

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

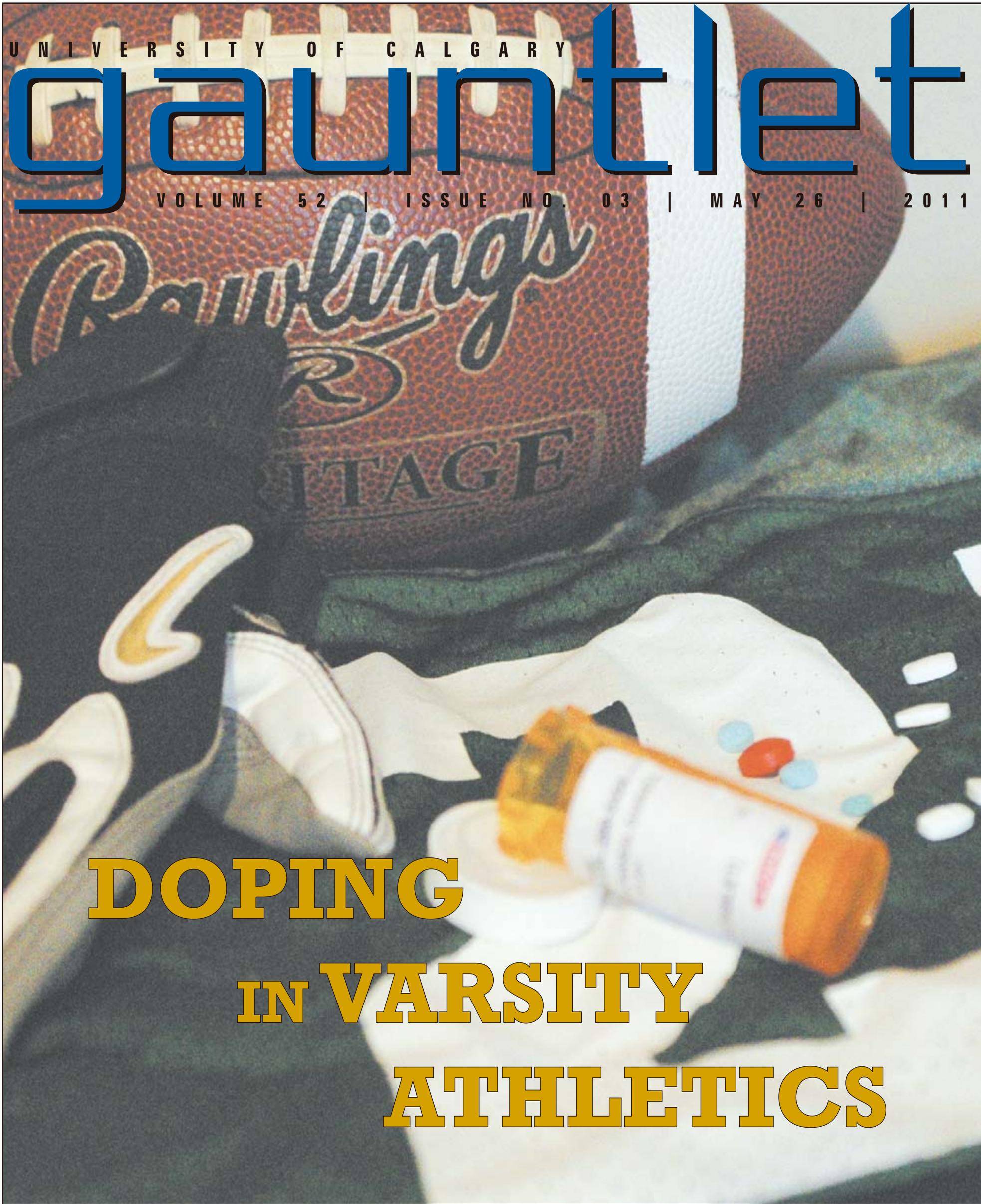
gauntlet

VOLUME 52 | ISSUE NO. 03 | MAY 26 | 2011

DOPING

IN VARSITY

ATHLETICS



World fails to end . . . again

Few surprised, some stunned and others richer

Some Doomsday predictions are based on mystical and astrological omens, while others are set up on technological half-truths and scientific misunderstandings. All of them have failed to come true, making Doomsday the most common non-event in history. The most recent was supposed to take place May 21st, 2011 but, as you may have noticed, the world is not crumbling around us.

According to Harold Camping, president of Family Radio, May 21st was to mark the beginning of the end. He predicted that the world would be engulfed by earthquakes and all humanity would perish by October 21, 2011 – except for three percent of the population that would be spared by the rapture.

This is not the first time Camping has been wrong about the end of the world. He originally predict-

ed that the world would end September 6, 1994. When that didn't work out, Camping admitted that he was mistaken but then went on to predict this second end of the world. Camping was slow to make a statement this time around, saying that he was flabbergasted and looking for answers.

Camping should forget about and start with an apology instead, because while the world did not end, there have been some very real consequences for those left behind.

Several supporters of Camping spent their entire life savings propagating the prediction. Project Caravan had several men and women leave their jobs and families to travel across America to spread the "awesome news" of Camping's rapture. Massive billboard and ad campaigns were launched around the world — both entirely funded

by Camping's supporters. Others who took Camping's warnings to heart were concerned that their pets would suffer in the coming apocalypse and chose to euthanize them before the 21st.

It is worth noting that Camping didn't spend all of the money donated, but refuses to reimburse anyone. He claims that the money will still be used to prepare for the end times but he also said he will stop campaigning.

While the entire event has an air of ridiculousness about it, people all too often fall for such things. One need only visit a local bookstore to see how big the end of the world prediction business is.

December 21st, 2012 is one popular choice, said to be the day the ancient Mayans chose for the end of the world.

While the Mayan Doomsday

has a larger following than the one proposed by Camping, it is based on equally flimsy evidence. The modern Maya certainly are not concerned about it and archaeologists, astronomers and various other scholars agree that the entire notion is nonsense — despite what History Channel specials may lead you to believe. Even after 2012 passes without an apocalyptic end to humanity there will continue to be various charlatans and snake oil salespeople ready to take advantage of scared people.

While the world will almost certainly end at some time in the future, you should always approach those who would pinpoint the date of destruction with a healthy dose of skepticism.

. . . Gauntlet Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief: Eric Mathison 403-220-7752
eic@thegauntlet.ca

News Editor: Amy Badry 403-220-4318
news@thegauntlet.ca

Entertainment: Andréa Rojas 403-220-4376
entertainment@thegauntlet.ca

Sports: Erin Shumlach 403-220-2298
sports@thegauntlet.ca

Opinions: Remi Watts 403-220-2298
opinions@thegauntlet.ca

Features: Sarah Dorchak 403-220-4376
features@thegauntlet.ca

Photography: Aly Gulamhusein 403-220-4376
photo@thegauntlet.ca

Production: Nicole Dionne 403-220-2298
production@thegauntlet.ca

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

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

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

Contributors

Olivia Brooks • Nathanael Darrell • Erin Devenny
John Hampson • Julian Rojas • Alicia Ward • James Wu

Golden Spatula

John Hampson. He used his great sleuthing skills to write an upstanding first story!

Furor Arma Ministrat

Room 319, MacEwan Students' Centre
University of Calgary
2500 University Drive NW
Calgary, AB T2N 1N4
General inquiries: 403-220-7750
http://thegauntlet.ca

The Gauntlet is the official student newspaper of the University of Calgary, published most Thursdays throughout the year by the Gauntlet Publications Society, an autonomous, incorporated body. Membership in the society is open to undergraduate students at the U of C, but all members of the university community are encouraged to contribute. Opinions contained herein are those of 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 orphan based ink. We urge you to recycle/worship the Gauntlet.

The Cover

Photo by Nathanael Darrell and design by Aly Gulamhusein

STUDENTS' UNION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Chief Returning Officer (CRO)

Term: Part-time, from August 2011 to March 2012

Pay: Honoraria of up to \$2,000 for the by-election and up to \$3,000 for the general election.

The Chief Returning Officer (CRO) is a contract position responsible for ensuring fair and equal elections for the Student Union (SU). The CRO will be the chief administrator of all Elections and Referenda of the Student Union and will ensure a fair democratic process exists and is upheld. The Chief Returning Officer key responsibilities:

- Administer the SU Nomination and Campaign events;
- Enforce election and referenda rules;
- Organize public forums and moderating debates;
- Training polling station clerks;
- Oversee the functionality of polling stations;
- Deliver election and referenda results.

Your work will be concentrated in September – October and January – March. Applicants must be current undergraduates attending the University of Calgary and cannot sit on any SU Committees. Preference will be given to those with experience in student, civic, provincial, or federal elections.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to the attention of

Susan Judd, Council Liaison Officer

Email: scjudd@ucalgary.ca or in person at the SU Main Office, 251 MacEwan Student Centre.

Deadline: Friday, June 17, 2011.



Join the SU Team!

The Students' Union (SU) at the University of Calgary is looking for enthusiastic individuals who enjoy a diverse, exciting and rewarding workplace. The SU has full and part-time openings for:

- Part Time Banquet Servers
- Full Time Banquet Server
- Part Time Cooks
- Full Time Cooks
- Judicial Review Board Volunteers
- Student Support Assistant position (Full time salaried)
- Policy Analyst (Full time, salaried)
- Systems Administrator (Full time, salaried)



If you're interested in joining us at the U of C, please submit a cover letter and résumé to resumes@su.ucalgary.ca.

Tackling doping in sports



Nathanael Darrell/the Gauntlet

Erin Shumlich
Sports Editor

The defensive line dig their hands into the dirt at the line of scrimmage, ready to rush forward as soon as the ball comes into play. The second “hike” resonates, the defence depend on being big enough, strong enough and fast enough to stop the advancing team from gaining yards. Each player can only hope that a lifetime of hard work and finesse will help him overcome his opponents.

Sometimes, however, players rely on enhancement drugs to outshine their competition.

In the 20 year history of Canadian Interuniversity Sports doping violations, over 80 per cent of violations have occurred within the sport of football.

“Football is the most heavily tested sport, so obviously the results are reflective of that,” said CIS director of operations and development Tom Huisman. “The prospect of the CFL is there, so that impacts numbers. The nature is, unfortunately, that doping is an avenue that a few individuals take, especially with the pressures that are there.”

CIS follows the strict Canadian Anti-Doping Program in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Agency. The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport, with support from the CFL, CIS and member institutions, have put together an extensive testing system, targeted specifically at football. Since April, the CCES, which updates its list of banned substances every January,

has conducted over 320 tests on CIS football teams. Of 260 tests in previous years, 105 have been conducted on football players.

University of Calgary athletes are subject to complete mandatory anti-doping education annually, unable to compete until the online training session has been completed. This program is implemented nationwide, while subsequent programs and additional courses are university specific. The online ethics course goes over specifics like consequences and testing procedures to make athletes aware of the process.

“Out of competition testing has become more prevalent of late,” said Huisman. “Over the last few years there has been a shift in the emphasis, and rightfully so.”

Drug tests are scheduled according to the likelihood of use during high risk periods, like the off-season.

This year, two football players from Laval University were suspended on doping violations. Linebacker Michael Abraham tested positive for 19-Norandrosterone in February. Offensive linebacker Steeve Vachon tested positive for Methandienone at a training camp on March 6. This is the first year Laval players have been tested during the off-season. Both players have been banned from playing at Laval — Canada’s top university football team — for two years for the use of steroids.

In a recent push to end steroid use, the CFL called on WADA to oversee testing of players for performance-enhancing drugs last year, including blood tests for human growth hormone. This is the first move that the CFL has made in order to test players for drug enhancers.

“Before last year the CFL didn’t have a drug policy,” said CCES director of executive operations

“Student-athletes are subject to random, unannounced testing at any time — even in the summer.

— Ben Matchett, U of C sports information director

and public affairs Rosemary Pitfield. “If they don’t screen it sends the wrong message.”

She said the use of HGH in professional leagues opens up the idea that this behaviour is acceptable on amateur levels.

The second trace of HGH found in a blood sample worldwide was at the root of the doping scandal at Waterloo last year. A Waterloo football player who tested positive for HGH was suspended last spring, along with eight other teammates who tested positive for drug use. The university made the decision to cancel the full football season. Since then, players from McGill, Windsor and Acadia have tested positive for HGH.

“There is a vast number of reasons individuals use,” said Pitfield. “It is a quick way to get the body

they want and get an edge to make the squad. When we are younger we think we are invincible and it won’t affect us later. What a lot of people don’t take into consideration are major health consequences, including heart issues and liver damage.”

Pitfield said that the short term effects are also extensive and can include small testicles, acne, depression and baldness.

From April 2009 to March 2010, CADA conducted 2945 tests with 24 violations, 17 involving marijuana use. CCES’s mission is “to foster ethical sport for all Canadians,” and they are

continually looking for ways to make sports not only drug free, but also promote equity, fair play, safety and non-violence.

In February, CCES doping control officers and chaperones arrived unannounced at a Dinos football team dry-land training session. Each player present was tested, with 62 urine and 15 blood samples collected overall. During the out-of-season training session, every single sample came back clean — free of any substances on the WADA prohibited list.

U of C sports information director Ben Matchett said that this shows the integrity of U of C athletes. Matchett said that in addition to online courses that all new athletes have to complete. Athletes have to take refresher courses every returning year.

“We are unequivocally opposed to doping in sport and we are always looking for ways to further educate our student-athletes,” he said. “Student-athletes are subject to random, unannounced testing at any time — even in the summer. We provide whereabouts information to the CCES for athletes in selected sports. In addition to the random testing, CCES is on hand to conduct doping control at all CIS national championships. Again, the athletes are selected at random and required to provide a sample immediately.”

Matchett said that although performance enhancers are strictly prohibited for U of C athletes, a completely clean environment has not yet been achieved.

“Out of the more than 400 who compete for us each year, there have been three violations of the anti-doping rules by University of Calgary student-athletes since 2007,” he said. “I am unaware of any before this. However, that is not to say there were not further violations.”

In 2007, men’s hockey player Jarret Lukin received a two-year ban for cocaine use. In 2009, football player Duncan McLean received a two-year ban for using Oxymetholone metabolites. Most recently, football player Julian Simmerling received a two-month ban for marijuana use this year.

Despite these cases, Matchett said this year’s football players have shown they are following the rules. “We are proud that the overwhelming majority of University of Calgary student-athletes compete within the rules, with integrity and without doping.”

“
we are
not all
cowboys.”
”



rapper collaborates with mayor nenshi and jann arden on newest single “calgary”

Courtesy Shane Yuhas

Andr a Rojas
Entertainment Editor

New York. Los Angeles. Seattle. Berlin. Calgary? Yes, that’s right. Daniel Bennett, better known by his stage moniker “Transit,” is looking to put our city of sub-zero winters,

Stampede breakfasts and too many pick-up trucks on the list of major music metropolises.

“Calgary” is the first single off the rapper’s third album, 22, coming out this November.

The song is, in hip hop parlance, a “shout-out” to local music. The “Calgary” music video will include

appearances from 18 local bands that Bennett considers influential in having developed the city’s music and arts scene.

The not-so-simple feat of gathering so many different local bands for one Calgary-made music video is reason enough to get stoked. But, as infomercial superstar Ronald M. Popeil once so eloquently put it: “But wait, there’s more!”

Acclaimed singer Jann Arden will be lending her vocal talents to the chorus of “Calgary.” After interviewing Bennett on her CBC Radio show in 2010, the two Calgary natives decided to collaborate on a track celebrating their hometown.

“It’s out of the ordinary,” says Bennett of his work with the Canadian star. “No one really expects me to work with Jann Arden, with hip hop to work with Jann Arden . . . I think she’s really perfect for the song, the whole song being about the artistic side of Calgary, with her being one of the most famous people from here.”

Mayor Naheed Nenshi will also make a cameo in the music video. The involvement of the mayor, who happens to be a fan of Arden’s music, came about through correspondence exchanged with Bennett on Twitter.

But the song “Calgary” much like the city that shares its name, is more than just a couple of high-profile cameos.

“I wanted to make a song about

the scene in Calgary . . . and [in] doing that, I wanted to go against the stereotype of Calgary being a country town, so the chorus is like: ‘We are not all cowboys’ . . . I wanted to show a different side of the city,” explains Bennett.

Furthermore, Bennett refuses to pursue a more lucrative music career in locales with more well-developed hip-hop scenes, such as Toronto or Vancouver.

“I’m really interested in creating a movement here,” Bennett asserts. “I really want to create a hip-hop scene here, and not only that . . . [but] help build up the arts scene here, because there are so many cool places here that don’t really get showcased.”

Bennett reveals an even more unfortunate truth — Calgary artists are often passed over by local venue managers and promoters in favour of more well-known acts from Eastern Canada or America. Despite being able to sell out Calgary venues and recently touring with Juno winner Shad, Bennett was turned down after applying to play this June’s Sled Island music festival.

“With a festival like Sled Island . . . there are like five acts from Calgary on the bill, and the rest are from around the world. That’s fine, but if you go to Canadian Music Week in Toronto, there’s an Ontario act on every bill because they’re building up the scene and they’re supporting it. But here, we’re so

limited,” says Bennett.

To him, this is especially disheartening, as he believes the Calgary music scene is flourishing today as it never has. This must be due, in at least some part, to the efforts of figures like Bennett, who is arguably the first Calgary persona to make it “okay” for middle-class hipsters to enjoy and attend hip-hop shows.

“It always takes some pioneers, [but] no matter how much I try and build it up here, without help from my hometown, I can’t do it.”

At the same time, Bennett believes this musical mission to be his calling.

“The whole thing is I just want unity, unity in the scene . . . Especially since hip hop in this city is usually so ostracized and labelled off to the side, for that to be front and foremost with all these other acts supporting it, it’s really cool.

“I feel like I’m an ambassador for hip hop,” says Bennett.

Bennett is taking on a challenge that will certainly take much more than eight hours with a MacBook. But if people like him don’t take the cause of the graffiti-painting and beat-making Calgary masses upon their shoulders, who will?

“They need someone to rise up and claim them.”

The music video for “Calgary” will debut May 29 on [facebook.com/transitismybestfriend](https://www.facebook.com/transitismybestfriend). Transit also performs May 28 at Dickens Pub with Swollen Members.

CHOOSE FROM STUDIO, 2 & 4 BEDROOM UNITS

visit us online @ liveatsait.com for more details

AMENITIES

- Affordable rates
- Great location to LRT & downtown
- Individual leases
- Fully furnished units
- Internet & cable provided in every bedroom
- On site management & maintenance
- Game rooms & study lounges



documentary review:

the greatest movie ever sold



Courtesy Mongrel Media

Erin Devenny

Gauntlet Entertainment

Morgan Spurlock's latest documentary, *The Greatest Movie Ever Sold*, uses a combination of wit and logic to successfully dissect the use of advertising and product placement within various forms of popular culture. Spurlock is best known for his 2004 Oscar-nominated film *Super Size Me*, which focused on the health-related consequences of subsisting on a fast food diet. In *The Greatest Movie Ever Sold*, he gives us a peek into the world of advertising and product placement in our consumer-driven world. Spurlock has a controversial reputation. He takes his audiences inside the inner workings of a sensitive issue. In this case, the issue is the influence advertising has on our society.

The film features meetings between Spurlock and the CEOs and upper management of some of America's major corporations. With every pitch, he attempts to gain their support (and endorsement money) so their product can be advertised in the movie itself. Simply put, this is a film about product placement that uses product placement itself to prove a point. He pushes this concept in the audience's face, forcing us to acknowledge the extent to which

products are consistently laid before us every day. Spurlock raises questions about the advertising done by major corporations, and begs us to consider its influence on the way we think about those around us, as well as ourselves. We watch as he gains the sponsorship of companies such as POM Wonderful, Mini Cooper, Mane 'n Tail and the Hyatt Hotel Corporation, and then laugh as he shamelessly promotes them throughout the film. He even goes as far as including small commercial segments. One advertisement for Mane 'n Tail shampoo hilariously features a bath between a young boy, played by Spurlock himself, and a pony. In a blatantly ironic, yet telling, gesture, Spurlock changes the title of the film itself to *POM Wonderful Presents: The Greatest Movie Ever Sold* after he procures the financial support of the POM Wonderful fruit juice corporation.

Throughout these meetings with major corporations, we are given insight into exactly how much control these companies have over their brand and the information they intend the public to receive. In this respect, Spurlock pokes fun at blatant advertising schemes, and how well they have blended into our society's mainstream thinking.

The Greatest Movie Ever Sold examines advertising within films, the music industry, television

shows, and even inside the American school system. We are provided with the opinions of celebrities such as Quentin Tarantino, Outkast's Big Boi, and Donald Trump. The line between art and commerce is carefully examined by some of

Hollywood's writers and directors.

Although the viewer may not be shocked by the arguments presented by this documentary, Spurlock's sense of humour keeps this movie from becoming dry and lifeless. His comedic presence is extremely

entertaining, and his ability to poke fun at himself as he sells out for the "greater good" should not be overlooked.

The Greatest Movie Ever Sold opens in Calgary May 27 at Eau Claire.

**NARROW
CASTED
INTERVIEWS**

((RADIO GAUNTLET))

**NEW TIME!
FRIDAYS
11 AM**

cjsw 90.9 fm
interviews
analysis
commentary
fun

90.9 FM
cjsw

hosted by brent constantin with sidekick andy williams

VOX
CALGARY 90.9 FM
cjsw
cjsw.com

TOP 20

*canadian artist ▶ **local artist ▶ may 16/11

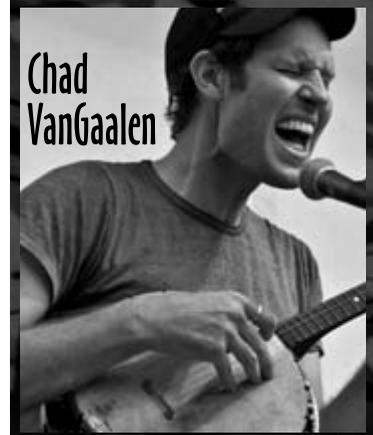
- 1 **CHAD VANGAALEN**** *Diaper Island* (Sub Pop)
- 2 **SPASTIC PANTHERS/TEENAGE RAMPAGE**** *Split* (Handsome Dan)
- 3 **WET HAIR** *In Vogue Spirit* (De Stijl)
- 4 **THE ANTLERS** *Burst Apart* (Frenchkiss)
- 5 **FIST CITY*** *TwoThousandTen* (Dead Beat)
- 6 **BASS DRUM OF DEATH GB City** (Fat Possum)
- 7 **DJ COSM**** *Time And Space* (Makebelieve)
- 8 **PSYCHEDELIC HORSESHIT** *Laced* (Fatcat)
- 9 **TIMES NEW VIKING** *Dancer Equired* (Merge)
- 10 **TIMBER TIMBRE*** *Creep On Creepin' On* (Arts & Crafts)
- 11 **SLATES*** *Bunbun* (Handsome Dan)
- 12 **CASS MCCOMBS** *Wit's End* (Domino)
- 13 **CITY CENTER** *Redeemer* (K)
- 14 **VARIOUS** *Nigeria 70: Sweet Times* (Strut)
- 15 **MYELIN SHEATHS*** *Get On Your Nerves* (Southpaw)
- 16 **MIRACLE FORTRESS*** *Was I The Wave?* (Secret Cities)
- 17 **OKKERVIL RIVER** *I Am Very Far* (Jagjaguwar)
- 18 **GIRLS NAMES** *Dead To Me* (Slumberland)
- 19 **THE KILLS** *Blood Pressures* (Domino)
- 20 **VIVIAN GIRLS** *Share The Joy* (Polyvinyl)

ELECTRONIC

- 1 **ART VS. SCIENCE** *Magic Fountain* (Beverly Martel)
- 2 **AFRICA HITECH** *93 Million Miles* (Warp)
- 3 **GRIMES & D'EON*** *Dark Bloom* (Arbutus & Hippos In Tanks)
- 4 **WINTERLIGHT** *Hope Dies Last* (n5MD)
- 5 **TARUN NAYAR*** *22° Of Beatitude* (Chaiwalla's Boombox)

HIP HOP/FUNK/SOUL

- 1 **DJ COSM**** *Time And Space* (Makebelieve)
- 2 **VARIOUS** *Daptone 45 Singles Spring/Summer 2011* (Daptones)
- 3 **LAURA VANE & THE VIPERTONES** *Sugar Fix* (Social Beats/Unique)
- 4 **ATMOSPHERE** *The Family Sign* (Rhymesayers)
- 5 **DEEZUZ**** *Ammo* (Move)

SPOTLIGHT ON CALGARY

Chad Vangaalen

photo by Ken Clarke

Everyone's raving about Chad's new album, and damn right — give it a listen. It's a great blend of catchy pop songs and explorative weirdness. Yum.

myspace.com/chadvangaalen

LIVE BANDS ON-AIR

CHAD VANGAALEN:

Fri. May 27—9 am

LAB COAST:

Fri. May 27—10 am

LAUREN MANN: Thurs. June 9—9:30 am

ELEVATOR MUSIC: Fri. June 10—11:30 am

SINISTRO: Fri. July 29—11:30 am

ELEVATOR MUSIC: Fri. June 10—11:30 am

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

ALL AGES FREE AT OLYMPIC PLAZA

SAT. JUNE 4

7 PM - 10 PM

NIGHT COMMITTEE

PEAKS ▶ SANDY CASSELS

SAMANTHA SAVAGE SMITH

RADTASTIC!

YOUR GUIDE TO ALL THINGS MUSIC AT CJSW 90.9 FM

To be added to the weekly email list, contact **KAT CARDIFF**, Music Director at cjswfm@ucalgary.ca

Insert hopes and dreams here

U of C alumnus co-stars in New York-produced musical *[title of show]*

Alicia Ward

Gauntlet Entertainment

Forte Musical Theatre Guild's *[title of show]* is the little musical that could. Literally. This one-act musical presents the heartwarming story of two writers, Hunter Bell and Jeff Bowen, chronicling their personal journey in fulfilling their ultimate dream — creating and producing a musical.

According to Forte, *[title of show]* is a show about “friendship and dreams. With cheeky humour and heartfelt honesty, *[title of show]* encourages taking a risk and pursuing your dreams, no matter how fanciful or far-reaching.”

“The show’s about two guys writing a musical, about two guys writing a musical,” explained Guilly Urra, who plays Bell in the local theatre company’s production.

[title of show] follows Bell and

Bowen from the conception of the idea for a musical through its frantic creation to its premiere at the New York Musical Theatre Festival, where the New York-produced show premiered in reality in September 2004. Since then, the musical itself has enjoyed major success, including winning several prestigious Off-Broadway Theatre Awards, and eventually showing 115 performances on Broadway. Now, Forte Musical Theatre Guild is taking on the show and believes it to be exactly the type of musical they specialize in due to its character-driven plot and its ability to connect the actors to the audience in a personal way. Urra believes even non-theatre-goers will enjoy the show.

“It’s very relatable — a genuine story,” said Urra.

The audience will relate not only to the characters played by the cast, but also to the characters’ relationships to each other, depicted throughout the show.

“My favourite part of being on the show is working with the cast,” said Urra.

Urra explained that the four-person cast of the show has become very close, much like the creators and their friends. Due to the remarkable rapport between the cast members, the show promises to be hilarious, as well as inspiring.

University students would certainly be receptive to an inspiring message in the midst of economic troubles, budget cuts and class registration stresses. Urra, being a University of Calgary alumnus, sympathizes with U of C students, but trusts the institution to prepare its students for the outside world. Urra said the most valuable piece of experience he received from the U of C was the development of the work ethic that completing an undergraduate degree entails.

“While I was there I got to do a lot. I think I got to do all of the mainstage shows. It just start[ed

by] building up from the drama department to the theatre,” said Urra.

Upon graduation, Urra jumped into the Calgary theatre scene, working on various shows with a number of companies including Stage West and Ground Zero Theatre. *[title of show]* will be Urra’s first show with the Forte Musical Theatre Guild. The show opens at the end of this month, but Urra isn’t feeling the pre-show jitters just yet.

“I’m still trying to learn the steps, memorize the lines and make sure everything is right,” said Urra.

Ultimately, audiences are sure to find the underdog musical *[title of show]* both hilariously entertaining and sweetly idealistic. The “little musical that could” will surely make its way into your heart this spring.

[title of show] runs until June 4 at the Vertigo Studio Theatre.

For tickets, visit fortemusical.ca. For videos, upcoming show information and fan widgets, visit titleofshow.com

Otafest 2011 brings together anime enthusiasts

Julian Rojas

Gauntlet Entertainment

Last Friday, visitors to the University of Calgary stepped into a world of cartoon-faced plush toys, Japanese rock music and life-size video game characters.

Otafest, an annual weekend celebration of Japanese anime culture held at the U of C, is more interactive than most pop culture conventions. The 2011 festival, held from May 20 to May 22, included exclusive screenings, artwork displays, video games, Japanese music and panel discussions.

“It’s really great to participate in such an extensive display of anime culture, especially in Calgary,” said Chen Wu, an annual attendee of Otafest. According to him, the appreciation of anime also “goes so much deeper than what most people think.”

That deeper interaction includes cosplay (costume play), in which fans, young and old alike, dress up and act as their favourite

anime, movie or video game characters (or food, in some cases). Die-hard cosplayers compete in events, costume contests and, of course, video game tournaments. They are also more than happy to have their pictures taken.

Visitors to the university last weekend were quite surprised (in a good way, of course) to see a multitude of elaborately dressed individuals staging mock battles in the courtyard.

Other highlights from this year’s festival included appearances by The Fool, a Japanese electro-rock or “J-Rock” band, and Thwomp, a local band that plays renditions of retro video game music. Each group performed two concerts over two days in both the MacEwan Ballroom and outdoors.

If you were looking to pick up some sick swag, the vendors’ room boasted items catering to nerds of all types, from Pokémon cards, SNES games and manga, to PVC figurines, posters and quirky

clothing. Anime artists and enthusiasts possess a penchant for making anything cute by sticking a poorly-drawn “:3” emoticon-type face onto it. I found the “:3” face on plush bacon strips and stuffed animals, as well as on the faces of all the avid anime fans presumably finding their Japanese art paradise.

The hold that anime and manga subculture had on the people of Calgary during this weekend was markedly impressive, but hardly surprising. Even if the success of the event itself wasn’t based on its

loyal following, it would still attest to the far-reaching influence of East Asian art culture.

Otafest combines video games, fashion, music, film and television, food, merchandise and even dance into its celebration. Its multi-faceted approach to entertainment and its unbridled expression of Japanese culture make Otafest the successful art festival that it is.

Visit otafest.com/forum for more information and updates on Otafest, or anime-alberta.org for anime-related news and events in Western Canada.



Adventure!

Teach English Overseas

- > TESOL Certified in 5 Days
- > In-Class or Online > No degree Required!

1.888.270.2941

Job Guaranteed!

Next in-class course: June 15 - 19

Next Seminar: May 31 @ 7 pm

Best Western Village Park Inn
(Motel Village)

www.globaltesol.com



Prostitution controversy continues

AIDS Calgary Awareness Association supports prostitution's decriminalization

Olivia Brooks

Gauntlet News

On May 8, AIDS Calgary Awareness Association released a statement endorsing the decriminalization of prostitution in Canada.

"We believe that criminalizing [sex workers] penalizes them," said ACAA spokesperson Simonne LeBlanc.

Men, women and transgendered sex workers frequent the ACAA offices because they do not receive any pressure to leave their industry, she said. "We don't tell them they have to leave [the sex trade] or we won't help them."

Dean of Research and professor of sociology at Saint Thomas University Gayle MacDonald, who co-authored *Sex Workers Talk Back*, said it is important to understand

club, according to LeBlanc.

LeBlanc does not think the organization has affected the level of prostitution in Calgary.

"Prostitution hasn't gone down," said LeBlanc. "It's changed."

It is estimated that 80 per cent of prostitution in Canada is conducted in-house. Working from home appeals to sex workers, as it provides the ability to screen clients in order to avoid "bad dates." In-

workers] are the most disadvantaged because they are the most misunderstood, but they make the most money."

MacDonald believes the stigma of sex workers extends to all three groups. However, she said they all experience violence differently.

LeBlanc thinks society's perception of sex workers is skewed.

"Prostitutes are never taken seriously," said LeBlanc. "They cannot take complaints to the police."

ACAA says in their statement that the Criminal Code of Canada "suggests that sex workers are second-class citizens, which is a violation of their human rights."

However, LeBlanc believes it is more than the law, it is how the government responds. "You see they don't offer support. Everyone has rights but the sex workers do not. So they must not be full-fledged citizens."

MacDonald agrees that the laws are not protecting the workers. "The message we're sending is that it is okay to abuse sex workers. We want to show that it is not okay to abuse anyone."

In 2003, New Zealand decriminalized prostitution, including street prostitution.

LeBlanc thinks laws that provide support and rights to prostitutes are beneficial.

She said Sweden has similar laws to Canada, but is more supportive of sex workers.

ACAA believes Canada would benefit from creating laws that protect and support the sex workers.

"I think that you'll always have fear mongering around decriminalization," LeBlanc said of the groups who do not support the decriminalization of prostitution.

see DECRIMINALIZATION, page 8

History of Prostitution

Prostitution has been practiced for centuries. Here is a brief look at some important events in the history of prostitution in Canada.

1850 – Bawdy House Restriction law passed. Rights of sex workers removed.

1972 – Law passed prohibiting individuals from soliciting others in a public place for prostitution. However, "public place" was not defined.

1980 – The Canadian Government formed a committee to assess adequacy of laws related to prostitution and pornography.

1983 – Amendment made to law. Public place defined and changes made to recognize prostitutes as male and female.

1996 – Bill C-27, which deals with child prostitution and child sex tourism, is tabled at the House of Commons.

2002 – Réal Ménard of the Bloc Québécois introduced a private member's bill in the House of Commons calling to decriminalize activities related to prostitution. The Bill passed first reading in the House of Commons but progressed no further in the legislative process.

2007 – Vancouver considered opening a cooperative brothel that would be owned and operated by sex workers. Groups continue to debate about the benefits and downfalls today.

2011 – AIDS Calgary Awareness Association advocated for the decriminalization of prostitution.



Lisa5588/Flickr

A group holds up a banner advocating for alternative laws for sex workers in Toronto last year.

ACAA believes the best method to help sex workers is a harm reduction approach. This approach does not push workers to leave the sex trade. Rather, ACAA provides support for individuals to make the decision.

"It's important to note that we only work with adults," said LeBlanc. "When it comes to youth there are completely different laws."

ACAA is the only agency in Calgary using the harm reduction approach with sex workers.

"If they want to leave or if they want to stay they should have support," said LeBlanc.

that decriminalization is not the same as legalization.

MacDonald pointed out that alcohol and lottery tickets were once criminalized. "In both those situations the state took control. I'm not suggesting that necessarily has to be done, but alcohol and gaming are highly regulated."

In the 1990s, a Calgary volunteer-based organization called Street Teams was put in place to patrol the public areas where prostitutes congregate to help get them off the streets.

Street Teams is less active now. It is run under the Boys and Girls

house work gives the sex workers a sense of security and decreases the likelihood of violence.

According to the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women website, female sex workers are 60 to 120 times more likely to be murdered than the general public. This is one reason in-house prostitution is on the rise.

Violence against sex workers extends also to transgendered and male prostitutes.

"The level of violence perpetuated against men [who are sex workers] is unbelievable," said MacDonald. "Transgendered [sex

What do you think about Canada's prostitution laws?



"I support legalization. You can tax it."
– Kyle Milz, fourth-year computer science



"Making it legal will not get rid of the problem. But it is not good to be too strict."
– Saadiya Rashie, second-year biology



"Laws should be more strict."
– Victoria Hoa, third-year business



"I think it should be more open, like in Holland."
– Madjid Ovaici, first-year engineering

U of C student recognized for efforts

John Hampson
Gauntlet News

As graduation ceremonies quickly approach, recipients of various awards are being proclaimed throughout the university community. The Future Alumni Award is the highest honour given by the University of Calgary Alumni Association, recognizing outstanding students and promising future leaders. This year's recipient is Alyx Nanji.

The Future Alumni Award is a subcategory of the Arch Awards distributed by the Alumni Association.

"The Arch Awards program honours our finest alumni and future graduates," said Alumni Association president Ken McKinnon. "Alyx [is an] outstanding recipient and [he] will be joining a very impressive group of past award winners."

Nanji is viewed as an active leader and avid volunteer within his community at large, on campus through clubs, and within the Students'

Union. "Instead of saying no, I say yes," said Nanji of the force behind his success.

Nanji founded Stop the Beef, an educational campaign targeting gang and high-risk activity among youth in Calgary. "The timing was right for this initiative because it was mainly focused when the gang war was rampant in Calgary," explained Nanji.

Nanji will graduate this year with a double degree in commerce and social work.

Originally he studied solely in the Haskayne School of Business, but later decided his interests also lay in social work.

"Once I entered social work I realized that there were no clubs that I could get involved with. Social work students were missing out on an opportunity to develop their professional and social lives through clubs."

On this basis, Nanji founded the Social Work Students' Association.

Classmate and current su Social Work Representative Bobbi Michaud said "Alyx wasn't involved

with the club for very long."

Since Nanji's absence a new president has been elected.

"We restructured the Social Work Student Association to better represent our social work values," Michaud said.

After establishing the Social Work Students' Association, Nanji campaigned to represent his fellow social work students as a faculty representative on the su.

"I really provided the voice that social work students didn't have."

Michaud said she enjoyed having Nanji as a classmate. "He always added some humour or a business perspective to our class discussions."

Nanji also has a love for soccer. "I've been playing soccer for a very long time." His love of the sport grew into something much more and he began coaching a group of at-risk youth, serving as their mentor.

Nanji is active in city and university politics as well. He served as campaign manager for Calgary Public School Board Trustee Pamela King, chaired Ric McIver's student



Riley Brandt/Alumni Association

Alyx Nanji was awarded a Future Alumni Award.

engagement efforts and successfully managed su president Dylan Jones's campaign.

Nanji is not certain where his future will lead.

"I'm actually still trying to figure that out. I'm leaning now a lot to politics."

Nanji is currently working as executive assistant to Ted Morton in his bid for leader of the Progressive

Conservative Party of Alberta. "I'm seeing how this game is played. I love campaigns, so it may just be a mesh of public policy that I pursue."

Nanji said he doesn't like the status quo and he tries to make a difference.

"I just get up and do it. One person can actually make a difference and make change. I've achieved a lot so far," he said.

Decriminalization, cont'd from page 7

The Calgary Police Service, LeBlanc said, is not supportive of a change to the laws regarding prostitution.

A Calgary Police Service spokesperson, who wished to remain anonymous, had no comment on the ACA's proposal to change the

laws. "Our job is to not comment on the law, just to uphold it."

Sections 210 to 213 in the Criminal Code of Canada state that being a prostitute is not illegal but the solicitation, communication and owning or working with a bawdy house is an indictable offence and

can lead to imprisonment.

In Canada, municipalities have the ability to create their own laws surrounding sex workers.

In 1997, the Vancouver police announced they were no longer intending to arrest prostitutes, as they were not the root of the problem. However, in other cities prostitutes are arrested on a daily basis.

According to First Advocates website — an advocacy group for prostitutes — since 1985, 93 per cent of prostitution charges have been for "communicating for the purpose of prostitution."

More recently, in 2007, Vancouver attempted to open a cooperative brothel, but did not succeed. The initiative was led by the B.C. Coalition of Experiential Communities and a group of sex workers. The cooperative brothel was to be owned and operated by sex workers. Supporters of the initiative said the cooperative brothel would decrease violence against sex workers and allow for increased empowerment.

Activist groups within the city, spearheaded by the Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter,



Source: Statistics Canada

avidly protested the brothel's opening.

"Rape relief shelters often come from a radical feminist view point. They see women as victims," said MacDonald. "But not all women are victims. A cooperative implies

governance for the sex worker."

MacDonald also thinks the cooperative would reduce violence.

"Overall the effect would reduce violence," stated MacDonald, "because at the moment sex workers become the repository for violence."

