucky high school and university students had the privilege of sitting cross legged directly in front of His Holiness, much like a big kindergarten class.

see, DALAI, page 8

University Bookstore, SU pair up to lend students textbooks

Rabiya Mansoor

Gauntlet News

The economic recession paired with the constantly rising costs of tuition and books mean many students may struggle to make ends meet. However, students may not need to search as far as they believe for a bit of financial relief.

The largest academic cost aside from tuition is books, which is be-

ing tackled by an expanded joint endeavor by a Students' Union Quality Money initiative and the University of Calgary Bookstore. The book loan program awards textbooks on a temporary basis to undergraduate students for a semester.

"Thirty-one students have applied so far this year, but we have 40 spots for successful applicants," said SU operations and finance commis-

sioner Alyssa Stacey. Under Stacey's guidance, the program was able to quadruple its number of available spots to 40, up from previous years 10.

"It is a shame students are not taking advantage of this program," said vice-president academic, Meg Martin. "I believe students have misconceptions regarding who can be awarded these loans, as they are on the basis of financial need. Some

students believe that other students, who are in a worse financial situation than they themselves are, are whom this program is targeted towards. But the reality is that education is expensive and this program is designed to help students reduce the overall cost."

Due to the limited number of applicants, the application deadline for the program has been postponed to Oct. 5. Even with the

small number of students trickling into the program, bookstore staff are excited about it.

"We don't believe that the program was unsuccessful this year," said U of C Bookstore director Brent Beatty. "If our program helps just one student then it was a success."

Another 40 applicants will be awarded textbook loans for the winter semester.

If you had one question, what would you ask the Dalai Lama?



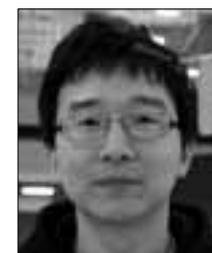
"How tall are you?"
– Samina Tajik,
second-year, political science



"Can money buy you happiness?"
– Azan Jamal,
second-year, natural sciences



"How do you sleep at night?"
– Jenna Gray, second-year, nursing



"What is your ideal picture of the world?"
– Jung Daeseok,
exchange student, business

Interviews: Richard Lam, Kim Nursall, Photographs: Andy Williams

campus quips

Afghan correspondent talks war on campus

Christopher Blatch
Gauntlet News

“We’re like the little boy with his finger in the dyke . . . we are holding Kandahar and that is why it hasn’t fallen,” journalist Matthew Fisher said in a lecture to a room full of students and faculty Sept. 21. “To keep the Taliban at bay in an area the size of New Brunswick with 750 guys is a great achievement.”

Fisher explained what he’s seen from the battlefields of Afghanistan as part of the centre for Military and Strategic Studies free lecture series.

Fisher, a reporter attached to a mechanized

“There’s no more blue helmet crap. It would be nice if there could be, but it doesn’t exist anymore.”

— Matthew Fisher, Afghanistan war correspondent

Canadian battle group, recently returned from Afghanistan. He has also been to Iraq, the only Canadian journalist to be embedded with an American combat unit.

Fisher traveled from Kuwait to Baghdad with the 1st Marine Division, which was involved in three battles, including a firefight in which about 300 Iraqis were killed.

He spent seven weeks in Afghanistan with the Canadian Battle Group and covered the mine strike that killed two Canadians. During his career, Fisher has worked in 153 countries and covered 29 wars and conflicts.

Fisher told the audience, “When a soldier holds his sergeant in his arms as he dies, but he goes on to fight and support the mission, we don’t hear anything about it . . . but when a soldier dies who’s said he didn’t support the mission it ends up being covered in every

country in the Commonwealth.” According to Fisher, “The media won’t cover stories that aren’t controversial”.

Fisher said war coverage is not properly explaining the situation to the Canadian public.

“There’s no more blue helmet crap. It would be nice if there could be, but it doesn’t exist anymore,” said Fisher.

“We should be under no illusions that we can fundamentally change them . . . they want us there, but they don’t want us to stay forever.”

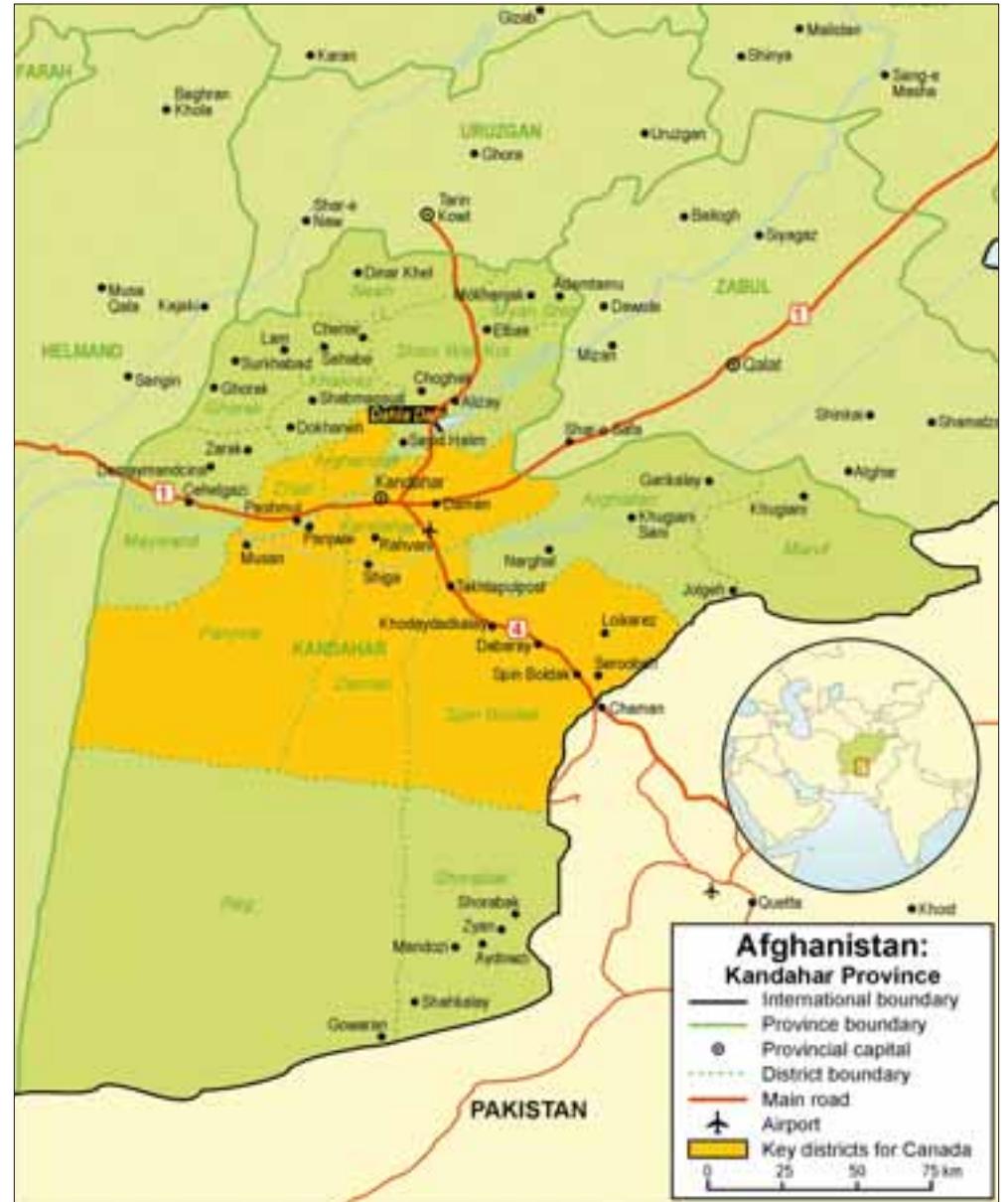
Fisher went on to explain that Canadian Forces are involved in battles, not just rebuilding. The basic approach of the CF is

to create an “oil spot” — a safe area where people can live normal lives and the enemy can’t go — and let that spot spread gradually. “We [Canadians are] the first to do this . . . clear, hold and build: classic [counter-insurgency].

“Either you do it for the long haul or you leave,” said Fisher, comparing the mission to Canadians stopping their advance on Juno beach.

“If you want to talk about an imperialist approach, talk about going in and telling people you’re there to help them, but you choose to leave at your own convenience,” said Fisher in regards to the Canadian Parliaments decision to end the Afghan Mission in 2011.

Fisher told the audience that the Afghan conflict goes way beyond just affecting local people, but is a global endeavour.



courtesy Matthew Fisher

Matthew Fisher says Canada should be in Afghanistan for the long haul or leave.

“More than half the guys they face are Pakistani,” said Fisher. “They speak Urdu now, not just Pashtun, which means they are recruiting from outside the tribal areas.” Fisher stated that Canadian Forces are *see ARMY, page 8*

Conference tackles reasons behind war

Ramsha Almas and Raveena Dhaliwal
Gauntlet News

As something so tied to our history, our present and our culture it’s surprising that so many people know so little about war. The Many Faces of War conference hopes to educate and inform the public on the topic when it comes to campus this week.

Taking place October 2–3 at the University of Calgary, organizers Waldemar Heckel, professor of ancient history and expert on Alexander the Great, and Reyes Bertolin, associate professor and undergraduate advisor for the Greek and Roman Studies department, have both worked extremely hard

to put the event together for its inaugural year.

Renowned speakers from across Canada and around the world are presenting at the conference on a range of topics regarding war.

It might sound like something nerdy history majors would go to — and they’re certainly invited — but, spanning 26 centuries and addressing everything from the common soldier to the woman warrior to Alexander the Great, it promises something for everyone.

Most people’s knowledge about warfare doesn’t extend farther than discussions with parents, arguments regarding the wars in Iraq

and Afghanistan or *Braveheart*.

Classics Students Society chair Marty Nadon said that the conference gives people the chance to evaluate the effect warfare has had on religious propaganda, feminism and cultural movements in different parts of the world, but even with all that history to cover, the modern perspective on war is also featured.

This conference focuses on the social aspect of war, specifically the common soldier — a player often overlooked in history.

“I don’t think there’s a single person that won’t learn something from this conference,” said Nadon, whose club has been actively promoting this conference

due not only to shared interest in the topic, but also the great potential the conference holds.

“Now that social history has taken off, it’s acknowledged that war is much more than the movement of troops and supply lines,” said Nadon.

The conference is an opportunity to learn about an aspect of life that has affected humanity for all of recorded history from some of the world’s most knowledgeable war experts.

The Many Faces of War runs Oct. 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Social Sciences 1339, and Oct. 3 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Cassio A and B in MacEwan Students’ Centre.

Discussions open on secondary suites

Good news for students and citizens alike, as the City of Calgary has kicked off a series of open houses aiming to spread information on their secondary suites grant program.

Applicants can receive up to \$25,000 through the program, designed to reimburse homeowners who create or upgrade secondary suites. A bylaw change made secondary suites legal in June 2008.

The city began the grant program in April as a pilot project to help with the costs of creating or upgrading suites. City spokesperson Gail Soklan told *crv* that the city hopes that creation of secondary suites will ease the housing crunch. According to the *Calgary Herald*, only 15 legal suites have been given permits since last June and less than a dozen grants have been awarded since that program began.

Open houses are taking place Thu., Oct. 1 from 6:30 to 8:30 at Village Square Library and Sat., Oct. 3 from 9:30 to noon at Acadia Community Association.

..Ryan Pike

The battle for an affordable education

Students' Union plots their annual tuition consultation approach

Noah Miller
News Assistant

University of Calgary students will be granted an opportunity to witness the consultation process that determines if tuition will rise and, if so, how that increase is spent.

Each December the university Board of Governors — a body legislated by the Post-Secondary Learning act — convenes and votes on tuition. Before the university's operating budget is formalized in March, administration is required to consult students at least twice.

"Tuition consultation is an opportunity for students to talk about not only the rising costs of their education, but also the quality of education that is being delivered in return," said Students' Union president Charlotte Kingston.

"It is also an opportunity to demand accountability for those rising costs."

The Students' Union, the official voice of

undergraduates, has something a little different in store for this year's consultation.

"This year one of the consultations will bring the administration to the Students Legislative Council and will be open to students-at-large," said Kingston.

"We have asked the provost to present towards the end of November, and we will send out notices to students in advance to alert them to come see the tuition breakdown by the administration."

Kingston and vice-president academic Meg Martin will be presenting on behalf of students.

Kingston said the SU is in the process of recruiting an undergraduate researcher and faculty member to present with them in order to "represent the values and articulate the need for high quality teaching and undergraduate research."

According to Kingston, next year students could see an average tuition increase of up to 1.5 per cent across the board, the maximum allowed by the provincial government. The

consultation process is essential in determining how tuition dollars are to be used, she said.

"In the past we have done everything from securing Quality Money through this consultation, to simply voting no, to requesting greater residence space and a better first-year experience, to advocating for a "four to one" approach to university governance and planning," said Kingston.

The Quality Money initiative puts aside \$1.5 million a year for projects suggested by students.

This year the SU plans to focus on 'the quality of the undergraduate learning experience.'

"We will focus in on teaching and undergraduate research because they have been identified as priorities by our students through the National Survey of Student Engagement," said Kingston. "We also believe that the economic downturn and the cuts to budgets will necessitate us to focus our recommendations, and this is the most central need that students have articulated."

Kingston said the SU will focus on how "to incentivize and reward excellent teaching through the merit process and teaching fellowship, how to bring the creation of knowledge and research into the undergraduate experience and how to create a cohesive plan for improving the quality of teaching and the academic experience for undergrads."

Through this process the SU hopes to ensure accountability for their recommendations at the budget vote. Should those recommendations fail to be reflected, the SU will oppose the budget.

"This will not be the only time that the SU brings student concerns around the quality of their education directly to the BOG," said Kingston.

"We will be holding a panel discussion and forum on November 25th and 26th to get direct feedback from students on the experiences they are having now that the cuts and job losses are being rolled out."

The feedback gained from this panel is to be brought before the BOG in the winter se-

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Edmonton college wins university crown

Brent Constantin
News Assistant

Another week, another new Alberta university.

Less than a month after Mount Royal added “university” to their name, Grant MacEwan has joined the club, bringing the total number of universities in the province to six.

Last week, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology Doug Horner signed the Order-in-Council allowing the 38-year-old college to change its formal name from Grant MacEwan College to Grant MacEwan University, a change that, like Mount Royal’s before it, won’t impact much of what’s happening on campus.

“The change is more in perception than day to day operations at the institutes,” said advanced education and technology representative Rachel Bouska. “It doesn’t change the mandate for MacEwan or Mount Royal . . . [the name change is] recognizing the quality of programs students receive.”

Bouska said current legislation around post-secondary education details specific categories that each institution fills in the province and MacEwan’s name change won’t affect that.

“Each institution in Alberta, depending on the category, specializes in different areas and programming, the comprehensive and academic institutions, the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, the University of Lethbridge and the University of Athabasca, focus on undergraduate and also graduate degree programs as well as pure research,



Andrea Larsen/the Gauntlet

The province allowed Edmonton’s Grant MacEwan to make the name change to a university last week, less than a month after Mount Royal made the switch.

whereas the baccalaureate and applied studies institutions, MacEwan and Mount Royal, focus more on undergraduate degree programs.”

“We are not going to leave our certificate and diploma programs, we have a lot of success with those programs,” said MacEwan U spokesman David Beharry. “We have no plans of handing off our diploma and certificate programs to other institutions.”

In 2005, MacEwan introduced two degree programs: a bachelor of arts and a bachelor of child and youth care.

The school now offers five degrees and has over 50 per cent of its students enrolled in university studies programs — either an undergraduate or transfer program — which Beharry says made the choice to apply for the

name change all that more important.

“One of the important aspects of being called a university is the recognition globally,” said Beharry. “In order to assist [students] in the recognition of their degree, that is one of the reasons that we made the change.”

Traditionally, Alberta universities have been viewed as “kind of an ivory tower,” said Rob Jones, chair of the Alberta Student Executive Council, which represents the students of MacEwan University.

“It’s kind of viewed as an elite system, and I think this is going to change now with MacEwan University and Mount Royal University.”

Bouska said the opportunity for MacEwan and Mount Royal to apply for the change came this past spring when the post-secondary learning act was passed allowing both

schools to write to the minister and ask for his approval to include university in their name.

Although Bouska said requests for approval came at around the same time, Mount Royal’s pursuit of university status has been well documented over the past decade, while MacEwan’s change this past week was heralded by virtually no lead-up.

“I don’t think it’s any surprise to anyone that Mount Royal wanted to add the term university in their title,” said Bouska. “When the post-secondary learning act was passed they both moved in unison in the same process.”

“I know [Mount Royal] have been pursuing status for quite a while,” said Beharry, “we were not as active as Mount Royal but when the option was provided to us we had to take a look at it.”

Beharry said MacEwan’s strategy differed from its counterpart in southern Alberta.

“We were looking at all our options from the beginning, but once the legislation was passed it was appropriate for us to come forward.”

When asked if other schools could be expected to change names in the near future Bouska said no.

“I think right now each institution is just focusing on being the best they can be in their sector and focusing on the programming they deliver,” he said.

Jones said, ultimately, the name change is a benefit to learners at both institutions.

“This is going to help students find a job, because, let’s face it, when it comes to a name, between university and college, there’s a big difference,” he said.

Undergrads have chance to shine at November research symposium

Warren Bardsley
Gauntlet News

There is a myth that only graduate students get to participate in research opportunities, however, the fourth annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, hosted by the Students’ Union, will take place in the MacEwan Student Centre on Nov. 19.

“The Undergraduate Research Symposium is an opportunity for undergraduate researchers at U of C to show the community what they have been studying,” said SU vice-president academic Meg Martin.

Last year, 80 students submitted projects and more are wanted to participate in this year’s event.

Most students will be displaying posters but some will be presenting orally.

Participants are eligible to win \$500 for their projects, coming from a variety of sources such as the SU itself and the Graduate

Students’ Association.

Winners are chosen by a committee for each prize-awarding body depending on the criteria they developed.

“We expect around \$8,000 [in total prize money], but hope to secure more,” she said.

Projects can be about anything and past projects have included topics like environmental radicalism, birth control in Costa Rica and even Santa Claus.

Students’ projects can even have an international impact.

Two years ago a student rediscovered old documents in a Harvard library and was then invited to an Ivy League conference.

Martin encourages all students to check out the projects on display.

“[The symposium is] an event where students who are not involved in research can be inspired to engage, and learn how they can [become involved].”

Undergraduate students who wish to submit a project must do so by this Friday, Oct. 9.

“[It’s a] great avenue to get feed-

back from students and community members, and a way to learn how to make technical research relevant and understandable for

the average viewer,” said Martin.

For more info visit the SU website and follow the links to the research symposium.

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SAFEwalk is a partnership between the U of C Campus Security and the Students’ Union.

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Research driven to stop suffering

Research Profile

Cam Cotton-O'Brien

Editor-in-Chief

Twenty-eight years before the date was seared into the American consciousness, Chileans came to know September 11. On that day in 1973 the military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet assumed control of the Andean country.

Santiago-born University of Calgary political science professor Pablo Policzer has carried that national legacy into his academic work. A 10-year-old at the time of the coup, his family moved to Vancouver, where he would eventually take an honours BA in political science at the University of British Columbia.

Following that degree, Policzer again moved, this time to MIT to pursue his PhD. His academic interests were in part driven by his early background in Chile, a similar experience to many of his contemporaries.

"As a Chilean, I knew that I wanted to understand the dictatorship better," said Policzer. "For Chileans September 11, 1973, is probably the most important day, [one] that has marked generations of Chileans. It's affected how we think about things."

Policzer wrote his PhD dissertation — which has recently been published as a book by the University of Notre Dame Press — on the Chilean dictatorship's repressive apparatus, particularly the secret police. He found that, despite despots' claims to the contrary, dictatorships are unable to obviate the messier aspects of politics they



Chris Pedersen/the Gauntlet

Policzer's research stems from experience with Pinochet's regime.

commonly deride in civilian government.

"When you look at the most fundamental function that any ruler has to do, coercive functions, policing especially, [you find] that this is a fundamentally political activity," he said. "Policing is a highly political function, even in authoritarian regimes."

After completing his doctorate, Policzer took up a post-doctoral position at UBC, later coming to the U of C in 2004. Since his return to Canada he has continued to grapple with the reality of repressive regimes, though his focus has broadened.

"I don't just look at the Chilean dictatorship, but other authoritarian organizations now," said Policzer.

Policzer currently holds a Canada Research Chair in Latin American

Politics and has recently won funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to study "complex armed organizations in Latin America," particularly in Columbia and Chile, with an associate in Columbia.

As part of the Armed Groups Project, Policzer is assessing how non-state armed groups can be made to comply with human rights guidelines. His work in the area is largely driven by a desire to alleviate suffering under such dictatorships.

"It was motivated by the idea that the more we can understand how these regimes operate, the better we can control them and regulate them," he explained.

Latin America has experienced a long history of inequality and domination, which, in tandem with a lack of strong states able to mo-

nopolize coercive measures, has led to considerable violence, suggested Policzer. One of his research projects the last couple of years has been studying this legacy of violence.

"[Latin America] hasn't always been violent and it hasn't been uniformly violent . . . some parts and some periods are remarkably peaceful," he said. "Having said that, modern Latin America comes into being as the clash of two very different societies, the European and the Native societies."

Despite the long-standing violence of the region, Policzer feels change is possible.

"If you look back at the history of the Scandinavian countries, a hundred years ago, these are societies that are profoundly violent. But they resolved this problem by creating strong and effective and just institutions," noted Policzer. "Societies aren't doomed to keep following even entrenched paths. There are always choices, and they can always choose to improve their lot."

Policzer is also studying the current state of democracy in Latin America and Andean South America with colleagues at UBC.

In addition to his research, Policzer is busy teaching classes, in which he stresses to students the importance of these issues.

"It's important to understand these issues critically, because there are real people at the other end of these books," he said. "The issues we discuss in these courses are ones that affect real people in clear ways. It's important for students to understand that we are not just discussing abstractions, but real people and real lives."

Army, cont'd from page 5

killing many militants but every day "thousands are arriving from the Saudi funded Wahabi Madrasas."

Recent media coverage of whether or not there was support for the war among CF members and their families also came up in the presentation.

Joan Dixon, mother of a U of C student who joined the King's Own Calgary Regiment and is currently training for deployment overseas, said Albertans seem to be more supportive of the mission and the sacrifice of the soldiers.

"I have friends from other parts of Canada asking 'Why are you letting your son go?' but here they are more supportive of his choice," said Dixon.

"When people tell me they don't support the war, but don't know what's going on, it bothers me," said audience member Rebecca Taylor. "People need to at least go out and inform themselves on what's happening . . . it's alright if you disagree for the right reasons."

"This isn't like the Second World War, there aren't physical goals and achievements," said Fisher. "It's a question of success, not victory."

She suggested that as the mission changes we have to change our perspective on what the goal of modern warfare looks like from the home front.

"The coverage that Kandahar is about to fall is gross hyperbole," Fisher said. "The view of many Canadian soldiers, which they have not been allowed to express publicly, is that the war in Afghanistan is far from being lost."

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Walking to stop child trafficking

Kim Richards
Gauntlet News

University of Calgary staff and students took to the streets this past weekend to combat the purchase and sale of human beings.

The inaugural event in a global initiative to Stop Child Trafficking Now raised funds and broadened awareness for the organization of the same name Sept. 26-27.

Ashley Karg, a fourth-year undergraduate student, was approached to be the Calgary community advisor after holding a benefit concert in February that raised \$5,000 for human trafficking advocacy.

Having long had an interest in child and human trafficking, Karg was enthusiastic about having the opportunity to combat the practice.

One of the problems with child and human trafficking, said Karg, is that many people do not know what they can do to fight such a substantial problem.

"I hope that the walk is something that will perk interest. University is the place we learn about a lot of issues in the world. I hope this will be a starting point for a wider awareness," she said.

Karg is hopeful that the event can be expanded as more people are motivated to get involved, "I'd love to see it become an annual campus-wide event."

Calgary is one of three Canadian locations and one of 40 worldwide to hold the walk this weekend. Karg said the majority of funds raised came from private donations.

"A lot of people are responding from the community, it's really great," she said.



Brittany Gailey/the Gauntlet

Campus staff and students walked in the inaugural Stop Child Trafficking Now event.

According to a recent *National Post* article, the RCMP estimates that 800 women and children in Canada are trafficked for prostitution each year. Advocacy groups suggest there could be as many as 15,000 each year. According to the SCTN website, child trafficking is one of the fastest-growing crimes in the world.

Trafficking children in the sex industry follows the basic economic principle of supply and demand. Research conducted by SCTN reveals that funding efforts to support "the deterrence and eliminate the demand fueling this heinous crime is the most effective [method used to address child trafficking issues.]"

Donations are sent to SCTN and used to hire special operative teams to track and gather evidence against child predators for prosecution.

"Rescues are necessary but the demand is so high that once someone's rescued they'll find someone else," she said.

By convicting predators, the source of the problem is destroyed.

Only a limited number of convictions worldwide have occurred over the last decade. Earlier this month, the first human trafficking charges in Western Canada were laid since the crime's recognition in the Criminal Code of Canada in 2005.

Police rescued three women who were allegedly being forced to eat, sleep and perform sex acts for money at a spa in Edmonton. Two people have been charged with human trafficking.

Info about future involvement with Stop Child Trafficking Now can be found at sctnow.com.

Dalai, continued from page 4

When asked what they had taken away from the talk, members of one youth choir responded with nothing but positivity.

"It was just so inspirational," beamed choir member Alaire.

"I learned that we need to have inner peace to achieve external peace."

The Dalai Lama's talk ended with questions submitted by the audience ranging from serious to silly. A six-year-old asked if he, "always wears those robes? Do you own a pair of pants?"

The spiritual leader responded that he has worn pajamas at night and had to wear a disguise when he escaped Tibet. He also donned pants when he visited China in the 1950s.

The self-described "simple Buddhist monk" also revealed he wakes up at 3:30 a.m. every morning and meditates for five hours before starting his day.

"The best meditation is eight to nine hours of sleep," he said with a deep laugh.

All audience members received simple white scarves as a symbol of commitment to building a better community in Calgary.

At the conclusion of the talk, the Dalai Lama asked for the lights to be turned on so he could see the audience's faces. He then explained the symbolism behind the scarves each audience member received.

"The white color symbolizes the purity of your heart," he said.

He explained the smooth texture of the scarves symbolized more gentle behaviour.

"My dear friends, my dear brothers and sisters. I want a happy life. You also have the same desire and wish. We all have the right to have happy life."

MP calls on government to act on behalf of detained journalist

Emily Ask
Gauntlet News

Three months spent in an Iranian prison and Canadian-Iranian journalist Maziar Bahari still hasn't seen a lawyer. Aside from a few visits from his grandmother and one brief phone call to his pregnant wife, Bahari has been cut off from the outside world.

Newsweek correspondent Bahari was arrested June 21, along with

several other journalists and bloggers, after the controversial Iranian elections. A week later, the Iranian press released a confession from Bahari, in which he admitted to biased reporting and said the Western media was responsible for the rallies protesting Mahmoud Ahmadi-najad's electoral victory.

CBC News reported that there is no way to independently confirm the statement. His wife, Paola Gourley, and *Newsweek* editor John

Meacham have suggested his confession was forced.

"Some in the government of Iran would like to portray Bahari as a kind of subversive or even as a spy," wrote Meacham in a *Newsweek* article. "He is neither. He is a journalist, a man who was doing his job, and doing it fairly and judiciously, when he was arrested. Maziar Bahari is an agent only of the truth as best he can see it."

The Canadian government has faced challenges negotiating Bahari's release because he was travelling on an Iranian passport and Iran does not recognize dual citizenship. Further, Iran has not released what the exact charges against Bahari are.

Ontario MP Dan McTeague is frustrated because he has offered important information regarding Bahari from unnamed sources, but the Department of Foreign Affairs is skeptical, McTeague told the *Gauntlet*.

"Frankly, the Department of Foreign Affairs has nothing," he said.

"They're basically taking the position that since they don't really know, they're not going to accept that anyone else just might."

Foreign Affairs has stated that talks with Iran over Bahari have always been in the context of his employment with *Newsweek*.

"The more serious charges against him that need to be resolved are whether or not he was there in an official or unofficial capacity on behalf of the Canadian government," said McTeague.

"The Department of Foreign Affairs says, 'Well, we've already said that.' Well, saying it and putting it in writing are two different things."

McTeague stressed that an official correspondence, in the form of a "diplomatic note," was needed.

"If we wait for the Iranians to determine whether he was or wasn't,

however they do so, he could be there for an indefinite period of time, and that, to me, is too long. He ought not to be there to begin with."

McTeague cites his experience as parliamentary secretary to the minister of foreign affairs from 2003 to 2006 where he specialized in dealing with Canadians abroad.

"It's important that the government takes up this challenge; I put out my statement three weeks ago. One would think they would have cobbled something together by now," he said.

"I haven't got time for political games, and Bahari hasn't got time to spend incarcerated for something he didn't do."

Minister of Foreign Affairs Lawrence Cannon spoke with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton regarding Bahari on Sept. 16. Clinton promised to fully support Canada's efforts.

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Arctic Institute presents heated topic

Annalise Klingbeil
News Assistant

Ed Struzik laughed as he reminisced about the time he was placed in a metal cage in freezing Arctic weather so he could photograph a polar bear.

All was going well. A polar bear had come close to Struzik's cage and he was able to snap some shots. The bear walked around the cage and then started sticking his nose into it. The polar bear got on his hind legs and tried to get on top of the cage.

The polar bear became "increasingly frustrated by the fact there wasn't an obvious way to get to [Struzik]."

The bear started pounding on the bars of his cage, and its 800-pound body was enough to start breaking the bars.

"I started to freak a little bit."

It's all in a day's work for the author, photographer and award-winning journalist who managed to escape the risky situation — eventually the bear got bored and left to take a nap.

This story is just one of many which Struzik shared with University of Calgary students and staff Wed., Sept. 23. Struzik was on cam-

pus as part of a series of talks put on by the Arctic Institute of North America.

Struzik travelled to the Arctic 11 times in the span of a year and a half while researching his most recent book, *The Big Thaw: Travels in the Melting North*.

About 50 people attended his presentation, which consisted of adventure stories, photos and discussion on the frightening changes taking place in the Arctic.

"It's difficult defining the Arctic," said Struzik. "It's many things to many people."

The Arctic, and more specifically climate change, has dominated the media in recent months. The timely talk came just one day after U.S. President Barack Obama warned that failure to tackle global warming would "consign future generations to irreversible catastrophe," and three days before 110 citizens from across Canada met in Calgary to discuss climate change.

"The Arctic is hot . . . you can't open a newspaper without seeing issues surrounding the Arctic," said Benoit Beauchamp, Arctic Institute executive director.

Beauchamp said the institute wants to showcase the fact that

the U of C has "Canada, if not the world's" leading experts on issues surrounding the Arctic in the form of both professors and students.

Struzik's talk was the first in a series about changes in the Arctic. Every month until March the institute will host a different speaker to offer insight on the warming Arctic.

"There is a real demand on campus for everything Arctic," said Beauchamp.

Struzik stressed the importance of using science to learn about everything from diseases to migration and what to expect in the ever-changing Arctic.

"We need to engage more in science in the Arctic. The Arctic is morphing into something that we don't know what it's going to be."

"What the past tells us about the future is we really should be concerned. Things change and when they change in the Arctic they change very quickly."

Luke Broemeling, a second-year science student, attended the talk and left with a lot to think about.

"I'm wondering how certain animals coped with diseases in the past," said Broemeling, who was also curious about ancient man's survival in the Arctic.

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The complexities of the abortion debate

Kim Nursall

Gauntlet Opinions



As many of you are aware, the Genocide Awareness Project returned to campus last week. Instantaneously, the debate between pro-choice and pro-life spread throughout the student population, galvanizing a number of individuals to organize petitions against Campus Pro-Life and hoist competing signs. The Prairie Chicken was up in arms.

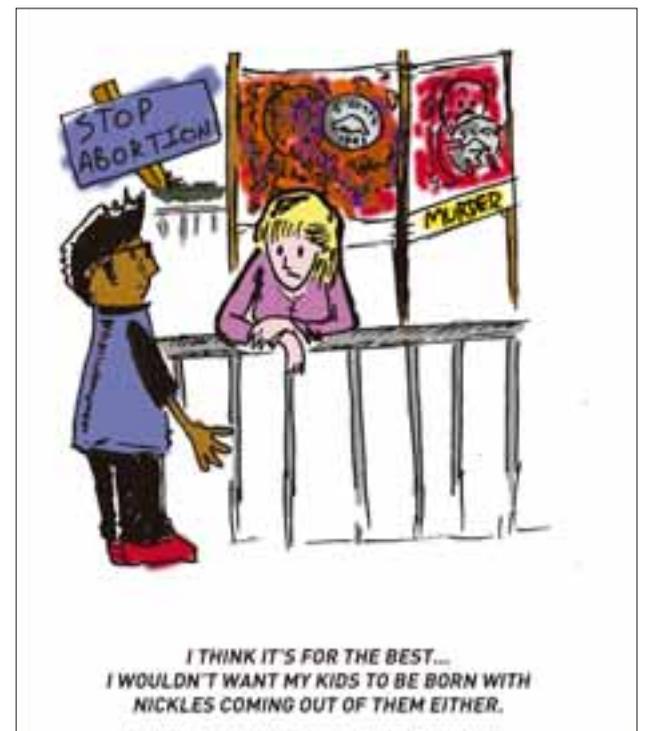
However, the debate between the “right-to-autonomy” and the “right-to-life,” as well as the arguments surrounding freedom of expression, are symptoms of a much greater illness. What seems to be taken for granted in this situation is the inevitability of a woman having to consider rejecting her offspring. As pro-life advocates focus on the fetus, and their pro-choice opponents promote a woman’s right to choose, the greater tragedy is lost — perpetuating a society where abortion is even necessary. Like trying to solve homelessness through increasing the number of shel-

ters or access to welfare cheques instead of focusing on providing affordable housing, we are ignoring the root cause of the entire controversy. The scale and intensity with which this debate is fought would be substantially diminished if the number of women who felt pressured by society to consider abortion was significantly reduced.

Women face an almost insurmountable onslaught of stereotypes when it comes to being a mother. As the usher of offspring into this world, there is undeniable pressure on any female to ensure the child’s safety, well-being and general happiness. Although many of us may like to consider ourselves open-minded when it comes to the concept of “family,” many would most likely still advocate for two parents of a certain age, financial security and with one able to stay home and look after the children. As a result, social norms evolve and stigmas arise, surrounding single parents, young parents or parents that we would regard as financially insecure. These individuals, who would otherwise never doubt giving birth to their child, find themselves questioning their ability to be parents when, in fact, if given the proper support from society — be it their extended family, community, city — they may be able to raise well-rounded,

healthy children. Instead of focusing on the legality of abortions we should be canvassing the public and pressuring our government to develop policies and introduce programs that facilitate giving birth to and raising one’s own child.

There are exceptional cases, such as rape, which will undoubtedly still provoke the pro-life versus pro-choice debate. The reasons for why women choose to subject themselves to an abortion are many, and I can only imagine the trauma and heartache a woman would undergo as she decides whether or not to harbour the life growing inside of her. If we can alleviate the suffering that individuals experience whilst considering abortion by questioning and countering the societal norms which promulgate it, pro-choice and pro-life crusaders could actually find themselves allies. The present debate is a moral issue, which rarely, if ever, finds consensus, and this continuous aggravation of moral opponents



I THINK IT'S FOR THE BEST...
I WOULDN'T WANT MY KIDS TO BE BORN WITH
NICKLES COMING OUT OF THEM EITHER.

Brent Constantin/The Gauntlet

only polarizes society and does nothing to facilitate a comprehensive resolution. Let us not push each other to the periphery when there is a middle ground — women, and the Prairie Chicken, will thank us.

Bracing for the next Cold War? A closer look at Iran

Eric Mathison

Fighting Words



You will be hard pressed to find a commentator on Iran who thinks lines from a James Bond movie are insightful. But when M quips “Christ, I miss the Cold War,” in *Casino Royale*, she may not be too far off the mark, even if she wasn’t talking about Iran. Iran’s growing

belligerence regarding the potential weaponization of their nuclear program should be considered real enough to produce real action.

What was so good about the Cold War? Not much really, but while few of us were old enough to remember, there was one thing that all analysts, even M, appreciated about it: it was predictable. Gone are the days when anything was as transparent as a leader repeatedly threatening other nations. Nor is it possible to find a leader who says he was fairly

elected, but whose citizens clearly don’t want him, and have already tried to get rid of him but just need a bit more help.

Iraq was a new version of an old problem; unrest is still rampant there more than six years in and a clear end isn’t in view. Afghanistan is even more complex because the overthrow of its leadership was the original target, but now that they aren’t leading they seem to be more of a problem, not less. In both countries there are still major issues with convinc-

ing the public (of those countries, but also the ones supporting the wars abroad) that liberation is a virtue worth the costs.

The debate now between U.N. Security Council governments, as well as other European countries and Israel, is attempting to address how to handle the threat of Iran. Each country has different reasons to worry, and some may benefit from an increase in Iran’s power. The central debate, of course, is around anticipating Iran’s nuclear proliferation goals. So far Iran’s

claim that their desire is to produce nuclear power, and not weapons, hasn’t done anything to appease skeptics. Then there are the different lengths each nation thinks are required in restricting Iran through sanctions and threats of military action, should it come to that.

Israel is the most threatened. Not only is it within reach of the mid-range missiles Iran tested this week, but Iranian president Ahmadinejad hasn’t given a single internationally-directed speech without

see IRAN, pg. 13

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For Harper, there's always time for Tim Hortons

Carla Heinrichs
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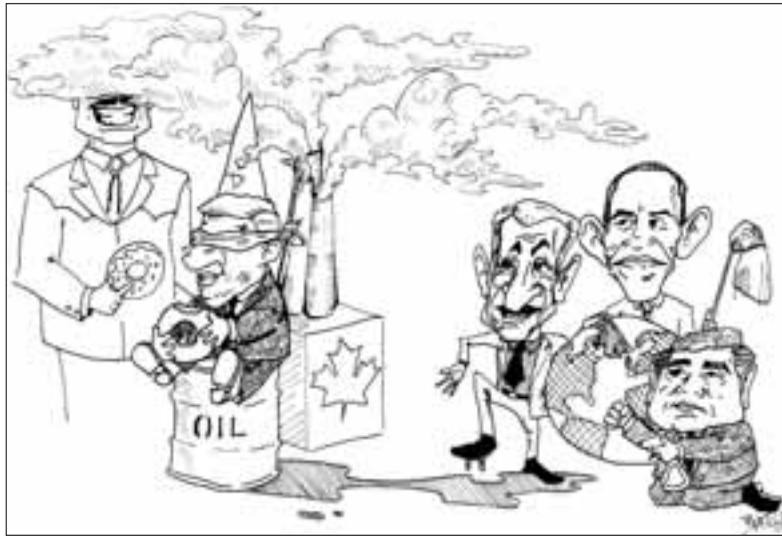
It turns out that Stephen Harper needs his Tim Hortons run just like every other Canadian. Harper was absent from Barack Obama's opening speech at the United Nations climate change summit last week, choosing to appear at the Tim Hortons Innovation Centre instead. Is it his fault that the UN scheduled Obama's speech to coincide with Harper's allotted Timmy's time?

In all seriousness, however, Harper isn't just any Canadian citizen. As the Prime Minister, it falls to him to not only run the country, but represent the Canadian public to the rest of the world. The Canadian public wanted to hear Obama deliver another inspirational monologue about world peace, a

healthy economy and the end of global climate change. Plus, it was Obama's first experience addressing the UN, and all the other important world leaders were there. They all want to follow Obama and save the world. Canada's failure to send its highest ranking politician to join the rest of the audience is a clear sign that neither Canada nor Harper himself are interested in international relations — only in coffee, right?

It seems odd that Harper would be considered politically inactive for missing Obama at the UN, when he was instead busy making a speech at a hugely popular Canadian business heralding tax changes to bring corporate offices like Tim Hortons' back to Canada. Though his stop at Tim's is being called just a photo op, one wonders what sitting and listening to a predictable speech would be, if not a photo op.

To call Harper's absence a snub would be clearly misinformed.



It's not as if there were no Canadian representatives in the house, and Canadian prime ministers have a history of not being intimately involved with UN proceedings. It's doubtful anybody in the General Assembly was craning his or her neck, wondering where on earth Harper was.

There are only two things that

make this instance stand out from the other times Canadian prime ministers haven't been at the UN. One, it was *Obama* speaking, and two, Harper was making a donut run, albeit one with a governance purpose. At least he had a reason (if any such thing can exist) to miss Obama's speech. That is, at least Harper wasn't sitting around pick-

ing his teeth and calling that his excuse for not being there. As for Obama, well, he and Harper met on Sept. 16 face to face, to actually discuss issues. Perhaps everything that needed to be discussed between Obama and Harper was covered already and attending the UN speech would have been superfluous.

There is always some possibility that good could have come from Harper's presence at the UN. It certainly wouldn't have been a bad thing, at any rate. It's a shifting world scene, and it might be nice to have the prime minister hear first-hand from other big, important political figures. But it's more than likely his absence won't result in Canada's dismissal from the world stage. Most of the criticism he's getting is just the sound of Obama fans indignant that anyone with half a brain could possibly find Canadian politics more important than trailing America's pop-star president.

Iran, continued from pg. 12

expressing anti-Semitic sentiments and conspiracy theories.

Europe likely has the most to lose after Israel, should Iran develop nuclear weapons. While they aren't within range yet, many in the intelligence community suggest Iran is already working on long-range capabilities. But if it did get to that point the U.S. would be equally threatened.

The biggest worry, and the rea-

son why this is the most important foreign affairs issue of U.S. President Barack Obama's term in office, is that some countries have a lot to gain should Iran become a bigger power. China is the clearest case. Beijing has an interest in not allowing anyone with such a desire to obtain nuclear weapons, but they have much to lose if tough economic sanctions are imposed on Iran. This potentially makes it dif-

ficult for the UNSC to pass sanctions because of China's veto. Tougher still will be America and Europe getting through negotiations without isolating China.

What's more, there are clear signs that Iran is taking steps to make agreements with other countries should tougher economic sanctions be enacted. Iran lacks the capacity to produce its own gasoline, and this would

be the first supply restriction to place on them. This makes Venezuela, Iran's latest ally, a concern deserving greater attention.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez announced at the start of September that Caracas would be supplying Iran with 20,000 barrels of gasoline a day. Further, the pact the two nations have made, which stipulates full military support for one another, is disconcert-

ing. The benefit to Iran is clear: Venezuela reportedly has at least 50,000 tons of uranium ore on reserve; in exchange, Venezuela has sought help from Iran to become a nuclear power.

For a change we have a clear threat with a clear enemy, and although debate is possible about the required action, the threat is serious enough to know that tough action is a necessity.

Debt City 2009: Education Shouldn't Be A Debt Sentence

Kay She
VP External



Hey U of Cers - Have you ever wanted to enhance your university experience by taking a stance on something you feel passionate about? Do you want to meet other students who will also camp out two nights on campus for a good cause? If so, come be a part of Debt City 2009! Here is the rundown of Debt City and why you should get involved.

What is Debt City?

Debt City raises awareness on the issue of rising levels of student debt. It's an event where students camp out on campus to come together and provide a collective voice for

change in the student loans and repayment system. It's become a tradition within the U of C community and the Students' Union is excited to bring it again to you this year

Why are we talking about Student Debt?

Youth unemployment rates hit 20.9 percent over the summer, the highest it has ever been since 1977. This means students without summer income will have to take on more debt in order to continue their education. For some, it means juggling more part-time work and taking longer to graduate, or not graduating all together. Changes in repayment assistance need to be made to react to this new situation. The bulk of student loans go towards tuition costs. As tuition increases and we see university cuts to the quality of undergraduate education,

students need to stand collectively and voice our concerns.

What do we do at Debt City?

We camp out overnight in tents on the East Lawn (by the Prairie Chicken) on Oct. 6 and 7. There's great programming going on such as Movie on the Lawn (Tuesday Oct. 6 at 9pm) and a Mac n Cheese lunch (Wednesday Oct. 7 at noon). We also want your help in building up our Wall of Debt, which is a collection of students' experiences and ideas about debt. This wall will be presented to the government to highlight our concerns with student debt. Don't forget, there will be a couch area in the middle of Debt City so feel free to chill there when you have spare time.

When is Debt City?

Feel free to set up your tent starting at

noon on Oct. 6. All tents must be taken down by Oct 8.

How do I get involved with Debt City?

Send your RSVP to me at suvpext@ucalgary.ca. If you don't have a tent, let me know in your RSVP and I will hook you up with one. It's a great way to meet new people and come together for a cause all students can get behind!

'til then, keep it classy U of C.

so **SU** me!
www.su.ucalgary.ca



Diploma exams should be... All multiple choice! Entirely written!

Last week, Alberta's Education minister Dave Hancock announced that the written portions of math and science diplomas would be cut, leaving an entirely multiple choice exam.

Students and teachers alike were angered by the change for a variety of reasons. Some argued that students would never learn how to communicate how they got to answers. With so much on the line — diplomas are worth 50 per cent of a high school student's final mark in those classes — parents maintain that teachers will teach to the final answer and not the process used to get there. This isn't even possible in a math course. In many questions, a series of steps must be followed to arrive at an answer and students can't learn how to find that answer without being taught the steps.

In previous years, partial marks were handed out when a student could prove that they knew only most of the steps, or else made a silly mistake along the way. The loss of partial marks for starting off in the right direction could lower averages, another cause for concern, but Hancock quickly dispelled that anxiety by saying there was no statistical difference between marks for written and multiple choice portions. If anything, one less exam should reduce the massive amount of stress students face at the end of their grade 12 year.

Students and parents should probably be focusing their anger towards some of the other cuts to education,

which total \$80 million in Alberta this year. Larger class sizes and reduced reserve funds will have a worse impact on high school grades than multiple choice diplomas. Grading written exams for math and science alone cost the provincial government almost \$2 million each year and the subsequent savings will reduce cuts to other programs.

That being said, written answers for math and science exams make more sense than for social science or english diplomas. It's much easier to make a valid argument and support a thought process in a math question than to write a solid paper in two hours. University or "real-life" situations that call for papers require research and writing skills well beyond what can be shown by sitting in a gym until your hand cramps up. If parents can trust teachers to instruct students how to think and take an educated position in these courses without proving so in an exam, then why can't they with math and science? For social and english, it's almost more important to show a process to support an argument than in math, but also much more difficult in the time frame.

Anyhow, everyone knows that the trick to high school english was remembering the definition of "pun," and for social the starting date of the First World War. Multiple choice could cover those bases just fine.

Sarelle Azuelos
Features Editor

Education in Alberta has taken a bit of a dive in recent years. Funding has been cut and, as a result, budgets have been trimmed. The latest casualties are the written portions of math and science diploma exams. Now, aspiring university scientists and mathematicians will merely need to guess and get a good grade.

If anything, a different tact should be taken. Sure, government coffers are tight. However, imagine a world where every single student in Alberta must know how to balance chemical equations, plug away at long division and write eloquent essays about Shakespeare in order to progress. Students in diploma-level courses should have more than a basic working knowledge of their subject to do well. Requiring them to

choose between four options at every juncture is too easy and doesn't allow them to exhibit any real grasp of the coursework. The province should swing the pendulum back the other way and eliminate multiple choice, keeping the written portion.

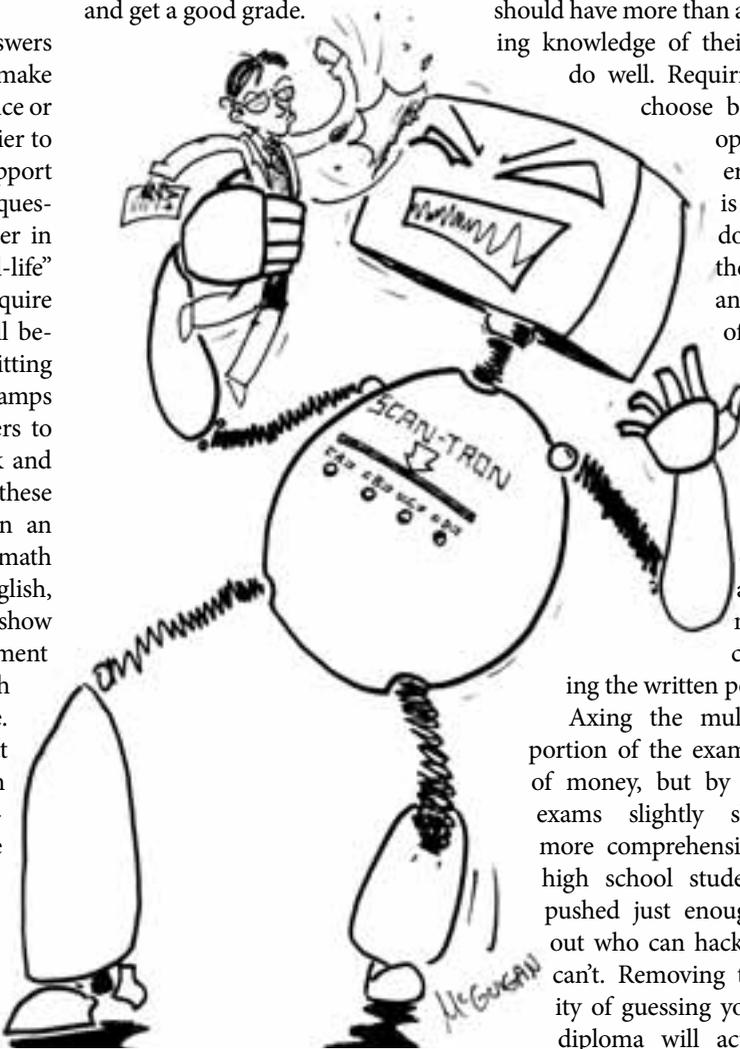
Axing the multiple choice portion of the exam saves a bit of money, but by making the exams slightly shorter and more comprehensive, Alberta's high school students will be pushed just enough to figure out who can hack it and who can't. Removing the possibility of guessing your way to a diploma will actually make

completing high school worthwhile, rather than just a formality on the road to "real" education. Heck, at least this way students will be more prepared when they hit the rigors of university.

While expanding written portions and eliminating multiple choice exams will undoubtedly have some associated costs, the benefits will eventually be plentiful. Written exams for all subjects will lead to a smarter crop of high school graduates moving onto universities or the workforce. Smarter workers and students will lead to a more innovative, efficient Alberta. A more innovative and efficient Alberta will, in turn, produce more economic surplus and provide more tax revenue for the province. By simply cutting out multiple choice exams, the provincial government can further cement Alberta's placement as an economic powerhouse.

With their latest move, the provincial government has got it wrong. Making exams shorter and easier saves money, but makes students stupider and reliant on luck. A society filled with lucky idiots won't have economic growth because nobody will know how to do anything. If the province wants long-term results, they should axe the multiple choice portion of the exams and commit to a future of brighter, smarter Albertans — albeit Albertans with hand cramps from writing so damn much.

Ryan Pike
Opinions Editor



Nova Scotia garlic farmer hates technology



Nenad Tomanic
Gauntlet Opinions

If there's one thing in the world that should have global span and dominance it is the Internet. This beautiful invention provides us with tons of information and makes it available at our fingertips. Whether you're looking for news, sports, entertainment, research, communication with distant family and friends, "free" downloadable material or things unmentionable in polite company, the Internet has something for everyone.

The requirements for surfing this planetary web are getting simpler by the day. All you need

is a computer — or any other of the multitude of devices containing web browsers — and a service provider in your area. Access to the Internet, however, is not yet global. Those who live in third-world nations have more pressing matters to deal with than acquiring computers or internet access, but there is reason to believe that in the future it will become cheap and accessible enough for most of us. The Internet has the potential to be one of the benefits of a globalizing world.

As for all inventions with global influence, some will resist the changes or attempt to thwart the building of necessary infrastructure. Nova Scotia garlic farmer Lenny Levine is opposed to the construction of a high-speed Internet tower that is planned within a few hundred meters of his property. Levine feels that the tower will irradiate his garlic crop,

mutating it and thereby ruining his business. Levine appealed to the local Kings County municipality after which council members rejected the application from regional Internet service provider EastLink to build a tower near his property. Levine's fears have little basis as he has no statistical evidence that his crops would be harmed. Also, the level of radiation that the towers emit is much lower than what is allowed by Health Canada. Meanwhile, the council's decision to disallow the project will leave hundreds of area residents with dial-up connections at best.

Though there is much to learn about the effects of radio waves on organic material, we need only look at devices we currently use to determine whether we are comfortable with the risks. Microwave ovens emit radiation and yet most of us keep them in our households.

Cell phones can emit small amounts of radio waves but are used by the vast majority of us. We put these devices next to our brains every day. Certainly a radio tower hundreds of meters from a farm is acceptable, given the radiation "risks" we commonly use. We should not deny the wondrous gift of high-speed internet to the public simply because one individual feels it might, but probably won't, disrupt his business. What about businesses that rely on the speed of their Internet connection? I suspect that Levine has not considered them.

If it's worth anything, I would still buy Levine's garlic crop, as garlic is delicious, with the full knowledge that he has a tower built somewhere near his property. So should anyone, at least until evidence is produced that shows these miniscule radio waves have a negative effect on crop growth.

Who says love isn't in the air? Judging by the anonymous love notes in this week's TLFs, I'd say Autumn's got people falling all over the place. So enjoy the changing leaves and cool breeze; fireplace-snuggling weather is just around the corner! In the meantime, show some of that love to the Gauntlet and send in your own TLF. Bring your TLF to MSC 319 or e-mail them to tlf@thegauntlet.ca. All submissions must include your name, ID number, phone number and signature. Submissions judged to be racist, sexist, homophobic or attacks of a personal nature will not be tolerated.

HOW TO WALK ON CAMPUS 101 Intro and Lesson #1

In this, my final year at the U of C, I am hoping to help the student population by offering some tips for navigating through the hallways of campus.

Tip #1: Walk on the right-hand side of the hallway. This helps reduce collisions and keeps foot-traffic flowing steadily through the hallways.

— Knows How to Walk
[WalkEd the walk]

To the guy working the Kines. desk Saturday evening — you are seriously cute, and I wouldn't mind having your attention for longer than the 3 seconds it takes to return a locker key. ladyoftheforest@live.com.

— From the girl in pink

To the boy in the orange hat. You're cute... oh and sexy too. If only you didn't sit on the other side of the room...

— Girl
[Eye spiEd]

One day you may need Amnesty International. Today it needs you. Come to Desdemona, Mac Hall, October 5 at 4 PM.

Is moaning inherently sexual, or do moaning and groaning mean the same thing?

While getting knocked up sure is contentious, couldn't we all just love each other and unite to deal with more relevant and pressing issues? I always thought \$3,000 per semester on a \$0/hr income really sucked. \$4.75m pensions kinda suck too.

— Just sayin'

To the blue eyed girl with frizzy blonde hair that sits beside me in Women's Studies 201, you are the most beautiful girl I have ever met. Would you perhaps be free this Friday at around 8 PM?

— Hopeful
[Fingers CrossEd]

Girls night out = Bathroom BJ

— Tucker Max (8RY-50N)
[MaxEd out]

Oktoberfest Kabarett at the Den this Friday, October 2! Come join the Gauntlet for some fun in tights. Be one of the first 150 guests there and get your very own beer stein!

Casper, I miss you A LOT! Break out of your prison and come visit me soon because things aren't the same around here without you! Okay, gotta go, bye.

— Magnet

University can suck it! Who needs a career? I'll just be a trophy wife.

— Tired of School

Steven: When did the sidewalk stop being for walking and start being a battleground for abortion?

Richie: When you started touching yourself at night.

[Hands tiEd]

Dear big brother: Girls don't actually have deep, dark, evil souls. The sooner you realize that the better! Love from your heartbreaking sister.

Me: Have you heard of WHAT?

You: What?

Me: Yeah, WHAT?

You: Pouquoi? What?!

Me: Not the "What's up doc?" what, the WHAT!

You:what....?

The Yes Men Fix The World. Wednesday, October 7, 2009. Brought to you by The Arusha Centre and EMMEDIA Gallery and Production Society. One Show only 7 PM. The Plaza Theatre, 1133 Kensington Rd. NW. Tickets available at the door \$15.00 100% Calgary Dollars accepted. www.theyesmenfixtheworld.com.

If the U of C keeps installing hand dryers in the washrooms then I'll just continue leaving huge shits in the toilet. Fuck saving the environment! I just wanna dry my hands off properly.

— Mad Crapper
[UndriEd]

INTRAMURAL SPORTS: Hiring! Earn some extra cash and have fun doing it. Email imsrefs@ucalgary.ca for more information.

I give him the driver. He hauls off and whacks one — big hitter, the Lama — long, into a ten-thousand foot crevasse, right at the base of this glacier. Do you know what the Lama says? Gunga galunga...gunga, gunga-lagunga.

— Carl Spackler (8RY-50N)
[ConfusEd]

off the page

Join us on Tuesday, Oct. 6 when special guest Tom Howard, president of the Urban Calgary Students' Association, discusses the future of Calgary and the battle between Plan It and suburban sprawl...

Meanwhile, we'll see you at the T Trimedia Oktoberfest Kabarett on Okt. 2 i In the Den!

((das radio gauntlet))

off the page | tuesdays | 10:30 am | cjsw 90.9 fm

hosted by jon roe and katy anderson (pictured above drinking)

interviews | commentary | analysis

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Calgary's Growth

1. *The Bow building by Elton Gjata*
2. *Downtown construction by Angela Larsen*
3. *9th Avenue by Sydney Stokoe*
4. *Futuristic Water Centre by Adam Ostopowich*



5



5. Construction of The Bow building by Leya Russell

6. Construction on Stephen Avenue by Adam Ostopowich

7. Exploding into farmland by Danielle Johnston

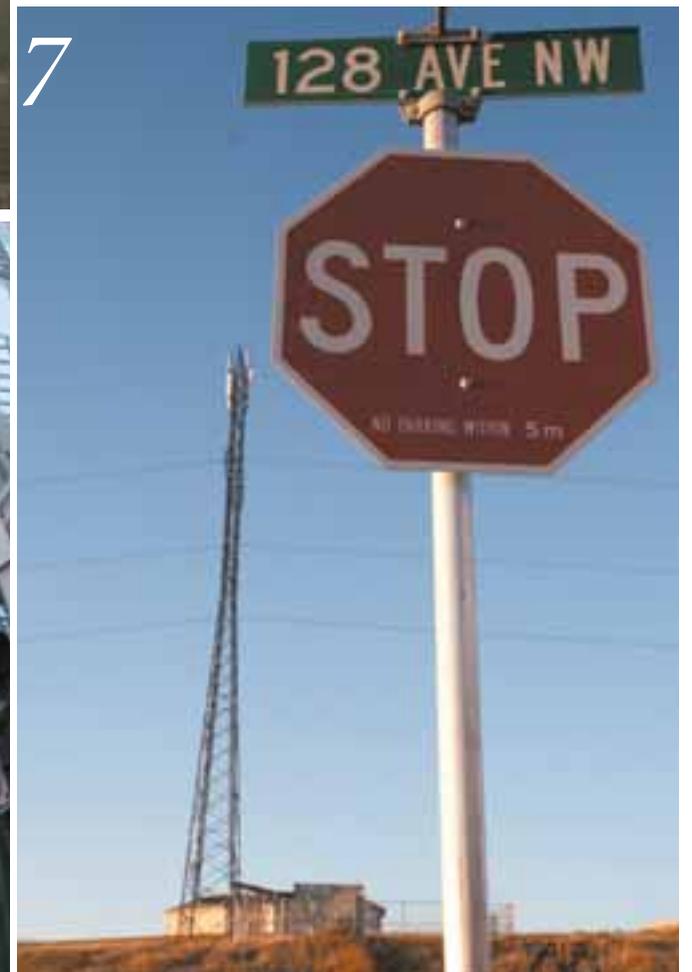
8. Calgary's construction by Sarah Taylor

9. The Bow building will dwarf the Calgary Tower by Angela Larsen

6



7



8



9



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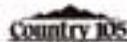
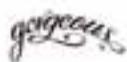
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Dinos follow Nill to top of the conference

Jon Roe
Sports Editor

This is only the fourth season for the Dinos football program under head coach Blake Nill, but the team has already surfaced as the cream of the Canada West crop.

The Dinos are ranked third overall in the nation and are tops in their conference at 3-1 midway through the season.

It's no wonder then that he managed to pull some key players from Saint Mary's University when he left and that he continues to be one of the top recruiters in the country.

"You want to play for him," says defensive lineman Deji Oduwole. "No matter what it is, no matter how down you are, you want to play for him. Even when we lost to Laval last season [59-10 in the national semi-final], during that half time speech, he just really made us want to play for him and keep going. He's a motivational coach and I'm really happy to play for him."

Oduwole, along with fellow fourth-years linebacker Andrea Bonaventura and defensive lineman Brandon Rockhill, jumped ship from Saint Mary's after Nill left to join the Dinos for the 2006 season. Defensive back Steve Truzak made the move a year later and just this year quarterback Erik Glavic, who only played one game for Nill in 2005 at Saint Mary's, trekked west.

"He's a great coach and he knew how to win," says Oduwole. "When I spoke to him after he left, and he told me that within two or three years we were going to win a Vanier Cup, I really believed what he was saying. You see now we have a Vanier Cup-type team. The man's a man of his word."

Nill was the head coach of the SMU Huskies from 1998 to 2005. During that time, he compiled a 49-15 record in the regular season and a 12-5 playoff record. The Huskies were Atlantic University Sport champions six straight times (1999-2004) and Vanier Cup champions twice (2001, 2002).

"I knew his track record, what he does as a coach is a great thing" says Bonaventura. "I knew if I came here, there'd be a good chance I'd get to go to the Vanier Cup."

For potential recruits, it's not just about Nill's success. He addresses them personally and honestly and makes sure they know exactly how they'll fit in with the team. "I think the reason I can recruit well



Carey Puglak/the Gauntlet

Matt Walter (#9) runs for some of his 121 yards in just over two quarters of play.

is that I don't pull punches with recruiting," Nill says. "I try to be up front and honest with the individual, the parents, the coaches — everybody. Sometimes you lose a kid because maybe you say the wrong thing, but at least in my mind I don't have to worry about what I said because I know that right from the first time I talk to a kid, I'll approach him and I'll indicate to him how I feel he is as a player, how he is as a person, how I think he'll fit in and I think everyone respects that and responds to that."

The players agree.

"He tells you how it is; he tells

you straight," says Truzak, who played for Nill for two years at SMU while he finished his undergraduate degree. "You do your job and you work hard — he says you're going to get on the field, you'll get on the field. The best player plays."

Nill admits that he has lost a few great athletes because he wouldn't guarantee a starting spot or a certain amount of playing time, but he is confident that his method of developing players and building programs works.

And why shouldn't he be. Before Nill joined the Dinos, the team hadn't won a playoff game since win-

ning the Vanier Cup in 1995. Nill just evened his record as Dinos head coach at 14-14 and won two playoff games last year en route to a Hardy Cup as Canada West champions.

He promised big results and so far he's delivered. Given his track record, that shouldn't be shocking.

"The biggest shock for me was when I got off the plane going to Saint Mary's for the first time, 'cause he's a giant," says Rockhill.

"My brother told me how big he was, but I didn't really know," agrees Oduwole. "I stepped out of the car and greeted him and the man's massive. He has really big

On the road again

The Dinos travel to take on the 1-3 University of British Columbia Thunderbirds on Saturday. The Dinos lead the all-time series 39-31-2.

T-Birds:

Leading passer: Billy Greene
60-112, 709 yards, 3 TDs,
4 INTs

Leading rusher: Dave Boyd
471 yards, 1 TD

Leading receiver: Jordan
Grieve 168 yards, 1 TD

Pass offence:
179 yards/game (6th)

Pass defence:
175.5 yards/game (2nd)

Rushing offence:
148 yards/game (4th)

Rushing defence:
198 yards/game (7th)

Dinos:

Leading passer: Erik Glavic
60-94, 979 yards, 6 TDs,
4 INTs

Leading rusher: Matt Walter
633 yards, 5 TDs

Leading receiver: Anthony
Parker 417 yards, 2 TDs

Pass offence:
267.8 yards/game (2nd)

Pass defence:
269.2 yards/game (6th)

Rushing offence:
272.2 yards/game (1st)

Rushing defence:
96.5 yards/game (1st)

hands, also. It was kind of a shock."

He might give people a bit of a jolt the first time they meet in person, but he's proven time and time again that he isn't just a flash in the pan. Under Nill, the Dinos have become a top destination for football players across the country and are staring down more success. The players who have followed Nill across Canada are more than satisfied with the Nill experience so far.

"It's been great," says Bonaventura. "He's a great coach, good person, good friend and if I had a chance to do it all over again, I would've done the exact same thing."

An NHL preview of mediocre proportions

Western Conference

1. Detroit Red Wings

The more things change, the more they stay the same. The Red Wings rode their stacked roster and their team first mentality to a second-straight Stanley Cup Finals appearance. Despite being bested by the upstart Pittsburgh Penguins, the Wings are still the class of the Western Conference until another team proves that they're not. Look for them to continue to feast on the slim pickings of the Central Division.

2. San Jose Sharks

The Sharks have been contenders in the Western Conference for many years, based on the dominating nature of Joe Thornton and Patrick Marleau. Over the off-season, general manager Doug Wilson flipped Milan Michalek, Jonathan Cheechoo and a draft pick for disgruntled Senators forward Dany Heatley. Now, the Sharks boast a trio of bonafide offensive weapons. The only things holding them back is their inability to make things happen at crunch-time and depth concerns behind the main trio. Still, Evgeni Nabokov's netminding will hold the Sharks in games for the entire season.

3. Calgary Flames

Every season since 2004, prognosticators have looked at the Calgary Flames and predicted big things. Despite five years of disappointment, the Flames remain on the cusp of being Stanley Cup contenders. The main pieces of the puzzle are still in place — captain Jarome Iginla, goalie Miikka Kiprusoff and defenders Robyn Regehr and Dion Phaneuf. Over the summer, general manager Darryl Sutter brought in brother Brent to coach the team and acquired free agent defenceman Jay Bouwmeester from Florida to shore up the Flames' back end. Will these changes put the team over the top? Maybe, but at least it should be enough to keep ahead of Vancouver.

4. Vancouver Canucks

The Canucks have been a good team for awhile, boasting the goaltending of Roberto Luongo and the emergence of the Sedin twins as scoring threats. However, the Canucks have some holes. Their defence, already their Achilles' heel, might get worse with the departing Mattias Ohlund being replaced by Christian Ehrhoff and Brad Lukowich. Plus, scoring depth beyond the

Sedins isn't a sure thing — particularly with the Canucks turfing rookie sensation Cory Hodgson back to junior at the end of camp. The Canucks will still be neck-and-neck with the Flames for much of the season, though.

5. Chicago Blackhawks

The youthful Blackhawks surprised the NHL last year in the playoffs, marching to the Conference Finals before being stopped by the Red Wings. The team lost Martin Havlat and gained Marian Hossa in the off-season, and the departure of Nikolai Khabibulin removes a headache from the team's locker-room and pocketbook. The Hawks won't surprise the league again. Luckily, the Hawks boast one of the best core groups in hockey and are good enough to challenge, but not win, Central Division supremacy.

6. Anaheim Ducks

Three seasons removed from a Stanley Cup, the Anaheim Ducks have fallen a bit from their peak. Despite this, the team boasts a stellar trio in Corey Perry, Bobby Ryan and Ryan Getzlaf. While the team doesn't have amazing defenders beyond Ryan Whitney and Scott Niedermayer,

the presence of steady veterans Saku Koivu and Teemu Selanne and the goaltending tandem of Jonas Hiller and J.S. Giguere should keep them in the playoff picture.

7. St. Louis Blues

Which St. Louis team is the real deal? The Blues that struggled over the first half of last season, or the Blues that upended many contending teams towards the end of the year? Regardless, goalie Chris Mason is good enough to steal a few games and if the rest of the roster shows up to play, the Blues are talented enough to creep into the playoffs.

8. Los Angeles Kings

The Kings are a strange team. They have a lot of really good young players, including forwards Alexander Frolov and Anze Kopitar and goalies Jonathan Quick and Erik Ersberg. But despite all this promise, the Kings consistently fall short of expectations. The addition of Ryan Smyth and Justin Williams may settle the Kings down enough to make the playoffs for the first time since the lockout.

— Ryan Pike

1. Washington Capitals

This team has Alexander Ovechkin, Alexander Semin, Nicklas Backstrom and Mike Green. The offence is set. And after that embarrassing loss to the Pittsburgh Penguins in game seven of last year's Eastern Conference semi-finals, they'll be motivated. Of course, there are a lot of question marks on this team: Can Semyon Varlamov play as well as he did in the playoffs? Does the team have the defence to help him out? Maybe. But with the offence they have, they can cover a lot of mistakes.

2. Boston Bruins

Sure, they lost a few pieces in the off-season in the emerging Phil Kessel and on the backend with Steve Montador and Aaron Ward, but this team is still by far the best in the Northeast division. If Tim Thomas can keep up his Vezina form and Zdeno Chara his Norris form, than the

Bruins shouldn't have too many problems next year.

3. Pittsburgh Penguins

It took a coaching change to cure a Stanley Cup-losing hangover last year, how will this team react to being hunted as last year's Stanley Cup winner? With Sergei Gonchar around for a full season, and productive years from trade-deadline additions Bill Guerin and Chris Kunitz, probably pretty well. But they've played a lot of hockey over the last two years, so it wouldn't be surprising if they dropped out of the division lead.

4. Carolina Hurricanes

The 'Canes looked great in last year's playoffs and the team hasn't changed much in the off-season. They still have Eric Staal, who was money in the playoffs. They still have Cam Ward, who is coming off his best save percentage in his career last year. If those two play as they can, this

team should easily be amongst the top third in the conference.

5. Philadelphia Flyers

Chris Pronger will add a lot to this team, but it remains to be seen whether their other off-season addition, Ray Emery, will be a curse or a blessing. The last time Emery was in the NHL, he was causing numerous off-ice problems for the Ottawa Senators. But that was after a season where he led the Senators to the Stanley Cup Finals. A year in Moscow may have cooled him off. Well, except for that whole trainer punching thing.

6. New Jersey Devils

Maybe this is the year they take a further step back and fall out of the playoffs. But come on, it's the Devils. Do you really see that happening? People say that every year. Even without Martin Brodeur last year, they won the Atlantic Division. I wouldn't expect that this year, but I

wouldn't count them out of the playoff mix.

7. Montreal Canadiens

Yeah, they're small. Yeah, they have had a significant changeover. Yeah, this whole thing could go really, really bad. But they have the scoring, they have the speed and they might have the goaltending if Carey Price bounces back. Can it really get any worse than the embarrassment of a season that was their centenary?

8. Toronto Maple Leafs

As much as I really don't want this to happen, it seems like everything is falling into place. Phil Kessel gives them another offensive weapon. The defence is significantly better. A better year from goaltender Vesa Toskala, and this team is actually pretty decent. They at least have as much of a shot as the rest of the cruddy middle-of-the-pack Eastern Conference teams.

— Jon Roe

Eastern Conference

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Sportspinions: Wait, why is Vick back in the NFL?

Kara Palmer
Gauntlet Sports



This past Sunday marked a significant day for all those NFL fans out there. I guess it was also a day to remember for PETA supporters as well. Michael Vick, currently of the Philadelphia Eagles, made his so called comeback last weekend against the Kansas City Chiefs. For those of you who don't remember Vick, the three time all-star quarterback, formerly of the Atlanta Falcons, was indicted after his underground dog fighting ring, Bad Newz Kennels, was discovered. He funded the despicable operation, where dogs would fight to the death, often being shot, drowned or electrocuted if they did not perform well, from 2001-2007. After serving 19 months in prison and being released this past May, he was picked up by the reputable franchise in Philly as an alternate QB behind Donovan McNabb.

With McNabb out on account of a knee injury, his backup Kevin Kolb took over for the past two weeks. But Vick took the field for a few snaps in last Sunday's game. Fortunately for Eagles fans his performance was not detrimental to the game's outcome. However, I'm still blown away by the fact that he is back in the NFL.

Yeah I get it, he paid his debt to society, he was punished for the wrong he committed and he should be able to go on with the life he became accustomed to before being sent to prison. My question is, why? It is not like he came out and said what he did was wrong, he had to be caught first. The only reason he admitted his guilt was to avoid a stiffer penalty. Why should he be restored to his former glory as an NFL quarterback just because he served his measly 19 months? That just seems wrong. It's nice that he was not considered above the law three years ago, but being that the NFL prides itself on being an organization with dignity and honour, why would it allow such a vile human being back into its midst? I could understand if NFL commissioner Roger Goodell demoted him for a couple of seasons and allowed him to work up to his former role as quarterback, proving that he possibly has changed for the better.

But this was not the case. When you are in the public eye as often as a professional athlete, you should be even more careful and mindful of the wrongs you commit. If people keep accepting these athletes, celebrities and musicians back into their hearts it will only make future ones believe that although they may not get away with something, they will eventually win their fans back.

Michael Vick, give me a break — it's too bad no one made you their prison bitch.



Carey Puglak/the Gauntlet

Dinos midfielder Ben Cole (#12) fights off a Golden Bear. The Dinos played the University of Alberta on Sunday, losing 1-0. They beat the University of Saskatchewan Huskies 1-0 on Saturday.

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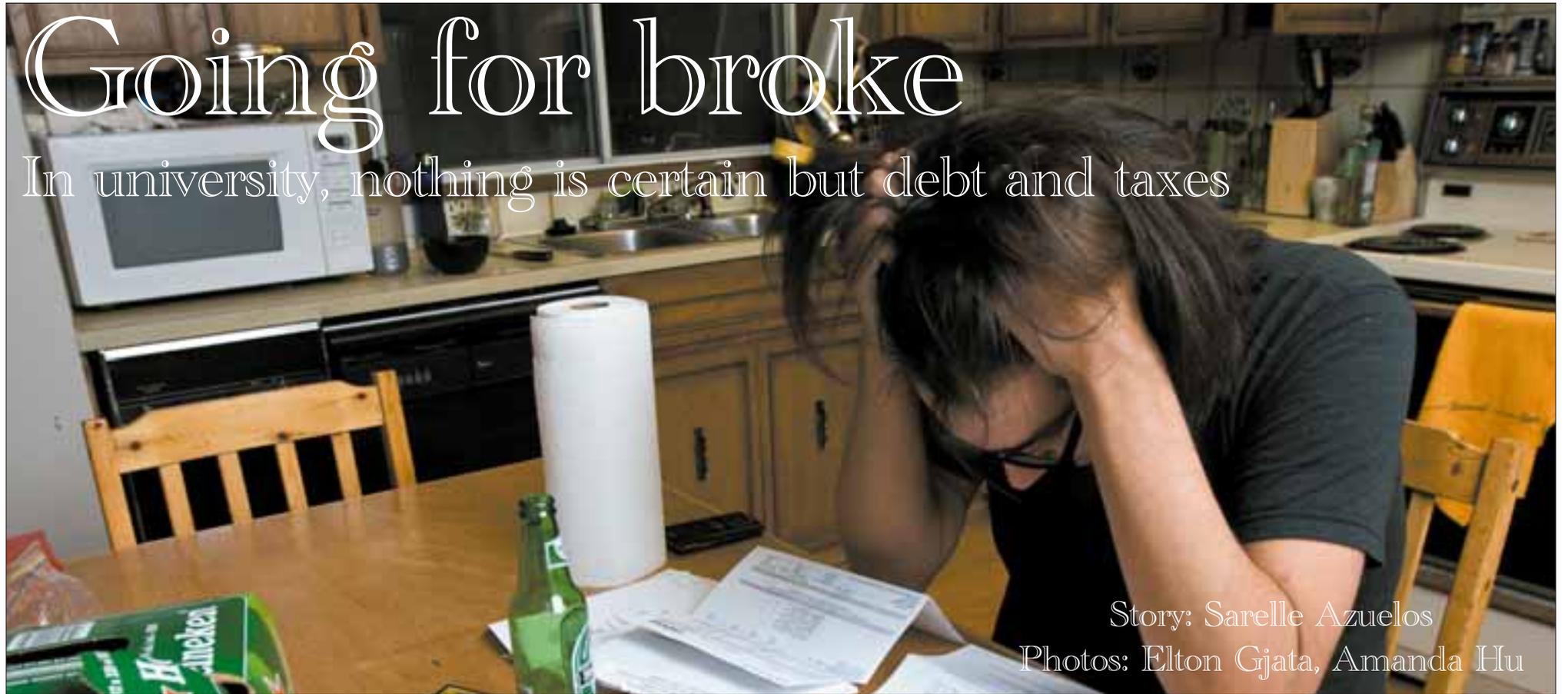
Conseil des Arts
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Alberta
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for the Arts

Going for broke

In university, nothing is certain but debt and taxes



Story: Sarelle Azuelos

Photos: Elton Gjata, Amanda Hu

Fifth year philosophy majors aren't typically known for their financial prowess and Jordan Fritz is no exception. However, for the first four years of his University of Calgary career, Fritz managed to avoid going into debt by working in Fort MacMurray while staying at his parents' home during summer months.

"I worked for the city doing forestry, that was before second year, and every other year I've just worked for my mom at her office," says Fritz. "I was accounts payable, it sucked. Honestly, going to Fort Mac for four months straight after living in Calgary all year is, like, life destroying."

After having his fill of Alberta's oil capital, Fritz decided to stay in Calgary this summer to take courses and hopefully land a decent part-time job. Given the recent economic climate, however, this proved more

Even the government's attempt to help students pay back their loans is half-hearted.

difficult than planned. Unable to find work, he applied for a combination of provincial and federal student loans totaling \$12,000.

"On average, a student graduating from an undergrad degree graduates with about \$25,000 worth of debt," says Canadian Alliance of Student Associations national director Arati Sharma. "In the Maritimes it is slightly higher because their cost of education is slightly higher as well."

This figure is almost \$10,000 more than the average amount last year, mainly due to students unable to find summer work. Student unemployment, categorized as those

between 18 and 24 years old by Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey, reached 20.9 per cent this July — the highest it's been since 1977. Despite this, the government still factors in a certain contribution from summer jobs when calculating a student's need for financial assistance. CASA, the U of C's national lobby group for student interests, is trying to remove the expected summer contribution until the economy recovers.

On top of your summer job, the Canadian Students Loan Program subtracts what it assesses to be a reasonable parental contribution based on income and number of dependents. According to their online calculator, Albertan parents making \$125,000 a year with two full-time students are expected to fork up just under \$3,000 per child each year for education. Those married to students are expected to contribute \$200 every month if making minimum wage, and more with higher income.

Luckily for Fritz, he's been out of high school long enough not to be considered a dependent. In previous years, he had been denied due to his parents' income.

"They make a lot of money compared to other people in Canada, but in Fort Mac, they actually don't make very much money. We're kind of like middle class," he says.

"In Alberta our income is a lot higher than everywhere else, but it also costs a lot more to live here and I don't think they consider that when they look at your parents' income and decide whether you need funding."

Even CASA's director was unable to receive assistance because of her parents' income. She understands that in an "ideal world, obviously we want parents to support their children," but thanks to the recession and the rising costs of textbooks, rent and tuition, that isn't always possible.

Even the government's attempt to help

students pay back their loans is half-hearted. A new Repayment Assistance Plan was put in place to help students with low or nonexistent wages make their payments manageable. However, if you default on several payments, you're no longer eligible for the plan and have to revert back to regular payments.

"If you don't have any money, you're the most in need of a plan," says Students'

Fritz admitted that his credit card was "pretty much maxed out" before his loan arrived.

Union vice-president external Kay She. "They're saying, 'Sorry, you have to make up the last three payments.' Then where does that leave those students essentially? You're in trouble and the Repayment Assistance Plan doesn't assess that."

\$24,047 Average debt for university graduates.

\$15,809 Average debt for university graduates last year.

59% Percentage of students with loans.

21% Percentage of debt from private bank loans.

19% Percentage with over \$2,500 in credit card debt.

down. His family took a different approach when his brother went to art school, applying for a line of credit from their bank at prime plus 0.75 per cent. Unfortunately for most students, banks give out loans based on ability to pay, not need. This leaves those who need help the most out of the loop.

"All the required classes I need aren't even offered this year, which means I'll have to get even more loans probably," says Fritz.

There is hope says She. The SU is hosting Debt City Oct. 6-8, where students will camp out to raise awareness on the issue. They'll be asking the government to increase the number of non-repayable bursaries and grants for students, or at least tie them to inflation (for the past several years, the U of C has matched tuition increases with inflation). This way, funding will stay proportional to tuition costs.

The SU is also looking for help from municipal figures. Rent is a huge burden for students and while some progress was made legalizing secondary suites in the city last year, wards near the university still have a confusing and

tedious process for setting them up. In some areas, individual property owners have to ask permission from the alderman and their case is discussed in council meetings. A streamlined process would increase the number of cheaper rental options and possibly save students hundreds of dollars every month.

Altogether, cheaper housing, lower interest rates, more needs-based bursaries and better repayment options will make post-secondary education more accessible.

"The fact that we either have to take out loans or work while we go to school, it seems that the government doesn't really consider being a student a job," says Fritz. "If your going to do well, you have to devote all of your time to it."

He recently got a letter explaining that after graduation, he'll be expected to pay a minimum of \$89 a month, which means it could take him over 11 years to be debt free.

"Most of our universities are designed to churn out bachelors and then they go get a job, which is kind of the opposite of what I'm in university for."

How to apply for loans

The easiest way to apply is online. Paper applications are available, but they tend to take longer to be processed. Otherwise, you should find out within days if you're eligible for a loan and how much you'll receive. Here is a step-by-step guide to applying.

Go to alis.gov.ab.ca. On the top bar, click on Post Secondary Students. Then click on the link for Funding your Post Secondary Education and Training. Here they'll give you information on Scholarships and Bursaries you can apply for, as well as financial planning guides.

- Click on the online application link.
- Fill out the application. The process is pretty simple. Information required includes:
 - Alberta Student Number
 - Dependent Children Information
 - Parental Incomes
 - Social Insurance Numbers
 - Spouse/Partner Information
 - School/Program Information
 - Tuition, fee, textbook amounts
 - Income Information



FYI: Filling out the application automatically applies you for government grants and bursaries that you are eligible for. This one application also automatically applies you for both Canada and Alberta Student loans.

..A.M. Badry

CJSW on-air guide

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
MORNING JAZZ	6 am	the jazz baby	breaking the tethers	the morning after	morning joy	raj against the machine (continued)	instant gratification: revoked (continued)
	6:30	BBC WORLD SERVICE NEWS weekdays mornings at 6, 7, 8 and 9 am					democracy now!
ROOTS MIX	7 am					bunte welle german	counterspin
	7:30						eritrean radio
AFTERNOON MIX	8 am						hrvatski radio croatian
	8:30	monday morning comedown	canadian music centre presents	bella musica sponsored by the coup / MEET	the soap box derby	the two and a half hour coffee break	
LATE NIGHT MIX	9 am					calgary vietnamese radio	buscando america latin & south america
	9:30		cjsw news				william tell
	10 am		off the page gauntlet			helenic melodies greek radio	level the vibes
	10:30	deconstructing dinner	counerspin	alternative radio	democracy now!	the double entendre preserves!	
	11 am		so SU me students' union		who shakes city calendar	bikesheviks	mental illness
	11:30	her royal opinion sponsored by local 510	who let me on the radio	mind grapes	pillage the village / failed pilot	caribbean link-up sponsored by fivd weekly	
	12 pm				my allergy to the fans sponsored by tubby dog	road pops sponsored by fivd weekly	
	12:30	the banshee beat	electric company	off duty trip	my public shame	musiquarium everything from jazz to jungle sponsored by giant 45	voice of ethiopia oh africa!
	1 pm					the nocturntable	the ok ship lights
	1:30						the chit chat
	2 pm					dirty needles the best in funk, soul & hip hop	turing radio
	2:30					remote emissions hard hitting jungle & drum 'n bass	translucent dreams ambient, trance etc.
	3 pm					dna hardcore techno	sunday night groove school
	3:30					the sarcastic triangle / attention surplus disorder	
	4 pm	aubrey's shindig sponsored by the drum & monkey	jane & tasya's guide to everything sponsored by broken city	halfway home sponsored by local 522	alternative to what?	the sarcasm triangle / attention surplus disorder	
	4:30				writer's block	instant gratification: revoked	straight on 'til morning
	5 pm				folkcetera		
	5:30				full moon funkacious the latest & greatest in breaks & house		
	6 pm	french transe en danse	artslink	mezza l'una italian	musiquarium		
	6:30	south louisiana gumbo	tombstone after dark	the blues witness with reverend ron sponsored by calgary dollars	with reverend ron sponsored by giant 45		
	7 pm	filmclips		lift the bandstand	fat beat diet		
	7:30	yeah, what she said womyn's programming					
	8 am						
	8:30	sweetheart of the radio	each one, teach one	urban sex lesbian / bisexual / gay	noise experimental music		
	9 am						
	9:30	katharsis	radio boys in the shortwave mystery	good character requirement	am i right?? comedy		
	10 am						
	10:30	post everything	twilight banter	blue collar bravado	bass ackwards metal		
	11 am						
	11:30						
	12 am						
	12:30	white lodge / black lodge	the betthupherl show	stay awake or die trying	rage cage metal		
	1 am						
	1:30						
	2 am						
	2:30						
	3 to 6 am						

CJSW is Calgary's campus and community radio station, run by 200+ volunteers, a small staff and a whole lot of love. Based at the U of C campus, CJSW has been bringing Calgarians the best of local and independent music on the FM dial since 1985! Our diverse programming includes spoken word, multicultural and eclectic music shows. We are proud to bring you independent perspectives on news and the arts. Want to volunteer? Have a news tip? Feel like listening online? Checking out concerts in town? Visit www.cjsw.com.

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MIXED BLOCK SPECIALTY MUSIC NEWS / SPOKEN WORD MULTICULTURAL

Fashionistas flock to Fashion Week

Alberta Fashion Week fashion interview

Adriana Sveen

Gauntlet Entertainment

According to French Fashion designer Christian Lacroix, “*Haute Couture* should be fun, foolish and almost unwearable.” Such a statement holds true in the public mind when considering the sometimes esoteric world of fashion. Runway models often seem like alien beings, drifting down the catwalk with attire inconceivable in both cost and appearance.

Designers take pride in creating the unique *haute couture* which grace the catwalks each season. While it may seem such a practice breeds a certain degree of inaccessibility, high fashion items are not meant to alienate the observer but to demonstrate the artistic expertise of the designer.

This October, Calgarians will have the chance to enjoy locally created high fashion during Alberta Fashion Week, running Oct. 4 – 10. While the idea of a local fashion scene may seem absurd to Calgarians packing themselves into shapeless parkas for seven months of the year, the degree of talent present in Alberta is underrated.

In its debut year, the event will feature 29 local designers whose own roots are from across the Canada, and the world. The event



courtesy Caitlyn Power and Sara Chalupicek

Designs by Caitlyn Power, left, and Sara Chalupicek.

takes place at various venues on Stephen Avenue, including daytime and nighttime runway shows and a variety of after parties where Calgarians can mingle with designers

and models alike. A number of the designers' work will be available for purchase at two weekend trunk sales, a good opportunity to look good and help out local artists.

On the night Divka designs will trace the runways, Calgary-based label designer and Divka's creator Sara Chalupicek will be behind the scenes executing last minute details.

“I have to have final say on all my designs,” insists Chalupicek.

Popular media gives a false impression of the design process. Project Runway, for example, depicts a group of highly talented designers crunching out unbelievable pieces of fabric artistry at a breakneck pace. In reality, designers spend months labouring over ideas, and bringing each detail to fruition.

“There are a lot of problems that can occur,” says Chalupicek “Machines break . . . seams have to be ripped apart. It's definitely not as easy as it looks.”

Fashion Week will prove to be a starting point for many designers, whose labels may have been overlooked had event organizers and sponsors not been so dedicated.

With only a few days until the first show, designers like Chalupicek will be working well into the night perfecting their creations. Event organizers will be smoothing out any last minute glitches. While the graceful models wearing the designs throughout Alberta Fashion Week will look effortless and flawless, it is the culmination of months of blood, sweat and tears, and reflects the very nature of high fashion.

Look for coverage in next week's *Gauntlet* with runway photos and more. Alberta Fashion Week starts Sun., Oct. 4.

Caitlyn Power



courtesy Caitlyn Power

A piece from Caitlyn Power. Power not pictured.

Hometown: Calgary

Where you've seen her: Edmonton Fashion Week, Lethbridge Fashion Weekend and collaboration with venerated Canadian designer, Andy The Anh.

Label: Caitlin Power Designs.

Credentials: University of Lethbridge '08, Fashion Design.

G: What elements inspire your Spring/Summer '10 collection?

CP: I spent a lot of time looking at architecture books and gardening books. The collection consists of tailored leather pieces as well as flowing, floral chiffon pieces.

G: What kind of person do you see wearing your designs?

CP: Because I use very classic silhouettes, my designs can be worn by women anywhere from 20 to 40. I see [her] as a powerful woman.

.. Adriana Sveen

Sara Chalupicek



courtesy Sara Chalupicek

A dress from the Divka label. Chalupicek not pictured.

Hometown: Calgary

Label: Divka.

Credentials: Sewing since age 8, taking private sewing lessons and classes in school. In the last few years, her skills and flare for fashion have driven her to create her own designs.

Where you can find her designs: Pink Sugar Boutique in Kensington.

G: What inspires you to design such a vast array of dresses?

SC: I design what I love, and I design what I can see myself wearing. I love dresses. My Spring/Summer '10 collection uses a variety of very feminine materials. It's a mix of Roman and 1970's inspiration.

..Adriana Sveen

Film Fest, week two: a lot of twisted love

Wrong Rosary

Musa is a middle-aged man who moves to Istanbul working as a muazzin and singing the daily prayer call in an Islamic mosque. Starting a new life, he moves into an apartment where he meets his next-door neighbour, Clara, who was orphaned at childbirth and raised by nuns.

The film alternates between her life and Musa's, with each finding their religions conflict with the other. Due to their upbringings, they are so introverted and painfully shy that they cannot get past the most basic greetings to address their attraction for each other.

This is Turkish director Mahmut Fazil Coskun's first film and is a modest and patient affair, plainly shot on handheld camera. It focuses on the small, minute details of the characters' lives — as they prepare meals or clean their apartments. The interactions between the two are strictly functional. Musa borrows a screwdriver from Clara. They share an elevator in silence. He returns a rosary she dropped.

It takes weeks for just a proper introduction and an exchange of names.

The film is slower and more meandering than viewers may be accustomed to, but the acting and character development are rich and meditative. The slightest gestures and glances take on powerful meanings in the film's context. In this way, the film is very much the Turkish equivalent of David Lean's 1945 romance *Brief Encounter*. In its long stretches of silence, *Wrong Rosary* holds moments of quiet charm and deep sadness.

.. Richard Lam

Houston We Have A Problem

Houston, We Have A Problem tackles the tumultuous history of America's oil booms and busts, attempting to understand the energy industry's history in order to forecast its future. While the film suffers a bit from a lack of coherent editing early on, it turns out to be one of the more sober and optimistic views on the subject in many years.

Torre starts where the energy industry began, with Texas and its "wildcatter" oil-men. From there the film describes, in the words of the people involved, exactly how the oil industry got big and why it



courtesy Houston King

A scene from *The Philosopher Kings*. No context needed.

collapsed. Surprisingly, the film's choice of subjects doesn't demonize anyone — there's no ethnocentric bashing of the Middle East for controlling the world's oil. Instead, the film constructs a narrative that basically says, "Wow, America's energy situation never needed to be as bad as it is."

While the history pieces have been done before in other films, constructing *Houston, We Have A Problem* with first-person accounts grounds the film's perspective in an engaging way. Rather than fear-mongering about the end of peak oil, though, the film extends its reach to include commentary about the future of the energy industry and the potential for innovation.

Under Torre's watchful eye, *Houston, We Have A Problem* emerges as a surprisingly thoughtful, thought-provoking and optimistic look at the American energy sector. While the film isn't entirely on-message — spending half the time discussing history before explaining why it matters — the treatment of the subject is excellent and makes *Houston* a must-see for anyone interested in the energy sector.

..Ryan Pike

The Philosopher Kings

In the white halls of the academic ivory tower, students and staff often forget about the people on its fringes. Yet their simple, incredible stories of simple human existence are some of the most powerful, as seen in Patrick Shen's new documentary *The Philosopher Kings*. Named after Plato's *Republic* — where philosophers ruled instead of petty despots — the film features eight custodians from across

scored and edited and these choices help tell each individual's incredible story, intermingling each of their stories and showing some common thematic connections through their brilliant tales of loss, love and simply living day to day.

The film's editing is beyond reproach. From one of the first scenes — a giant portrait of Earth dominating the screen only to get dusted by University of Florida Museum caretaker Melinda Augustus — to the heartwrenching handheld footage of Josue Lajunesse crying at the realization that he can only do so much to help family and friends in his native Haiti on his janitor and taxi driver's salary, this film is incredibly cinematic. This is a welcome reprieve from the more common forms of reportage documentary out there.

There are problems with it, but mostly come from *The Philosopher King's* excessively upbeat nature.

The soundtrack is gorgeous but at times comes off as cloyingly sweet. Not only that, but each custodian's relentlessly happy story can become too much.

When Vietnam vet Jim Evener says, "If you're miserable everyday, you're doing something wrong," it's easy to immediately scream, "yes!" Only afterward, upon reflection, do these kind of *Chicken Soup For The Soul*-isms come across as incredibly shallow.

Yet *The Philosopher Kings* is still a powerful film. Each custodian demonstrates an earthy intelligence, a populist positivity which is a breath of fresh air from the bourgeois neuroses that affect the lives of post-secondary graduates. *Kings* offers a rustic charm, not because of its characters *per se*, but because it shows wisdom gained from experience and not knowledge gleaned in the depths of a textbook.

.. Jordyn Marcellus

Rubik's roots really help them to rock

R u b i k
m u s i c i n t e r v i e w

Jordyn Marcellus

Entertainment Editor

After Finnish pop-metal band Lordi won the famously fickle Eurovision Song Contest, most people thought the only music coming out of the Scandinavian country was head-banging tunes. Rubik proudly show the music scene in Finland isn't just brutally fast, guitar-shredding black metal bands.

"The majority of those bands that have broke, and gotten out of Finland as well, are metal bands," says vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Arturri Taira from his home in Helsinki. "Metal has penetrated on every level of life in Finland. Our PM can throw the horns with his fingers and say 'I like Lordi, I like metal.'"

The art rockers, who have been compared to critical darlings like TV On The Radio and Animal Collective, are in the process of re-



courtesy Indoor Recess

Rubik stand in front of the defeated remains of their homeland's mighty animals

leasing their album *Dada Bandits* weird and wonderful songs like in North America. Loaded with "Goji Berries," a spastic pop track

which moves back and forth from Unicorns-esque spacey vocals to stomp-and-crash drums before finally bursting without fanfare like a child's too-large bubble. *Bandits* is full of brilliantly composed tracks, truly amazing work from the Finnish unknowns.

Despite the myopic view of North American music journalists, Taira explains that Finland has a lot of great acts which only need one big break to get their music out there internationally.

"I think [Finland] has a pretty good indie scene — a pretty good underground scene as well," he says. "It actually has stayed underground — or not as such of course — but those are not the kind of bands that fill the tabloids or get any airplay. They are very good and they gather a pretty big audience. At least in the big cities."

Whereas places like Canada have multiple resources for independent music to get out — college radio, alter-

native weeklies, the CBC — it is different in smaller countries like Finland. Taira remains upbeat, saying it is the best time to make music anywhere, especially in his native country.

"We're living in pretty exciting times, especially in consideration of what was going on 10 years ago," he argues. "We had few metal bands. We had some indie scene, but the time wasn't right for that."

Yet, for Finnish bands, there's one major issue: to make it locally, you need to sing in the native tongue. But for international success, it's commonly accepted wisdom that it's hard to break in English-speaking countries without English lyrics.

"[Finnish songs have] been in our culture for, like, 50-60 years," Taira explains. "It started in the '40s and '50s when big international hits were translated into Finnish and I think that kind of started the heritage of Finnish songs."

This is easily explained by the country's relative youth. Finland declared independence from the Russian Empire in 1917 and was recognized on January 4 1918, so their own culture is very important to them.

"We don't have a long heritage," says Taira. "We're kind of a newcomer in our independency. We haven't been around for even a hundred years yet. It kind of created a demanded for a strong sense of nationality and that has had a really huge part of why the most popular bands in Finland sing in Finnish."

For Rubik, who sing in English, it's a problem they brush off easily. Good things are happening in their home country, good things which can only lead to success in the future.

"As I said, it's about to change," Taira says hopefully. "The last 10 to 15 years have become more open minded. I'm looking forward to the future — but we'll see."

Rubik play in the Palomino Fri., Oct. 2. Tickets are available at the door.

"DREW BARRYMORE HAS DIRECTED A WORK OF PURE GENIUS."
AIN'T IT COOL NEWS

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Mangan offers upbeat music for the depressed



courtesy Killbeat Music

Dan Mangan will look strangely melancholic at the Marquee Room on Mon., Oct. 5.

Dan Mangan music interview

Andrew Williams
Gauntlet Entertainment

Dan Mangan is eager to admit he's in flux. After touring for four years on the strength of his debut LP, *Postcards and Daydreaming*, he has recently released critically acclaimed follow up, *Nice, Nice, Very Nice* and the differences between the two are remarkable.

"I'd get calls from journalists and the first question they'd ask would be: 'How does it feel to make depressing music?'" Mangan recounts on the phone from Vancouver. "My first CD was a kind of dark, sombre experience, and I think as a human being, I mean, four years passed between the two releases. I think I grew up a lot and got a lot more comfortable in my own shoes."

His latest release is remarkably more upbeat, but doesn't depart from the introspection that has made him such a versatile songwriter. A lot of the inspiration behind *Very Nice* derives from the significant amount of time Mangan spent on the road and the ups and downs of being a touring musician.

"In the last four years, I spent 40 to 50 per cent of my time touring and

I think that's definitely affected it," says Mangan. "The idea of coming home, and the idea of leaving home, the people you meet on the road and the people you miss, that you aren't seeing because you are on the road — there's an interesting dynamism there, and I would say that's definitely affected this record quite a bit."

It's not just his songwriting that makes Mangan a capable musician. His knowledge of the changing nature of music affords him the opportunity to offer his music to fans over the globe. After streaming his first album off his website, you can now listen to many of the songs from the new album on his MySpace account and his music can be purchased on iTunes. He recognizes the important role the internet can have in shaping a musical career and how it has changed the music industry for the better.

"I think with the Internet, it equals the playing field and it's allowing people, who maybe, 10 years ago, would have had a hard time having a viable career in this industry, all of a sudden they are paying their rent," explains Mangan. "They may not be a superstar, they may not be filling huge stadiums, but I think most of those people never really wanted that anyway. A nice result of the Internet is that more good music is happening than ever before, and it's because more of that ground level good music is being

supported that used to not get supported."

Despite the rise of piracy and illegal downloading, Mangan remains optimistic about the current state of the music industry. A good plan for

such an exciting young musician.

"It's a really exciting time for music in general," Mangan concludes. "I think that right now what we're getting is a real sonic innovation happening in music, but at the same

time a return to an appreciation for lyricism and a kind of song writing in it's more traditional form."

Dan Mangan plays at the Marquee Room, Mon., Oct. 5. Tickets are available at the door.

THE GAUNTLET NEEDS 3 U OF C STUDENTS

To be directors of the Gauntlet Publications Society

Any U of C student can apply to be on the Gauntlet's Board of Directors.

Become involved in the business direction of a newspaper. No experience required. Add to your resume. Meetings are once a month. Time commitment is 1 to 3 hours monthly. Applicants should be able to attend the Gauntlet Annual General Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 29 at 4:30 pm in MSC 234 Escalus Room.

Need more info? Want to apply?

Contact Evelyn Cone, Business Manager, Room 319 MSC or phone 403-220-7380. Applications are available in Room 319 MSC.

**Application Deadline is
Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2009 at 4 pm.**



gauntlet

Elias find themselves a *Lasting Distraction*

E l i a s
m u s i c i n t e r v i e w

Sydney Stokoe

Gauntlet Entertainment

Fitting in is tough. You need a certain style, a particular flair and in the case of the fickle music industry, a sound that audiences identify with. For Vancouver-based band Elias, finding a niche to fit into is a particular challenge. Because the group is so musically varied, Elias had trouble finding gigs when they were starting out.

"We haven't really played a style of music that has a scene attached with it, getting shows and getting into the circuit of bands here has always been tough for us," says vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Brian Healy. "We're not really heavy, we're not super indie. So it's like there has never been a solid place for us."

After releasing their self-titled EP in 2006 and their first full-length *All We Want* in 2008, the band proved themselves in Vancouver. Like in any scene, it isn't so much about what you play, but who you know Healy explains.

"We are starting to definitely get to know a lot of those new bands that are coming out of Vancouver now, so there is starting to be that overlap, even though the music, or the styles don't necessarily overlap," he says. "You start to develop friendships with other bands, but it is tough."

This month, Elias is taking their



courtesy Audioblood Music

Maybe all three members of Elias will be wearing a dapper fedora when they play the Gateway on Fri., Oct. 2.

sound back on the road, leaving the familiarity of Vancouver for the adventure of touring. Because they haven't toured for about a year, the band is certainly looking forward to this jaunt.

"It's going to be really nice to get right back into it," says Healy. "There are a lot of places we haven't played in, actually, even longer than a year. It ended up being pretty ideal, because musically, I think [tour mates Pilot Speed are] is a pretty good fit, and we've been fans of theirs for years now, so we kind of lucked out with that one."

The tour is acting as a launch for their new album, *Lasting Distrac-*

tion, out October 13. Elias signed on with Wax Records for this release after *All We Want's* success. Taking a new approach to recording for the new album, Healy is confident their hard work paid off.

"For the most part [the album] was all done together as a whole which is kind of nice," he explains. "It's a different approach than we've taken before, where we've gone in and done three or four songs and then another three or four songs a couple of months later, but this one we actually went in to the studio and start to finish, did the whole thing. So I think there's a lot more thought given to the flow of

things, and how everything works together."

Healy says that the new release maintains the feel of the last album, so previous listeners fear not, it's still the same familiar sound. The group have channeled different influences than on previous recordings and brought a bit more of their personal history into the songwriting.

"We sort of went back in our catalogue to stuff we grew up with, Peter Gabriel and Paul Simon and things like that, to influence our approach to writing, so that was something that was a bit different for us, too, and it gave off a different

feel in certain songs on the album."

Healy says he hopes that people will find their own meaning to the songs, as *Lasting Distraction* is all about the personal connections we make.

"You always think that you're the one person that feels a certain way about a certain thing, and in reality, you know, everyone tends to think that from time to time," he says. "Hopefully that's what comes across when they hear that particular song, whatever it may be on the album."

Elias play the Gateway Fri., Oct. 2 with Pilot Speed. Tickets are available at the door.

Brown bears wielding grappling hooks and other improvised delights

Calgary Improv Festival

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

Brent Constantin

News Bitch #3

Improvisation is an art form based on a performer's quick wits and ability to roll with the punches. Done well it looks effortless, like a well-rehearsed skit or play. Done badly, it ends up being scenes about brown grappling hooks: "I'm going to need an everyday colour from the audience. Just go ahead and shout out a colour you might typically see. Okay, I heard brown. Now I'm going to need an object that a bear might use. All right. Grappling hook."

Those with a penchant for improvised comedy can check out the Cal-

gary International Improv Festival, running until October 5 at the Epcor Centre's Engineered Air Theatre.

"Last year vastly exceeded our expectations," said Hilton, "we were all blown away, including Epcor, who became our main sponsor."

Now in its second year, the event is hosted by Calgary group The Improv Guild and boasts a collection of performers from Canada and the international community.

On Thursday the Guild invites you to bring a date to see Edmonton's Rapid Fire Theatre and Vancouver Theatresports for a two-for-one special.

Friday brings L.A. Impro to the stage from California to create and act out Jane Austin Unscripted, a show that organizer Rick Hilton describes, "as if Jane Austen was still



courtesy the festival

That's no cuddle.

alive and she was writing the play right there."

Hilton says that for the now four-year-old group last year's success cre-

ates high hopes for the 2009 festival.

"Calgary is a hotbed of improv," Hilton responded when asked about the success of the festival. "Calgar-

ians take for granted how much great talent is in this city, but Calgary is really a vital part of the international [improv] community."

Outside of the festival The Improv Guild hosts regular performances every Friday night at the old recycle depot directly across the street from the Erlton/Stampede LRT station at 8 p.m., ticket prices going for whatever patrons can afford to pay. This location, nicknamed called the Impro Depot by the guild, also hosts each performance's afterparty during the festival, where audience members can meet the performers and enjoy live music courtesy of Platinum Alibi.

Shows are at 7:30 p.m. each night with 10 p.m. shows Friday and Saturday. Tickets are \$10 for students and can be reserved online.



Mumiy Troll
Comrade Ambassador
(Ryko Distribution Partners)

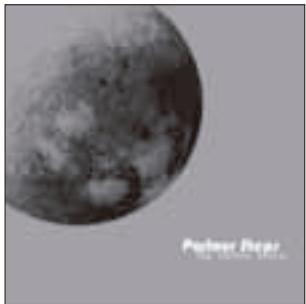
The vibrant cover of Mumiy Troll's album gives a good hint of what to expect from this Russian rock band. You have a psychedelic tiger-in-a-Superman-costume, a cowboy with guns drawn, a UFO, a nuclear briefcase and perhaps most mysteriously, an oil rig. Translated, the band's name is "The Mummy's Troll," which is based on a series of children's books. *Comrade Ambassador* is fun, colourful music made by an outrageously fun, colourful band.

The songs sound like they have been pulled from campy sci-fi films and

westerns, with strutting cabaret undertones. Strange and varied instrumentation along with electronic sounds keep the tunes interesting, with hand-clapping, staccato keyboards, blips and beeps and vocal distortions made to sound animalistic.

Suffice to say, it requires a certain amount of skill to cohesively string all this madness together. The opening track, "Mothers and Daughters," contains an ear-catching structure, where the minor key verse suddenly evolves into a major key chorus with a changed drum tempo. Each track manages to secure its own sound and identity, which is good for a non-Russian-speaking listener unable to comprehend the lyrics. This is bright, accessible music creating a fun groove, regardless of your native tongue.

..Richard Lam



Parlour Steps
The Hidden Names
(Nine Mile)

The Parlour Steps have composed a very catchy infinitely listenable album in *The Hidden Names*. The songs never become old due to the constantly shifting nature of the album. From upbeat, to slow moving tracks, *Names* is

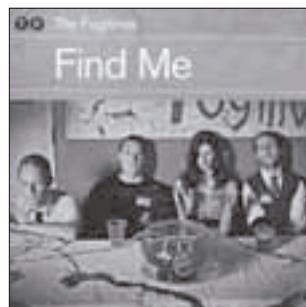
more than an enjoyable listen — it's an album you cannot help but tap your foot to.

Parlour Steps' unique sound is conveyed in "Soft Lies," which utilizes trumpet and a head-bobbing melody. Like most of the songs, the feeling of happiness washes over and offers an experience meant to renew the love for musical creativity.

The Hidden Names is a perfect soundtrack for

the city, complete with songs for long train rides and early morning drives. "Sleeping City," with its unique sound, is especially captivating. With such lyrics as, "Find a love/find a love/deep enough to scare us," *The Hidden Names* focuses on the seemingly trivial but important experiences in life and offers a meaningful and easily relatable disc chock full of feel-good hits.

.. Alicia Ward



The Fugitives
Find Me
(Independent Release)

The Fugitives have put together a short five track EP incorporating perfect harmonies with spoken word lyrics. The way they display those parts is out of the ordinary and unexpected in most of their songs. Although original, this component can seem at times out of place and cheesy amongst the various perfect

melodies, as in "To The Man Found In His Apartment Seven Years After His Death." However, "Blue Belle Lament" has an added depth and quirkiness, straying far from mainstream musical indulgences. The Fugitives have provided an inventive piece of art, making for an easy listen through their use of a variety of instruments including the ukulele.

Listeners with a spoken word appreciation will enjoy "Music," a purely spoken word

poem performed live. It's clever, thought provoking and worth a laugh.

Although short, *Find Me* is a catchy album and a good change of pace from the sludgy rock and bubblegum pop infesting the airwaves. Between the strong vocals and the artistic flare, there's something enjoyable in each of the five songs. The Fugitives have completely their own style and *Find Me* proves it.

.. Alicia Ward



Patrick Brealey
Mercury in Songbirds
(Boomp Records)

Country music enthusiasts with a hankering to hear some banjo need to pick up Patrick Brealey's album *Mercury in Songbirds*. From high tempo songs perfect for hoedowns to bluesy hip shakers, this album covers all the country music bases.

"My End of The Deal" starts with a strong

banjo lick renewing a country music appreciation. The foot tapping doesn't stop there, continuing in "I Don't Want To Hear Another Love Song." By averting soppy country music "I Don't Want To Hear Another Love Song" compels the listener to throw on some snakeskin boots for a two step.

Brealey also expands his country tunes offering a rock feel near the end of the album with "A Little On The Side." Patrick Brealey's voice is devoid of a twang, making the quirky

"Some Days Aren't Very Good" even more noticeable. The song starts off sounding like an off-beat carnival with strong piano chords which, along with the too-true lyrics, make for a very catchy, easily relatable track.

Although all the songs on *Mercury in Songbirds* follow the same pattern, it's hard to get bored thanks to Patrick Brealey's alluring, fast-paced lyrics.

.. Alicia Ward

VOX

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TOP 20 for the week of
SEPT. 21 .09

* Denotes Canadian Artist
** Denotes Local Artist

- 1 **VARIOUS**** *Beatroute: 5 Year Compilation* (Beatroute)
- 2 **JAY REATARD** *Watch Me Fall* (Matador)
- 3 **MIESHA & THE SPANKS**** *Mmmade For Me* (Transistor 66)
- 4 **POLVO** *In Prism* (Merge)
- 5 **ANVIL*** *This Is Thirteen* (VH1)
- 6 **HEALTH** *In Prism* (Lovepump United)
- 7 **REIGNING SOUND** *Love & Curses* (In The Red)
- 8 **MOUNTAIN GOATS** *The Life Of The World To Come* (4AD)
- 9 **PENS** *Hey Friend, What You Doing?* (De Stijl)
- 10 **TYONDAI BRAXTON** *Central Market* (Warp)
- 11 **YPPAH** *They Know What Ghost Know* (Ninja Tune)
- 12 **WOODEN SKY*** *If I Don't Come Home You'll Know I'm Gone* (Black Box)
- 13 **RICK WHITE ALBUM*** 1-3-7 (Blue Fog)
- 14 **SPLINTERS** *Splintered Bridges* b/w *Sorry* (Double Negative)
- 15 **FINK** *Sort Of Revolution* (Ninja Tune)
- 16 **SHAGBOTS**** *We Were Born Tigers* (Self-Released)
- 17 **AZEDA BOOTH**** *Tubtrek* (Absolutely Kosher)
- 18 **LIGHTNING DUST*** *Infinite Light* (Jagjaguwar)
- 19 **VARIOUS** *Twisted Nerve 10th Anniversary Mix* (Twisted Nerve)
- 20 **MOUNT EERIE** *Wind's Poem* (P.W. Elverum & Sun)

ELECTRONIC

- 1 **SIMIAN MOBILE DISCO** *Temporary Pleasure* (Wichita)
- 2 **PORT-ROYAL** *Dying In Time* (n5MD)
- 3 **AEROSOL** *Airborne* (n5MD)
- 4 **KIDS ON TV*** *Shape Shifting Mutants* (Blocks)
- 5 **TRANCE FURY** *Mother Earth & Father Time* (TFR)

HIP HOP/SOUL/FUNK

- 1 **AMANDA BLANK** *I Love You* (Downtown)
- 2 **HERBALISER BAND** *Session 2* (IK7)
- 3 **BLUE SCHOLARS** *Oof EP* (Duck Down)
- 4 **OK COBRA*** *Delirium Tremens* (Self-Released)
- 5 **MILES JONES*** *Runaway Jones* (Mojo)

MYKE'S PICKS

- 1 **SLARAFFENLAND**
- 2 **KITTY, DAISY & LEWIS**
- 3 **LE LOUP**
- 4 **BLOOSHOT BILL***
- 5 **WHY?**

SPOTLIGHT ON CALGARY

BEATROUTE Local monthly entertainment rag *Beatroute* has been around for five years, covering the best Calgary has to offer. To celebrate, the zine put together a comp of some awesome mostly unreleased tracks by the best Calgary has to offer. Here's to the next five awesome years of *Beatroute*!
www.beatroute.ca

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By Matt McGuigan



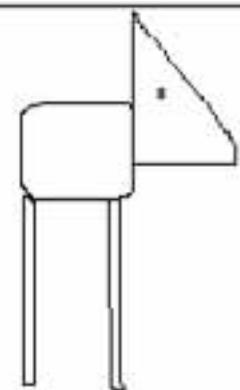
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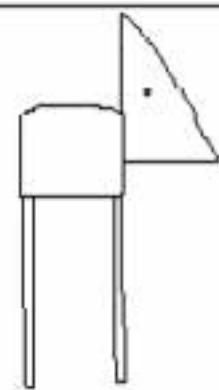
Charlie in College By not-Tristan



HORSE DOG



the other day, someone told me I was postmodern, and I said that didn't make any sense and they said exactly.



fuck that.

julie phillips © 2009

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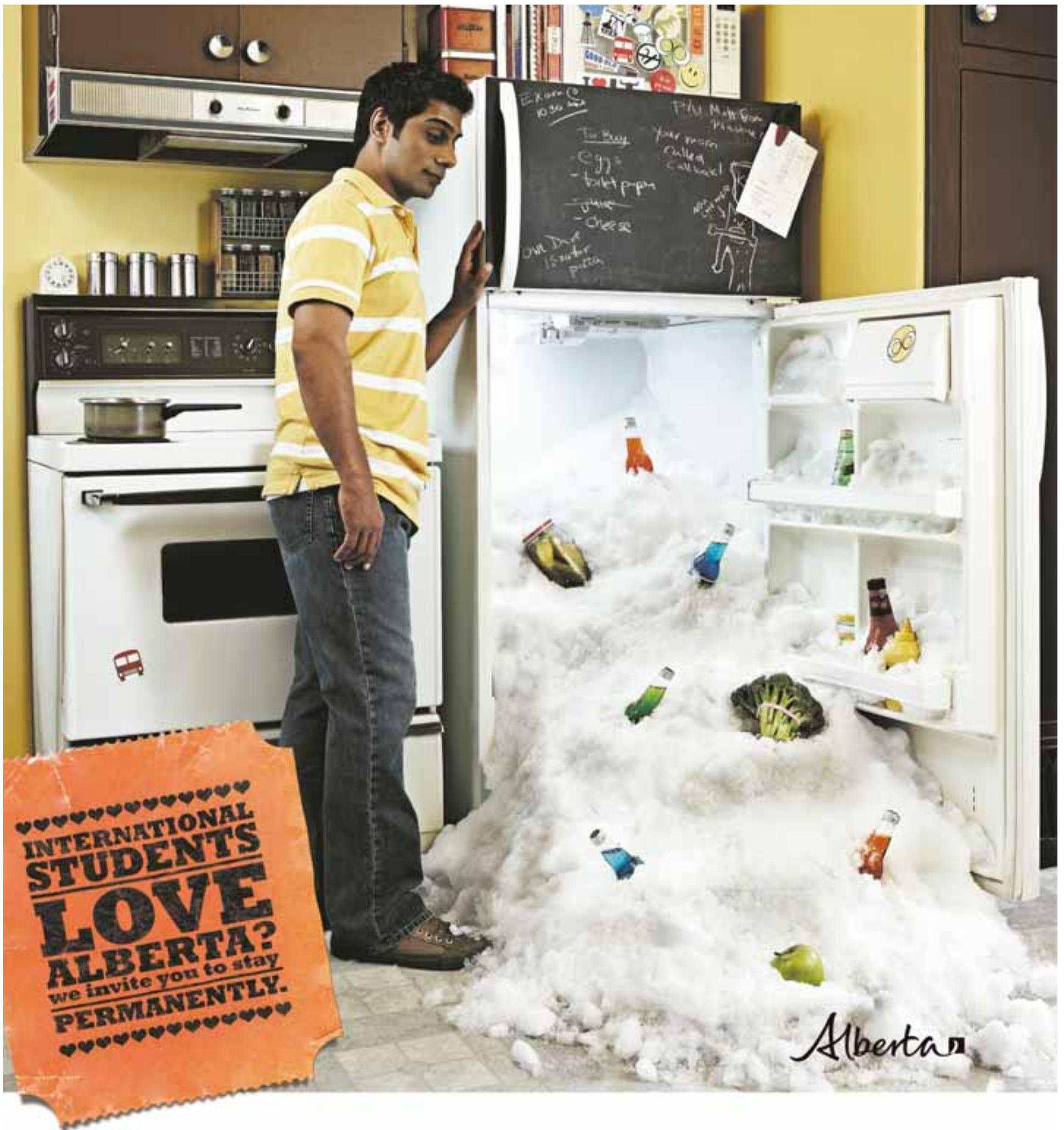
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