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Golden Spatula



— Lauren Den Hartog —
"I've heard that Golden Spatula award disease is extremely contagious."

First, to all of you who wrote in last week: no, the Golden Spatula award is not an awkward euphemism for a terribly devastating Sexually Transmitted Infection. Rather, it is a chance for us to recognize journalistic fertility. This week we, the Gauntlet, would like to thank Lauren 'the clock-meister' Den Hartog for all of her news writing, news writing, mad legit reportation skillz, opinionizing and general quality qualityness. Thanks Lauren — you are not infected with anything except mad legit journalist skillz!

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 cake based ink. We urge you to recycle/ice the Gauntlet.

Letter Policy

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

The perils of Harper-nomics

On Monday, Feb. 13, 2012 prime minister Stephen Harper caught a flight to China for a five day trip full of the most officious meetings between himself and Chinese premier Wen Jiabao, cuddling with pandas (of which two will be rented to Canadian zoos for \$1 million a piece, annually) and, of course, some ping pong. The cheery, photo opportunity-filled visit, which comes on the heels of Harper's disastrous meeting with aboriginal leaders and the tabling of the Keystone XL pipeline project, had the primary purpose of shoring up some of the details surrounding the increasingly expanding economic relationship between Canada and China. Harper and his financially obsessed (a term not to be confused with 'financially wise') caucus have aimed their policies, and soon possibly our pipelines, west towards the economic possibilities of China.

The economic uncertainties faced by major parts of the globe are certainly an issue of concern for Canada, making it no surprise that the Harper government is seeking new partners for trade and growth. But the question still stands regarding whether further connecting our energy supply to China in the interests of economic growth are enough to outweigh the immense ecological and human toll that any such economic expansion may bring.

In mid-January — following the meetings of various leaders and bureaucrats, and numerous protests in both Canada and America — the Calgary oilfield

outfit TransCanada had their application for the route of the Keystone XL pipeline denied by the U.S. authorities. While a resubmission of a revamped application from TransCanada is supposedly in the works, the watchwords "diversification" and "Asia" have emerged and found an increase in popularity among many of Canada's economic commentators. The inane chatter of economic gossip coupled with China's growing financial role in Alberta's energy sector set Harper's visit to China up for being the crowning jewel of a 'successful' international meet-up and economic/political agreement. But hooking up Alberta's energy sector with the burgeoning, bulldozing industrial behemoth of China is a massive human and ecological risk, a concern which Harper seems to have ignored. The proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipelines Project —

dubbed the 'Kitimat pipeline' — would build twin pipelines running from Bruderheim, Alberta to Kitimat, British Columbia, at which point resources could be loaded on tankers and shipped internationally.

As Harper prepared for his trip to China, aboriginal leaders from British Columbia asked China to pester our primmest of prime ministers about his human rights records — and rightly so. While China gains international attention for its human rights abuses, Canada's systematic violence towards aboriginal minorities has often gone completely unnoticed or relegated to the past as the "founding crimes of democracy" and not a terrible crime still occurring. The sad reality, as the Attawapiskat controversy has brought to our attention, is that government mismanagement of reserves, from under-financing and under-educating all the way down to how the

'Indians' must organize their lives, has utterly decimated aboriginal communities in one of the most sinister and under-reported examples of institutionalized racism in our present times. Deciding to toss a pipeline through aboriginal lands only adds insult to injury. It ought to be understood that aboriginal groups, on whose land much energy sector industry is built, are at the most risk if environmental damage occurs and are the least financially benefited from industrial development. The Kitimat pipeline would cross or border numerous aboriginal reserves and communities to then be loaded onto tankers in the ecologically sensitive, not to mention extremely dangerous to navigate, Kitimat sound.

As the American market continues to weaken, Canadian goods crossing the border have slowed down. Canada undoubtedly needs economic alternatives. As China's star continues to rise it seems quite reasonable that Canada ought to strengthen its economic interconnections to the industrial powerhouses of Asia. But not all the strengthening of these ties are as sensible as Harper and his government make them out to be. Canada's energy sector, while undeniably the back bone of our financial well-being, is not something that should so easily be bought and sold, especially when the livelihoods of people and entire ecosystems are so obviously at risk.

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New signs point the way for U of C

University hopes to establish campus identity with new, consistent signage

Susan Anderson
News Assistant

The University of Calgary is developing a new, contemporary sign system to replace older signage across campus to improve navigation and create consistency.

Third-year English major Katie Macleod, an exchange student from the United Kingdom, thinks new signs will help students find their way around campus.

“I got lost so many times,” said Macleod.

Cygnus, the company hired as signage consultants, reviewed the signage on campus. The estimated cost is between \$10–13 million to replace all signs.

Funding comes from the provincial government through various capital budgets. Currently, there is only funding to replace signage in new or renovated buildings.

Replacing all the signs will take a considerable amount of time, and no end date has been set. When new buildings receive funding for renovation and repurposing, such as Schulich, Science A and MacKimmie, the budget for the signs will be included.

Associate vice-president facilities development Steve Dantzer thinks it's an exciting initiative for the U of C.

“The signage across the university is old and in some cases out of date, and in almost all cases ineffective,” said Dantzer. “We're just getting to the point now where we have what we call a schematic design.”

The visual character of the signs has been nearly worked out and



Leya Russell/the Gauntlet

New sign now displayed outside the ICT building.

the project will include signs inside the buildings, outside the buildings and on the edge of campus, viewable when driving or walking by.

“What we're looking for really is a consistency in design, so that the signs become very legible and you

can easily spot a sign from a distance, so they will all have a common character to them, a common design,” said Dantzer. “We want it to look high quality and to be effective and last a long time.”

The system will include a combination of finger posts, direc-

tional maps and potentially technology like QR codes and apps for smartphones.

This project will also help visitors by announcing when they have reached the campus, directing them to available parking, communicating where they parked and directing them to where they want to go on campus.

There is currently a trial run at

The project will reinforce a brand for the university.

“The university is a confusing place to find your way around,” said Dantzer.

Third-year English major Emily Edwards, also on exchange from the U.K., agrees with the project.

“There should be more regular signs,” said Edwards. “The Craigie building is really confusing.”

/// What we're looking for really is a consistency in design, so that the signs become very legible and you can easily spot a sign from a distance, so they will all have a common character to them, a common design.

the Foothills Campus, in which temporary signs have been placed so users can react to them and offer suggestions. There are also temporary signs in the Taylor Family Digital Library and the Energy Environment Experiential Learning building.

Students' Union president Dylan Jones said the project is about “more clearly defining where is the University of Calgary and what is the University of Calgary.”

Jones said this initiative is long overdue.

“We're very interested in using the campus crest and campus brand in a consistent and proper fashion so we're establishing the look and feel of the campus identity,” said Dantzer.

Dantzer believes the project will positively impact how comfortable first-year students and visitors are on campus.

“It will improve the experience of being on campus,” said Dantzer. “We think there's power in having a consistent presentation of the information everywhere on campus in a similar fashion.”

As each building was constructed, its own internal sign system was developed, which means there is currently no consistency across the campus.

There are also plans to put signs on the major streets such as Crowchild, 24th Avenue, 32nd Avenue and Shaganappi Trail to announce that people are driving by the border of the U of C.

What do you think of the current signage on campus?



“I haven't noticed a big change in signage. I don't really think about it.”
– Aasa Marshall,
third-year
development
studies



“I'm kind of indifferent really.”
– Natalia Sbarzella,
third-year
anthropology



“Campus would be more aesthetically pleasing if they revise it, especially if it's more uniform.”
– Kelsey Norman,
second-year
English



“At the moment I think it's okay. I haven't gotten lost yet, but I have given people directions.”
– Varuna
Adikariwattage,
third-year PhD

Bat-killing disease threatens Alberta

Sean Willett

Entertainment Assistant

The most common species of bat in North America is now threatened with possible extinction — and there is little hope of stopping it.

A disease known as White Nose Syndrome has been sweeping across the United States and Canada, killing hibernating bat species by preventing them from maintaining a dormant state during the winter. Recent surveys have placed the number of bats killed at around six million, with a mortality rate of over 90 per cent.

Professor of biological science at the University of Calgary Robert Barclay explained that while the disease has not yet reached Alberta, it is only a matter of time.

"This is already an ecological disaster," he said, "and when it reaches Alberta it will definitely have an environmental impact."

While the spread of the fungus-based White Nose Syndrome seems inevitable, it may still be several years until it reaches the Rockies. With the infected zone growing annually by about two states, Alberta should have around five years before the disease reaches its borders.

Preventative measures in the United States and the natural barrier provided by Saskatchewan's prairies might also play a part in further slowing its spread.

White Nose Syndrome originated in Europe, where the native bats are resistant to the virus. The disease was accidentally brought to New York in 2006, and has been spreading westward across the continent ever since.

Scientists and government officials are making sure to use this time wisely.

U of C biology graduate student Jesika Reimer is working in Wood Buffalo National Park to

help establish a baseline population count of the three bat species native to northern Alberta, one of which is the little brown bat, the species that is most susceptible to the disease.

"Getting an idea of what the baseline population is like, what the health of the population is and some other basic knowledge will be really good in getting to know what effect White Nose Syndrome is going to have," she said.

Additionally, Reimer is studying the adaptations bats are using to survive the northern climate.

"If the bats are doing anything different up north, their behaviour may be different in such a way that White Nose Syndrome may not affect them," she said, "or maybe it could even affect them in a more detrimental way."

see BATS, page 6



Courtesy Jesika Reimer

Jesika Reimer has been researching diseased bats in Alberta.

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Aly Gulamhusein/the Gauntlet

Islamic Awareness Week

Islamic Awareness Week is happening until Friday in the MacHall North Courtyard. According to Ammar Shahid, president of the Muslim Students Association, if anyone is unclear, or is questioning aspects of Islam, they shouldn't be afraid to ask. "We want to tear down the misconceptions out there about Islam where there has been a lot of controversy," said Shahid. "Sometimes what you hear in the media isn't really portrayed properly, or sometimes you only get bits and pieces." This year, the Five Pillars of Islam is the highlight, in which several booths and exhibitions will be set up in MacHall, and anyone can drop by, take a look and learn.

Bats cont'd from page 5

The possibility that northern bat populations will be able to survive the disease is encouraging, but the Albertan government and Parks Canada are not taking any chances.

To prevent humans from spreading the fungus that causes White Nose Syndrome from one bat cave to another, regulations are being enforced to restrict public access to bat caves. Only individuals with permits are now allowed to enter, and even then only after a thorough decontamination.

Reimer, however, is unconvinced that these regulations will help. "If someone is out hiking and they happen to find a cave, it's pretty hard without gates or signage to keep them out," she said. Compounding this difficulty is the spread of the fungus through the bats themselves. "You can't tell a bat not to go into a non-infected cave."

Despite its challenges, there are few options besides prevention to protect North America's remaining hibernating bat populations.

So far efforts to develop a cure have been unsuccessful, with the use of fungicides ruled out due to the environmental damage they would cause. While heated food boxes may provide a temporary fix to help affected bats survive the winter, they are not a feasible long-term solution.

With species such as the once-prolific little brown bat being considered for the endangered species list, the public is beginning to take notice, which can help to combat White Nose Syndrome.

"This issue has been getting a lot of attention, which is good, since bats usually don't get a lot of press unless they do something bad," said Barclay. "They aren't exactly cute and cuddly."

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Chilean protester calls for accountability for universities

Andréa Rojas
Entertainment Editor

Chilean student leader Camilo Ballesteros delivered a speech at the University of Calgary Feb. 6 as part of a month-long Canadian tour to raise awareness about education issues in South America. Ballesteros, who just finished a term as president of the University of Santiago's Students' Union, was one of the leaders of a large-scale 2011 movement to protest the inaccessibility of higher education.

Chile has one of the highest levels of economic inequality in the world. In 1990, a free-market based approach to education was implemented by dictator Augusto Pinochet. It involved de-centralizing schools and privatizing education. Today, schools are heavily subsidized by the government through a voucher system, but these vouchers are disproportionately distributed to members of the already-wealthy upper class.



Andréa Rojas/the Gauntlet

Ballesteros spoke at the U of C Feb. 6.

From May to December of 2011, students petitioned the government of current Chilean president Sebastian Piñera for increased and universal access to government subsidies for higher education. Over half a million people came out to the events organized by protesters, according to Ballesteros.

The movement resulted in a mar-

ginal increase in education spending and an almost 30 per cent drop in Piñera's ratings, but for Ballesteros, the movement is far from over. He would like to see more change in Chile's education system.

"They do not envision repeating protests of 2011, but making 2012 and 2013 new horizons in their campaigns to return educational rights in the country," said U of C anthropology professor Rita Henderson, who served as Ballesteros's translator and host.

Ballesteros not only wants free education but quality education for Chileans.

"Our demand is that education is a right. So we ask for an educational system that [is] free in the sense that everyone can study," she said. "And that it be public making the government accountable to students."

U of C Students' Union president Dylan Jones was among the attendees.

"I think it's interesting to gain perspective on the kinds of issues

that students are facing around the world," he said. "What they've done in Chile is impressive — I mean, the ability to mobilize that amount of people for something that they believe is right."

What was most difficult for Jones to hear, however, was that universities in Chile are funded solely by tuition. The U of C su's operational funding comes from a range of sources, such as conference revenue and events hosted by the university. According to Jones, the provincial government covers most of the cost of running the university, meaning that U of C students pay about 24 per cent of the real cost of their education.

"We actually have one of the lowest student levies in the country," said Jones.

However, two years ago, protests

against a 40 per cent increase in tuition for professional faculties drew hundreds to the MacEwan Student Centre. Because of this, Henderson believes Ballesteros's work is worth noting for U of C students.

"When U of C students have struggled in recent years to protect certain benefits to their education, it is important that they have a sense of the direction such struggles take elsewhere, and that the concerns they have are shared by youth around the world."

For Ballesteros, the gap between Canadian and Chilean students may be difficult to bridge geographically speaking, but the university experience is something that unites.

"Our realities are very different, but the student mindset is the same," said Ballesteros.

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DINOS
ROOKIES OF THE MONTH

LINDSAY DELMAR
Dinos Swimming

A first-year student in the Faculty of Medicine, Lindsay Delmar had an outstanding debut for the Dinos at the Canada West championships in Edmonton. She came home with seven medals, including a gold and two silver in relay events, silver in the 100 fly, 200 fly, and 400 free, and bronze in the 200 free. She was named Canada West rookie of the year for her efforts.

ANDREW MAKOSIEJ
Dinos Swimming

Andrew Makosiej ascended the podium twice at the Canada West swimming championships in Edmonton, earning conference rookie-of-the-year honours in the process. He opened with a solid bronze performance in the 1500-metre freestyle, then added another bronze in the 400 free. Makosiej is a first-year student in the Haskayne School of Business.

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She Has a Name and a story, too

Theatre performance tours Canada to raise awareness about human trafficking in Southeast Asia

Pauline Anunciacion
Gauntlet Entertainment

When you were born, you were given a name — it identifies you and acknowledges your existence to society. But what if your own name was denied you?

U of C grad Andrew Kooman's play *She Has a Name* brings forth the intertwined stories of a sex worker and a lawyer to a Canadian audience, highlighting the injustices of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Southeast Asia.

The Red Deer playwright bases his play on a 2008 real-life incident

where 121 Burmese sex workers were found in an abandoned shipping container in Thailand, 54 of them dead. In *She Has a Name*, Jason, a lawyer, investigates the grisly deaths of sex workers whose bodies were abandoned in a large truck. He tracks down a young local sex worker — known only as "Number 18" — in Bangkok, and persuades her to testify against the human trafficking crimes. "Number 18" must make the difficult choice to trust him as Jason tries to pursue the equally difficult task of rescuing her from where she is being held against her will.

While the play is set in Southeast Asia, most of the cast is not of Asian

descent — a deliberate casting decision.

"We hope that the casting of the play would suggest that it isn't just a situation of people [in Asia] . . . We want to reinforce that this is a human problem. Bangkok and Thailand do have a reputation for sex tourism. But statistics from the U.S. government also shows about 300,000 youths aged 10 to 17 are being forced into prostitution [in North America]," says Waldschmidt.

"Human trafficking is abhorrent," he continues. "It has become a fast-growing criminal enterprise. The reason why sexual exploitation is growing so fast is because there is a male demand for the access of the bodies of women and children," explains Waldschmidt.

With the availability of internet pornography and semi-pornographic images in magazines and social-networking sites, popular culture has normalized the objectification of the bodies of women and children, with or without their consent.

"I myself have gone through the journey in coming to terms with my own sexuality and the mixed messages in the world around us," Waldschmidt shares.



The thematically sexual nature of the play presented an obstacle for Waldschmidt.

"The challenge was how [to] stage the sexual content and extreme violence of the show. I didn't want the play to have a pornographic feel. Here is this 15-year-old girl forced to work as a prostitute . . . Now, what do we do with that?" asks Waldschmidt.

He acknowledges the conflict between the seriousness of human trafficking and engaging viewers.

"What we discovered is that we have to push it too far to not shy away from the reality . . . [Jason]

goes into the room and tries to talk to ["Number 18"], but what happens if she is doing her best to seduce him? And what if he has a hard time keeping focus? It creates a very powerful dynamic on stage."

After much analysis, Waldschmidt and his crew found the right balance of sexual connotation, violence and emotional resonance.

"We did not want to violate the audience's trust. There is no actual nudity in the production. We kept the violence intense and real, but not abusive. We want [the audience] to open their hearts to let the story into their soul. If it's too gritty, it will be emotionally numbing."

The play is a life-changing experience that will haunt one's conscience. Waldschmidt recalls that, during previous performances, many audience members remained in their seats even after the curtain call. Some were moved to tears while others were outraged. *She Has a Name* taps into the strong human belief that every person is entitled to "inherent dignity and value," according to Waldschmidt.

Visit thegauntlet.ca for the rest of this story. There will be a dramatic reading of *She Has a Name* in EC 1050 at MRU on Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. For more information, visit shehasaname.net

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Redefining design

PARK works hard to increase Calgary's fashion profile

Katrina Power
Gauntlet Entertainment

On February 9, the Gerry Thomas Gallery is filled wall-to-wall with models, photographers, style bloggers and public relations managers at PARK's third annual fashion industry mixer. Photos hang from the ceiling and the tables are messy with business cards and empty wine glasses. The success of the event is evident in the amount of attendees, but the forces behind PARK believe that many still do not know about — and could benefit from — Calgary's thriving fashion scene.

PARK (Promoting Artists | Redefining Culture) is a non-profit network organized by a group of Calgarian artists who are working to promote and support fellow emerging talent in the city. PARK was co-founded in 2008 by University of Calgary alumni Kara Chomistek and Jessi Li, who, along with a circle of style-conscious students, were driven to create the network because they wanted to entertain, engage and intrigue the Calgary community with its vibrant arts scene.

The mixer thrown last Thursday was just one of PARK's many events. PARK provides space and opportunity for fledgling to showcase their talent through events like PARKLUXE, a fashion show and art exhibition; PARKSHOW, a semi-annual fashion, music and art show; and PARKSALE, an annual outdoor market where artists and vendors can sell and showcase their work.

The early-February fashion industry mixer was a kick-off for PARK's line of 2012 events. It also provided Calgary's fashionable folk a chance to gather and connect with like-minded individuals for the second year in a row.

"The [fashion industry mixer] this year showed an immense increase of interest and anticipation with representation of nearly all areas of the industry," says PARK public relations manager Jacqueline Tyler. "The 265-plus guests in attendance speaks to the potential this city has and how it's ready to work together and make local fashion and art events happen."

Tyler urges students interested in fashion and the arts to take advantage of the many opportunities that PARK has to offer.

"PARK is built on the notion of growing urban culture through true celebrations of local artists and designers, and we feel that students who are passionate about their future and making a difference should be aware of non-profit organizations like PARK, to build relationships and follow such activities that will weave new history into the fabric of our city."

Tyler reminds interested youth that the benefits from engaging in the events will cost them nothing and will beautify their community in the process.

"PARK builds platforms for talent to showcase to the likes of many, for



U of C fashion club president Nancy Kuot and PARK president Kara Chomistek.

free. Students should leverage such opportunity to grow themselves, which in return grows their city."

Participating in PARK's events does not limit students to that network but instead provides them with a "platform to engage and introduce oneself to the entire industry. A lot is happening in this city, and we hope to help bridge the gap, create growth and build awareness."

The mixer also marked the first event covered by the U of C's new fashion club, Fashion Folk. "We want to help expose students to the city's vibrant fashion scene," says club president Nancy Kuot. "By reporting on the many events like this one that are happening in the

community, we hope to be part of changing people's opinions of Calgary being a city without any style."

Tyler shares a similar vision.

"There is so much potential, talent and artistic spirit in this city and it's our goal to build a network of industry leaders that share information, build, nurture and mentor our talent so it remains in Calgary not only to thrive, but to shine and to put our city on the map for high-quality talent and fashion-art events."

Fashion Folk is a website-based U of C club and can be found at fashionfolkuofc.blogspot.com. To learn more about PARK, visit ourparkonline.com/parkshow.html

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Talking sex with Sue

Octogenarian and renowned public speaker gives U of C a crash course in coitus

Andrea Llewellyn
Gauntlet Entertainment

Sue Johanson is well aware that she is shocking and entertaining as an 81-year-old sex educator, but listen up — though her message may be simple, youth have a lot to learn.

Johanson sums it up succinctly: “Know what you are doing. Think ahead, plan ahead, never let sex just happen, and always practice *saf-er* sex. Not safe sex. There is no such thing as safe sex. The only safe sex is safe all by yourself — or no sex at all.”

The U of C’s Wellness Health Awareness Team hosted Johanson on Feb. 1 in the MacEwan Ballroom, a show that was full of laughs, blushing, hushed whispering, dropped jaws and knowing winks exchanged between



Aly Gillenhuysen/the Gauntlet

Sex educator Sue Johanson visited the U of C for Sex Week.

audience members. At the core of Sue’s presentation, however, were notions of gender relations, communication barriers, and societal expectations related to sex. These, according to her, are proliferated by educational and religious institutions as well as the

media and pornography.

One of her inflammatory statements challenged the unbalanced societal expectations surrounding the issue of masturbation.

“Give women the permission to masturbate!” exclaimed Johanson. “All guys learn about sex from themselves through masturba-

tion, but girls get the message that ‘Nice girls don’t do that,’ or if they do, they will deny it.”

Sue’s mission was clear — Canadian secondary education is lacking in the sex-education department, and she is filling in the gaps.

“We have to get more explicit. We have to cover the controversial topics. Sex education in schools never covers homosexuality [and] very seldom talks about things like transvestites, transsexuals, transgender[ed people]. They never talk about abortion.”

While she believes Canada as a whole needs to step up its sex education in high schools, she has two new concerns: the effect of media (such as porn and tv) on youth and the inconsistent (and generally lacking) sex education in rural communities, small towns and northern

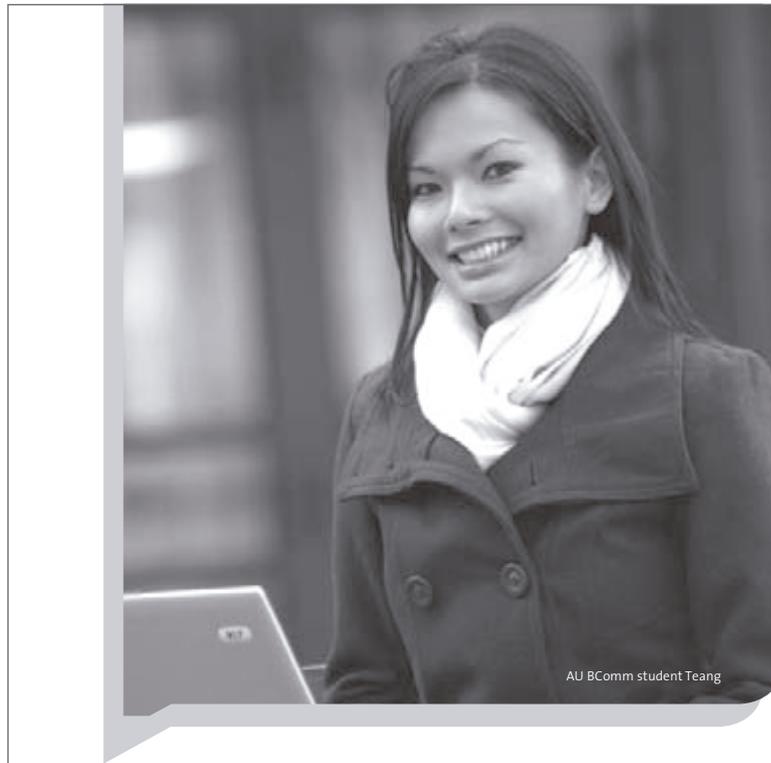
Canada. When it comes to the latter, Johanson is concerned about women’s rights.

“[In the Northwest Territories] the sex education is really bad. You see that is a patriarchal, male-dominated society, and men don’t want women to know because that is power and control, and they don’t like that.”

After over 40 years in the trade of sex education, Johanson is still fighting her fight even though she has yet to see great change in her field. According to her, youth are still lacking the sexual skills and knowledge necessary for healthy sex lives.

“I want people to enjoy sex — to know what they are doing so that they are not being manipulated, or used, or abused.”

Learn more about Sue Johanson at talksexwithsue.com



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“Climate change for dummies”

Comprehending the Climate Crisis in an accessible way

Nicole Dionne
Production Editor

When your car is broken, you see a mechanic. When your computer is broken, you ask your most tech-savvy friend to take a look. When you want to know more about climate change, you probably wouldn't think to talk to a doctor. “People ask me, ‘You're a cardiologist, why are you writing a book about global warming?’” says Bradley Dibble, MD, somewhat exasperatedly. Dibble is the author of *Comprehending the Climate Crisis*, a book that's been dubbed “climate change for dummies.”

The question asked of him is fair, though. Dibble is not a climate scientist and he's never received formal education on the subject.

“As physicians, I think our duty to care for people extends beyond those people who walk into our offices,” explains Dibble.

“It's not that dissimilar from doc-

tors who have worked hard at getting smoking bans,” he adds.

Dibble isn't an environmental activist in the traditional sense. While he cares about climate change and heartily disagrees with skeptics, he's always tried to be very objective, a carry-over from his years of medical practice.

“One of the things I liked about cardiology, one of the things that attracted me to it, is that we have a lot of objective information. The art of medicine is there, it always is, but I really get to feel that I'm doing things very objectively,” he says.

Dibble's interest in climate science peaked back in 2009 when he served as part of the Sustainable Development Advisory Council, an initiative by the Government of Canada that appoints its members to advise the Minister of Environment.

“I went into it with an objective scientist approach, and I think I ended up becoming more of an ac-

tivist as time went on,” he admits.

Being involved in SDAC discussions with experts about climate change allowed him to learn a lot about the complexities and socioeconomic nuances surrounding the issue. In his search for additional material on the topic, Dibble found that there was a lack of information available for everyday people who just wanted to know the facts behind climate change.

“I wanted to make sure people were aware of the science,” he says.

In his own practice, Dibble often has to explain complicated medical information to patients so that they can make informed decisions about treatment options and understand what is going on with their own health. He figures this experience helps him explain facts at the heart of climate change science, while still keeping it accessible.

Visit thegauntlet.ca for the rest of this story.

Film review: *The Vow*

A touch of realness added to a sugar-coated genre

Manal Sheikh
Gauntlet Entertainment

Like many works of romantic fiction inspired by a true story, Michael Suss's *The Vow* is a strange mix of the expected generic love-drama formula, with a bit of gritty reality added in.

Starring Channing Tatum and Rachel McAdams, two of Hollywood's go-to romantic leads, the film follows a young married couple through the trauma of a car accident during which Paige (McAdams) loses her memory from the past five years. This is kicked up a notch when it's discovered that she has no recollection of her husband, Leo (Tatum). Leo then makes the choice to make his wife fall in love with him all over again à la *50 First Dates*. What follows is a classic tale of love combating all odds despite its low perceived chance at success.

Tatum, recognized mainly for his strong-but-silent acting roles in *Dear John* and *G.I. Joe* as well as his good

looks and charm, comes off just as we have seen him before. He is convincing for the most part as the besotted husband, deftly navigating the painful situation he finds himself in with an expected uncertainty.

There are a few exceptions to this that even his handsomeness cannot smooth over, however. At certain points in the movie, Tatum reverts to an emotionally flat façade, where we can almost see the gears turning in his mind as he tries to figure out the best expression for the scene. The result derails his character, the film equivalent to an awkward pause in conversation.

It is McAdams, the queen of problematic romance heroines (see: *The Notebook*, *The Time Traveler's Wife*), who redeems the movie at these points. She approaches each scene with an endearing wariness and confusion that is entirely believable.

Visit thegauntlet.ca for the rest of this story. *The Vow* is playing in theatres city-wide.

CJSW ON-AIR GUIDE

	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
6 am	BBC WORLD SERVICE NEWS					tea time with annie (continued)	radiosaurus (continued)
6:30						democracy now!	alternative radio
7 am	breaking the tethers	a.m. mix tape	the morning after	soap box derby sponsored by arusha centre	the house blend		
7:30	NEW MORNING MIX						
8 am						bunte welle german	counterspin
8:30							eritrean radio
9 am							hrvatski radio croatian
9:30							
10 am	her royal opinion sponsored by local 510	outside the lines	instant gratification: revoked	mind folk'd	up for it	calgary vietnamese radio	radyo pilipino filipino
10:30							
11 am	so sue me	deconstructing dinner	alternative radio	democracy now	narrowcasted news	hellenic melodies greek radio	buscando america latin & south america
11:30							
12 pm	roger that	daydream dance party	mind grapes sponsored by republik	failed pilot / pillage the village	electric ladyland sponsored by beatroute	speaking in tongues	precious dynamite
12:30							
1 pm						double entendre preserves!	behind the scenes
1:30							
2 pm	the new classics	white lodge/black lodge	off duty trip	my public shame/contramandatum	my allergy to the fans sponsored by tubby dog	bikesheviks	the 2 and 2 ain't 5 show
2:30							
3 pm						music to my ears	knotted roots
3:30							
4 pm	aubrey's shindig sponsored by the drum & monkey	electric company sponsored by broken city	halfway home sponsored by local 522	alternative to what? sponsored by the ship & anchor	road pops sponsored by flwd weekly	level the vibes	mental illness
4:30							
5 pm							
5:30							
6 pm	french transe en danse	desi vibes	mezza l'una italian	that's so gay!	musiquarium everything from jazz to jungle	voice of ethiopia radio oromia	breaking techniques
6:30							
7 pm	south louisiana gumbo	tombstone after dark	the blues witness	folkcetera	the dubble bounce	oh africa!	mind grapes
7:30							
8 pm	yeah, what she said	writer's block	artslink		full moon funkyalicious	nocturntable	katharsis
8:30							
9 pm	cjsw presents...	jazz focus	lift the bandstand	noise	dirty needles the best in funk, soul & hip hop		
9:30							
10 pm	funk senden	radio boys in the shortwave mystery	good character requirement/estate sale	fat beat diet	what will the neighbors think?	megawatt mayhem metal	that's classical?
10:30							
11 pm	each one teach one	urban sex	am i right?? comedy	the twisted brain wrong	remote emissions jungle & drum 'n bass		
11:30							
12 am	sweet chin music	twilight banter	blue collar bravado	bass ackwards metal	dna hardcore techno	attention surplus disorder	translucent dreams ambient, trance etc.
12:30							
1 am					the mix up		sunday night groove school
1:30							
2 am	up all night	the freak show	graveyard riot	rage cage metal			
2:30							
3 to 6 am					tea time with annie	radiosaurus	straight on 'til morning

CJSW is programmed and largely operated by a volunteer force of 200+ but we are always looking for new members of the Calgary community to join and help out! To find out more about how you can contribute, visit www.cjsw.com.

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MUSIC MIX BEATS NEWS / SPOKEN WORD JAZZ MULTICULTURAL

Cognitive enhancers have the potential to expand the limits of human achievement. This is why we should embrace them.

The future of perfection

By Eric Mathison

Julian sat on the second floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. He had been there nine hours, was planning to stay until the building closed, go home to study until the early morning, maybe sleep for a couple hours, then return to campus to write his engineering final. Two days before, he had spent over 40 hours in the TFDL without leaving — the library was open continuously to afford students extra study time during finals.

Julian, which isn't his real name, and I met that day when I asked him if he knew where I could buy Adderall or Ritalin, two drugs commonly used to help people study better. After flashing a look that suggested he was more annoyed with the interruption than that I was asking him to break the law, he pulled out an unmarked bottle and asked how many I wanted. Julian was the second person I had to ask, and it took me just over 10 minutes to find some Ritalin, including the time it took to buy a coffee.

For an article on athletic doping in *Sports Illustrated* in 1997, the authors asked Olympic athletes the following question: "If you were given a performance-enhancing substance and you would not be caught, win all competitions for five years, then die, would you take it?" To the surprise and worry of many, over 50 per cent of the athletes said that they would take the drug.

Imagine that a similar drug could exist for academics, so that we could ask the best in every academic field the analogous question: If you were offered a drug that would cause you to achieve

the height of academic success in your field (Nobel prize, Fields Medal, Pulitzer), but you would die within five years, would you take it? How important is that type of success?

The athletic and academic scenarios are both hypothetical. No drug exists that can ensure success to such a degree in either athletics or academia. But while most people are aware that performance-enhancing drugs are available to athletes, the popularity of drugs that improve mental performance — cognitive enhancers — is much less publicized. A researcher at the University of Kentucky found that over half of third- and fourth-year students at that school had used cognitive enhancers like Ritalin or Adderall. At the most competitive schools, those numbers are much higher.

We have crossed a threshold. Drugs that can improve memory, creativity and attention are no longer science fiction. The difference between the above scenario and current reality is that neither the payoff nor the danger is so great, but both payoff and danger do exist.

With drugs that were developed to help alleviate conditions like Alzheimer's and narcolepsy but are being used by healthy individuals, we are only in the first phase of cognitive enhancement. If pharmaceutical companies began developing drugs for the explicit purpose of enhancing cognition, society would undergo a dramatic transformation.

Many are worried about this prospect. Huxleyian fears spring to mind, with different classes of people based on intelligence the end result. Or, because intelligence development will proceed in tandem with physical development, people worry that the result will

be something like the film *Gattaca*, which was also released in 1997. In such a world, not only would intelligence be promoted after birth, but parents could also choose the height, sex, eye colour and athletic potential of their children — characteristics that are currently left to the whims of genetic chance.

But whatever the dystopian worries about cognitive enhancement might be, they can't stem from the same reason so many people consider doping in athletics wrong. To see why this is so, consider cycling, one of the sports most commonly associated with prohibited drug use.

Last week two important verdicts were reached regarding doping and cycling. American federal prosecutors announced that the two-year investigation into U.S. Postal, the cycling team for which Lance Armstrong rode for six of his seven Tour de France victories, was complete and that no charges would be made. Then Alberto Contador, who has been the most successful cyclist since Armstrong's last win, was stripped of his 2010 Tour de France title for a barely-detectable amount of a prohibited drug in his blood.

Suppose that evidence was brought forth to unquestionably incriminate Armstrong. Spectators find that behaviour so contemptible not because there's something theoretically unethical about using performance-enhancing drugs, but because using a banned substance would have given Armstrong an unfair advantage. The unfairness of the advantage, however, doesn't stem from some intrinsic nature of the product. The use is unfair because the rules of competition say it's impermissible to use that amount of that particular substance.

All games have structure through rules. These rules limit a sport like cycling from "do whatever you want" to the hundreds of rules in professional cycling, including very specific rules about the materials and shape of the bicycles, and which aids athletes may use. The rules can't prohibit all performance enhancement, because that would restrict things like sleep, eating, training and technologies such as aerodynamic clothing.

The rules are arbitrary, but rules for all games are arbitrary — all

case, Contador did have an unfair advantage — he broke the rules of the game, even though the rules could state that a higher amount of clenbuterol is permissible than the current amount.

Additionally, Contador can't claim that he never agreed to the rules. While such tacit approval exists in many games — street hockey regularly lack the full rulebook of an NHL game — Contador signed a number of contracts agreeing to the rules regarding prohibited drug use.

The unfairness of the advantage, however, doesn't stem from some intrinsic nature of the product. The use is unfair because the rules of the game say it's unfair to use that amount of that particular substance.

that matters is that the participants agree to the rules. If you go to play baseball with your friends, but they all agree to play cricket instead, the game won't work because there are conflicting sets of rules.

Contador's suspension last week further illustrates this example. He claims that he ingested the banned substance clenbuterol from contaminated steak. While Contador doesn't contest the result of the test, he does contest that he knowingly ingested the drug to enhance his performance.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport overseeing the case even has a clause to allow for such a possibility, but they ruled that Contador might have taken greater amounts previously, benefited from them, and then stopped taking the drug with enough time before the start of the Tour de France. If that is the

Fairness and inequality

Paul Erdős was a famous Hungarian mathematician who died of a heart attack in 1996. He authored or co-authored over 1,500 academic papers (more than any other mathematician in history); won the Wolf Prize, one of the most prestigious awards in mathematics after the Fields Medal; and was famous for his eccentricities, which included his use of cognitive enhancers. In addition to drinking huge amounts of coffee, Erdős used amphetamines. After successfully abstaining from amphetamines for a month to win a bet, he said, "Before, when I looked at a piece of blank paper my mind was filled with ideas. Now all I see is a blank piece of paper."

People oppose open access to drugs that currently are prescrip-

tion-only for many reasons. The most common worry is that such open access will create an inequality between people who can access the drugs (the wealthy and powerful) and those who can't. This is said to be unfair because, just like with all other claims of inequality, the have-nots usually haven't done something to deserve their lot in life — it's just bad luck.

Inequality from cognitive enhancers might indeed be a serious problem, but it's no different than other forms of inequality surrounding academic success (I would be more inclined to apply to Harvard if I could afford it). But inequality concerns can be alleviated with social programs like government subsidies, so such worries aren't really about the use of cognitive enhancers, but rather with unjust distribution.

Many people think that using cognitive enhancers is wrong for reasons other than inequality. Matt Lamkin in *The Chronicle* gives one possible example: he says that while some schools have instituted formal bans on study drugs like (non-prescribed) Ritalin, they have almost entirely used fairness-type arguments as justification. If a drug provides im-

proper assistance, this isn't necessarily a case against banning the drug. Rather, the schools are saying that it's illegal and expensive to acquire such drugs now, which makes it an unfair advantage for those who don't want to break the law or who are poor.

Lamkin's own approach is different. He argues that cognitive enhancers could instill negative habits in students, and could thereby "corrode valuable practices that education has traditionally fostered." Drugs that increase attention, for instance, could encourage procrastination. Rather than actually improving the quality of students' work, study drugs will help students achieve the status quo with less effort. It's tempting to look at decreasing study times among students as a sign that energy drinks and the internet are already doing this.

Lamkin points out that his argument cuts both ways. There is the possibility that drugs will corrode valuable practices, but study aids like Ritalin or Adderall might help a student get more out of the university experience, because students using them can engage more deeply in their work. So, perhaps a student couldn't understand the full beauty of a math-

ematical proof without the use of drugs — he simply lacked the intellectual capacity, no matter how much effort he put into the problem, to reach comprehension. A cognitive enhancer, however, could help him achieve his goal.

/// Some of the people in my class don't have to work — they can just study all the time. It [their academic success] isn't that they're smarter, it's that their parents are paying for everything.

— Julian, a Ritalin user, responding to whether his drug use gives him an unfair advantage over other students

Julian from the TFDL says he began using Ritalin in his second year because he couldn't keep his grades up while working part-time to pay rent. When I asked him if he thinks it gives him an unfair advantage, his reply was based on equality: "Some of the people in my class don't have to work — they can just study all the time. It isn't that they're smarter, it's that their parents are paying for everything." He usually gets the drugs from friends with prescriptions, rather than paying for them.

Differences of perfection

The Harvard philosopher Michael Sandel offers a more fundamental problem with cognitive enhancers. In an article for *The Atlantic*, which later became part of his book *The Case Against*

much control over the outcome of our lives will prevent us from appreciating the gift that life is. Talk of life as a gift might seem to imply a gift-giver, but Sandel thinks the non-religious can appreciate this viewpoint also. This appreciation will be compromised if we really do have control over most of the variables that impact the outcome of our lives.

Sandel claims that perfection isn't an ideal at all. He argues that if we aim for perfection, we will become too controlling of our destinies, micromanaging every area of our lives, from the colour of our eyes to the attributes of our children. With advances in cognitive enhancement, Sandel worries that, like genetic engineering, society will lose sight of valuing what's out of our control.

It isn't clear what sense of perfection he has in mind, but because his argument is against perfection in any of its manifestations, on the one hand he doesn't have to worry about defining the wrongness of one specific conception. On the other hand, we need a way of distinguishing exactly how far toward perfection we ought to go. Presumably Sandel doesn't want to say that no further advancement see PERFECTION, cont'd on page 14



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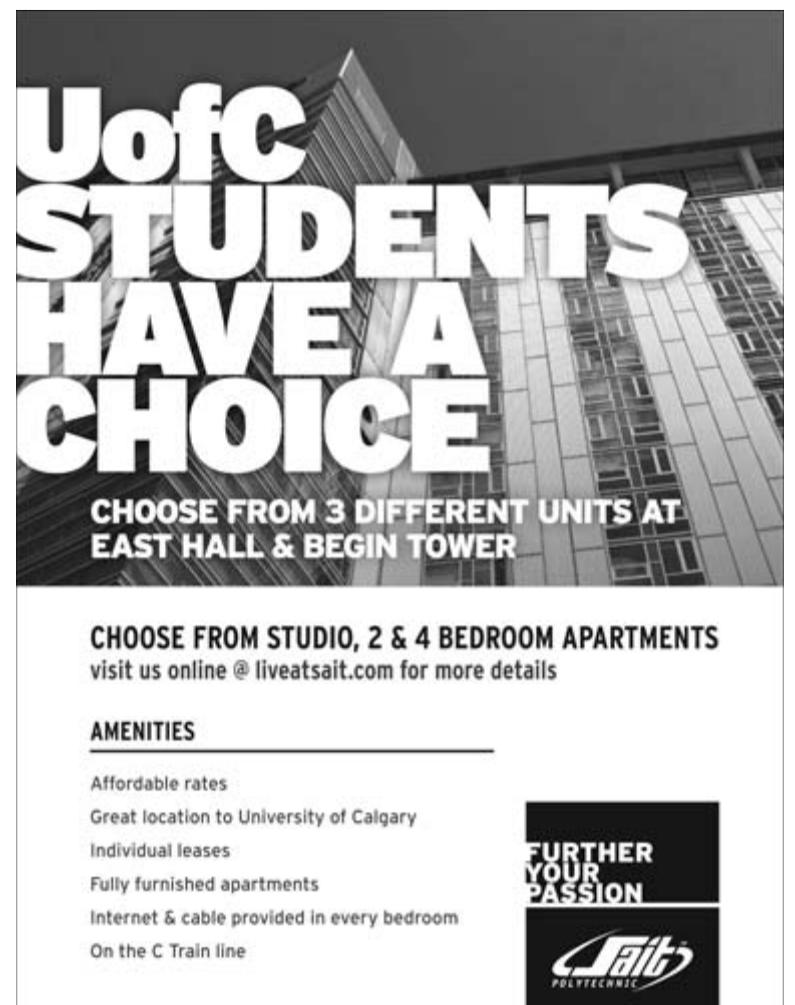
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Perfection, cont'd from page 13

is valuable — that would rule out cures for harmful diseases, alleviating the suffering of the poor, and the end of intellectual progression.

Perhaps Sandel has something like the following in mind: society can still improve, without the perfection of individuals. We can eliminate unjust social situations without trying to perfect ourselves, making it a collective process, rather than an individual one. But this still leaves open the possibility for collective perfection, where as a group we aim for a specific goal, the pursuit of which would be greatly aided by cognitive or genetic advancement.

If this is so, Sandel is mistaken because using cognitive enhancers doesn't suggest that being smarter is an end in itself, any more than

using a tutor or a computer or a cup of coffee implies that goal. Yes, we can use those things for the endless pursuit of making more money, but we can also use them for more worthwhile endeavours.

Individually we have different conceptions of exactly how we should improve our natures, but society is silent on exactly what those improvements ought to look like. To suggest like Sandel does that we ought to eventually stop such improvement is an error, because the types of improvements possible through cognitive enhancers — moral improvements through increased empathy; emotional improvements through more focused contemplation of the arts; and yes, intellectual improvement — are the types of improve-

ments we find wholly worthwhile as a society in other circumstances.

I can appreciate the gifts that I have, but why can't I improve myself in concert with such appreciation? Indeed, to accept the status quo regarding intelligence is to squander the gift.

Our pursuit for understanding

There is a specific type of improvement that strikes me as worthy of pursuit, which doesn't lead me to the dystopian interpretation Sandel has in mind. We can use cognitive enhancers to better the lives of everyone. Brilliant researchers could do even more brilliant research with the use of such drugs, and opponents of cognitive enhancers are wrong to think that the eradication of some of the world's most terrible diseases would make us guilty of hubris or ungratefulness.

Imagine how much better we could understand our place in the universe if the best minds in society had access to drugs that would improve their mental performance. Paul Erdős's achievements

are just as impressive with the knowledge that he used amphetamines, because it's what Erdős discovered about the world that is of value, not the means of achieving the result.

Unlike in sport, where the accomplishment is relative to arbitrary limitations, science, mathematics and the humanities have no such limitations, and we shouldn't impose them. This doesn't mean that things with arbitrary limitations are inferior. After all, the blues and some types of poetry are highly restricted (arbitrarily), but they are still important to our lives.

I'm incapable of understanding the works of Erdős, Einstein or Hawking, but with the use of cognitive enhancement I could get closer to such understanding. In no way would such knowledge be diminished by the use of drugs. On the contrary, understanding the development of ideas is exactly the purpose of a university, and it is one worthy of pursuit. Our lives are enriched through acquiring knowledge, and cognitive enhancers are one additional way we have

of continuing that pursuit.

The fact that cognitive enhancers can be a gift doesn't mean that this outcome is inevitable. A number of issues must be addressed. Perhaps greatest among them is the question of distribution, which if left unaddressed will allow the powerful in society to get increasingly more powerful. This worry, as I've previously stated, goes far beyond cognitive enhancement. Education already suffers from a lack of equal access, and more powerful study drugs will only exacerbate differences of access.

Other possible issues include people being forced to use drugs, because of demands from employers, or too much access, for instance by making the drugs unrestricted for children.

So yes, there are challenges. But human history is filled with challenges that have been overcome. Inventions like the university, the printing press and the internet have helped us achieve amazing intellectual accomplishments. Cognitive enhancers are the next step in our progress.

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Calgary is a sprawlin'

Dominik Matusik
Gauntlet Opinions



The results of the 2011 Canadian census should come as no surprise to anybody who is even remotely familiar with the nation's demographics in recent years. The west is booming while growth in the east has slowed. The maritime provinces have rebounded slightly. More and more people are choosing to live in cities as opposed to rural areas. The last point is one that has not been brought up nearly as much as the west east divide. It is not entirely accurate, however. It isn't cities that are growing particularly quickly, it's suburbia.

Calgary residents in particular

will be keenly familiar with the debate surrounding (sub)urban sprawl. While sprawl certainly wasn't invented by Alberta and remains just as prominent a feature of edge cities in the Greater Toronto Area, Calgary is unique for a number of reasons. For one, the city's suburbs are growing much more rapidly than the



majority of the country (certain communities, particularly in the northwest, reported increases in excess of 200 per cent). Secondly, there is significantly

less infrastructure, especially in terms of transportation, in greater Calgary than in the respective metro areas of Toronto and Vancouver — this means Calgary is not only growing at a faster rate, it's also poorly equipped to handle it. Lastly, Calgary doesn't have a true metropolitan area and most of the population of "greater Calgary" is located within its municipal boundaries, unlike the urban areas of Toronto or Vancouver which are each made up of dozens of smaller municipalities.

It's quite clear that the development policies that are currently in place will not lead to a city that is sustainable in terms of environment, transportation or culture. Calgary is likely the most "American" city in the whole of Canada.

see SPRAWL, page 17

In university? Time to volunteer!

Lauren Den Hartog
Gauntlet Opinions



I still remember one of the first volunteer jobs I had — in a homeless shelter in Kingston, Ontario. My decision to start volunteering had not been planned. I had seen an ad in the local newspaper advertising for volunteers and thought this would be a good way to get involved in the community and to get out of my comfort zone which, at that time, consisted of the Queen's University library, campus bar, class and the occasional late-night poutine run.

Over the next few months I would meet so many fascinating individuals and learn their stories, their struggles and what their hopes were for the future. I saw them all as people and not as the labels we so often apply to those in their situation: "drug addict," "prostitute," "alcoholic."

I also learned a lot about myself during this experience — my assumptions about working in a homeless shelter had been way out in left field. It's a lesson I try to remember to this day.

So great are the benefits of volunteer work that I think it should be made mandatory for university graduates. Hey, why not do something to encourage students to es-



I still remember feeling nervous as I walked the 10 blocks to the shelter to start my first shift. This was my first experience working with the homeless, after all, and I didn't know what to expect. Some of the clients at the shelter were alcoholics and drug addicts, others had escaped abusive relationships and were unable to find work. Didn't Kingston have a very high criminal population? What could I possibly offer them? How could I relate to them?

As I stepped into the building, which was actually two houses that had been converted into a shelter, I was immediately taken aback.

The atmosphere was warm and inviting and it did, in fact, feel more like a home than the cold and sterile environment I had imagined.

In the kitchen, a middle-aged volunteer couple was preparing dinner for about 15 or so clients seated in the living room talking, watching TV or reading.

cape the campus bubble that envelops most of us from September to April? Why not make students give 50 hours of their time to a worthy cause in order to get their degree? Most of us spend way more time than that procrastinating anyways.

Even as I write this, the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Calgary, which pairs adult mentors with young people in the community, has made a plea for more men in the Calgary area to volunteer as big brothers.

According to the CBC, little brothers currently have to wait 12–18 months to be paired with a mentor.

I wonder how many young men at the University of Calgary could serve as role models? Likely, all of them.

It's so easy to focus our attentions on studying, preparing for exams and writing papers while ignoring the needs around us. There's a whole world out there kids! Why not give something back?

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Racism in the U of C memes

Kris Kotarski
Gauntlet Alumnus

"Not sure if electrical engineering class . . . or Chang family reunion."

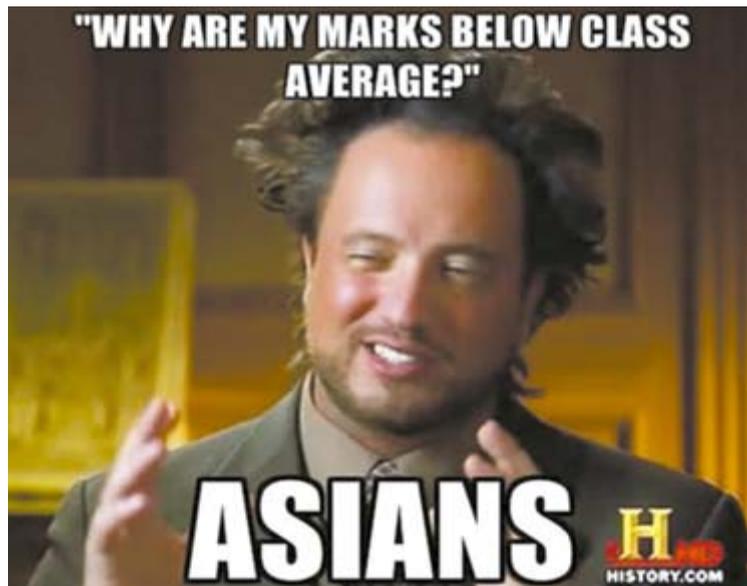
"Forced to take English this quarter . . . Take 6 math classes to boost GPA." (Next to a photo of an Asian student.)

"Why are my marks below average? Asians." (Next to a photo of a white man.)

As you can see from the quotations above, the "University of Calgary Memes" page on Facebook is an online community filled to the brim with a certain type of hilarity. Some of it is racist, though most of it is not. But, let's leave that aside for just a moment. Let's begin instead with ignorance about how social media works.

The first meme was posted by "Bee King," the second by "Devon Blake" and the third by "Majid Theking." Now, I am not sure if those are real names, but I do know that Danny Pochapsky and Romeo Lehman are.

According to Facebook, Romeo Lehman is a student at the Haskayne School of Business at the U of C, and on Oct. 4, 2011, he added "President at the International Relations club" to his work profile.

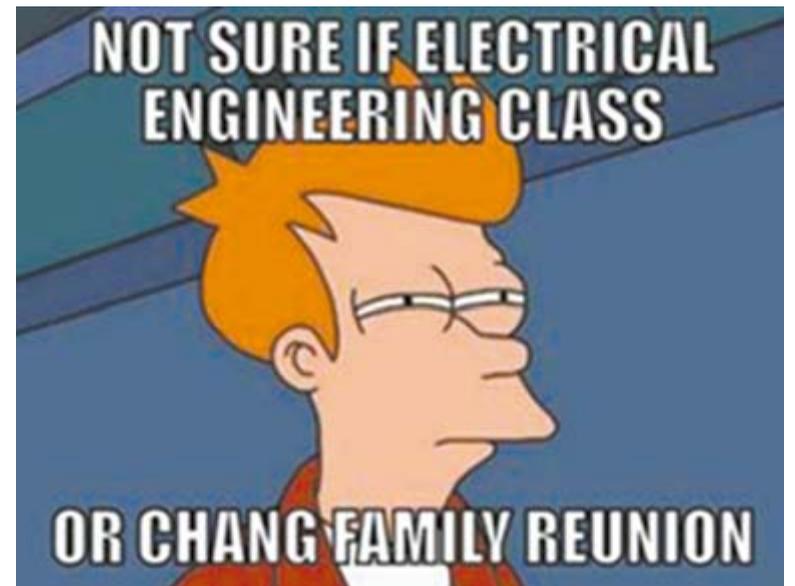


We can guess that he is a real person because Google tells us that he was a "Peer Mentor" for Ms. L. Bryce's Communications Studies 363 lecture in the winter 2010 semester. At the same time, Facebook tells us that he thought the "Why are my marks below average? Asians" meme was hilarious enough to share on his own wall on Feb. 9, 2012, shortly after it was posted on the U of C Memes page.

Danny Pochapsky is even more revealing. According to the June 28, 2011 edition of the Didsbury Review, Daniel Pochapsky was the 2011 Valedictorian at Didsbury High School who "took in

the most medallions . . . for math, pure math, biology, chemistry and social studies." Google tells us that Pochapsky won a 2011 Mountain View Credit Union scholarship valued at \$1,500, and Facebook tells us he is a Schulich School of Engineering student who expects to graduate from the U of C in 2015 and who likes Taylor Swift, Archie Comics, Soul Plane, "drifting cars" and "shooting stuff."

He also thinks that the "Not sure if electrical engineering class . . . or Chang family reunion" meme posted by Bee King is "Brilliant." Or, so he said on Sunday Feb. 12, 2012 soon after

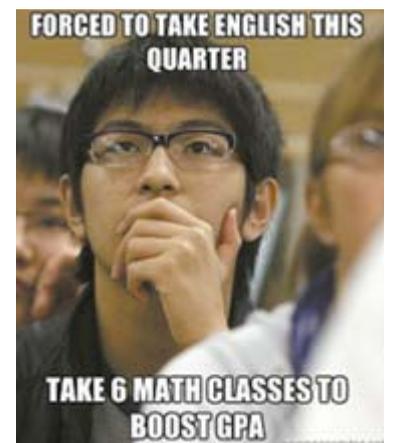


the meme was posted.

Now, maybe Danny Pochapsky and Romeo Lehman (and all the others who "like" or approvingly comment on these memes) are not racist at all. Maybe Danny Pochapsky is engaged to a girl (or boy) from an Asian-Canadian family, maybe he loves Bruce Lee movies and listens to Nujabes records, and maybe he went door-to-door collecting donations for Tsunami victims in 2004.

Or, maybe not.

Someone who actually knows Pochapsky might be able to place his Facebook comments on the "Chang family" meme into a proper context and to weigh it against a history of words and actions, but no one (aside from possibly his 248 Facebook friends) actually knows Danny Pochapsky. So, we cannot tell if he's a jokester or a bigoted asshole. All we know is what the internet tells us, and neither Danny, Romeo, Bee King, Majid Theking, or Devon Blake come out looking very good.



A friend of mine happens to be an Asian-Canadian U of C graduate who has sat on a number of hiring boards in his day.

He put it like this: "It's refreshing that University of Calgary students are willing to display their racist and sexist views so openly, and to 'like' such views using their real names. Before, potential employers had to infer which University of Calgary graduates lacked the maturity or skills to thrive in the global context, but now they can just collect their names directly."

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



*

On March 14, the Gauntlet Publication Society will be holding elections for Tier I positions (Editor-in-Chief and News Editor).

All University of Calgary undergraduate students are eligible to run for these positions. Students interested in running must declare their candidacy by Wed, March 7 at 5 p.m.

Applicants must be available for a one hour editing test Thursday, March 8 or Friday, March 8 and a forum Friday, March 9.

Room 319
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*

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Sprawl, continued

It has a central business district, fairly limited high-density inner city and acres of suburbia in every direction. It spends more per capita on transit than any major city in Canada, yet the service is far below its potential due to sprawling communities. Often-travelled roads are likely to become more and more congested as the city continues to grow out and rely on an individualistic car culture. The unique model of boom-bust (but mostly boom) growth has also hindered the development of a new Calgary identity; each new community looks identical to the last and is, quite frankly, not very aesthetically pleasing.

The solution doesn't have to be extreme. Of course Calgary will never have the density of New York City or the efficient use of space and mass transit as most European cities. However, there are basic changes to the city's development policies that can be made: focusing on apartment buildings and high-rises around CTrain stations and in the inner city, as Mayor Naheed Nenshi has hinted at; less development on the absolute fringes and more focus on making existing communities denser and more transit-friendly; more cycling trails and roads with bike lanes; less selling off of large tracts of land for developers to turn into more costly sprawl. These are entirely and, in fact, pragmatically necessary solutions if the city intends to be sustainable in the future.

Sprawl is expensive, inconvenient and ugly. It is a prime example of us living beyond our means — a \$400,000 mortgage and two or more family cars are the norm. Most people living in the city understand the problems associated with Calgary's current model and are willing to adapt. Pitchfork not-in-my-backyardism is a minority opinion. There is a will to change and a demand for a higher-density and a more cohesive city. It doesn't have to be a politically volatile issue and the fact that decision-making in Calgary is centralized within one municipality makes it even easier. I hope that this view will prevail among our elected officials, because a radical shift in policy is absolutely necessary if Calgary wishes to be globally competitive 30 years down the line.

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Leading the team: the role of a captain

Taylor McKee

Gauntlet Sports

On Christmas Eve 2004, Theo Epstein, the general manager of the freshly crowned World Series Champions, the Boston Red Sox, presented Jason Varitek with a contract extension and a simple uniform modification. The letter 'C' stitched to his jersey symbolized one of the highest honours an active player can receive. In baseball, it is exceptionally rare to overtly display team captains in this fashion. But in other professional sports, including hockey and soccer, it is a time-honoured tradition to mark the captain with a special badge.

"It's not every day you're lucky enough to sign a player who embodies everything you want your franchise to be," Epstein explained to the Associated Press about making Varitek captain. "When you have that player, you don't let him get away."

The Boston Red Sox are one of the most captivating organizations — becoming the captain of such a team is a high honour. Very few players are entrusted with the responsibility of becoming captain and it is a somewhat nebulous position in terms of job description. Whether it's the captain of the New York Yankees, Green Bay Packers or a co-ed charity croquet squad, being a team leader comes with expectations and pressure.

Regardless of how captaincy is recognized, the importance of the



Gauntlet file photo

Matt Walter (left) says a captain needs to lead the team on the field and in the change room.

role is acknowledged across all sporting borders, almost without exception. Despite the ubiquitous existence of captains in sport, the definition of a captain lends itself to a certainty of opinion, but may have little in common with the collective conception. The captain is accepted as a regularized component of sport and is expected to lead by example both on the field and in the change room.

Most athletes have a clear picture of what a captain means in the context of their own sport, but articulating what makes a good leader is exceedingly difficult. Canadians are acclimatized to visi-

ble captaincy through their experiences with the NHL. Any hockey fan can name their team's captain and a legendary captain from hockey's past. Gordie Howe, Scott Stevens, Mark Messier and Joe Sakic evoke the ethos of what fans expect of an NHL captain: courageous, talented, intimidating and successful. These standards are so clearly defined in the mind's eye of a sports fan that the conceptualization of a team captain is engrained in an athlete from a very young age.

When a team falters during key stretches of the season or has a lacklustre effort in a rivalry game, the same nauseating sporting clichés

often place blame on team captains. Commonplace to any radio station call-in show of a struggling sports franchise is the constant questioning of the team's leadership or 'core.' This implicitly identifies something that seems obvious but is an interesting concept; the captain of the team represents the team's intrinsic identity. However, this responsibility is not without inherent risk. External pressure to make changes to the identity of a team can result in a change in captaincy. After disappointing team performances, captains are not immune to challenges to their position. This was the case for forward Patrick Marleau,

stripped of his captaincy of the San Jose Sharks prior to the 2009–10 NHL season. The team decided his leadership skills, or lack thereof, contributed to the team's repeated failure and rather than trade the player, they chose to take away his leadership position. Alternatively, a captain who achieves success is forever known as someone who was able to elevate his team. The captain shoulders a large amount of the responsibility for the integrity of a team's successes and failures.

The captaincy means different things in different athletic contexts. The captaincy of a football team does not rest on one singular individual to speak on behalf of the team.

Matt Walter, the Dinos football team all-time leading rusher and Calgary Stampeder prospect, said the roster size of a football team and the vastly different aspects of the game necessitate more than one captain. "In football, it is the leadership of a group that functions best," said Walter. "Football is a unique game in the sense that it requires teams [that have] upwards of 50 individuals. Each team ends up being comprised of an incredibly diverse mix of people and personalities."

Walter added that the captaincy of a football team should reflect the diverse group of players. "A small group of captains who each have different relations allows for the greatest sense of unity and structure within the locker room."

Walter said football has a more nuanced understanding of the role of the captain on a team — the captain serves as a leader who is simultaneously accountable to his specialty and his team.

The captaincies of other sports rely on a single individual. Five-year veteran of the Dinos men's soccer team and bio-medical engineering graduate Matthew Reid said the role of a captain on a soccer team is partially to make important decisions.

"On the field, a soccer captain takes the coin toss, making the game decision of which side to choose usually based on the wind and sun," described Reid. "He is also the only player allowed to object to foul calls made by the referee, so other players tend to voice their displeasure to the captain to

see CAPTAINS, page 19

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NEW UNIVERSITY TELEVISION

Dinos skate into playoffs

Jacob McGregor
Gauntlet Sports

Losses have been few and far between for the University of Calgary Dinos women's hockey team this season — the team finished with 26 wins and four losses in the regular season. The Dinos are ranked first in the Canada West conference and are looking forward to success in the playoffs, and head coach and former Team Canada player Danielle Goyette said she is always pushing the team to succeed.

"We have been fortunate to play some good hockey lately, but we are always looking for more from our players," she said.

The Dinos have been an offensive powerhouse this season with the top-three scorers in Canada West: Iya Gavrilova, Stephanie Ramsay and Goyette's former Olympic teammate Hayley Wickenheiser.



Gauntlet file photo

Goyette attributed the team's success to their ability to play as a unit. "We haven't been focusing on just one or two players because one player might be able to win a game, but an individual can't win a championship."

Forwards Erika Mitschke and team captain Tanya Morgan have been important contributors, killing penalties and taking advantage of power plays.

In addition to their exceptional play on the ice, the women have gained a larger fan base over the season. The Dinos switched venues recently from the Olympic Oval to Father David Bauer Arena near the U of C.

"The Oval wasn't very accessible to our fans," explained Goyette. "At Father David Bauer, people no longer have to park far away and walk to the rink. We get more fans at our games now and it makes it much more fun for our players to play the game."

Feeding off this fan support, the Dinos have skated to 12 wins and only one loss at home this season.

The Dinos look to carry their season wins into playoffs starting on Feb. 17 against the University of Lethbridge in a best of three Canada West semi-final.

The three-game series against the University of Lethbridge will start on Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Canada Olympic Park.

Captains, cont'd from pg 18

pass on to the referee." The responsibilities of the captain also extend beyond the field. "Depending on the team, captains may organize players-only meetings, training sessions and also organize team-building exercises."

An aspect of being a team captain is the role as a facilitator of team cohesion.

Both Reid and Walter have a similar perspective about what constitutes a good captain and a good leader. Describing the type of qualities he admires in a captain, Walter mentioned a militaristic flavour.

"Captains set the precedents and demonstrate the individual characteristics required to be successful," said Walter. "A player with

a strong sense of conviction and determination that is willing to go to the edge and backup the man beside him."

The attitude expressed by Walter demonstrates a belief that the captain of a team is naturally accountable for the results on the scoreboard, but more importantly, a captain is responsible to his teammates for his efforts.

Reid echoed this sentiment: "I want the hardest-working player on the field [as captain]. I don't care if he is the least-skilled player on the team and doesn't say a word."

A good captain then is someone who doesn't play for the praise of fans — it is someone who plays for their teammates.

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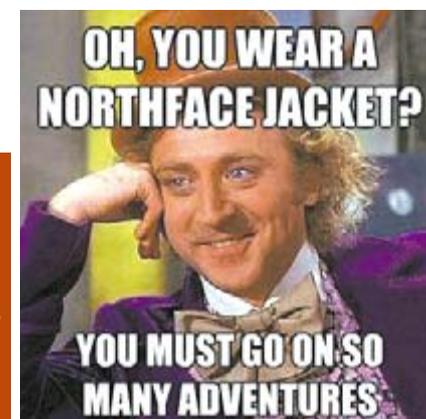
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Matt McMillan
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If you've already have already signed up, either through making the pledge or by entering our GOTV contest last fall, look for our emails, texts and calls. We're going to make sure U of C students have all the information they need to cast their ballot, make their voices heard and ensure that our provincial politicians are really listening. **With new leaders, new parties and new voters, Alberta is about to get interesting.**

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