

THE

GAUNTLET

EST 1960

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UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

NEWS

The University of Calgary unveiled new initiatives to reach its Eyes High goal of being top-five in Canada, page 4.



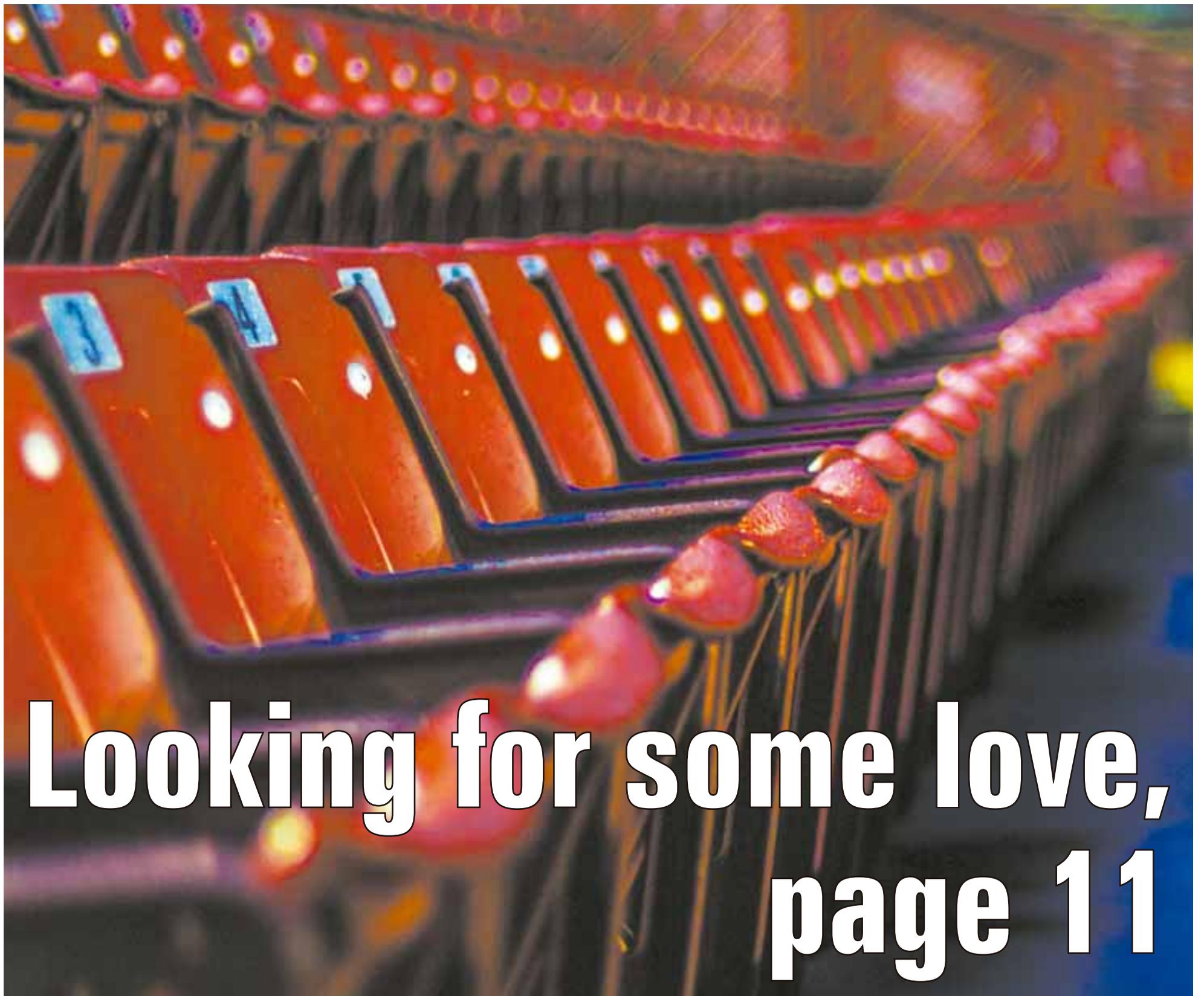
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LAST LECTURE SERIES

Speaker: **BRENDAN KREDELL**

That Empty Space
October 16th
5:30pm



Brendan Kredell teaches film studies in the Department of Communication and Culture at the University of Calgary. He holds a PhD in Screen Culture from Northwestern University and an MA in Cinema and Media Studies from the University of Chicago. He has been the only student of narrative genre and subgenres, including as Edgewise's Edgewise. He has brought his 2012 film to a writing fellow at the University of Toronto, his teaching and research focus on the intersection of media and urban studies, as well as the role of film festivals in the contemporary urbanism. His work has appeared in journals internationally, including the Polar Review of Film and Television Studies and the Canadian Journal of Film Studies. He is currently teaching with the title of Adjunct and has been a collection of essays on film festival studies. In his free time, he writes on the boards of several Calgary press and organizations.






OCTOBER 4, 2012

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Golden Spatula

The Golden Spatula award recognizes the significant contribution of a volunteer who has sacrificed their first born son to the Gauntlet. This week, we thank Dante Bencivenga for obediently following the decrees of Khan and carrying the weight of the world on his shoulders. You are the humble servant to your overlords, Bencivenga. You will be honoured in the afterlife.

-Dante Bencivenga-
 "Everyone has their kick at the can. Mwahahahaha!"

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: thegauntlet.ca. The Gauntlet is printed on recycled paper and uses demon blood based ink. We urge you to recycle/drink the Gauntlet.

Letter Policy

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

The Cover

Cover Photo by Michael Issakidis
 Left Photo by Jonan Alvarez
 Middle Photo courtesy Tyler Stewart/National Music Centre
 Right Photo courtesy Muhammad Ghouri

Reproductive rights not up for debate

For better or for worse, Canada has a tendency to follow in the footsteps of the United States. They go to war, we go to war. They elect a right-wing leader, we elect a right-wing leader. However, there have been a few areas where our country has thankfully retained its autonomy, such as access to public health care, the national legality of gay marriage and our lack of restrictive abortion regulations.

These are the policies we cling to as Canadians — the things that allow us to convince ourselves that no matter how bad it gets, certain things will always be better here than in the U.S. Yet, despite our best efforts, these important freedoms may slip through our fingers.

The flavour of the day in the U.S. is abortion. Republican lawmakers have been pushing hard to restrict the rights of women, limiting the control they have over their own bodies. In some states they have come close — in Virginia, a proposed bill would have made transvaginal ultrasounds mandatory for women who want an abortion.

This regulation, and others like it, are a part of a concerted effort by the Republican party to make it unnecessarily difficult for a woman to get an abortion in a misguided attempt to criminalize it. Canada has done pretty well at avoiding such a debacle.

Until now, that is.

Two separate motions pertaining to abortion regulations have been proposed to the House of Commons in the last two weeks. The first was a motion set forth by Member of Parliament Stephen Woodworth

to reopen the debate on whether fetuses should have rights. Thankfully, it was voted down, with only 10 cabinet ministers voting in favour of the motion. However, one of these 10 ministers was Rona Ambrose, the appointed leader of Canada's Status of Women agency.

Ambrose explained on Twitter that by voting for the motion, she was attempting to open a conversation about sex-selective abortion. A new study from the Canadian Medical Association indicates a depression in female births in some communities, suggesting a trend toward sex-selective abortion.

The second abortion-related motion, which is still up in the air,

was tabled by MP Mark Warawa only a few days after the first was voted down. It asks the House of Commons to officially condemn sex-selective abortions, in order to serve an "educational purpose." Prime Minister Stephen Harper has repeatedly made it clear that he does not support reopening any facet of the abortion debate, and most MPs support him in this stance, so there is little threat of the motion actually passing. However, it is still telling that this issue has been brought up at all. There are a number of politicians with a clear interest in imposing regulations on women's reproductive rights, not to mention a

quarter of Harper's own cabinet.

Canada should not reopen this discussion, and the leader of Canada's Status of Women agency should be the first person to realize this. If we declared that abortion is only acceptable in certain cases, we would be treading down a very dark path. When a government begins to decide what is wrong and what is right in regards to already established women's rights, it is no longer a government that supports freedom and individual rights. The U.S. has been on this road a long time, a road Canada can't begin to walk down.

Gauntlet Editorial Board



sports

Exploring the rationale behind flagging attendance for the dominant U of C football team and a look at the cheerleading team as they hold their tryouts, **page 11.**

news

A U of C initiative to enhance the student experience, a report about relations with China and students make medication available in the developing world, **page 4.**

entertainment

We take a look inside Calgary's National Music Centre, examine the intricacies of flamenco and criticize the Cronenbergs, **page 8.**

opinions

The Prophet Mohammad is vindicated, responsibility is assigned in the E.coli outbreak and toll booth considerations are condemned, **page 14.**

contents

Eyes High looking good so far

Cannon launches second year of strategic plan at community report

Michael Grondin

News Editor

It was just last year that the University of Calgary unveiled its goal of becoming a top-five research institution in Canada by 2016 as part of Eyes High, a five-year strategic plan initially released in fall 2011. Since then, the university has seen many achievements.

"It was one year ago that we came together . . . to launch the Eyes High strategy. That was our commitment to ambitious goals that is going to set us apart as we move to our 50th anniversary," said U of C president Elizabeth Cannon at a community report on Oct. 2.

At the report, the university announced new initiatives as part of the strategy. Over the next year, the U of C will hire 50 assistant professors and 60 postdoctoral scholars. The university has also announced plans to build an institute of teaching and learning.

"We are well on our way to be able to ensure that we reach our goals," said Cannon. "We are going to hold ourselves to the highest standards, nationally and internationally."

Cannon said that the combination of research, teaching and the student experience is the backbone of Eyes High.

"We want to ensure we create an environment for all of you to reach your potential. We want to ensure we are leading the way in integrating teaching and research," said Cannon. "Research informs teaching, teaching informs research and we want to make sure we are looking at how we can bring those together."

In the initial stages of Eyes High, research was the main priority. However, the university admin-



Michael Grondin

President Elizabeth Cannon speaking in front of hundreds of the university community on Oct. 2.

istration and the Students' Union consulted the university community and developed a strategic roadmap, released in April 2011, that ensured all aspects of learning and research would be taken into account.

Cannon said Eyes High looks at the needs of all members of the U of C.

"We heard from our students — they want us focused on teaching. We heard from our faculty — they want to be supported in the classroom," said Cannon. "We want our students to have a great experience inside and outside the classroom."

Cannon said the new institute of

teaching and learning, which does not have an estimated cost at this time, will ensure that students and faculty are supported.

"So this is going to be innovative and transformative in terms of looking at ways to integrate teaching and learning and making sure

our students are supported," said Cannon.

Cannon said investing in new faculty members and postdoctoral scholars will boost the U of C's learning and research capacity.

"We are going to hire 50 new assistant professors here at the

/// We are in one of the fastest growing cities in North America, and there is opportunity surrounding us in literally every direction.

— Hardave Birk, Students' Union president

[U of C], which is really going to transform the academy in terms of bringing in young, creative scholars," said Cannon. "We are going to invest in 60 new postdoctoral scholars, and they are a key part of the research enterprise. We've got to grow our capacity and having postdoctoral scholars from around the world to come to be a part of the research teams is really going to give us a lift."

Cannon said these new initiatives fall directly in line with the goals presented in Eyes High.

SU president Hardave Birk is very optimistic about the Eyes High strategy and its achievements so far. He said as Calgary grows, the U of C should also expand.

"There is a lot of momentum in this city and here at this university especially. After Eyes High was unveiled, I think there was a lot of things happening on campus that truly make us know that this is becoming one of Canada's most forward-thinking institutions," said Birk. "We are in one of the fastest growing cities in North America, and there is opportunity surrounding us in literally every direction."

First-year U of C astrophysics student Tara Strickland said the Eyes High goal of being a top-five research university by 2016 is attainable. She said research is a very important aspect of education.

"We are really academically inclined right now and it seems like a reachable goal," said Strickland. "I think research is a huge part of school. Research is important in building the curriculum and the academic schedule. So I feel it is as equally important as learning in class."

For more information on Eyes High visit ucalgary.ca/eyeshigh

How can the classroom experience be improved?



"Get full-sized left-handed desks."

— Haydn D'souzan, first-year astrophysics



"More inquiry time."

— Kaitlyn Fulton, first-year business



"More foot room."

— Gregory Mathurin, first-year economics



"Better temperature regulation."

— Sara Smith, second-year drama

Dancing with the Dragon

U of C professor advises caution when investing in China

Tamara Cottle

Opinions Editor

Relations between China and Canada have been strengthening over the past few months, as business deals and treaties are under review. However, University of Calgary professor Josephine Smart said more caution should be placed on decisions that affect Canadian business and resources.

“Dancing with the Dragon: Canadian Investment in China and Chinese Investment in Canada,” a new report from the U of C’s school of public policy, urges Canadians to question how much they are willing to sacrifice to Chinese foreign investment.

“Dancing with the Dragon,” which came out on September 6, coincided with the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders’ Meeting in Vladivostok, Russia, where the Canada-China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement was signed. FIPA is a legally binding treaty designed to promote bilateral investment between China and Canada.

According to Smart’s report, Canada’s investment in China in 2011 was \$4.5 billion, while China’s investment in Canada was \$10.9 billion.

With China expected to be-

come the world’s largest economy, Chinese-Canadian relationships are coming into focus, said Smart.

Smart, who teaches anthropology and specializes in Chinese economics, wrote “Dancing with the Dragon” with the intent of creating discourse about the consequences of doing business with China.

“I want people to think about long-term pain versus short-term gain,” said Smart regarding government policies enacted without consideration of the potential long-term effects of selling Canadian resources to foreign investors.

In the report, Smart draws attention to Chinese foreign direct investment policies and their protectionist position towards “strategic resources.”

“The Chinese government has stated very clearly that there are a number of sectors in their economy that they consider as key sectors, or what they call ‘pillar’ sectors,” said Smart. “They are of central importance to national security and they don’t allow wholly

“A democratic system can come up with a coherent strategy. Why do we not have any discussion with Canadians and within the government about the future strategic plan for our country?”

— Josephine Smart, writer of “Dancing with the Dragon”



courtesy Kyle Pearce

Global investment is tricky. Josephine Smart advises caution.

owned foreign investment.” According to Smart, these ‘pillar’ industries include natural resources like water, oil, gas, coal, mining, public goods and servic-

es, telecommunications, military technology, heavy industries and food production.

China welcomes foreign investors in these key sectors, but only under the condition that they will be partnered with state-owned enterprise.

“It is their way of safe-guarding sectors of the economy that they consider key to future national security interest,” said Smart. “As a country with wonderful resources, we have one of the greatest hold-

ings of clean, fresh water in the world, we have tremendous agricultural production capacity and we have the privilege of being a food export country. How can we, as a nation, not safe-guard our production capacity?”

Smart suggests that the Canadian government become more cautious in foreign investment. She also recommends involving more citizens in the process.

“A democratic system can come up with a coherent strategy,” said Smart. “Why do we not have any discussion with Canadians and within the government about the future strategic plan for our country?”

According to a Sun News Abacus Data poll, 69 per cent of respondents opposed the China National Offshore Oil Corporation takeover of Nexen, the Calgary based oil and gas company.

Industry ministers will decide whether the \$15.1 billion takeover by a Chinese state-owned enterprise is in the best interest of Canada.

“I think the question of if this is good or not needs to be more widely discussed and more carefully considered,” said Smart.

To read *Dancing with the Dragon: Canadian Investment in China and Chinese Investment in Canada* visit policyschool.ucalgary.ca

MacHall Redevelopment: what’s your opinion?

STUDENTS
SU
UNION

Hardave Birk
President



Over the last month you may have heard a thing or two about MacHall being renovated, shut down, or needing a bit of work done. You’re probably wondering: what’s going on? Will they need to shut down parts of MacHall while they renovate? Will it cost me anything?

Let me set a few things straight. Recently the university released a proposed master plan for MacHall that includes a conceptual construction cost estimate of more than \$150 million. This plan was

created as a discussion piece between the Graduate Students’ Association and the Students’ Union (SU) to help generate a unified vision of the building.

Your SU understands that MacHall is YOUR student centre. That’s why it is so important to us that no plans are approved for the building until U of C students are properly consulted. Who better to decide whether the building should be renovated or redeveloped than you?

Over the next few months the SU will provide many opportunities for you to get involved in the consultation. On

Oct. 11 from noon to 1 p.m. at the MacHall south courtyard stage there

“You’re probably wondering: what’s going on? Will they need to shut down parts of MacHall while they renovate? Will it cost me anything?”

will be a town hall with the university’s VP Facilities, Bob Ellard. He’ll be taking students through the university’s proposed redevelopment plans and listening to your feedback. So come out, get engaged and have a say in the future of MacHall.

If you can’t make it on Oct. 11, don’t worry. The same day we’ll be launching the MacHall Redevelopment Compass just outside of Stör. Take 10 minutes to have a say on what the top student priorities should be for the future of MacHall. The Compass will be available all semester on most Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Keep your eye out for additional opportunities to give us your opinion throughout the fall semester.

This consultation is one of this year’s most important initiatives. We have an opportunity to set the direction for YOUR student centre for the next 25 years, so get out and make your voice heard. I hope to see you all on Oct. 11.

The Students’ Union advertisement is provided by the SU and published without Gauntlet editorial revision.

Making medicine available

U of C group looks to improve access to medication in developing countries

Anshini Shah

Gauntlet News

A University of Calgary club is shedding light on policies affecting accessibility of medicines in developing countries.

Roughly 10 million people die every year due to a lack of essential medicines. These deaths are preventable, however, current global health and patent policies make life-saving medications unaffordable for much of the developing world.

The Universities Allied for Essential Medicines chapter at the U of C is advocating to change these patent policies. The group is encouraging the university to implement changes that will make health technologies developed at the U of C more accessible to countries with limited health resources.

UAEM is an international student organization committed to making patented drugs more affordable in developing nations. UAEM started in 2001 when a group of Yale medical students worked to reduce the price of HIV/AIDS medication in sub-Saharan Africa.

According to UAEM Calgary co-founder and U of C medical student Adam Wiebe, UAEM recognizes that universities provide significant funding for health-related research and are



Gauntlet file photo

Many people in developing countries do not have access to medication. UAEM is trying to change that.

key players in deciding patent policies.

UAEM calls on universities to sell patent rights to standard drug companies that can distribute affordable medicines to developing countries, while selling those rights to pharmaceutical companies. This would ensure that sales can still be maintained in western markets, while allowing essential medicines to be distributed to developing regions of the world.

“Our main focus at the moment is to get involved with work being done about exchanging licensing and patent policies and also to empower students to learn more

about global health issues,” said Wiebe.

Wiebe founded the U of C chapter with fellow medical student Autumn Michonski in May 2011 after learning about UAEM.

The University of British Columbia has found success working with the UAEM mandate. Important UBC health technologies, such as a recently developed medication to treat parasites, will be available to developing nations at reduced-patent prices.

Currently, UAEM Calgary is working to build support from students at the U of C while also trying to get professors on board

with their cause.

“At the moment, a lot of the research at the university that’s close to being marketed isn’t super useful for resource-poor countries,” said Wiebe. “But the point is to get licensing policy reform ahead of time in case something does come up.”

Director of the U of C Global Health Training Program Christine Gibson thinks the students are doing valuable work.

“I think what these students are doing is fantastic,” said Gibson. “We have an ethical and moral obligation to provide the expertise and research that we are doing at a

university level globally.”

Gibson is also the co-founder of Global Generation, a non-profit organization that supports family physician training programs in Laos and Tanzania. Physician care in developing countries has many challenges, according to Gibson, the biggest being the lack of access to medication.

“A lot of the time, patients can’t afford the medicines the doctors prescribe, so they will go to a store and buy some really old medicines that may not be safe. When it comes to diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, that causes more harm than good.”

UAEM Calgary is currently focusing on raising awareness on campus through events like movie nights, poster campaigns and a Global Access to Medicines Month, which is a collective awareness event held by UAEM chapters across the world to harness support and promote advocacy for university licensing reform.

UAEM Calgary is getting involved with licensing reform at the university through Innovate Calgary, which is responsible for commercializing technologies created at the U of C. Innovate Calgary is an organization with goals to ensure that any technologies created at the U of C reach developing markets.

To get involved visit
essentialmedicine.org

U of C opened its doors to Calgary

Reem Ghaleb

Gauntlet News

Calgary hosted its first annual Doors Open YYC Naked event at 35 sites across the city on Sept. 29–30, offering the public a free, behind-the-scenes look at the city’s most impressive architecture. The public could tour

sites all over the city of cultural, historical, artistic and mechanical importance.

The University of Calgary participated in Do YYC with exclusive tours of the Central Heating and Cooling Plant, Olympic Oval, the Taylor Family Digital Library and the Energy, Environment, Experimental Learning building.

According to the TFDL’s director of cultural and community programs Donna Livingstone, over 70 people visited the TFDL.

“It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase our new building to the wider Calgary community,” said Livingstone.

She said it was also an opportunity to answer many questions.

Lougheed House, a national historic site in Calgary’s downtown, also had several visitors.

“I think the important thing is that people are going to be able to see things that they wouldn’t be able to see the rest of the year,” said executive director of Lougheed House Blane Hogue. “The whole purpose of this is so that people in

Calgary — whether they are born here or new to Calgary — can get to understand what makes this city.”

Head gardener of Lougheed House Marie Gattinger also said Do YYC was an opportunity to see the ins and outs of the city.

“Don’t just stay at home. Go and see your own city,” she said.

Put together a study group and do some field research on angles and slopes.

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Calgary Serves seeks students

Emily Macphail

Gauntlet News

Students at the University of Calgary have many opportunities to get engaged with the community.

Calgary Serves is a program run by the Centre for Community Engaged Learning and is currently recruiting for its upcoming projects. Calgary Serves started at the U of C in 2009 and is a series of co-curricular service learning experiences that students can take part in during the year.

CCEL is a service-learning initiative that is different from other volunteer experiences because, according to the CCEL website, “the benefits of a partnership are shared equally between the service provider and the recipient of service.”

The first Calgary Serves project at the U of C was in 2009, when students volunteered with an elementary school in Vancouver. They learned about problems facing inner cities and how commu-

nities work to overcome them.

Calgary Serves has also provided students with reading week opportunities in Calgary through Homelessness at Home, Youth by Youth digital storytelling and volunteer opportunities in New Orleans.

Calgary Serves will run three reading week programs this year. Homelessness at Home will focus on the connections between homelessness and mental health.

The New Orleans project expanded this year into two separate programs. The first explores food security and social justice issues such as race and poverty while exposing students to urban agriculture. The second will look into community and participants will help build homes.

CCEL’s learning coordinator Alycia Lauzon has been involved with service learning on campus since 2006.

“They were incredible, eye-opening and life-changing experiences. It was a really profound experience — so significant in my

university career,” said Lauzon.

Lauzon said that the primary changes to the program this year were in terms of size and partnership. Calgary Serves will continue to expand, giving more students the opportunity to participate.

Lauzon said that this has increased student and staff awareness of the initiatives presented by Calgary Serves and CCEL.

In 2012, a partnership with the Students’ Union helped increase funding, allowing the program to double its participants from 12 to 24 students.

Calgary Serves also runs an international program in May that gives students the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica. Volunteers live in a small island community on Isla Chira and learn about issues surrounding rural tourism while carrying out service projects and supporting English language learning in local schools.

Lauzon said that Costa Rica was chosen to be the international project location for many reasons.

“It’s not a totally undeveloped nation, so it’s not quite as huge of a culture shock for students, but it’s definitely different. [There are] really unique ecosystems, so developers want to come in and develop the space but local residents are re-

ally resistant to that,” said Lauzon.

CCEL’s service-learning assistant and fourth-year development studies student Brittany Vine has participated in Homelessness at Home and the program in New Orleans.

“It’s a great way to learn more about what is happening in the community, whether it’s in

Calgary or abroad, and a way to learn while volunteering and bring that knowledge back,” said Vine. “There are learning opportunities and leadership opportunities.”

Applications are due October 12 at 4:30 p.m.

For more information visit
ucalgary.ca/ccel

It’s a great way to learn more about what is happening in the community, whether it’s in Calgary or abroad.

– Brittany Vine, CCEL service learning assistant

THE STUDENTS’ UNION, UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

NOTICE OF ACCLAMATION

In accordance with section 56 of the The Union Bylaw, the Chief Returning Officer declares the following person elected to the position to which they were nominated:

Faculty Representative, Social Work

Robyn Romano

Chief Returning Officer: Sadie Shrestha
Students’ Union, MSC 251
cro@su.ucalgary.ca

Dated at the University of Calgary in the City of Calgary, Province of Alberta, this 26th day of September, 2012.




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A national treasure

Calgary's National Music Centre offers musicians amazing opportunities



Jason Troock and Lyle Bell of Shout Out Out Out Out playing the Roger Luther custom modular Moog, one of the many unique instruments housed at the National Music Centre.

courtesy National Music Centre

Taylor McKee

Sports Editor

With the advancement of modern recording technology, there is now an overabundance of ways for musicians to make an album. For instance, if a band wants to select a keyboard sound, there are thousands of choices between the different effects and tones to properly suit their recordings. However, the choice is less clear cut when trying to decide on a recording space — what separates one from another? In the case of the National Music Centre, it is quite easy to see what makes their recording space special.

There is no way to properly replicate the sounds produced by classic instruments, something that the NMC has in spades. During a visit to Calgary, members of the Flaming Lips, including lead singer Wayne Coyne, paid a visit to the collections at the NMC to see their instrument collection before playing a show just to have to opportunity to see their classic instrument collection. With such an impressive reputation,

it is easy to see why the opportunity presented by NMC's artist in residence program is drawing attention from artists all over the country.

The NMC — formerly the Cantos Music Foundation — offers an artist in residency program designed to allow artists that have displayed creative proficiency in their genre the chance to create and record with the immense selection of instruments in the NMC collection. The idea is that truly unique projects can be created if artists are allowed to immerse themselves among the collections.

The program is open to any type of musician from anywhere in Canada. Selected artists are flown to Calgary with accommodation provided throughout the duration of the residency, the length of which depends on the scope of the musician's project.

"The residency program came to be out of countless musicians saying that they would love to come in and record," says Brandon Smith, the programming assistant for the NMC. "What we offer that is different from everybody else is the sheer variety of equipment.

Many of the instruments we have here are exceedingly rare. Some of them are one of a kind."

Currently, there have been four artists in residence, each one from distinctly different musical backgrounds, from electronic music to jazz. As far as electronic music is concerned, NMC is home to one of the most diverse and extensive collections of keyboards and synthesizers in the world. NMC also possesses a remarkable compendium of musical artifacts, including a Dolmetsch clavichord and the synthesizer used to speak to alien life forms in the 1977 movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*.

The very first artist in residence was Toronto's Kurt Swinghammer, a singer-songwriter and visual artist.

"It was jaw-dropping to walk in there for the first time," says Swinghammer. "It was astounding, I had never seen so many instruments in one place. What was on the main floor was just the tip of the iceberg."

Initially, Swinghammer's intentions were modest in the face of NMC's vast collection. The NMC

boasts an extensive list of instruments available to artists to select from when they apply for the residency, allowing them to have an idea of what they would like to create before they arrive.

"My first proposal was to work with one piece of gear and just to explore it . . . but I shifted my proposal," says Swinghammer. "It really was a unique opportunity to record with truly legendary and rare instruments."

Swinghammer also noted that being the first artist in residence meant that he was more or less a guinea pig that allowed the NMC to work out how to record with musicians while integrating the collection of vintage instruments.

"What also makes this experience special is that this is a living museum," says Jason Troock of Shout Out Out Out Out in a video produced by the NMC describing the band's experiences there.

The members of sooooo are one of the most recent participants in the artist in residency program, and had a public performance displaying their creations on August 30. sooooo are an Edmonton electronic-rock band that have re-

leased three studio albums — their most recent, *Spanish Moss and Total Loss*, was released this summer.

"Our proposal was essentially to come in and make a record of some kind that was based entirely around the collection at the NMC," says sooooo lead singer Nik Kozub in the video. "Whichever instrument I sit down in front of ends up being one of the most inspiring instruments I have ever played."

There is little doubt that the NMC is one of Calgary's most renowned cultural institutions, even if the public may not be completely aware of the depth of its collections. The NMC's goal is to expand the residency program to attract more artists, eventually from all over the world.

"The idea is that our instruments will inspire creativity," says Smith. "If you have never sat down in front of a real Wurlitzer electric piano — you have only ever played imitations of it — it will inspire you to come up with ideas. That's when the magic happens."

Flamenco stomps into Calgary

The Calgary International Flamenco Festival showcases Spanish music

Renee Matsalla

Gauntlet Entertainment

For its second year, the Calgary International Flamenco Festival transported audiences from their Canadian hometown into southern Spain. Passionate dancers, cool percussion and aggressive guitars were featured during the week-long festival in celebration of the traditional music of Spanish gypsies. From September 23–29, Calgarians were able to witness one of the most intricate and alluring music forms in the world.

“It is a very unique opportunity for Calgary audiences to get out and experience flamenco in

its many different forms, from innovative flamenco to fusion to traditional,” says Fiona Malena, the festival’s artistic director.

Flamenco music originated from impoverished Spanish gypsies in the 1700s and lives on today in modern Spain and around the world. The music features complicated rhythms mixed with booming guitars, furious feet and ominous vocals that can emit any emotion, from pure elation to absolute agony. Flamenco musicians are famous for turning random objects into percussion instruments. Guitars, tables, chairs, anvils — you name it, they’ve played it. The talented dancers are also a part of

the music, as their stomping feet and clapping hands mix with other instruments to create an addictive art form.

The organizers of this unique festival are ecstatic to bring their passion for this relatively unknown music and dance style to Canada, a country many miles away from Spain.

“That is what the festival is all about: introducing the art form to new audience members,” says Malena. “Every show has been very distinct. There really is something for everyone.”

The festival showcased four main concerts, as well as workshops throughout the week that

allowed audiences to get a taste of every facet of flamenco music. Holly Blazina, a local flamenco guitarist featured in the performance on Sept. 29, said the festival had amazing opportunities for local talent to work with some of the best flamenco artists in the world.

“For me, the highlight of the festival was the workshop with Victor El Tomate, the guitarist,” says Blazina. “I got to work with such a high-level artist. I would not have had the contacts to do that on my own, and it was at a fraction of what it would cost me to go to Spain.”

The focal point of the festival was the main show on Sept. 28,

which featured one of the world’s best flamenco dancers, Manuel Liñán. The audience erupted in clapping, cheers and the occasional “Ole!” in response to the technically precise and captivating Spanish dancer.

“It is wonderful in our second year to be able to present such an important artist,” says Malena. “The charisma, technical genius and energy he carries forth from the stage is really outstanding.”

It is hard to believe that the festival is so young when considering the calibre of performers the organizers have brought to Calgary. However, the festival is still very new and has experienced some challenges in a city full of festivals.

“We have a volunteer base, but we hope it grows in following years,” says Malena. “We are all doing our best, but we would love to dedicate our time to being at the shows or performances.”

With luck, the Calgary International Flamenco Festival will be able to grow even larger in the coming years, securing its niche as a part of Calgary’s ever-expanding art scene.

“The vision is to build on what we have now,” says Malena. “We hope to do better in future years, be able to offer more activities to the public and extend our marketing so that we can have a wider audience of people who have not been exposed to flamenco before. We are really happy with the festival this year and we would just like to build from there.”

For more information on the Calgary International Flamenco Festival visit calgaryflamencofestival.com.



Michael Rudy

photo contest

Every month the *Gauntlet* hosts a photo contest. September’s winner was Michael Rudy with his photograph entitled “Horizontal.”

“The sun sets over the tundra of a remote, isolated valley in the Ruby Ranges of the Yukon Territory. I was lucky enough to work in this valley over the summer as a research assistant on a project studying the impact of climate change, and was treated to this view one evening. This was a very unique moment, as one of the few clear, bright sunsets we had during an otherwise cold and rainy field season.”

— Michael Rudy

Submit up to three of your own photos to photo@thegauntlet.ca each month for a chance to have your art featured in the *Gauntlet*.

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Movie Review: *Antiviral*

Brandon Cronenberg's directorial debut proves he's a chip off the old block

Ben Rowe

Gauntlet Entertainment

Antiviral is the feature film debut of Brandon Cronenberg, son of famed Canadian filmmaker David Cronenberg. Set in the near-future, this parable about celebrity worship depicts a society willing to pay to be injected with celebrities' diseases just to feel closer to them. Syd March (Caleb Landry Jones) works for the Lucas Clinic, which buys and sells these celebrity illnesses. However, Syd is also injecting himself with the diseases in order to sell them to piracy groups. What follows is a dark and disturbing tale that raises interesting questions about obsessions and idolizations.

The opening scenes of *Antiviral* establish a pattern of striking imagery, dense symbolism and nearly opaque characters that clearly set it in the paradigm of Canadian, federally-funded, sci-fi, body horror films. In other

words, it quite clearly carries on the Cronenberg tradition. Indeed, *Antiviral* is very much in the style of the elder Cronenberg's early works. It calls to mind *Videodrome* in particular, especially in the broad strokes — a morally ambiguous protagonist stumbles upon a hidden technology that affects a change in his identity, and ping-pongs in his allegiances between the sides of the conspiracy as the plot requires him to. Like *Videodrome*'s Max Renn, Syd lacks a discernible character of his own — when the plot needs him to be a parasite he's a parasite, but then he'll suddenly develop a set of virtuous morals. Sometimes he's an ignorant puppet of larger forces, but at other times he'll be the mastermind controlling them. He's a Rorschach test for the audience in many ways, but as a character he is frustratingly inscrutable.

Antiviral spends much of its beginning primarily concerned with mood, worldbuilding, themes and



courtesy Rhombus Media

symbolism, which is unsurprising. What is surprising, however, is that in the second act the movie begins to develop a plot. It spins a corporate conspiracy yarn that actually continues to hold up and make sense even as the film indulges in nightmare imagery and standard Cronenberg/Kafka twists and turns. Brandon has made a film extremely similar to his father's style, but his story holds up better than some of his dad's early work. This plotline, inaugurated by the entrance of Dr. Abendroth

(Malcolm McDowell), manages to sustain the movie and give it forward momentum for the majority of its remaining minutes, even as it continues to meander along.

On a thematic level, *Antiviral* works very well. It is doggedly dedicated to its theme: the exploration of our parasitic relationship with celebrities. It draws its metaphors tighter and tighter until the final image of the film is essentially a literal representation of the central theme. On a character basis, however, the movie is unsatisfying

and as a piece of entertainment it largely fails. The movie is interesting on an intellectual level — many film students could write a promising paper on it — but it fails to connect emotionally or viscerally.

The biggest question *Antiviral* raises, unfortunately, is not about any of its themes or content, but simply, "Why is Brandon Cronenberg so obviously riding his father's coattails?" The film is so entirely in his father's style that it would be easy to simply assume it is a product of the elder Cronenberg. Most celebrity offspring seek to distance themselves creatively from their parents, but Brandon is positioning himself to all but ascend to the body horror throne as Cronenberg 2.0. The name and content associations of the film probably made it easier to get Telefilm funding, but it disappoints any who might have hoped Brandon had something artistically unique to say. Perhaps next time the apple will fall a little further from the tree.

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Louie Villanueva

Empty seats common for Dinos football

Richard Goldberger

Gauntlet Sports • @RGoldberger

The University of Calgary Dinos football team is truly outstanding. Currently ranked second in the nation — and coming off a 41-point victory over their rivals, the University of Saskatchewan Huskies — the squad has their sights set on winning their fifth-straight Hardy Cup championship, a feat that would be the first in the history of the Canada West conference.

This year, the team will be vying for the Canadian Interuniversity Sport Vanier Cup for the third time in four years. It seems as though the Dinos have picked up this season right where they left off. After blazing to a 5-0 start, the Dinos have amassed some pretty impressive numbers so far this season — except for in the bleachers.

Entering the 2012 season, it was no secret that the football team was excellent and had an outstanding home record — 4-0 at home and 8-0 overall last season.

In 2011, the Dinos cruised to yet another CW championship and a home game in the national semifinals. So far this season they've convincingly won their first three home games against the University

of Regina Rams, the Kickoff game against the University of Alberta Golden Bears and their latest game against the U of S Huskies. In their first five games, the Dinos outscored their opponents by a staggering 242-50.

Despite the team's continuing success, one thing that has incessantly frustrated coaches, faculty directors and players alike has been attendance records — or lack thereof — for Dinos home games.

In spite of tremendous success in the 2011 season, which featured an explosive offense, a virtually untouchable defense and an average margin of victory at 19.5 points per game, the Dinos had a minuscule average attendance of only 1,265 fans per home game.

A team playing at such a high calibre certainly deserves more support from the student body than what they have seen in previous seasons. In last year's Mitchell Bowl — the western CIS semifinal — the Dinos played in McMahon Stadium in late November in -25 C. Regardless, the team was coming off their second-straight appearance in the national championship game, and all the fan support they could receive was a measly average of 1,265 fans for four home games.

Sadly, this troubling trend is all

too familiar for the university as poor attendance records have been a concern of the program since their first national championships in 1983 and 1985. This season, the Dinos averaged 3,292 fans for each of their first two home games, putting the U of C 16th out of 26 in football attendance for schools across Canada.

One problem has been retaining students who attend the Kickoff game during orientation week. Game one of the season had 1,818 fans versus the Rams whereas the Kickoff game brought 5,309 fans.

The most recent game on

16/26

The ranking that the U of C has for average attendance in the CIS, averaging 2,640 fans per game. The U of C is the only school ranked in the top-five of the CIS rankings not in the top-10 in attendance.

24,935

The attendance at the 2011 Vanier Cup in Vancouver, B.C. between McMaster University and the University of Laval. McMaster won 41-38.

September 29 versus the U of S at home was an important game in terms of gauging the progress of fan support this season. The first game was before the start of the semester and the following game was the Kickoff game, which usually produces the highest attendance of the season.

The Kickoff game gave U of C marketing directors and faculty some hope that student attendance may be improving. However, Saturday's pounding of the U of S only managed to bring out 2,089 fans — a major disappointment once again, bringing their average

5,185

The difference in average fans per game between the U of C and Laval University which is ranked first in attendance. If the Dinos doubled their average fans per game, they would still be over 2,000 fans short of Laval.

3,970

The average attendance of all CIS football games in week five. In week five, the Dinos drew 1,881 fans fewer than the national average.

home attendance down to 3,098 per home game this season.

So the question that remains is, What keeps students from attending home games? It couldn't be the location since the football team plays in a top-notch facility in McMahon Stadium right next to campus. By comparison, the University of Manitoba Bisons play on a barren field surrounded by what looks like a high school running track with nothing but prairie flats behind it — this makes McMahon look like the Roman Colosseum.

It certainly couldn't be the level of talent on the field considering the Dinos haven't lost a home game since September 4, 2010. Furthermore, this September has been delightfully warm every weekend so far, ruling out weather as a possibility. What is left? Perhaps the lack of football culture around the university makes it a challenge to entice students to games.

"It's a long-term problem this campus has faced," said Dinos communications director Ben Matchett. "The fact that it's become so deep-seeded is a part of the problem. It's not just about culture, it's about pride. Once we engage with the whole campus and the community, a lot of other things

see ATTENDANCE, page 12

Attendance, continued from page 11

will become easier to do.”

Universities all over the country take pride in their football programs. Pep rallies and homecomings that were once a staple for uniting students and building team spirit for upcoming football games are almost non-existent in western Canada, but remain a rite of passage in smaller schools out east. However, a major problem Matchett expressed was playing in a major city.

“The other major cities all have the same problem as us: there are always other options for entertainment and sports,” said Matchett. “We need more creative marketing solutions.”

Matchett’s argument gains strength when you consider that smaller universities throughout Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime provinces have some of the highest average attendances in the country.

“It’s like the double-edged sword,” said Dinos marketing coordinator Alex Molotsky. “Someone will want to go to a game but their friends won’t and vice versa. There are almost always other things to do.”

Unfortunately, students around campus had many reasons for not attending games.

“I usually don’t know when the games are — they’re not very well advertised around campus,” said Shakiyl Payne, a second-year natural science major.

“There’s no reason to get excited,” said Andrew Fahim, a fourth-year health sciences major.

Nevertheless, Molotsky is optimistic that future support is not out of reach: “We need to focus on three groups: U of C students, under-18 athletics programs around the city and university alumni. The hope is that these three groups will help spill out support into other areas of the university and the community,” said Molotsky.

However, the number one issue Matchett has determined for student apathy was simply that U of C students “don’t know when the games are. And if that’s the excuse, then let’s eliminate it. We need to start at the basic level — raising awareness.”

Dinos athletics have made great strides with their social media campaigns over the past year, in addition to the “Proud to be a Dino” campaign that started in the spring to help students build pride around athletics programs. The campaign focuses on getting students, staff and faculty to associate as Dinos, regardless of their relationship to athletics. The goal is to instill pride in the university as a whole.

Nevertheless, the U of C Dinos deserve to be celebrated within the student body, starting by filling the stands. Unfortunately, the issue of dreary attendance expands beyond football. With some of the best athletic teams in the country, fans should come out to cheer them on. And in case anyone has forgotten: games are free for students. Show the Dinos some love.



Louise Villeneuve

Huskies leave with tail between their legs

The Dinos football team defeated the University of Saskatchewan Huskies 45–4 on Sep. 29 at McMahon Stadium. The Dinos held the Huskies to one first down during the entire second half and 123 yards in total offense. By comparison, the Dinos had 618 yards in offense and receiver Richard Snyder had 238 yards receiving, 157 more yards than the total yards passing for the Huskies.

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Notice to Gauntlet Members

The Gauntlet Publications Society will hold its Annual General Meeting on Monday Oct. 29 at 6:00PM in MSC Bianca

All questions should be directed to Business Manager Evelyn Cone at 403.220.7380.

U of C cheer team strut their stuff



Louie Villanueva

Justin Seward
Gauntlet Sports

Cheerleading squads have become an unmistakable part of the North American sporting landscape. During play stoppages, their presence is designed to keep the crowd's energy up and enhance the overall entertainment experience of the sport. The first known cheerleaders were in 1897 when the Princeton University football team named three male students "cheer leaders." Cheerleading has been a part of collegiate sport in North America ever since.

The University of Calgary is

home to a burgeoning cheerleading program. The program has developed since its inception last year. The new squad's tryouts are in the first week of October.

For this season, the U of C cheer team will be appearing at all Dinos men's basketball home games.

"We started in January when we had our tryouts, and we had a chance to perform at men's basketball games in between quarters," said vice-president of marketing and communications for the U of C cheer team Crystal Watson. "We had 15 to 20 girls last year and we are looking at expanding. We have looked at changing the structure of our club this year."

The team itself is differentiated. For instance, not every participant will be trying out for the dance team. There will be a group of cheerleaders assigned to the "cheer zone" for those wanting to help out with the crowd at basketball games.

The second part of the team is called the "red shirt" tier, consisting of those who are not on the actual dance team but attend practice and rehearse with the dance crew. The cheerleading dance team will be selected from the most skilled in the tryout process.

"I did cheerleading for a year in grade 10 and I have been dancing for my entire life. I came to

the university and there was not a cheer team. I found this surprising and disappointing," said Brittany Maddox, a second-year dance major and current vice-president of the team.

Maddox added that having a cheer team helps grow school spirit around campus. "As we are expanding and growing we want to be more involved and make it more exciting to come to football and basketball games," said Maddox.

Watson also pointed out that cheerleading is not gender exclusive.

"It is open both to guys and girls," said Watson. "We're looking

for more community opportunities this year such as volunteering with different events and promoting athletics."

It is no secret that the U of C's cup is not exactly running over with pep and the cheerleading team is endeavouring to remedy this shortfall. The cheerleading team is looking to become a permanent fixture around campus and wants to help bolster flagging school spirit. If the cheerleaders are successful, going to Dinos games will be a lot more exciting.

The Dinos cheer team will make their first appearance at the men's basketball home opener against Mount Royal University on Oct. 19.

Calling All Undergraduate Researchers!



Kenya-Jade Pinto
SU VP Academic



If you're a budding mad scientist, a passionate presenter, or you'd just like to share your hard work, the Students' Union wants to hear from you.

I'm Kenya-Jade, your Students' Union VP Academic, and I'm incredibly excited to share with you that we are now accepting abstracts from all faculties for this year's Undergraduate Research Symposium. If you have a research project that is underway

or completed, your SU is offering you an opportunity to showcase your accomplishments and compete for your share of over \$20,000 in awards.

The 7th annual symposium will take place on Nov. 29 but now is the time to get your abstracts in to be featured at this prestigious event. This growing event features the impressive work of 100 competitively chosen undergraduate researchers, and provides an excellent opportunity to network and mingle

with fellow students, accomplished professors, and adjudicators.

As a bonus, all participants in this

“If you have a research project that is underway or completed, your SU is offering you an opportunity to showcase your accomplishments and compete for your share of over \$20,000 in awards.”

year's event will be invited to attend a reception where we will formally celebrate your exceptional work.

You can access the abstract submission form and guidelines on the SU website at www.su.ucalgary.ca. The abstract submission deadline is Monday Oct. 29, 2012. If you haven't completed a research project but want to become more involved stop by our on-site service and resource fair, ask questions of your peer researchers, and learn about what some of the brightest minds in undergraduate research at the U of C have accomplished. I'm both privileged and honored to represent such a diverse and passionate student population and can't wait to see, share, and learn about some of your work!

The Students' Union advertisement is provided by the SU and published without Gauntlet editorial revision.

Innocence of Mohammad

Sumaira Ahmed
Gauntlet Opinions



The character of the Prophet Mohammad has come under attack again by Islamophobes with a 15 minute movie trailer posted on YouTube entitled “Innocence of Muslims.” The trailer has wounded the hearts of many Muslims worldwide.

Creating hatred and prejudice through deliberate falsification of historical facts has been a powerful tool used throughout history to legitimize the exploitation of groups of people and undermine their rights of freedom and self-determination.

Every era has had its share of scapegoats. Early European colonizers dehumanized Africans in order to justify the practice of slavery. Anti-Semitism was built upon a hate-filled interpretation of Jewish history to serve certain political ends. Women’s contributions to societies were largely ignored to deem them intellectually and morally inferior.

It does not come as a surprise that the current target is Islam.

And why not? Any revolutionary ideology that advocates for the rights of people — like Islam — will not be well-liked by those in power.

Islam is a nation of 1.5 billion followers from every ethnicity, nation and walk of life. This fact speaks for itself. Islam is a religion of peace and justice and the messenger of Islam, the Prophet Mohammad, was the epitome of virtue and high morals. This is why Muslims say “peace be upon him” after speaking his name.

Attempts to attack and delegitimize Islam have a long history. The most violent enemies of Mohammad were the oppressive Arab chiefs of Mecca, who were threatened by Islam’s equality and justice. Though they failed in their mission, many other groups have since attempted to undermine Islam. Yet, even the enemies of Mohammad knew better than to attack his character, since he was famously known among the Arabs as “the truthful” and “the trustworthy.”

Mohammad and his followers faced exile from Mecca, social and economic boycott, conspiracy and murder of their loved ones. Yet, when Mohammad recaptured

Mecca, he forgave his enemies and let them live in peace. It is not often in history that we have seen such clemency on the part of a general towards his captives. Mohammad practiced and preached the principle that “people are either your brothers in faith, or your equals in humanity.”

To this day, thousands of non-

ity, the utter self-effacement of the Prophet, the scrupulous regard for pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission.”

In 1936, George Bernard Shaw, co-founder of the London School of Economics, wrote, “If a man like

It was not the sword that won a place for Islam It was the rigid simplicity, the utter self-effacement of the Prophet, the scrupulous regard for pledges, his intense devotion to his friends and followers, his intrepidity, his fearlessness, his absolute trust in God and in his own mission.

— Mahatma Gandhi

Muslims have attested to the Prophet’s piety, compassion and deep concern for humanity.

Mahatma Gandhi stated, “It was not the sword that won a place for Islam It was the rigid simplic-

him were to assume the dictatorship of the modern world, he would succeed in solving all its problems in a way that would bring it the much needed peace and happiness.”

Writer Thomas Carlyle, after re-

alizing the extent to which Europeans had distorted the Prophet’s character, wrote, “The lies, which well-meaning zeal has heaped around this man, are disgraceful to ourselves only.”

We degrade ourselves when we allow falsehoods to define our conceptions of entire groups of people.

Some claim that slandering a beloved prophet of 1.5 billion people is a matter of free speech. However, even those people would acknowledge that free speech has limits. Verbal abuse is not free speech. Making racist, sexist or anti-Semitic comments is not free speech. Publicly slandering Islam is not free speech.

A deliberately provoked attack on a major world religion is not free speech — it is hate speech. We should recognize and condemn Islamophobia and question the motives of those who promote it under the guise of free speech. Media publicizes Muslim violence but remains largely silent on the thousands who protest peacefully. The consequences are that falsehoods and division are created. Let us do our part to spread the truth and build a world free of hatred.

Mystery meat infects Canadians with fear

Tamara Cottle
Opinions Editor



On September 4, the United States Food Safety and Inspection Service informed the Canadian Food Inspection Agency that a shipment of Alberta beef was tainted with E. coli. It took nine days for CFIA inspectors to arrive at the XL Foods plant in Brooks, Alberta for further testing, and another three days before a massive recall of products from across Canada, the U.S. and Puerto Rico ensued. On September 27, the CFIA temporarily suspended XL Foods licence, leaving its more than 2,000 employees in financial limbo. To date, four people in Alberta have been infected with the E. coli strain linked to

the XL Foods outbreak.

With recent cuts to the CFIA, the Harper government has left the onus on agriculture corporations to regulate their own food safety measures. Now, with the largest beef recall in Canadian history, the government has come under attack for not protecting its citizens adequately.

XL Foods is also facing condemnation for lacking food safety diligence in its internal operation.

Though providing consumers with quality product is important, making money is the bottom line for most companies. Therefore, it is assumed that there would be a conflict of interest in company inspectors.

XL Foods is the largest slaughterhouse in Canada. In 2004, the Brooks plant processed about 35

per cent of Canada’s beef. The billion dollar beef industry is Alberta’s highest grossing in the agriculture sector.

Last fall, during a collective bargaining agreement with XL Foods in Brooks, union negotiators raised concerns about the high number of carcasses being processed. Union members felt that a 4,800 cattle per day quota was too high to maintain without compromising both public and worker safety. The issue was quashed without resolve and it was business as usual for XL Foods until recently.

The more than 1,500 products torn off shelves cannot be attributed to incompetent government officials or morally duplicitous corporations. The massive dumping of suspect beef is a result of our own fear-fueled ignorance.

This public safety scare typifies the relationship most Canadians have with their food. Most of us know very little about where it’s coming from and what’s in it. We know even less about the people producing it and the conditions through which it is being produced.

Worst of all, much of the food that we depend on is harming us in unknown ways.

So far, we know that the beef being recalled is potentially tainted with E. coli. How this contamination occurred is still a mystery.

see MYSTERY MEAT, page 15



Toll booths threaten road congestion

Jeremy Woo
Gauntlet Opinions



Whether stuck in a crowded bus crawling along the Trans-Canada Highway or waiting in a parking lot of congestion along Glenmore Trail, Calgary commuters experience frustrating gridlock on a daily basis. Comments made by Mac Logan, Calgary's general manager of transportation, on September 15 suggest that tolls on major roads may be in the city's future in order to meet a significant transportation budget deficit. Unfortunately, this plan to increase revenue would suffocate Calgary's clogged transportation network, triggering numerous undesirable problems for years to come.

Perhaps the most obvious of these problems is the added congestion that road tolls cause. Long lineups at toll pay stations would be a traffic nightmare, especially during peak travel hours. Lines of impatient motorists may cause undue gridlock. Furthermore, the implementation of toll booths and their respective lineups take up much space. Calgary has little room on major

roadways to put the necessary infrastructure in place. With many exits and entranceways onto our freeways and expressways, decisions would have to be made whether to place booths on every entrance or close onramps. Either would cause significant problems, whether due to limited onramps and exits or the expense of constructing toll booths. The former would necessitate a revision of Calgary's city map, while the latter would need a large investment from strained government coffers. Both would cause traffic congestion and delays.

Additionally, one has to question the potential effectiveness of toll booths in Calgary. As a prairie city, Calgarians are blessed with relatively level topography resulting in a roadmap resembling a grid. This reduces the effectiveness of tolls in that they can be easily avoided by the astute commuter. Cities where toll booths exist often have geographical limitations in their transportation systems, like Vancouver, British Columbia, where the downtown core is located on an island. There are few ways to drive to the commercial district in Vancouver, and therefore tolls along tunnels and bridges are unavoidable. This is not the case in Calgary, where a

regular downtown commuter using Deerfoot Trail from the south could avoid a toll on the highway by using a plethora of other routes, like McLeod Trail, 14 Street or Barlow Trail. There are hundreds of alternative routes in a grid-style city.

This would create another problem — an overload of traffic on secondary roads that were not built to handle high volume. The increased maintenance costs would inconvenience local drivers and add to congestion problems in neighbourhoods. Moreover, toll booths themselves are expensive to operate, requiring large-scale employee

recruiting in a tight labour market, expensive building costs and maintenance expenditures. Clearly, any city planner must question the true effect of toll booths in Calgary.

Some proponents of toll booths assure citizens that tolls will increase transit ridership and more environmentally friendly forms of transportation. However, in 2006, city officials were already claiming that Calgary Transit was nearing capacity. This is already obvious to University of Calgary students riding the ever-crowded rails to and from school during peak hours. Increased congestion on roads due to

toll booths would hinder Calgary's buses, resulting in slower commute times, decreased capacity and inconvenience for public transit users.

If Calgary's elected officials decide to oppose the idea of toll booths along major roadways, they will still have a massive transportation shortfall to manage. This could be resolved by a municipal gasoline tax. A gas tax has numerous advantages over a toll system — there are no changes to the transportation network, it encourages energy conservation and drivers pay a per litre rate to cover deficits in the transportation budget.

As it stands, Calgary already has many transportation issues. Congested roadways and traffic troubles have plagued the city for decades and the city's massive growth is affecting roadways. Toll booths are not an effective solution to the funding shortfalls of the city. A free-flowing transportation network is vital to the economic growth and competitiveness of Calgary. If city officials want to stop our city's clogged transportation arteries from going into full cardiac arrest, then they should dump the idea of implementing traffic-congesting toll booths.



Mystery meat, continued from page 14

XL Foods representatives, who have remained relatively silent throughout this ordeal, are being condemned for not informing the public sooner about the contamination.

E. coli is a bacteria found in the gastrointestinal tract of many animals, including humans, but most of us don't know much about the deadly strain that makes people sick. According to a Cornell University study, the E. coli 0157: H7 strain is found in significantly higher rates among grain- or corn-fed beef. Feeding cows grain has now become an industry standard as it fattens the animal quicker than grass-fed counterparts.

The XL Foods recall gives Canadians a glimpse into the fallible system we have come to depend on for our sustenance. When we go to our local grocer and travel down the aisles, we should begin to question where our foods are coming from. It is time that we begin to ask ourselves if those who provide for us have our best interests at heart. Can

we really trust the labels stamped onto a film of plastic wrap?

As answers emerge, we might de-

cide on alternatives to the beef cartel in Alberta by shopping at farmers' markets or getting involved in

community-supported agriculture. Learning where food comes from and how it is processed is the first

step to making informed choices. Maybe then Canadians will eliminate outbreaks of fear.

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Imaginary Anomaly — Morgan Shandro



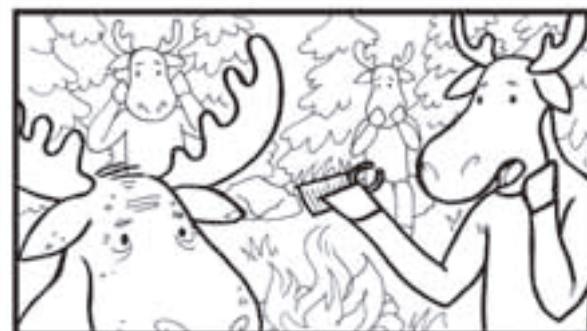
It Goes Without Saying — Dawn Muenchrath



Stercum Accidit — Kurt Genest



Said the Squid — Jeff Hollett & Lori-Lee Thomas



"What the... it's a clip-on!"
The young moose were saddened by the discovery that grandpappy Biff's olden time tales of adventure were likely all made up.

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