

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

# gauntlet

VOLUME 52 | ISSUE NO. 25 | JANUARY 12 | 2012

# HPV

Young people need to start taking this  
STI more seriously, page 12





# STUDENTS' UNION HAPPENINGS

## Are You Next?

**Picture yourself as a Students' Union Elected Official:** influencing university policy, connecting with your faculty and student organizations while gaining professional experience.

### REASONS TO RUN:

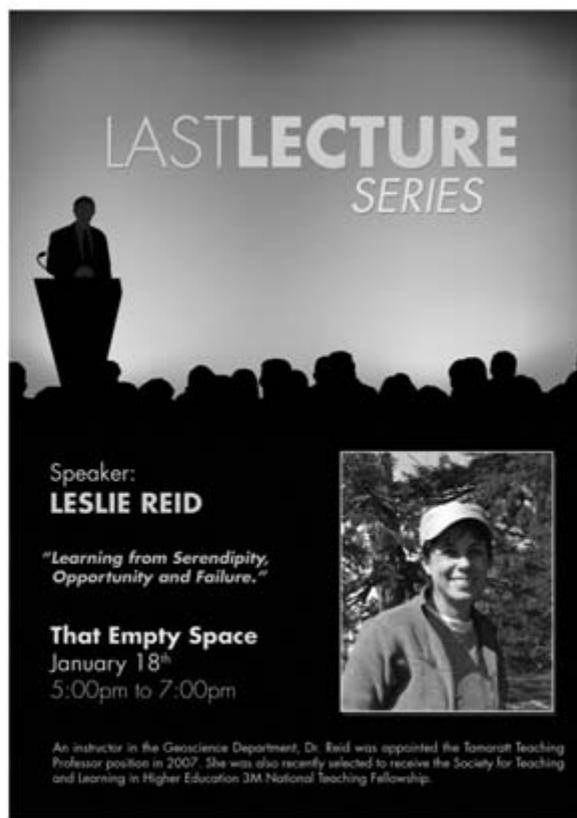
- Make a difference in your faculty
- Influence university policy
- Link with university administration, faculty, students and student clubs
- Gain professional experience
- Be a voice for students
- Student Executive positions receive a full time salary
- Faculty Representatives receive an honoraria
- Build your academic and professional portfolio



### NOMINATIONS:

Nomination packages will be available at the end of January at the Students' Union office or online. Campaign funding is available. Visit [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca) for details.

**NOMINATION DAYS: FEB. 13-15**



Speaker:  
**LESLIE REID**

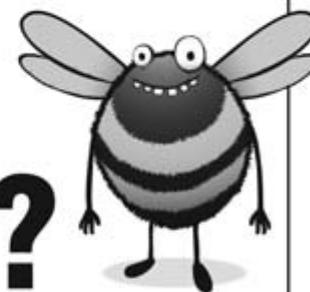
*"Learning from Serendipity, Opportunity and Failure."*

**That Empty Space**  
January 18<sup>th</sup>  
5:00pm to 7:00pm

An instructor in the Geoscience Department, Dr. Reid was appointed the Tamara Teaching Professor position in 2007. She was also recently selected to receive the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education 3M National Teaching Fellowship.



## Looking for a new hive?



Check out  
**SU Clubs Week,**  
January 16 - 20  
in MacEwan Student Centre.

There are over 260 clubs on campus that bring together people who share similar passions. Whether you're into anime or snowboarding, burning up the dance floor or fighting social injustice, chances are there is a club for you!

The Students' Union offers a number of services for clubs such as funding for events and club office space. Club members also enjoy discounts at the Den and Bound & Copied.

Get involved! Check out SU Clubs Week January 16 - 20 in MacEwan Student Centre.



JANUARY 12, 2012

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#### Golden Spatula



Evangelos "Satan's typist"  
 lambrinoudis II

"1 years for the blood of a virgin"

First, to all of you who wrote in last week: no, the Golden Spatula award is *not* a chance to recognize exceptional journalistic effort. Rather, it is a chance for us to draw the circle and star, sharpen the knife, slit the throat and drain the blood! This week we would like to thank Evangelos "typist of the dead" lambrinoudis II for all of his glorifying of gore. Thanks Evangelos — we call upon Moloth to let churches burn and lambs be slaughtered in your honour.

#### 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 a corpse based ink. We urge you to recycle/inhale 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](mailto:editor@thegauntlet.ca).

# Teachers and diplomas

Albertan high school graduates will remember well writing their diploma exams. The nerves, time spent with tutors or studying alone, time off as exams approached and the reserved satisfaction upon completion. Those tests are worth 50 per cent of a student's grade, and while some receive an extra boost in their total score, for many the pressures and stress aren't worth it. The Alberta Teachers' Union is now hoping to have the weight of the diploma tests lowered (see "Weighting of Alberta diploma exams reconsidered," page 4).

The diploma exam in Alberta used to make up the entire grade of the course. Moving its weight to 50 per cent accommodated students who have test anxiety (especially knowing the test will determine their entire grade), or who simply have a bad day.

The Alberta Teachers' Union also claims that teachers should be given more responsibility in deciding the mark. After all, it's the teachers who work with students the entire semester or longer, develop a knowledge of students' skills, and are able to test in ways a standardized test cannot.

In contrast, the provincial government continues to defend the use of the diploma exam. A standardized test, they claim, is an effective way of minimizing teacher bias, because it prevents teachers from consciously or otherwise changing the marks of students based on factors like attendance and effort — factors which are

of little help to universities in determining which students they should admit. The diploma exams are the only way to directly compare the performance of students across the province.

A serious worry with allowing teachers to determine a greater

A worry that cuts across both positions is the effectiveness of teaching students receive. Admission standards to bachelor of education programs show that teachers in Alberta are hardly picked from the best and brightest university graduates. Further,



portion of the mark is that they will be allowed to choose the criteria for success based on the factors they find important. An obnoxious student who rarely chooses to attend class, but who happens to be brilliant in math might receive a lower mark from a teacher who values effort and character over pure ability. Whether this is fair or not is an open question. What's important is that the grade from a teacher doesn't reflect those value judgements.

the union favours rewarding the number of years a teacher has been employed, rather than the performance of his or her students. This is a problem regardless of the weight of the diploma exam: bad teachers beget bad students. But at least with a diploma exam the school system will be able to identify those bad teachers more readily. (The next challenge, of course, is getting the union to do something about it.)

Universities can accept students

based on criteria of their choosing. It's tempting to think that if admissions departments wanted a standardized test they would have high school students write the SAT, or develop a test of their own. With diploma exams the most universities will ever get is a province-wide standard.

The diploma exams are no panacea. But they are valuable enough to have a rightful place in determining the final grade high school students receive. Unfortunately, in the end grading of any sort will never account for all important factors. A student who performs well at a below-average high school seems to have accomplished a greater feat than a private school student with every opportunity. Those types of comparisons are only possible when equal markers are available, and there's a good case to be made that universities should employ better statistical analysis to make such decisions.

Despite its successes, there are still many things wrong with Alberta's education system, including access to equal education. Empowering teachers won't work until major changes are made to the way the Alberta Teachers' Union recruits and improves its employees. While the high school curriculum is certainly a complex issue, a split between teacher-based input and standardized diploma testing is, at least for now, the most responsible route.

Gauntlet Editorial Board

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# Weighting of Alberta diploma exams reconsidered

## Debate continues over comparing high school students from different provinces

**Erin Shumlich**  
Sports Editor

Alberta high school students face tough academic standards that make entering university or receiving scholarships more difficult for graduates than in other provinces. The mandatory Alberta diploma exams, which count for 50 per cent of a student's final grade, generally lower a student's average by 3.5 percentage points, according to Alberta Education. Top officials with the Alberta Teachers' Association are vying for a change in the weight of the examinations.

A recent move by the University of Saskatchewan to accept Alberta students based on either their teacher-awarded mark or a mark with the diplomas included, whichever increases the student's chance of acceptance, has sparked discussion about how the diploma examinations affect Alberta students trying to enter universities nationwide.

According to a U of S study of 12,000 university students over a three-year period, Albertan students' grades drop an average of 6.4 per cent when entering university from high school, compared to their counterparts from British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario who see grades drop an average of 19.6 per cent.

Associate coordinator of communications for the Alberta Teachers' Association Jonathan Teghtmeyer said he hopes more universities and colleges will follow the U of S's footsteps to reform their admission policy and consider the effect diploma marks have on the averages of Albertan students.

"We are supportive of the University of Saskatchewan's reconsideration of the emphasis on diploma examinations in their



Aly Gulamhusein/the Gauntlet

### Do standardized tests adequately reflect a student's ability?

entrance requirements for students," said Teghtmeyer. "We are concerned about the high-stakes nature of the exams and the emphasis that is placed on them and the distraction that emphasis has on the real learning that we think should be occurring in Alberta's classrooms."

Last year, only 15 per cent of high school students in Alberta had a combined average of 80 per cent or higher after graduation, while almost 30 per cent of Ontario students received the same mark upon graduation, something Teghtmeyer said is adverse for students trying to enter universities and receive scholarships.

"We have long been calling on

the government to change the weight of the diploma exam," he said.

Teghtmeyer said the Alberta Teachers' Association would like to see classroom-awarded marks weighted at 80 per cent and the diploma exams weighted at 20 per cent.

"We think that this would achieve a balance. If you want to know to what degree students have actually mastered the curriculum, you need to ask the teachers."

The standardized diploma exams were introduced in 1984 to certify the level of achievement for grade 12 courses and ensure a province-wide standard was upheld. The director of diploma

examinations for Alberta Tim Coates said the exams are important to prevent inflation of students' grades based on their teacher and that he would caution universities about disregarding diploma exam marks because of huge discrepancies between teacher-awarded marks.

"The common factor for all [Alberta] students is that they have written a test that holds everyone to the same standard," said Coates. "There is more of an opportunity for comparability."

Coates said one of the chief factors for the introduction of the diploma examinations was that universities felt there was a lack of common standards across the province — there was no way to compare an 80 per cent from one high school with an 80 per cent from another one. He said that although universities might be cautious about saying they give Alberta students special status, it is often acknowledged that a mark coming from Alberta might be lower than it would be in other provinces.

According to the *Calgary Herald*, in 2010 the University of British Columbia began to add two per cent to Alberta students' averages, and other universities often accept Alberta students even when their average is below a cut-off grade.

Alberta high school students habitually are one of the top-achievers in the world in international achievement exams, and Coates said the diploma exams help prepare students for post-secondary education.

"There are some international schools that have asked to use the Alberta curriculum because it's pretty highly regarded," he said.

Coates said that although the diploma exams can't possibly measure everything a teacher does, assessment should be about positive outcomes and be blind to factors

like student behaviour and attitude.

"When a teacher is marking a group of students, one of the things that is difficult to do is remove the bias you get by developing a positive relationship with students and that impacts the scores," said Coates. "There is a question of how a standardization can be implemented on a national level."

Education Minister Thomas Lukaszuk said that diploma exams are here to stay in Alberta, but there will be discussions about the weight of the exams. He said he will push for nationwide standardization and push other provinces to introduce diploma exams.

Associate registrar at the University of Calgary Scott Robinson said that, compared with other competitive universities, the U of C is on par regarding admission standards.

"Looking at Alberta students who have to write the diploma exams compared to other places that don't, we have seen that there seems to be a bit of a discrepancy in grading across the country, but we don't do things differently than other institutions," said Robinson. "Every institution has variations but we do have the same standards."

The U of S is just one of a handful of universities that are changing admission standards for Albertan students to ensure a fair comparison. Carlton University and St. Francis Xavier have already begun disregarding Alberta diploma marks.

Although the U of S's move affects Albertan students, Ola Mohajer, the U of C's Students' Union vice-president academic, said that because around 85 per cent of students from the U of C are from Alberta, applicants to the university are on an equal playing field.

### What impact do you think diploma exams should have on university admissions?



"If it isn't mandatory that would be nice, but it's also good to have a medium to accept people."  
– Carrie Mah, first-year computer science



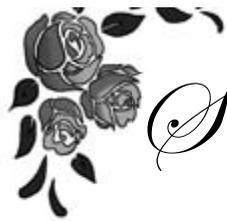
"It's not fair. I think it should be a little bit lower."  
– Julian Nunez, third-year oil and gas engineering



"As it is right now is fine, the fact that it accounts for 50 per cent of your mark is good."  
– Zsolt Taladriz, second-year economics



"It's inconvenient because when you're leaving high school you're not always thinking about what you want to do."  
– Erin Kerr, first-year arts



# Students' Union executive mid-term reviews



Dylan Jones

WHAT WOULD THE MAGIC mirror say about Dylan Jones, the SU president?

In White's, whoops, Jones's case, the 'get out of the office' initiative to bridge the gap between students and the administration has been his main goal.

"One thing I really believe in strongly from a leadership perspective is to bring our SU out of the office a little more and want to help and represent as best as we can," said Jones. "We got out and we asked students their opinion and tried to

be that strong liaison."

The main item Jones tackled this past semester was study space issues with the closure of MacKimmie library. According to Jones, a strong level of responsiveness and student interaction was key.

"Cooperation is important, and we need to make things happen in the best way possible," said Jones.

Jones has been doing a good job connecting and building relationships with students but he has expressed some frus-

trations with the many meetings and committees he is involved in, leaving him less time to spend interacting with students.

He is lucky to have several dwarfs to help ensure the work behind the scenes is getting done.

"I'm happy. I'm proud of this year so far. I'm proud of the Students' Union and I'm proud of the team we have," said Jones, maintaining unfailing optimism, much like Ms. White.



President

Matt McMillan

WHILE THEIR HAIR STYLES certainly don't match, vice-president external Matt McMillan bears resemblance to Rapunzel, the newest Disney princess. Just as Rapunzel was not one of the initial Disney princesses, McMillan is a newcomer to the SU this year despite his prior election attempts.

He sits on multiple groups representing students and was elected the secretary of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations. CASA's lobbying efforts to the federal government have received favourable responses. Chief among these was the pub-

lic commitment that part-time students would not pay student loan interest while in school. On campus, McMillan was a part of running the Get Out The Vote campaign, which engaged over 6,000 students during the fall semester.

McMillan — unlike Rapunzel's hair — falls short on some issues. While a major part of the VP external role is communication to students, many undergraduates say they are unsure what he has been working on. Although McMillan says this is the nature of politics and the job, it would be

beneficial to make progress more accessible and understandable to the average student. Just as Rapunzel is somewhat separated from the world, McMillan has been on multiple trips this year, removing him from the campus community. He states that with the second phase of the GOTV campaign he will be interacting more with students face-to-face. Hopefully this occurs and the situation improves as he is seen more frequently, just as Rapunzel's improved when she came down from her tower.



VP External

Ota Mohajer

MOHAJER IS LIKE MULAN because she works hard to achieve her goals. She is the lone female among the boys but she still knows how to fight.

"There are jokes going around that I'm not even a real woman anymore," said Mohajer.

Mohajer is working on creating a centralized awards website where students can find awards and scholarships they are eligible for from the university and potentially the provincial and federal government and private companies. She

has met with university administration to pitch this idea, which has been met with enthusiasm.

She also increased the amount of award money at the undergraduate research symposium from \$12,000 with a \$500 award minimum to \$21,500 with a \$1,000 award minimum, along with securing two more awards for next year.

Finally, she has created a tutor registry which has recruited over 300 tutors, which she hopes to have up and running for next semester.

Mohajer is a very active SU executives. She is the chair of of the teaching excellence and academic policy committee and sits on the quality money committee and events and communications committee, among others. But with all her time spent advocating for students, she has very little time to get out of the office and engage with the students on campus. Mohajer hopes to ratify that this semester, and will be asking SU faculty representatives to sit on some committees and allow her to get out of the office.



VP Academic

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## Patrick Straw

PATRICK STRAW IS A spirited young princess, with plenty of self-confidence and willpower. These traits were useful when negotiating with the university senior administration and advocating for students. Because of Straw's skills, the university has agreed to consult students about the MacHall master plans.

"[The university] would have brought in some pretty pictures, shown them to students, and they would have said 'what do you think?' We managed to get a multi-year consultative process, engaging students with a number of different mediums."

Straw honed his princess charm and cun-

ning on university administration.

"That is something the university didn't initially want but has since warmed up to. I have learned you have to be very resilient, straightforward and really keep pushing for your goals, because if you don't, then not much gets done," he said about dealing with university administration.

But Straw's time in office hasn't all been a magic carpet ride.

The SU is an effective business, but many of their initiatives are not communicated with students. For example, food in SU-run businesses comes mainly from organic food sup-

pliers in order to eliminate chemicals and pesticides in students' diets.

Straw tried to improve the communication strategy when MacHall went styrofoam free. Signs were hung from the roof of MacHall to let students know about the change. However, his communication policy still needs some work.

Currently, Straw is working to make the U of C a fairtrade campus. He hopes this project will come to fruition before the end of the semester. An improved communication strategy will engage students and get them excited about this new initiative.



VP Operations  
and Finance

## Matt Diteljan

AFTER MAKING HIS BID for the big ball, it was unclear whether vice-president student life Matt Diteljan could have his fairy tale ending with U of C students. As the clock strikes midnight on the academic year, the glass slipper appears to fit, and the Cinderella story of Matt Diteljan is set to leave its mark on student activities all across campus.

One of his notable successes this term was the Faculty Wars Dodge Ball tournaments, which were held in October and December. These tournaments proved to be a hit among students, with widespread participa-

tion across campus.

"We had over 300 students participate in each event," said Diteljan. "With this, the sponsorship dollars just keep increasing, and the tournament is proving to be a resounding success."

Diteljan has also made an effort to build closer ties between the Students' Union and University of Calgary clubs, implementing different strategies to ensure a more harmonious relationship and streamlined approach in the dealings of the two parties.

"We're currently looking at implementing a

new software system so clubs can get funding more easily. We've also passed a new terms of reference through the clubs committee, which will also help clubs access money more efficiently," said Diteljan.

Diteljan's biggest challenge has been promoting more student engagement across campus in his effort to create a more lively, engaged campus culture.

When asked about how he plans to overcome this, Diteljan "hopes to do a bit of research to why this is, and hopefully find a solution to this problem of student engagement."



VP Student Life

# CASH REWARD

## for undergrads

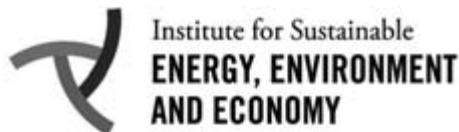


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SU executive midterm reviews by Susan Anderson, Amy Badry, Michael Grondin, Riley Hill and Emily Macphail.



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Hiver – Winter 2012

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MUHL 311 L02	Montreal/New Music - Portrait	T 13:00

\* These lecture sections are taught in the French language



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# Residence waiting list eliminated

Melanie Hirsig  
Gauntlet News

Residence is now available to all students wishing to live on campus.

The opening of Yamnuska Hall, the new residence building, saw the end of the waiting list for students wanting to live on campus. Out of approximately 2,500 living spaces available on campus — 589 of which are in Yamnuska — 95 per cent are currently occupied.

Residence life coordinator for Yamnuska Hall Jason Bowers said the feedback from students living in the new buildings has been good. “The common areas, particularly the academic lounge, are heavily used.”

Before Yamnuska was built, the university wait list had over 400 students.

“We want to give as many stu-



Justin Seward/the Gauntlet

**Yamnuska Hall adds 589 spaces for students to live on campus.**

dents a part of that experience that we can, and to do that we need to grow the facilities as well,” said director of residence services Randy Maus.

Third-year electrical engineering student James Hinton said, “living in residence is a mix of extremes.

On the one hand, for study geeks like me, it’s close to all the campus resources, which definitely gives you a hand up on good grades. Socially, it depends on your courses. It can be challenging during peak times of study when it feels like everyone else is partying and you’re

stuck at home in the books.”

The cost of residence can often be more than renting off campus, Maus said campus living is also about the experience, so much so that 325 Calgarian students are currently living on campus.

One student chose to live on campus even though his family lives a couple blocks away.

“He knew that he could build his social and support networks a lot faster and that there would be opportunities here that he wouldn’t get at home,” said Maus. “He has done stellar and is now one of our student leaders.”

Spanish exchange student Rocio Contreras and French exchange student Ely Gérard are two of the approximately 450 non-Canadian students living in residence. They both agree that it is much more expensive in Canada than Madrid and Paris, but they enjoy the lively,

social atmosphere of Cascade Hall and its proximity to both the university and public transport.

“In Cascade it is easy to meet people, first because you have three roommates, and second because they organize events for us,” said Gérard. “You can go partying three times a week, so it is noisy and hard to get sleep some nights, particularly Fridays.”

Contreras disagreed, stating, “unless your neighbours are having a party, quiet time is at 11 p.m. and people stick to that.”

Maus said that the problem with comparing student housing on and off campus is that students don’t often compare apples with apples.

“Students may compare sharing a house or living in a small unit with what they get here,” he said. “Some of the services we provide you’re not necessarily getting somewhere else.”



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# Sleazy Apparel's got your back

Locally-made tees, tanks and hoodies clothe Calgary, support city's music talent

Andrea Llewellyn

Gauntlet Entertainment

Local clothing line Sleazy Apparel isn't actually sleazy, but that's probably a good thing. The tongue-in-cheek title may come with some negative ideas about appearance and attitude, but the line's founder Jordan Hunter would like to see it join the ranks of other slang words like "wicked" or "sick."

"We want [the word] to represent a positive thing — like, 'Yo, that was sleazy,' meaning 'Yo, that was awesome.'"

With their second batch of casualwear available in their e-store and the success of their autumn/winter line launch party last month, Sleazy Apparel's quest for awesome is approaching its one-year anniversary.

Hunter envisioned a new line with a stronger, more professional team and a new name after the failure of his last clothing company, Diamonds and Guns. Sleazy Apparel took off after Hunter met graphic artist Matt Krawchuk at a local hip-hop show.

Today, the brand is owned primarily by Hunter and Krawchuk, who collaborate on design and mar-

keting decisions. Their inspiration stems from vintage graphic art influences, alternative urban clothing lines like OBEY and The Hundreds and Krawchuk's own detailed and textured designs.

"We want to have the 'double-take' kind of mentality, where you look at it once and you don't see everything, and then you have to look back to notice more details that you wouldn't have noticed the first time," says Hunter of the line's signature visual style.

Krawchuk's work in particular is known for this meticulous approach to graphic art. Under the moniker Fortune Circus he has been designing T-shirts, posters and album covers for many Calgary musicians, including local hip-hop artist Transit, who now doubles as the brand's spokesperson. The video for the Transit single 'I'm So Indie,' wherein the rapper sports a Sleazy hoodie, recently gained airplay on MuchMusic's indie program *The Wedge* — a significant mainstream breakout for the brand.

This is no accident — Hunter and Krawchuk aim for Sleazy to be bigger than just an apparel company, something they have started to do by partnering with local musicians.

Krawchuk describes their vision:

"We strive to be more of a culture with art and music and apparel all in bed together. . . I think people relate with that much more, because I can see a shirt and say, 'That's great, but do I want to support their brand?'"

"We want to be a culture, and I think people can relate and connect to that much easier."

When it comes to the business side of things (particularly opening a physical store), Krawchuk "like[s] the idea of the 'face-to-face.' You can go into a store, and that teller might have [had] a bad day or whatever and treat you like shit, and then you have a bad experience buying a Sleazy product. That shouldn't be the case.

"I firmly believe we are an independent brand, and we are just going to do it our way — for now, at least."

They're doing something right, as their launch parties have a local feel — they're at once a chance to meet the creative duo, experience the bands who sport the Sleazy name and become part of their community.

Earlier this year, Sleazy Apparel released a mixtape featuring local artists such as Transit, Makeshift



Sleazy Apparel is the brainchild of founder Jordan Hunter (below) and graphic artist Matt Krawchuk.

courtesy Azan Dhanani

Innocence and For the Weekend. Indie pop-rockers The Braves were also featured on this mixtape, and lead singer Joy Hansen claims that the whole band is behind the brand, with at least one of them wearing a Sleazy shirt at every show.

"I think [Sleazy Apparel] represents what is happening in Calgary, and that the culture here . . . is growing and having success."

That's the point of the mixtape, Hunter explains — to use the concept of Sleazy Apparel to help local artists grow and expand Calgary's music scene.

"We keep everything quite local, and we want to grow with the local sponsors we've selected. So instead of latching ourselves on to something big, we want to latch ourselves on to something from Calgary, something local, something-up-and-coming that we can grow with."

Sleazy Apparel may not be sleazy in the common sense, but it is definitely everything that is local — and that's something Calgary can be proud of.

Learn more about Sleazy Apparel at [sleazyapparel.com](http://sleazyapparel.com), and check out their local music mixtape at [sleazyapparel.bandcamp.com](http://sleazyapparel.bandcamp.com)

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# High Performance Rodeo meshes local and global stage art

Ian Gregg

Gauntlet Entertainment  
with files from CJSW

Calgary may not be the most metropolitan city in the world — anyone who wants to take it down a couple notches can easily point out the phallic symbol we chose as our flagship building, or rebuke the idea that we stand out as a glittering prairie jewel. As of January 5–28, the city's dissenters have an awful lot to get distracted by as the High Performance Rodeo rolls into town for its 26th year.

Not everyone may know what this whiz-bang affair, also called Calgary's International Festival of the Arts, entails. But if they were to ask any of the 9,000 Snowblower revelers — who danced their pants off to DJs and fire-spinners against a backdrop of ice sculptures at the kickoff party at Olympic Plaza last Saturday — they'd have a pretty good clue about what to expect for the rest of the month. What excites associate producer Mark

Hopkins about the performance art festival, though, is its multiplicity.

"We're partnering with [the magazine] *The Walrus* this year for 'The Walrus Talks.' Some of Canada's greatest thinkers will speak on the art of the city. It should be an incredibly engaging and interesting dialogue. On the flip side, we have *Lucha VAVOOM*, an act out of Los Angeles which combines Mexican wrestling, burlesque striptease and comedy at the Big Four Building.

"In the same breath, we have an intellectual conversation, a South African dance troupe and Mexican wrestling," says Hopkins.

The HPR not only incorporates theatre, dance, multimedia, music and sport, but also makes itself extremely obvious while doing so. Although their edginess makes HPR performances stand out at any venue, they are not limited to the stage.

"We try to animate every space possible. We've set up in all the theatres you've probably heard of, including Vertigo and the Martha



courtesy High Performance Rodeo

Los Angeles production *Lucha VaVOOM* brings Mexican wrestling, comedy and burlesque to Calgary's Big Four.

Cohen. We're also incorporating the +15 systems and the Calgary Tower. If you're downtown, you'll

have to try very hard to ignore us."

The HPR has a reputation for being a little left-of-centre. The festival tends to bring in shows that don't typically take place in Calgary's art scene. When asked how the festival influences our cultural landscape, Hopkins replies, "We ask every Calgarian to participate. Every theatre and artist we could think of has been asked to pitch in their most original material and stretch well outside of their comfort zones. This allows us to witness performances that we would normally never see."

The festival doesn't just rely on loads of cash to fly established acts to Calgary for performances — it full-heartedly encourages local talent to shine with the rest of them in the spotlight. This year, over 50 lucky locals will be listed on the same program as the experimental performer Laurie Anderson, the renowned One Yellow Rabbit theatre company and the awarded playwright John Murrell. You don't have to join

the Freemasons or sell a kidney to get on the roster, either. When asked about how local performers can get on board, Hopkins responds bluntly.

"Frankly, e-mail or call us . . . It always helps to send in a video of your project as well."

He continues by mentioning more opportunities throughout the year. "The Year of the Dragon +15 Art Parade is composed of artists from every discipline and could provide a few openings. Keep your ear to the ground."

To potential festivalgoers looking to plan their January entertainment schedule, Hopkins suggests John Murrell's play *Taking Shakespeare*. "He's a huge name in Canadian theatre and never disappoints — a sure thing for any theatre geek."

Finally, Hopkins adds that "*Lucha VAVOOM* will be one of the single craziest things Calgary has ever seen." I, for one, can't wait to agree.

Take a look at the cavalcade of events that the High Performance Rodeo has to offer at [hprodeo.ca](http://hprodeo.ca)

## DEPARTMENT OF DANCE



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In photo: Melissa Monteros, Piyo Yi-Muamui, Jukka Hailu, Wojciech Mochmal  
choreography (creation): Wojciech Mochmal, Melissa Monteros, Piyo Yi-Muamui, Jukka Hailu  
Photo: Petia Mihnen

# Star Wars: The Old Republic is refreshingly new

Sean "how do you spell assistant" Willett  
Entertainment Assistant

I have a love/hate relationship with *Star Wars*. While I love the original three films and the universe they have established, there is very little else that is both *Star Wars*-related and not objectively terrible. So when I heard that Canadian video game developer Bioware was developing a *Star Wars* massively multiplayer online game, I forced myself to reel in my initial optimism.

While Bioware has already succeeded in making a *Star Wars* video game with the critically acclaimed *Knights of the Old Republic*, they have never before attempted to develop an MMO. The Edmonton-based company is known almost exclusively for its story-driven single player games, and making the transition to a genre infamous for its disregard of story may seem like a recipe for disaster.

Yet *Star Wars: The Old Republic* is far from the catastrophe it could have been. By combining the best parts of single-player and massively-multiplayer games, *sw:TOR* creates a wholly unique experience, and is far

and away the best MMO I have ever played.

The most striking part of *sw:TOR* is its emphasis on story. While other MMOs tend to have very weak and impersonal plots, *sw:TOR* is centred around the players' characters and the choices they make. The story is mainly told through conversations, where players must choose what their characters will say next. These conversations are fully voice-acted and brilliantly written, and despite being a part of every mission in the game they rarely get tedious.

Occasionally, important choices must be made to advance the plot, and these are often split between 'light-side' choices and 'dark-side' choices. There isn't always a clear distinction between good and bad, however. Once I was faced with a decision to either expose a politician who had been giving money to a gang, or to keep quiet and cover it up. While telling the authorities would be the morally correct thing to do, the politician happened to be a huge proponent of helping to rebuild war-torn areas of her planet, and had only given the gang money to stop them from interfering. Situations

like this actually forced me to stop and think about my choice, unlike many games with morality systems where the choices are far more clear-cut and uninteresting.

Although many of the game's missions are accessible by every player, the most interesting and meaningful ones are those that are specific to your character's class. These comprise the main plot thread of the game, and vary wildly depending on what kind of character you have chosen.

For example, the class missions for my Republic Trooper provide plenty of opportunities to make me feel like a crack space commando: defusing bombs, rescuing hostages and taking down hardened Imperial commanders. I don't feel like just another player doing a selection of meaningless tasks, as I have with other MMOs. I feel like an individual force, actually effecting change through my actions.

Combat itself is more of a mixed bag. While Bioware has done a few things to make their fights feel different, such as removing passive 'auto-attacks' and putting more of an emphasis on ranged combat, there is little that hasn't already been done to



The Old Republic features over fifteen planets for players to explore.

courtesy Bioware

death by other MMOs. While it isn't necessarily awful, the uninspired mechanics are disappointing considering the amount of originality present in the rest of the game. Fortunately, combat feels much more fun when grouped with other players, such as in the story-driven 'Flashpoint' missions or in the team-based player-versus-player 'Warzones.'

The aesthetic elements are all done with standard Bioware aplomb, with stylish, often breathtaking visuals and classic *Star Wars* music and sound effects. The whole thing feels very polished and refined — with the exception of a few small bugs,

such as characters changing colour or shrinking in the middle of conversations. These don't occur often, and they will undoubtedly be fixed soon.

While it does borrow elements from the standard MMO formula, *Star Wars: The Old Republic* isn't simply *World of Warcraft* with a George Lucas coat of paint. It's a game experience unlike any that has come before it, and will appeal to both fans of single-player and massively-multiplayer games alike. And my fellow *Star Wars* fans can breathe easy — thankfully, there is not a single gungan in sight.

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11	12 9:30 - 5:30	13 9:30 - 5:30	14 9:30 - 5:30	15 9:30 - 5:30	16 9:30 - 5:30	17 10 - 4:30
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8	9 9:30 - 5:30	10 9:30 - 5:30	11 9:30 - 5:30	12 9:30 - 5:30	13 9:30 - 5:30	14 10 - 4:30
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# Mammoth Grove crafts psychedelic soundscapes

**Nivedita Iyer**  
Gauntlet Entertainment

Great things come in small packages. This Calgary band might be a three-piece, but it packs a girthy sonic punch as gargantuan as their name suggests.

The people behind Mammoth Grove are vocalist and guitarist Devan Forster, bassist Rob Shepherd and drummer Kurtis Urban. Their deep, grinding bluesy grunge sound is derived from a combination of a classic-rock upbringing and being influenced by other underground stoner-rock bands that their tastes point them toward today.

"It's guitar-driven, and I suppose loosely blues-based, rock 'n' roll," says Forster of Mammoth Grove's sound. "This all stems from growing up and listening to lots of Black Sabbath and Zeppelin and AC/DC — the staple classic bands."

Mammoth Grove work hard to be able to use their instruments as a

tool to communicate beyond solely notes and rhythm.

"Your sound is an expression of who you are. That's why you're so meticulous about what's coming out of your amplifier, because it represents an attitude you have, or what you're feeling that day, or what you want to communicate as an emotion to people," says Shepherd.

"For me, at least, it's one of those things where all of a sudden what we sound like or what we're trying to communicate transcends the actual audible noise that we're making, and you're hoping that your tone represents something more."

That 'something more' arrives in the form of freedom to improvise, which is created through the dynamic relationship between each of the band's instrumental components.

"There's a point where you know the music is free to do what it wants, and at that point it's a beautiful thing to be in a band where all three of us just follow it," explains Forster.



courtesy Sean Doe

"That cosmic knot allows us to know what's about to come."

"We listen really well to each other and let the instruments talk to each other," adds Shepherd. "We listen to each other, and all of a sudden we're complementing each other in that regard."

Mammoth Grove is clearly a project which is very close to the hearts of its members, much like they are to each other. If there is one thing they stress, it is that their electric friendship is the core of their music — this

deeply-entranced connection is why they create. As Shepherd puts it, "Mammoth Grove is so unique to the genre. It's such a rich culture of writing and sharing ideas that we can gloss and glean from each other."

"Mammoth is a culmination of so many experiences and outlets and we can just self-indulge in ideas and sounds — Mammoth Grove gets to be the chubby kid eating the cake."

Jam to Mammoth Grove's psychedelic blues at [myspace.com/mammothgrove](http://myspace.com/mammothgrove)

## Film review: *The Iron Lady*

**Chad Utke**  
Gauntlet Entertainment

There are few people working in the film industry that command as much attention as Meryl Streep does. Her stellar filmography showcases, quite possibly, the greatest actress of the past two generations. With two Academy Awards for Best Actress under her belt and a number of nominations (16 in total) over the span of the last 30 years, Streep digs

in deeper than ever as she portrays former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in *The Iron Lady*. In the film, she gives a performance that reminds us why she is so highly regarded as the master of her craft.

Streep herself is nearly unrecognizable as she winds the audience through a biographical re-telling of the woman who changed the face of British politics. Her attention to detail is what sets her apart from her acting counterparts — furrowed

brows that tell a mood, vocal stylings that change with precision as her character develops and 'hmm's that rival the emotion of eloquent lines of dialogue all serve to engage the viewer in the life of the film's protagonist.

The story is told through the memories of an elderly Thatcher, focusing on the battles she faced regarding gender and class as she climbed her way through the political ranks. As her health begins to fail, Thatcher begins to indulge in hallu-

cinations of her deceased husband Denis (Jim Broadbent). His illusory presence highlights the contrast between the staunch outer appearance of the woman known as 'The Iron Lady' with the vulnerable side found in an older woman forced to relive personal memories as a means of dealing with the loss of her closest companion.

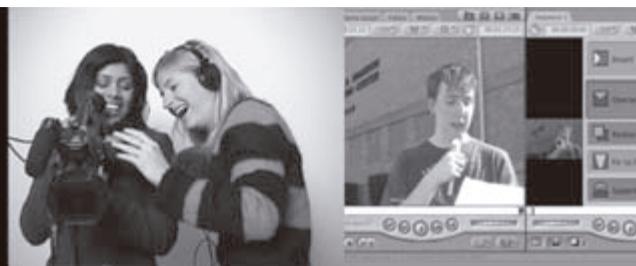
Read the rest of our review of *The Iron Lady* at [thegauntlet.ca](http://thegauntlet.ca)

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- TOP TWENTY\*** Canadian artist \*\*Local artist
- 1 **VARIOUS\*** *World's Funkiest Covers* (Cultures Of Soul)
  - 2 **CHARLOTTE GAINSBURG** *Stage Whisper* (Because)
  - 3 **VARIOUS\*** *Have Not Been The Same Volume One* (Zunior)
  - 4 **TY SEGALL** *Singles 2007-2010* (Goner)
  - 5 **ROBERT POLLARD** *The Kids Eat It Up: The Best Of Robert Pollard 2010-2011* (GBV, Inc.)
  - 6 **COWPUNCHER\*\*** *Call Me When You're Single* (Self-Released)
  - 7 **JON GANT & HIS BAND\*\*** *A Rough Start To The Night* (Self-Released)
  - 8 **AMESHA & THE SPANKS\*\*/THE SPHINX** *Split EP* (Self-Released)
  - 9 **CROOKED FINGERS** *Breaks In The Armor* (Merge)
  - 10 **THEE OH SEES** *Carrion Crawler/The Dream EP* (In The Red)
  - 11 **SPENCER JO & JOSEPH BARLEY\*\*** *The Kitchen Chorus Songbook* (Self-Released)
  - 12 **CANNON BROS.\*** *Firecracker/Cloudglow* (Disintegration)
  - 13 **THE CATCH FIRE** *Rumormill* (No More Fake)
  - 14 **ATLAS SOUND** *Parallax* (4AD)
  - 15 **TOM WAITS** *Bad As Me* (Anti)
  - 16 **GREG ARCADE\*** *Creature Of The Night* (Self-Released)
  - 17 **REAL ESTATE** *Days* (Domino)
  - 18 **JON MCKIEL\*** *Tonka War Cloud* (Youth Club)
  - 19 **MS3** *Hurry Up, We're Dreaming* (Mute)
  - 20 **DEER TICK** *Divine Providence* (Partisan)

### ELECTRONIC

- 1 **VARIOUS\*** *Tychology Volume 1* (Tycho)
- 2 **CITY OF SATELLITES** *Remixed* (Hidden Shoal)
- 3 **STEVE HAUSCHILDT** *Tragedy & Geometry* (kranky)
- 4 **TREBLE SUM\*\*** *Mystiks EP* (Tycho)
- 5 **MOIST** *Temporary Arrangements* (IO)

### HIP HOP/FUNK/SOUL

- 1 **VARIOUS\*** *World's Funkiest Covers* (Cultures Of Soul)
- 2 **STANTON DAVIS' GHETTO/MYSTICISM** *Brighter Days* (Cultures Of Soul)
- 3 **BLIST\*\*** *Blism* (Self-Released)
- 4 **SOLA ROSA** *Get It Together* (Melting Pot)
- 5 **PHILLY MOVES\*** *Peace And Carrots* (Self-Released)

### SPOTLIGHT ON CALGARY



**Jon Gant & His Band**

Check this amazing songwriter and folk singer out immediately. He's a native Albertan that comes back to us by way of Dublin, via New York, via Victoria... so he's got some travels under his belt. His CD release show at the Ironwood shared intimate stories through his songs. [jongant.ca/](http://jongant.ca/)

### KAT'S PICKS

- 1 **LANTERNS ON THE LAKE**
- 2 **JESSICA JALBERT\***
- 3 **SONIC AVENUES\***
- 4 **RHONEIL\***
- 5 **THE DRY SEASON**

### LIVE BANDS ON-AIR

**MARK TEMPLETON**  
Sun. Jan. 15 @ 8 pm on *Katharsis*  
**REUBEN BULLOCK**  
Thurs. Jan. 19 @ 7:20 pm on *Folkcetera*  
**CHRON GOBLIN** Thurs. Jan. 26 @ 11 pm on *Marcello's Show*  
**MAMMOTH GROVE**  
Fri. Jan. 27 @ 1 pm on *Contramandatum*

### RADTASTIC!

**YOUR GUIDE TO ALL THINGS MUSIC AT CJSW 90.9 FM** To be added to the weekly email list, contact **KAT DORNIAN**, Music Director at [cjswfm@ucalgary.ca](mailto:cjswfm@ucalgary.ca)

# HPV – a risk worth taking?

A young woman's journey toward awareness about this under-discussed virus

By Lia Bewusstein



Amy Gulamhussein/the Gauntlet

**T**he third most frequent cancer in women aged 20 to 49 in Canada is cervical cancer.

In September 2010 after a routine physical, I was told I had low-grade cell changes in my cervix. I'd had this occurrence once before at age 15, and it had cleared up before we had anything to worry about. Naturally, I let the issue go for the time being and left the office with instructions to come back in six months. In February 2011, I went back for another pap test. After around two weeks, I received a call from the nurse requesting my presence back in the office. I thought the worst, as they usually tell you over the phone if it's not serious. I arrived at the office a few days later, was greeted by a friendly nurse who explained that, as the doctor was busy, she would deliver my results to me.

She proceeded to tell me that my cells were still abnormal and I required a procedure at the Holy Cross Hospital. This procedure, the nurse said, was minor and was only needed to take a closer look. She set my mind to

ease and even said the condition might clear up before I was called for my appointment, which wasn't for a few months anyway.

Exactly two weeks later, I received a phone call from the Holy Cross and was advised that I needed to come in immediately for a colposcopy procedure that would also include a biopsy of the cervix.

I was petrified — a biopsy? Weeks before the nurse had told me there was nothing to be concerned about.

The day of my procedure, they took three biopsies of my cervix and advised me that there was a very large lesion on the surface. They told me that the samples needed to be sent to the lab for testing. It was then and there, after a few research sessions via Google the night before, that I asked if I had the human papillomavirus. They said they didn't know if I had HPV, and it could be anything that caused the cell changes.

After awaiting my results anxiously for two weeks, I received yet another phone call. This nurse advised me

that they hadn't found anything to cause worry on the outside of my cervix, but after conducting a swab on the inner cervical canal they had found high-grade changes, which develop into cancerous cells if not removed. I was told I needed a loop electrosurgical excision procedure in order to remove these cells. A few months later, I was standing in the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in a hospital gown, awaiting my LEEP procedure — where a small laser is inserted into the canal, cuts away the damaged cells, which are sent to the lab for further testing. I was put out for the surgery and it took about three weeks to fully heal.

I am happy to report that my results came back and I am free and clear of cancer-developing cells. I do, however, have to go back in six months to have another biopsy as the condition could return.

It was throughout this whole process that I realized how important it is to spread the word to both men and women about how serious HPV really is.

When I ask people about their knowledge of the human papillomavirus, most have no idea how widespread the infection is. Many don't realize that both men and women can contract HPV and develop cancer. Most HPV strains don't cause symptoms. Both sexes can get it without recognizing it and unknowingly pass it on. The two known strains to have physical evidence of the infection cause genital warts, but two strains with visible symptoms does not give sexually active adults a good chance of recognizing when they contract HPV. While it is a serious disease for men, it's even more concerning for women, as undetected HPV is more likely to develop into cancer.

Women have a higher risk when it comes to HPV, and the best screening method is yearly pap smears. If you are a woman who gets her yearly checkups, then this is a good first step in preventing HPV. But what about those of us who are already being monitored due to what gynecologists or obstetricians call irregular cells or — for those who don't know the textbook term — low- or high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions?

"After a routine pap test in 2009, while on vacation in Greece, I received a phone call from my doctor," explained Jessica, who preferred to use a pseudonym.

Jessica, a third-year communications major, underwent a similar and unpleasant experience with irregular cells and unanswered questions. She had been told on her arrival back from her trip that she was also high risk and needed to have a colposcopy, followed by LEEP surgery. Her "scary and intrusive" surgery and overall experience compared almost exactly to mine. Although scared and confused after her surgery, she felt the doctors had done a good job of ridding her of the infection. She did not experience much after-shock, and healed up very well. Unfortunately, she does have to go back twice a year now as the low-grade lesions have returned.

"Despite the initial scare, I feel good; I do think that the experience was quick and thorough," she said. Jessica only wished doctors had explained preventative measures against HPV. "Gardasil wasn't mentioned to me until after my LEEP. I feel like this could have been dealt with better, as I'm not sure that it's

entirely worth it — I'm not sure if it will be as effective now."

Allison, also identified under a pseudonym, is a finance major in her fourth year and had similar feelings of shock as I did: "I was 19 years old when I had my first abnormal pap, so of course it greatly concerned me. After a few weeks I was told I needed a colposcopy as my cell changes had become high risk," she explained.

Allison wasn't prepared for the ordeal she experienced. After her first colposcopy sample came back inconclusive, she was called to find out she needed to have surgery — her cell changes had developed into stage one cancer. "I thought, at my age, why is this happening? I had read about cervical cancer and statistics said that most often it developed in women over 30 — it was rare for someone at my age to develop cancerous lesions." She was scheduled for surgery immediately. "It was a really long process to get back to normal, and it still is. I have to go back every six months for the rest of my life due to the severity of the high grade changes," added Allison.

She was prescribed Gardasil to protect against future outbreaks

## Men and HPV

Women have more risk in developing cancer than men, but the danger is still there.

There are no HPV tests for men. Most men who contract HPV are told after their partner is screened or develops symptoms of HPV-related illnesses.

Most men never develop any symptoms or health problems after contracting HPV. There are strains, however, that can cause penis, anus or oropharynx (back of the throat) cancer, though this is rare. These strains are different than the type that causes genital warts.

**1**  
per cent of men contract genital warts every year in America.

**1,500**  
men develop HPV-related anus cancer every year in America.

**400**  
men develop HPV-related penis cancer every year in America.

**5,600**  
men develop oropharynx cancer every year in America.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

and infections, and has received all of the required shots. "The worst thing about this whole experience was the fact that I needed surgery to remove it," explained Allison. "I felt they had taken a lot of tissue out. This made me start to question whether or not it would affect my future ability to have children."

Like Allison, losing my ability to have children terrified me. There are a few complications that can

stem from the procedure, like cervical stenosis, which causes your cervix to close up due to too much tampering with the tissue, causing the tissue to become scarred and hardened. Another issue is that your cervix will not be strong enough to hold a fetus — termed cervical dysplasia, which causes your cervix to become weakened. Rest assured, it takes a lot of inva-

see PREVENTABLE, page 14

# CJSW ON-AIR GUIDE

	sun	mon	tues	wed	thurs	fri	sat	
5:30	cjsw echo chamber	some velvet mornings	morning joy	syncopation nation	morning joy	my two cents flat	tea time with annie (continued)	5:30
6 am								6 am
6:30								6:30
7 am	alternative radio	breaking the tethers	am mixtape	the morning after	soapbox derby/ the get up	the house blend	democracy now!	7 am
7:30								7:30
8 am	counterspin						bunte welle german	8 am
8:30	eritrean radio	morning mix — with BBC updates on the hour from 6 am - 9 am every weekday						8:30
9 am	hrvatski radio croatian							9 am
9:30								9:30
10 am	radyo pilipino filipino	her royal opinion	outside the lines experimental / classical	instant gratification: revoked!	mind folk'd roots	up for it	calgary vietnamese radio	10 am
10:30								10:30
11 am	buscando america spanish	students' union weekly	spooning & forking	alternative radio	democracy now!	narrowcasted news	hellenic melodies greek	11 am
11:30								11:30
12 pm	deztination worldwide	roger that	the via lactea caboose	freewheelin' sponsored by republic	pillage the people/ my public shame	daydream dance party sponsored by beatroute magazine	speaking in tongues roots	12 pm
12:30								12:30
1 pm	contramandatum						double entendre preserves	1 pm
1:30								1:30
2 pm		the new classics	white lodge/ black lodge	off duty trip	truffle shuffle	my allergy to the fans sponsored by tubby dog	flip your wig	2 pm
2:30								2:30
3 pm	knotted roots						music to my ears	3 pm
3:30								3:30
4 pm	mental illness	aubrey's shindig sponsored by the drum & monkey	electric company	halfway home sponsored by local 522	alternative to what?	road pops sponsored by fwd weekly	level the vibes	4 pm
4:30								4:30
5 pm								5 pm
5:30								5:30
6 pm	breaking techniques	french transe en danse	desi vibes	carnival mix	that's so gay!	musiquarium	voice of ethiopia	6 pm
6:30							radio oromia	6:30
7 pm	mind grapes	south louisiana gumbo roots	tombstone after dark roots	the blues witness roots	folkcetera roots	the dubble bounce	oh africa!	7 pm
7:30								7:30
8 pm	katharsis	yeah, what she said	artslink	writer's block		full moon funkalicious	nocturnable	8 pm
8:30		fat beat diet		lift the bandstand	noise experimental / classical	dirty needles		8:30
9 pm			least side story					9 pm
9:30								9:30
10 pm	that's classical? experimental / classical	the spin evolution	radio boys in the shortwave mystery	good character req/ estate sale	funk senden	what will the neighbors think?	megawatt mayhem metal	10 pm
10:30								10:30
11 pm		each one teach one	urban sex	am i right??	the twisted brainwrong	remote emissions		11 pm
11:30								11:30
12 am	translucent dreams	sweet chin music	twilight banter	blue collar bravado	bass ackwards metal	dna	attention surplus disorder	12 am
12:30								12:30
1 am	sunday night groove school					the mix up		1 am
1:30								1:30
2 am		the third rail	the freak show	the robotic uprising	rage cage metal			2 am
2:30								2:30
3 am	straight on 'til morning					tea time with annie	latin beat	3 am
to 5:30								to 5:30

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# Preventable, continued from page 13

sive tampering with a cervix for these issues to occur, but it's a serious concern nevertheless.

Most of the students I've spoken with are unaware of the effects of HPV and are unsure of the precautions that we need to take in order to prevent cancer. Dr. Jillian Nation, a specialist in oncology, agreed that most women are in the dark about the realities of HPV. "Most patients that we see have heard something about HPV, but many are not aware that the abnormal changes on their pap test may be caused by HPV infection, or that this is a common virus mainly transmitted through sexual activity," Nation said. "Patients are also usually unaware that over 80 per cent of women will get HPV at some time," she continued.

When I experienced my first pap with irregular cell changes, I felt as though I was too young to be having these issues, though Nation explained it's common for abnormal cells to develop in the early twen-

ties. "The majority of women with abnormal pap tests are in their twenties and thirties, but the majority of cervical cancers are in older women, as it takes several years for cancers to develop after the first infection with oncogenic HPV," Nation said. This is why regular pap tests are a necessary screening tool.

"As a side note," said Nation, "current evidence suggests that women under 21 are likely to clear HPV infections quickly." She explained that new evidence shows women do not need pap tests younger than 21, and should start screening three years after becoming sexually active.

Nation recommended staying generally healthy as a way of inhibiting HPV development. "Individuals need to have regular sleep, eat healthily, exercise regularly, stop smoking and protect themselves from other sexually transmitted diseases in order to support good cervical health,"

she said. Of course, the obvious way to protect yourself is ensuring you know your partner's sexual past, knowing your own sexual past and present, and being careful to use protection. In the case of HPV, it is a bit more difficult as any contact with your partner's genital area can transfer the virus. Protection from HPV mainly comes from knowing your sexual partner and making sure you're vaccinated.

"Sexual health is everyone's personal responsibility to understand

infections — only the most common subtypes that cause either pre-cancer changes or genital warts." Nation added that many gynecologists will still recommend the vaccine even if you are outside the target age group.

The vaccine is also available for men, though it is most effective for men who are not yet sexually active. Gardasil is recommended for men as, like women, the disease can develop into cancers, though the risk to males is lower.

**"I thought, at my age, why is this happening? I had read about cervical cancer and statistics said that, most often, it developed in women over 30. It was rare for someone at my age to develop cancerous lesions.**

**— Allison, fourth-year finance**

the health risks. The major education piece for this disease is from primary care providers [like your family doctor or a nurse clinician], STI clinics and women's health clinics," added Nation.

"Along with Cervarix," which prevents against multiple strains of HPV, "[Gardasil] is an excellent method to protect yourself from HPV infections if you fall into the target age groups of age nine to 26," Nation explained. "However, it does not protect you from all HPV

There are also vaccines like Gardasil available for both men and women. But many are apprehensive to get the shot due to lack of long-term side effect studies as well as rumoured controversies associated with it.

Overall, Gardasil is 90 per cent effective against the two genital wart strains of HPV and is 70 per cent effective against the cancer-causing HPV strains. The vaccine doesn't cover 30 per cent of HPV types, but those types are rare. In

order for Gardasil to be effective you need three shots at \$120 each — a hefty price for most students. Though, if I would have bit the proverbial bullet and paid for the shot, I probably wouldn't be in the position I was in this past year.

Money wasn't the only issue weighing on my mind — according to the Public Health Agency of Canada website, 22 hospitalizations and one death related to HPV vaccinations have been reported as of April 2010 since Gardasil's Canadian approval in 2006. The death has been investigated and, to date, there have been no conclusive evidence showing a relationship between the vaccine and cause of death.

It's most important for your health to keep asking questions, no matter how many times you must, until you get answers that you are satisfied with. Know your body and when to take action when something isn't right. Get checked yearly, ask your doctor questions, to make sure there are no surprises and take good care of yourself. After all, you only get one body in your lifetime. As Baz Lhurmann sang in the ever popular song, "Sunscreen": "Be good to your body, as it is the greatest instrument you'll ever own."

For more information on HPV and resources here in Calgary, visit [phac-aspc.gc.ca](http://phac-aspc.gc.ca), [hpvinfo.ca](http://hpvinfo.ca) and [paptestinfo.ca](http://paptestinfo.ca)

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# Of eschatological concern

**Remi Watts**  
Easy in theory,  
Easy in practice



On New Year's eve, drink in hand — as the clock geared itself towards 2011's terminal moment — I found myself on the deck of the tallest penthouse in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, peering out on the sprawling beach city down below. Having grown weary from the inane smalltalk around me, I escaped my fellow bourgeoisie party-goers for the open air. As I watched the beach party below a fragment of conversation drifted out from the party behind me: "Well, the Mayan calendar ends this year . . ." A mere gust of words, but my mind took sail.

Many of us are familiar with the 2012 end-of-the-world scenario, wherein various astronomical, astrological, numerological, mythic

and archaic phenomena have been interpreted to strongly suggest that the end of this year is the end of all years, whether through utter catastrophe or deeply transformative events. And while scientists and scholars the world over have heavily invested themselves in attacking and deconstructing the 2012 mythos that your hippy aunt rants about every family get-together, I suggest that we ought to give it some serious consideration. After all, the world is at stake.

Eschatology, the 'study of the end,' ought to cause concern in every one of us. While the Mayan calendar predictions are most likely pseudo-intellectual garbage in the vein of Nostradamus or Ayn Rand, there should be no doubt in each of our minds that something deeply worrying is unfolding across the globe. Philosopher Slavoj Žižek has warned us that the domination of global capitalism that we embarrassingly tolerate

has brought the world right to the edge of total catastrophe. The four horsemen of Žižek's apocalyptic vision are ecology (impending ecological catastrophes), economy (the global financial meltdown), biology (the biogenetic revolution and its impact on human identity) and society (social divisions leading to the explosion of protest and revolutions worldwide.)

But we don't need to face this fatalistic alignment with resignation, as the Second World War propaganda maxim "keep calm and carry on" would tell us. These end of days are an opportunity to transform the world. We can treat Žižek's prescription of global catastrophe as a call to arms, not an admittance of defeat. The late Terrence McKenna — psychedelic-scientist extraordinaire — informed us in his 1975 book, *The Invisible Landscape: Mind, Hallucinogens, and the I Ching*, that certain patterns of 'novelty' underlay historic events,

reaching a 'zero point' [extreme point] of novelty sometime by the end of this year. McKenna wasn't interested in treating the 2012 phenomenon with a pessimistic/apocalyptic bent, but as a point of radical evolution or transformation of global consciousness — a sort of planetary awakening that would have the potential to give birth to the sort of world we presently only dream of.

You don't need to believe that an ancient Mesoamerican society presciently predicted that the planet Nibiru will collide with Earth come Dec. 21, 2012, but you ought to realize the severity and seriousness of the situation. This end of times need not be a zero-point of devastation, but a chance to make things

right, and give birth to a new society, a new consciousness, a new world.

But for such a vision to be realized we need to remember Paul Goodman: "The solution of this issue is easy, easy in theory, easy in practice . . . direct action." No more keeping calm. No more carrying on. It's time to act.

I left the party just before midnight. Slightly intoxicated, I wandered to the beach. There in the sand, surrounded by euphoric strangers, I listened to the countdown, then watched as fireworks erupted all across the city, beach and sea — the light flooded the skies from every conceivably corner of the city. I felt the cool of the surf wash up over my feet.

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# Farewell, dear Hitchens

**Eric Mathison**  
Editor-on-Chief



Of the handful of living people who have significantly shaped my view of the world, Hitchens is the first to die. Like many of my contemporaries, I was swept up in the great wave of de-conversion led by Hitchens, Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris and Daniel Dennett. It's a pity that most people haven't made it past Hitchens's *God Is Not Great*,

which reads more like a collection of debate transcripts thrown together too quickly. (One has to sympathize: after a career of taking on God's servants, he was surely keen to wage direct war on 'the dear leader'.)

Although he made his career as a print journalist, Hitchens was an adept orator and debater. Perhaps his book-length attack on God fails to impress because he was so skilled at dispatching any reason to entertain faith in an hour-long debate.

Taking on the divine certainly made him so famous, but Hitchens

was keen to expose stupidity and groupthink at every turn. In *The Missionary Position* he convincingly argues that Mother Theresa was a friend of poverty, not of the poor, and that her support of the Duvalier regime in Haiti was disgusting. He makes a convincing case that Henry Kissinger committed crimes against humanity in *The Trial of Henry Kissinger*, and he eagerly attacked the celebrity cult of Princess Diana in numerous essays.

Hitchens never lacked confidence when making arguments, although his reversal on some positions should deflect accusations of

zealotry and absolutism. Hitchens loved stories where justice, rather than one of the so-called "greater goods," takes precedence.

To my mind, when his collections of essays aren't contenders, Hitchens's best book is *Letters to a Young Contrarian*, which embodies two of his most consistent calls to arms: that we ought never fail to think for ourselves; and that failing to stand up for what we believe in is to commit the double transgression of complicity and cowardice. Perhaps his love of intellectual confrontation — indeed, valuing it for its own sake — will not resonate with everyone. But his claim that "conflict may be painful, but the

painless solution does not exist in any case and the pursuit of it leads to the painful outcome of mindlessness and pointlessness" is worth heeding.

For Hitchens, the conflict was something to be enjoyed. He attacked the notion of Utopia, where people sit around in idyll bliss, as something to be reviled.

That was his greatest strength. He had respectable opinions on a number of issues, but his devotion to the process of seeking truth — and his unwavering defence of standing up for it — made him so great. Pouring a drink, sitting around a table and arguing until morning is time well spent after all.

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# Motorcycle show rides through town

Lizette De Klerk  
Gauntlet Sports

On January 6, the doors of the BMO Centre swung open to a crowd of motorcycling enthusiasts ready to enjoy everything the 2012 Calgary Motorcycle Show had to offer. Top industry manufacturers, including Aprilia, BMW, Ducati, Harley-Davidson and Kawasaki exhibited their new 2012 models. The latest motorcycles, ATVs, scooters and the newest gear and accessories were also on show — all under one roof.

One of the hottest new motorcycles exhibited was BMW's super

sport bike, the S1000RR, with 193 horsepower and the best-in-class features, like dynamic traction control. Also on display were Kawasaki's dynamic Ninja ZX-14R, the world's fastest accelerating production motorcycle and Zero's Zero S, the world's first obtainable mass-produced electric motorcycle, featuring a brushless motor which can reach speeds of over 140 kilometres per hour, new high-tech battery cell technology and a power pack with lifelong-lasting design. Another show favourite was Ducati's newly unveiled 1199 Panigale Superbike, which won the Most Beautiful Bike of the Show at the Interna-

tional Motorcycle Show in Milan, Italy — a testament to Ducati's fine design style.

In addition to all the new 2012 models, there was plenty to see and do at this year's show, which ran from January 6–8. 'She Rides Nite' was an exhibition of female ridership. Many exhibitors offered ladies-only specials on gear, accessories and courses. The Yamaha Riding Academy thrilled kids ages 6–12 throughout the show and the Canadian Vintage Motorcycle Group's video 'My First Ride' took many on a nostalgic trip to yesteryear.

The Evolution of Extreme stunts wowed fans. The aerial antics of the FMX Team, featuring well-known FMX specialists Reagan Sieg, Jeff Fehr and Keith Sayers, were complimented by Team Empire stunt riders Nick "Apex" Brocha and Ernie "Edub" Vigil, as well as ATV freestyler Cody Elkins and snowmobile stunt specialist Ted Culbertson. The amazing ramp-to-ramp aerial stunts and back flips enchanted the crowd with each run.

"With snowmobiler Ted Culbertson on the team, the wow factor of the Evolution of Extreme takes the show to a whole new level," said show manager Laurie



Lizette De Klerk/the Gauntlet

Geoff Jilg of the Motorcycle Show parades off-roading treasures.

Paetz in a press release.

After a successful stunt career of 10 years, Fehr, who is from British Columbia, said he is considering retiring from competing professionally this year, to focus on a life with his family and friends.

"I don't do it for the adrenaline — I'm not really an adrenaline junky," said Fehr. "I like the technical aspect of my work and the skills part of it. The adrenaline kicks in when you are trying to learn a new move, like when I practiced the back flip with the added handles and my

forearms became black and purple from bruising, but I do it because it is technically challenging."

Fehr's retirement would leave a void in the stunt industry.

Hundreds of stalls were devoted to all things motorcycling, scootering and ATving, including associations, charity rides, clubs and retailers like Chinook Outriders Calgary Chapter, a new women-only group. Other booths that drew attention were the Calgary Motorcycle Club, the Canadian Motor-

see BIKING, page 19

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# Students on the dance floor

**Lauren Ferkranis**  
Gauntlet Sports

How often do you find yourself toe-tapping, hip-swaying or lip-syncing when one of your favourite songs plays on your iPod?

Anne Flynn, joint professor in dance and kinesiology at the University of Calgary, said the response is natural: "Human beings are hard-wired to move rhythmically." She added that our nervous system responds to beats and different rhythms encompassed by the physical and social benefits of dance.

"Exercise is not the main goal for most people who go to dance," Flynn said. "It is a beneficial by-product."

Dance incorporates the same physiological benefits as other forms of exercise, which include increased heart rate, endurance, stamina and the release of positive endorphins, but Flynn illustrated an important distinction between exercise in your local gym and exercise in dance. She said that when on the elliptical machine one goes through a series of repetitive movements over a period of time, while dance is being in the moment and responding to the rhythm of the music.



Ben Hilborn/the Gauntlet

"People are called to different rhythms," said Flynn. "Dance is about a personal connection and half the fun of finding that connection is experimenting and trying new [forms of] dance."

The common theme among the U of C's dance clubs is connecting students with opportunities for their bodies to respond to a beat

and a rhythm.

Flynn emphasized that dancing is good for social experience and is beneficial as a stress reliever. Elizabeth Svoboda from *Psychology Today* said "moving to music activates the brain's pleasure circuits."

There are several clubs available to students at the U of C, including hip-hop, funk and belly dancing.

"The opportunities available on campus are to give students the opportunity to learn about dance," said Elena Samoilova, president of the Student Dance Club. "Dance clubs are excellent for students who want to pursue dance for recreation."

The SDC offers a nine-week lesson in the winter semester for those interested in dancing with little or no experience. On January 16 and 18 they are hosting free dance workshops on campus for any interested students.

The next time you catch yourself toe-tapping, hip-swaying or lip-syncing, think about dance and the natural physical and social benefits it entails. The U of C dance clubs provide opportunities for students to enjoy the response to rhythms around us.

Check out [studentdanceclub.com](http://studentdanceclub.com) for more information about dancing opportunities at the U of C.

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# Canada's bronze heartbreak

**Justin Seward**

Gauntlet Sports

Tears were shed across Canada after the semi-final game in the World Junior Hockey Tournament when Russia snuffed Canada's shot at a gold medal. Despite Canada's heartbreaking loss, the tournament kept hockey fans on their feet with excitement.

Sweden ended a 31-year streak without a tournament win, defeating Russia 1-0 in the gold medal game. Sweden's Mika Zibanejad made history with a goal 10:09 minutes into overtime under the blocker of Russia's Andrei Markarov in a thrilling battle of talent.

Team Canada played on home soil in Calgary and Edmonton, dominating their round robin pool 4-0 and earning a spot in the semi-final after defeating Finland, the Czech Republic, Denmark and the United States, who finished a dismal seventh place.

Many players on the Canadian team who were a strong presence on the ice were NHL draft picks, like Mark Stone, who was Canada's



courtesy of Derrick Newman

top scorer with seven goals and three assists in the tournament. He suffered a hand injury late in the tournament which affected his scoring. Brett Connolly, in his second-consecutive year in the tournament, had five goals and one assist, leading Canada physically. Brendan Gallagher was another strong force with three goals and three assists.

The team was a young squad and experienced adversity with injuries and no returning defencemen.

Canada was paired with the skilled Russians in the semi-finals in their hardest test of the tournament — last year, the Canadians collapsed in the third period of the gold medal game against Russia.

Russian captain Yevgeni Kuznetsov was on the Canadians' radar this year because of his hot streak with nine points in a single game against Latvia in the round robin.

Canada was far behind early on, dashing their hopes of a gold medal because of an attack by Kuznetsov, who scored a hat-trick in the game. The Russians piled on goals and were up 5-1 after 40 minutes — the gold medal on home ice looked in jeopardy and the crowd went silent as the Russians notched another goal. The resilient Canadians came back in the third period as they began one of the greatest comebacks in the tournament's history with four-straight goals for a 6-5 game.

The Canadians almost sent the game to overtime after Ryan Strome hit the post with minutes remaining, but ended in heartbreak for hockey fans across the country.

After 10 straight appearances in the gold medal final, the Canadians played with pride and beat Finland 4-0, taking home the bronze medal for the first time since 2001.

## Biking, cont'd from pg 17

cycle Drag Racing Association, the Christian Motorcycle Association of Canada and BMW Motorcycle Owners of America. The goal of many of the booths at the show was to promote racing and responsible off-road riding.

A passionate motorcycle enthusiast with over 40 years industry experience, Douglas MacRae, president of Blackfoot Motorsports, said the Calgary Motorcycle Show is an excellent environment for motorcycle enthusiasts.

"I always tell my salespeople that we are not selling a product, we are selling dreams," said MacRae. "Motorcycles are not like washing machines, because you do not need them. You want them and they become part of a lifestyle that you can share with your family and friends."

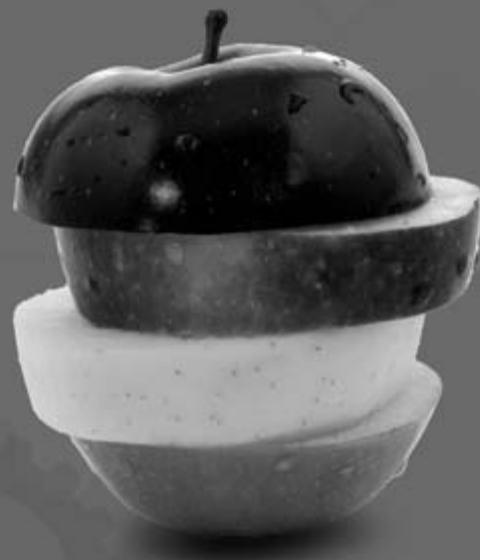
MacRae said it was difficult to find funding for the show in the early '80s, but he is happy the dealers of Calgary united to keep the show going. The Calgary Motorcycle Show is presented annually by the Motorcycle and Moped Industry Council and the Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council.

Since 1948, more than \$32 million has been raised to ensure generations of Canadians can enjoy motorcycle shows. MMIC is a national non-profit industry who presents shows annually across Canada and accounts for over 90 per cent of all new motorcycles sold annually in Canada.

According to a three-year study on the health benefits of off-roading conducted by York University, riding helps overall health and quality of life.

MacRae emphasized that Calgarians have a unique advantage for enjoying off-roading because of facilities like Calgary Go-Kart Racing, Alberta Mini Racing and Blackfoot Park, built in Calgary and managed by the Wild Rose Motocross Association. Some of Calgary's facilities were open on Christmas Eve, in an attempt to provide Calgarians with year-long entertainment. What better way to spend the cold winter months than to hang out with friends and family next to the track?

Visit [motorcycleshows.ca](http://motorcycleshows.ca) for more information on exciting motorcycling shows near you.



## Health and Social Services Career Fair

Career Services – Your Connection to Employers



Attend to connect with employers and discover opportunities

- Monday, Jan. 23, 2012 · 10am – 4pm
- Upper Track Jack Simpson Gym
- Check Job Link for exhibitor details

[ucalgary.ca/careers](http://ucalgary.ca/careers)

IMAGINARY ANOMALY — MORGAN SHANDRO



SOCIETY OF COYOTES — REMI WATTS



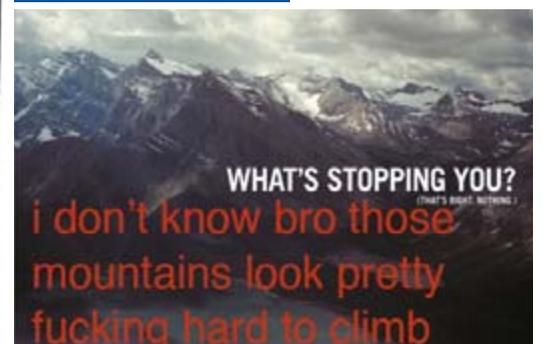
LIFE SCREAM — SEAN WILLETT



STERCUM ACCIDIT — KURT GENEST



NETWORK ADMIN



# Looking for a way to get involved on campus? Join the club.

**Matt Diteljan**  
VP Student Life



Joining a club is a great way to network and build friendships, explore common interests, and build skills in event planning, leadership and team-building. And the Students' Union makes getting involved even easier by providing clubs space and other benefits for SU Clubs.

There are over 260 sanctioned clubs on campus, and that number is growing all the time. Whether your interests are academic, cultural, spiritual, political,

or you are looking for a group that shares your love of sports, activism or volunteering, there is a club for you. And if you have an idea for a club that

insurance for events, grants for start-up costs, food and beverage funding, special event funding, and meeting space.

SU Clubs enjoy access to two large club

meeting rooms through the MacEwan Event Centre.

In addition to these benefits, the SU also hosts an annual Clubs Leadership Summit to encourage leadership skills development for club executives and administers scholarships that are specific to student leaders.

**Get involved on campus! Check out SU Clubs Week, January 16 – 20 in MacEwan Student Centre.** Browse the wide variety of available clubs and find new ways to make friends, enjoy new experiences and get involved outside the classroom.



**“ Whether your interests are academic, cultural, spiritual, political, or you are looking for a group that shares your love of sports, activism or volunteering, there is a club for you. ”**

doesn't exist yet, the SU can help you get started.

A “sanctioned” club means that the club has been approved by the Clubs Committee and is entitled to all kinds of benefits under the SU umbrella:

spaces on the main and basement levels of MacEwan Student Centre. These spaces are home to common meeting rooms as well as individual club offices. In addition to these spaces, SU Clubs are also entitled to free table bookings and