

THE

GAUNTLET

EST 1960

INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER » VOL. 53 | ISSUE NO. 20 | NOVEMBER 8, 2012

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY





STUDENTS' UNION

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LAST LECTURE SERIES

Speaker: **CLEM MARTINI**

That Empty Space
November 14th
5:00pm



Professor Clem Martini is an award-winning playwright, screenwriter and novelist. He is the author of *Enter Medicine*, a *Canadian Screen Award* nominee, and the author of *Feather and Bone*, *The Cow Chronicles* trilogy, a *Canadian Screen Award* nominee, and *Three Martini Lunch*, a winner of the *National Playwriting Competition*, *Grand Entry* and a *Three Martini Lunch*, a winner of the *National Playwriting Competition*, *The Life History of the Alison Eastwood*, *The Book Playwright* and *The Greek Playwright* are employed by universities and colleges across Canada. He spent *What Brings us Here*, co-written with Arthur Bachmann, presented at the *Calgary Opera* in September of 2012. His most recent play, *The Bird We Knew*, co-written with Cheryl Triggs, premiered at the *Edmonton Festival* in August of 2012 and his recent portfolio of plays, *Wish A Year*, published by *Feather Press* were broadcast on *50.1*. He has taught at the University of Calgary since 1988, where he is currently the *Head of the Department of Drama*.





ADOPT A STUDENT FAMILY

Would you, and your family or department, like to adopt a student family this holiday season to provide gift hampers for children?

For information and applications, email adoptfamily@su.ucalgary.ca or visit www.su.ucalgary.ca/vs

Application deadline: Nov. 28, 2012

Late applications will not be accepted. Confidentiality is assured. Please note: The Adopt-A-Family program is for University of Calgary students with children 18 and under ONLY. Valid campus ID and a piece of ID for all children will be required upon submitting the application.





Help make the holiday season special for everyone by making a food or monetary donation at any group table fundraising for the SU Campus Food Bank.

24th Annual

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

NOVEMBER 14, 15 AND 16



WISH LIST

- peanut butter
- pasta and pasta sauce
- canned beans
- canned fruits and vegetables
- granola bars
- cereal
- meal helpers (Sidekicks, Hamburger Helpers...)
- canned pasta (Chef Boyardee or Alpagetti)
- dry soup (Mr. Noodles, Ichiban noodles...)
- toiletries (toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner...)

Compete against other groups to be titled champion of the Holiday Food Drive! The winner will be announced at a special appreciation event.

To sign up your club or group for this exciting challenge, contact us at: foodbank@ucalgary.ca by November 4th. One representative from each group must attend the mandatory clubs orientation meeting on November 7th at 5:00pm in the Executive Council Chambers.




Have a bright idea?

We're listening.



The SU has funding available that can turn your dream for a new project or program on campus into a reality.

- Quality Money Program
- Campus Improvement Fund
- SUSB (Sustainability Fund)

Info and applications can be found at: www.su.ucalgary.ca. Will your idea be the next big thing on campus?



Bright Ideas

Quality Money applications are due November 30

NOVEMBER 8, 2012

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Golden Spatula

Matthew Parkinson, the *Gauntlet's* resident movie aficionado, is receiving our prestigious Golden Spatula award for outstanding volunteers post-humously. He tragically passed away from a heart attack after stepping on his treasured DVD of *Scorpion King 3*. He will be missed.

-Matthew Parkinson-

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 a tear based ink. We urge you to recycle/consume the *Gauntlet*.

Letter Policy

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

The Cover

Design by Evangelos Lambrinoudis II

Barack for round two

To some, American presidential election night is like a Christmas that only comes every four years — others simply don't care. Despite how people feel about the elections, the whole thing is thankfully over. American President Barack Obama was re-elected to a second term on Nov. 6, 2012, with the Democrats in control of the Senate and the Republicans in control of the House of Representatives, which, despite all the media hype, was expected.

American campaigns are getting longer and costing more. Almost \$1 billion was spent on commercials in swing states alone. Given the current state of the American economy, this money could have been better spent elsewhere.

American elections happen every four years, and they last almost four years. Discussion of primary candidates and their campaigning starts over two years before elections, and coverage becomes nearly constant in the 11 months leading up to the election. There will barely be a break before America starts talking about who might run for the 2016 election.

An unfortunate side effect of the game show-like elections is that Canadians seem more interested in the American presidential race than our own federal election. An unfixed Canadian election date means the process only takes about six weeks to elect a new government, and the parties have to be ready to campaign

on short notice once an election is called. The last Canadian federal election saw great change in the division of seats in parliament, yet Canadian politics seems boring in contrast to the American elections.

Although he would want to leave his party in good standing, a second-term Obama is now free to push for the policies he truly believes in. The Republican House will likely try to stop him at every turn, yet the Republican party has to do some hard soul-searching on their policy and position, considering the election night upset. Obama faces another looming fiscal crisis and a struggling American economy, and must deal with Iran's nuclear program, the civil war in Syria and climate change.

Obama's policy will have varying repercussions on Canada, and Alberta in particular. Obama said he would make a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline after the election. In the mean time, the Canadian government is pushing for the Northern Gateway pipeline as a sort of bluff to show Americans that we don't actually need them as a trading partner. To prove this, Harper is working towards signing trade deals with China. Obama, also promotes buying products made in America, which hurts Ontario manufacturing.

Other changes that could influence Canada are the legalization of recreational marijuana in Colorado and Washington. The Liberal Party of Canada has in-



cluded it on their platform, and these states will serve as a test for how the policy would work. If the Liberals can actually get their act together, this could be a key issue next Canadian election.

The election was historic and progressive in many ways. Wisconsin elected America's first openly lesbian senator, Democrat Tammy Baldwin.

Maine and Maryland approved same-sex marriage by popular vote, becoming the 7th and 8th states to legalize gay marriage, despite propositions to legalize gay marriage being repeatedly voted down since 1997.

Tea-Party backed Richard Mourdock lost his Senate seat. Mourdock became infamous by saying it is God's will if women become pregnant from rape. Todd Akin also lost his Senate seat, primarily over the

comment that women's bodies have a way of shutting down pregnancy in "legitimate rape." Clearly, voters were turned-off by these comments and it showed the Republican party that they can't alienate women and moderates if they hope to regain the Senate.

Women also made gains in senate races, clinching 20 out of 100 seats. Democrat Mazie Hirono became the first Asian-American woman to be elected to the Senate from Hawaii.

Overall, the *Gauntlet* is pleased with Obama's re-election. Although some of Obama's policies could have negative ramifications for Canada, a Romney win would have spelled disaster. Mostly, we're just happy the charade is over.

Gauntlet Editorial Board

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What's your bright idea?

New initiative lets students decide what they want at the U of C

Michael Grondin

News Editor

Being a student has its perks, but there are many hardships and challenges as well. A new initiative at the University of Calgary is trying to address these issues by gathering student input.

The Bright Ideas Campaign is looking for ideas to improve student life at the U of C.

If students have any ideas about how the U of C campus can improve, they can submit them through an online form at su.ucalgary.ca. Members of the Students' Union will decide which ideas will be implemented.

su president Hardave Birk said the Bright Ideas Campaign is a way to look at the diverse issues students face and how students think the school can be improved.

The selected initiatives will be financed through Quality Money, the Campus Improvement Fund

and the su Sustainability Board.

"It's our new marketing campaign for three of the funds we have had for the last few years. The cool thing is all three of these funds target different areas on campus," said Birk. "We're just looking for students who have ideas on how we can improve services or things the university is missing right now that we need."

This year, Quality Money has funded the Peer Roamers Program — the student assistance program in the Taylor Family Digital Library — and upgrades to the arch and sign at the entrance of the U of C.

The Campus Improvement Fund improves faculty-specific issues. In the past year, this fund provided new computers for the Education Students Association Lounge and suicide prevention training courses for students in the faculties of nursing and social work. The su Sustainability Board funds awareness and educational

projects for sustainability.

"This year, our approach is to let students know, hey, if you have a really good idea for something that could improve your experience, your faculty or the U of C as a whole, let us know," said Birk. "No matter what idea you have to improve the U of C, student life or the student experience, we have a fund that matches your idea and we can put it in place."

Birk said student input is important for all decisions made at the U of C and these three funds make it easier to address students' concerns.

"The thing that makes these funds really unique is the fact that they are student-led. There's a lot of money being spent on campus for where the administration sees a need. This is an opportunity for students to do the same thing," said Birk.

Second-year U of C music student Jocelyn Rama said the U of C needs to focus on using space more efficiently.

"I think that one of the things that would be really nice is to have more dedicated study space because it's a challenge to find places to work," said Rama. "[The U of C] should really use space more effectively."

First-year nursing student Kuade Bruce said there should be



Adrienne Shumlich

Many students have bright ideas about how to improve the U of C.

better food options.

"I think the input of the students is important because we are the ones who go here, who have to deal with all the problems and we know first-hand how to deal with the issues. We should also be able to make some of the decisions," said Bruce.

Several ideas have already been

submitted, but Birk hopes more students will participate in the program.

"We're looking for absolutely anything. Students can really drive change and leave a legacy on campus," said Birk.

Do you have a bright idea?
Share it at su.ucalgary.ca

/// If you have a really good idea for something that could improve your experience, your faculty or the U of C as a whole, let us know.

— Hardave Birk, Students' Union president

Business students get wet for charity

Riley Hill

News Assistant

Chillin' for Charity, an annual charity initiative in its second year held by University of Calgary business students and

JDC West, raised over \$8,000 on November 1 for the United Way. The money was raised through a polar bear dip that happened in front of the Taylor Family Digital Library, where teams of students jumped into freezing water.

JDC West is an annual West-ern Canadian business games competition that members of the U of C's Haskayne School of Business have taken part in for the last two years. This year, 26 teams of one to eight people from

the U of C took part in the event.

Fourth-year business student and participant Carmen Chiu said Chillin' for Charity has many benefits.

"It's important to produce well-rounded business students.

[JDC West] is not just focused on academic growth but also on charity initiatives throughout the year and Chillin' for Charity is the largest initiative," said Chiu.

In 2011, over \$5,000 was raised.

How do you think the U.S. election will affect you?

campus quips



"This was not a country-bound election."

— Erin Cotter,
first-year
accounting



"I'm Canadian and U.S. elections should not affect us."

— Brian Brzezina,
first-year arts



"They're a superpower — any decision they make will affect everyone."

— Nicole Garrido,
second-year political
science



"Their fiscal policy will affect Canada because we're trading partners."

— Alex Diamond,
fourth-year
economics

Club helps students ace classes

Easy Ace club announces two scholarships to dedicated tutors

Michael Grondin
News Editor

The University of Calgary's free tutoring club Easy Ace gave its first \$550 scholarships to two hard-working tutors.

Easy Ace began in the 2011

who co-founded the club with third-year mechanical engineering student Parsa Samavati, the club began with colleagues who wanted to help other students.

"We started off as a group of friends who wanted to provide free tutoring to students all across the U of C — not particularly in

the Students' Union and, since then, we've [constantly] grown," he said.

The SU also provides tutoring services through the Tutor Registry Program. Dutta said Easy Ace is another simple way to get help for classes.

"It's all about improving student life. When we started off, there was no such thing as personalized, free, one-on-one tutoring," he said.

The services offered by Easy Ace look at helping students in almost every faculty, according to Dutta.

"Business, engineering and science are basically the main focus, but we tutor in over 153 courses," said Dutta. "Our main focus of operations is the one-on-one tutoring that is absolutely free."

Easy Ace generates revenue through review sessions taught by university professors.

"Our revenue model consists of review sessions that are hosted by actual professors, and we only charge five dollars for it, whereas the competitors would probably charge between \$100-150," said Dutta.

The members of Easy Ace decided to give the extra revenue gained from these review sessions as a scholarship for dedicated tutors.

"The scholarships came as an idea. We were like, 'What

are we going to do with this revenue?'" said Dutta. "Why not just reinvest it in our tutors? All the revenue we generate, minus the operation cost, we give it out to our tutors."

Lim tutored over 15 hours with Easy Ace. He has mainly helped students with first-year required math courses.

"I was quite surprised to receive the award, but I'm really thankful," said Lim. "Overall, the experience has been great. I have been able to help people and I have learned myself."

Aichour had tutored just over

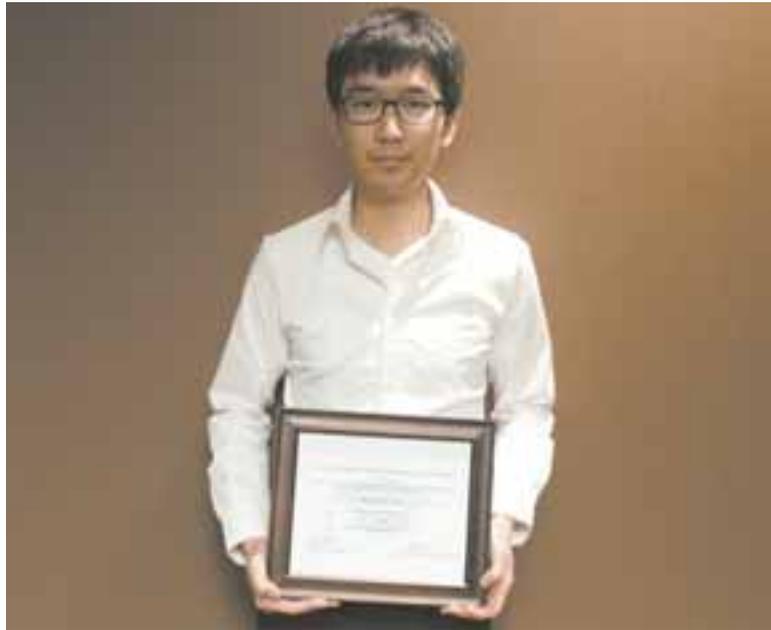
35 hours in mainly math and engineering. He was unavailable to comment.

If students are struggling, Dutta said Easy Ace is an easily accessible resource to ask for help.

"We're all in this together. We're spending a fuck-load on tuition. If you can help students in a subject, I'm pretty sure they'll help you too," he said.

Easy Ace is planning to expand to other campuses like Mount Royal University.

For more information
visit easyace.org



Michael Grondin

Andrew Lim is a recipient of an Easy Ace scholarship.

winter semester with the goal of helping fellow students.

Third-year biological sciences student Andrew Lim and engineering graduate student Hichem Aichour were the recipients of the scholarships.

According to Easy Ace vice-president finance Sorabh Dutta,

one club or one subject area, but across all faculties," said Dutta.

Currently, the club has expanded to have over 140 tutors.

"We started off with nine executives. Our first term, we had about nine tutors. We tutored for 83 hours our first term. We got the special mention award from

Maclean's rankings

Michael Grondin
News Editor

Maclean's magazine released its annual university rankings on November 1 that looks at the pros and cons of Canadian post-secondary institutions. The University of Calgary is not always at the top of *Maclean's* university rankings. However, according to *Maclean's*, the U of C is improving.

The U of C is ranked eighth out of 15 in the medical doctoral ranking, with McGill, the University of British Columbia and the University of Toronto in the top three, respectively.

For comprehensive rankings, Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria and Waterloo

University placed in the top three.

The U of C has shown improvement in the areas of total research dollars, budgeting, library acquisitions, reputation and awards and grants. *Maclean's* uses six categories to measure post-secondary institutions: reputation, students and classes, library, resources, student support and faculty.

According to Students' Union president Hardave Birk, the U of C is making a lot of headway in becoming a competitive university in Canada.

"My understanding about *Maclean's* rankings is that, as changes are made on campus, it takes a couple years before those changes are registered in their measurements," said Birk.

Birk said that *Maclean's* rankings can give the U of C a reference point on reaching the Eyes High strategic goal to be a top-five post-secondary institution in Canada by 2016.

"It puts us in a good position to make it to top-five by 2016. I think we're competitive, we're right in the middle of the pack for universities in Canada, and with some of the things that have been announced at the U of C over the past few years and months . . . those are the types of things that will help us move up," he said, speaking about the new teaching and learning institute and the addition of faculty members and researchers.

To view the rankings visit
oncampus.macleans.ca

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NOV. 15

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theatrejunction.com

Helping tomorrow's leaders

Imperial Oil donates \$2.5 million to U of C's faculty of education

Michael Grondin
News Editor

On November 6, Imperial Oil announced they would donate \$2.5 million to the University of Calgary's faculty of education to strengthen research and teaching in science, technology, engineering and math.

The Imperial Oil STEM Education Initiative will fund the U of C over a five-year period starting in 2013. This collaborative effort will target students from kindergarten to grade 12 and spark interest in STEM disciplines through hands-on projects and research.

The donation will go towards researching effective teaching techniques, understanding students' interests in STEM fields and preparing teachers to teach in these disciplines.

According to chairman and CEO of Imperial Oil Bruce March, there is a demand for qualified researchers and workers in STEM disciplines.

"It was sheer interest, without a doubt, to develop the research that makes understanding students and where their interests are and how to do work and make teachers better to keep students interested in science, math and technology," said March.

March said Canada needs more university graduates in STEM fields. He said students and work-



Michael Grondin

Grade four students at the Calgary Science School use iPads to test rotting fruit in class.

ers in these subjects are regarded as the top in the world.

"The one interesting thing is that, of the STEM graduates that Alberta and Canada produces, they have performed excellently in skills performance tests. They are at the very top," said March. "This is really a question of pooling our interests in partnering together to keep the quality of education that's there in the learning, but to attract more students."

U of C faculty of education dean Dennis Sumara said the investment will help educators understand how to best teach young

students in these fields.

"What we are trying to do is work together to improve the teaching in these disciplines in response to quite an urgent need," said Sumara. "We know that we're not actually preparing and devel-

oping enough scientists, technologists, engineers or mathematicians to move into careers."

Sumara said there is not a large enough focus on students' needs in primary and secondary schools.

/// What we are trying to do is work together to improve the teaching in these disciplines in response to quite an urgent need.

— Bruce March, Imperial Oil chairman and CEO

"One of our big issues in secondary schools now is that we have a large number of students who are not feeling intellectually engaged with their work," said Sumara, adding that by grade seven, only 30 per cent of students feel engaged with STEM subjects.

"That's not good enough. Those students who are engaged do very well and they do move into universities and post-secondary. They get degrees in science and engineering and are highly accomplished and well-regarded all around the world. We want more of them," he said.

Sumara said data will be collected from students in primary and secondary schools in Alberta to increase understanding of students' interests.

"We are starting with early years of education. We are making interventions into middle school and secondary school, we are changing the curriculum of our teacher education program and we are working strongly with teachers in the field who are already experts in those areas," said Sumara.

The U of C's faculty of education will also establish a STEM research chair to oversee the work being done in this field. Week-long summer camps specializing on STEM subjects will also be established at the U of C.

What's your opinion?
Comment at thegauntlet.ca



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- Live coverage of DINO's sports; Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) competitions; dance performances

NEW UNIVERSITY TELEVISION

From high school to high art

Calgarian director Kurtis David Harder finds early success with *Cody Fitz*

Sean Willett
Entertainment Editor

Many 18-year-olds coming out of high school find themselves faced with the difficult decision of what to do next. Many choose to go to school, some choose to travel and others choose to start working. Kurtis David Harder chose to take a slightly different route: he wrote and directed a movie.

Now 20, the Calgarian has found that this choice has paid off. Harder's first feature-length film, *Cody Fitz*, was featured in the Calgary International Film Festival, where he was nominated for the Discovery Award for best upcoming director. The film tells the story of a young man named *Cody Fitz*, whose suicidal depression causes him to drift away from the people he cares about, blinding himself to his friends' problems and cries for help. *Cody Fitz* deals with topics that hit close to home for many people — Harder included.

"I've always been fascinated by the idea that you don't really know the people around you," says Harder. "I had a friend take his own life. I thought I knew who he was, though I guess I really didn't."

While he was already planning to make a film at the time of his friend's death, Harder says that

the experience is what caused him to take *Cody Fitz* in the direction he did.

"After it happened, I knew that I had to make a film about it," explains Harder. "I kind of knew what the film was going to be before [the suicide], but that really defined it."

While making a film directly out of high school was certainly an admirable goal, Harder says that his age initially made it difficult to gather support. However, his dedication to the project quickly convinced his colleagues that he is a force to be reckoned with.

"When you're fresh out of high school and people just know you as this camera guy who helps out on sets, it's hard to get people to trust you," says Harder. "But once we got into our first few days of shooting and people saw we weren't messing around, people began to say 'Hey, maybe they know what they're doing.'"

Harder also explains that many of the actors who were initially wary about *Cody Fitz* were assured of the film's merit after they read the script, which was written entirely by Harder.

"People were nervous when I approached them at first, but they read the script and that is what sold them on it," says Harder. "Because I had never shot anything at that scale before, it was hard to



courtesy Kurtis Harder

Kurtis David Harder wrote and directed his first feature-length film, *Cody Fitz*, when he was 18. It is now being featured in numerous film festivals, where it has met positive critical reception.

immediately get people involved. It really helped that we were trying to say something with this movie."

Despite making the film at such a young age, Harder didn't suffer from a lack of experience — he had worked on music videos, shot short films and had helped out as a camera assistant on other sets in Calgary.

"Coming from a camera assistant and editing background helped me a lot, just because I

knew about the technical side of things — and watching a lot of movies also really helped," says Harder. "I did a lot of research as well, since I spent middle school and high school pretty much knowing I was going to do a feature straight out of high school."

Cody Fitz is currently being shown at festivals across Canada and the United States and has helped rocket Harder towards a promising career in film. He is already working on his next feature,

which he says will be a much-needed departure from the serious tone of his directorial debut.

"It was originally the feature I wanted to shoot first, but it has really evolved since then," says Harder. "It's still coalescing and it's not quite there yet, but it will be a fun film. I don't really want to be known as this indie, depressed director."

For more information on Kurtis David Harder and to view some of his work, visit vimeo.com/kurtharder

Movie review: *Lincoln*

Matthew Parkinson
Gauntlet Entertainment

If the film *Lincoln* is to be believed, the only thing Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States, cared about in the months leading up to his assassination was abolishing slavery. Throughout the entire film, this is the only thing that guides him. There's a civil war going on, there are family matters he has to deal with and, of course, there's a country he needs to lead — yet slavery is the only thing on his mind. It's tough to believe that this is the only thing he thought or cared about, and it would have been nice if he was presented as



courtesy Touchstone Pictures

someone a little more complicated, as he surely was.

Lincoln is not biopic — it doesn't try very hard to make things his-

torically accurate. Instead, the film wishes to bring us a moderately thrilling account of how one man was able to manipulate his

will into the constitution. Lincoln needed a two-thirds majority vote in order to get the 13th amendment passed and, considering his party only had a slight majority, some convincing and bribing had to occur. An *Ocean's Eleven* style recruiting happens, in which Lincoln attempts to convince other congressmen to vote the way he wants.

Lincoln, portrayed by Daniel Day-Lewis, is not a terribly complex character. He's fun to watch and is a great storyteller, but he only has a single thing driving him throughout the film. This is no fault of Day-Lewis, who performs outstandingly — he perfectly embodies the role of Lin-

coln, and it is easy to forget that the person on screen is merely an actor. Nobody is as good at this kind of method acting as Day-Lewis and, while he wasn't director Steven Spielberg's first choice for the role — that honour goes to Liam Neeson — he is the perfect actor for the job. As a result of his performance, *Lincoln* manages to get away with quite a bit. Its finale is predictable, but it still manages to send chills down your spine with its more suspenseful moments.

Day-Lewis will most likely be getting an Academy Award nomination for his role, but he is far from the only actor in *Lincoln*. See LINCOLN, page 8



Louie Villanueva

Adele Woodsley's art is for the Berrds

The Calgarian art gallery Framed on Fifth will be hosting an art show featuring Adele Woodsley's painting series *Berrds*. Woodsley, a Calgarian painter and photographer, captures the quirky personalities of the birds that visited her on her patio while she was in Tobago. Framed on Fifth, owned by artist and stone carver Hannah White, will be hosting an opening reception on November 9. For more information, visit framedonfifth.com.

Lincoln, continued from page 7

coln who deserves an Oscar. The brilliant Tommy Lee Jones plays Thaddeus Stevens, a congressman whose entire life has been dedicated to equality for all races. He's on Lincoln's side in this matter, serving as one of his closest allies. Jones is hilarious in the role, providing much comic relief. Thankfully, though, he is not dedicated strictly to that purpose — while he's funny, his lines are often so sharp and poignant that they will cause audiences to laugh and think in equal measure. Much of his time is dedicated to belittling the opposition, who are unfortunately presented as one-dimensional characters that are completely wrong and without morals.

Spielberg does a good job of taking the audience back in time for all 150 minutes of *Lincoln* — audiences will feel fully immersed in the world of mid-1800s America. It's not just a simple costume drama — it's a full-blown reenactment of what could have happened. The film might not be entirely truthful but, because of the slick and meticulous directing and some incredible performances, it can make you believe its fictitious accounts.

Lincoln rarely goes wrong and, when it does, it often tends not to matter. The aforementioned lack of believable motivation is offset but how strong Day-Lewis's performance is. The overly long running time is hardly a problem because of how immersive the film's world is. It's historically predictable, but still manages to make the skin crawl with its more thrilling moments. It winds up not mattering whether or not you know if Lincoln gets his way. While it may not be a biopic, it at least doesn't try to rewrite American history.

Steven Spielberg is a very good storyteller, and *Lincoln's* story of manipulation and determination is a story worth hearing. Whether you see the film to be immersed in the 19th century setting, or to see a couple of the performances that are sure to generate significant award buzz, you'll have a hard time being disappointed with *Lincoln*. This is a movie that should be shown in high school classrooms — it gets people interested and inspired, and might just convince them to look more deeply into President Lincoln's life.

NEW THIS WEEK

Skyfall — The latest James Bond film sees Daniel Craig returning as the titular super-spy. This entry is said to be return to form, after the wet noodle that was *Quantum of Solace*.

Water and a Flame — Celine Dion is releasing a new album, and no one under the age of 37 knows or cares.

Dos! — Green Day is putting out a new release right after Billie Joel Armstrong's latest temper tantrum. Don't compare them to Justin Bieber, or else.

Paper Mario: Sticker Star — The latest entry in what is arguably Nintendo's most charming video game series, this 3DS game will hopefully live up to expectations.

Call of Duty: Black Ops 2 — A game about Americans killing foreigners. How original!

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Emily Sasges

Homeopathy

Why you shouldn't buy water and sugar pills.

by: Joel Hykawy

Outside of standard science-based medicine, there is the field of complementary and alternative medicine, which are unconventional treatments. One of the major players in complementary and alternative medicine, alongside acupuncture, chiropractic and herbal remedies, is homeopathy. As with any treatment, individuals must make informed decisions based on the best available information. Yet, without knowing the core principles of homeopathy, the latest evidence from scientific studies and the potential ethical issues regarding homeopathy, patients can't determine the best course of action. Overall, evidence reveals that homeopathy is no more effective than a placebo treatment, which means people are spending money on sugar pills and water and might suffer adverse health effects from not using standard medicine.

However, people still find the claims of homeopathy appealing. When patients become disgruntled with their current medical services because of long waits at the clinics, the periodic controversies surrounding large pharmaceutical companies and life-threatening treatments and surgeries for deadly illnesses, they begin to look for alternatives.

Mendel Perkins, a third-year University of Calgary botany student, notes that homeopathy "sometimes sounds better than what your conventional doctor might tell you. When your doctor says 'it might be this,' 'I don't know,' 'there are side effects,' the alternative of that being 'no side effects,' 'it's totally non-toxic' and 'it will probably cure you,' becomes very attractive."

However, if patients stop taking convention-

al medicine and rely solely on pseudoscience, serious medical complications may arise. This potential danger is another reason why the public needs to be aware of and understand the available evidence regarding homeopathy — like any medical treatment on the market. People need to be aware of sham treatments so they can make informed choices.

So what is homeopathy and why is it flawed? Samuel Hahnemann founded homeopathy in 1796 when he published his first paper discussing his experiments to find new methods to treat patients. Hahnemann searched for better treatments than the medical practices of the era, such as bloodletting and purging, as these practices often did more harm than good. Though his quest to improve the health-care standards of his time was noble, homeopathy unfortunately doesn't hold up to scientific scrutiny today. Hahnemann's observations gave rise to three proposed laws of homeopathy, which are still core to the field now. However, these laws are scientifically flawed.

The first law of homeopathy is the 'law of similars,' or how drugs that cause specific symptoms in healthy individuals can be used to treat illnesses presenting those same symptoms. Hahnemann created this theory when he observed that ingesting cinchona bark — a common treatment for malaria at the time — caused malaria-like symptoms in healthy patients. Unfortunately for Hahnemann, the foundations of scientific methodology for adequately testing this theory didn't exist in the early 19th century. Modern pharmaceutical knowledge shows that the medicinal compound quinine in the cinchona bark is what treats malaria. However, overdosing on qui-

nine results in cinchonism, which has malaria-like symptoms, but is a completely different pathological condition. To help reinforce the absurdness of this law, it wouldn't be sensible to suggest that caffeine can be used to treat insomnia because drinking a cup of coffee before bed keeps most people awake. The 'like-cures-like' postulation is an over-extrapolation of the principle that high doses of a harmful substance may instead be beneficial at lower doses.

Second, there is the 'law of potentization,' or how a remedy becomes more potent the more dilute it is. Hahnemann recommended a substance be diluted 30 times by a ratio of 1:100. To help conceptualize, that would mean 1 millilitre of a solute would be found in a sphere of water just a bit over 131 light years in diameter. The nearest known star to the sun is just over four light years away. The ingredient becomes inactive or not even present in a solution when it is so highly diluted. All that remains is a vial of water or sugar pills that are marketed as a remedy.

The homeopathic field attempts to explain how these remedies could still work, even though there is a lack of active ingredient, by claiming that water is capable of retaining the memory of the original substance. The United Kingdom's House of Commons science and technology committee's 2010 review of homeopathy concluded that, "the notion that ultra-dilutions can maintain an imprint of substances previously dissolved in them [is] scientifically implausible."

Finally, the 'law of vitalism' is the third tenet of homeopathy. It is an ancient theory revolving around the idea that living matter is fun-

see HOMEOPATHY, page 10

Homeopathy continued from page 9

damentally different than non-living matter due to the presence of a vital energy or some kind of immaterial aspect. Vital energy is a common principle to many holistic practices under the umbrella of complementary and alternative medicine. Essentially, holistic medicine is the treatment of spiritual derangements in addition to any physical symptoms. Though this may be an appealing idea, from a medical standpoint there is no such thing as vital energy that is directly linked to the condition of one's health.

According to the Canadian Society of Homeopaths, the practice of homeopathy is a "natural system of medicine that uses highly diluted doses of substances to stimulate the body's own healing mechanisms to promote health." Taken at face value, this may seem to be an innocent statement. It plays into the mainstream value of 'natural' processes while being simple to follow. However, it is essential to address the various claims made in this definition of homeopathy.

The Canadian Society of Homeopaths claims to practice natural medicine. Perkins said, "things are natural and unnatural, that doesn't assign them any value." This entire notion of natural things being inherently

good is not logically sound and is known as the naturalistic fallacy. As put by philosopher Julian Baggini, "there is no factual reason to suppose that what is natural is good (or at least better) and what is unnatural is bad (or at least worse)."

The Canadian Society of Homeopaths uses highly dilute substances. Perkins said, "it flies in the face of anything that should work in chemistry." The UK's Evidence Check program run by the House of Commons science and technology committee, which reviews spending on health policies, determined that the effectiveness of highly diluted substances is implausible.

The Canadian Society of Homeopaths also claims to stimulate the body's own healing mechanisms. These 'healing mechanisms' are not explained in detail, which results in the claim being ambiguous and difficult to verify. However, the lack of substantial evidence supporting homeopathic theories does not necessarily mean that there aren't any beneficial healing effects. In order to analyze these healing effects, scientists must perform clinical trials. In addition, to properly analyze any beneficial effects, a distinction between efficacy and

see HOMEOPATHY, page 11



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effectiveness has to be made. In simple terms, efficacy determines if a treatment has any therapeutic use — determined through properly controlled studies — while effectiveness determines if a patient responds to a treatment. However, effectiveness is subject to the phenomenon known as the placebo effect, which can result in a treatment being effective even though it is not efficacious.

In his article “Placebos and the Philosophy of Medicine,” Dr. Howard Brody, director of the Institute of Medical Humanities at the University of Texas Medical Branch, defines the placebo effect as “a change in a patient’s illness attributable to the symbolic import of a treatment rather than a specific pharmacologic or physiologic property.” Essentially, it is the idea that because a patient receives a treatment — even if that treatment has no drug or active substance in it — they will experience an improvement in any subjective symptoms, such as pain or general wellness. Therefore, homeopathy won’t pass efficacy tests due to the placebo effect being controlled for, but individuals taking these remedies may report that they are effective, even though they are simply benefiting from a psychological effect.

The 2010 review from England’s Peninsula Medical School titled

// The notion that ultra-dilutions can maintain an imprint of substances previously dissolved in them [is] scientifically implausible.

— UK House of Commons science and technology committee

“Homeopathy: what does the ‘best’ evidence tell us?” concluded, “the findings of currently available Cochrane reviews of studies of homeopathy do not show that homeopathic medicines have effects beyond placebo.” This conclusion shows that homeopathic treatments are no more effective than administering sugar pills — a common placebo — for treatment of relatively minor ailments. These kinds of remedies do not treat pathological conditions, such as cancer or heart disease, since the underlying condition doesn’t simply improve because one ‘feels better.’

Since homeopathic remedies are simply placebos, there are ethical issues in misleading individuals by claiming it a medical treatment. The doctor-patient relationship is a cornerstone of modern medicine. Bioethics has emerged in the 20th century to examine the ramifications of this relationship. This emergence has caused the founding of various ethical research in-

stitutes. Dr. Raanan Gillon, professor of Medical Ethics at Imperial College London, wrote an article in 1994 titled “Medical ethics: four principles plus attention to scope” covering the shift from the paternalistic role of the doctor in deciding what is best for their patient, to a more egalitarian relationship focused on fully-informed decision-making by the patient. Since the power of a deliberate placebo treatment essentially requires the practitioner to deceive the patient, it is considered unethical in the medical profession. Homeopaths undermine the doctor-patient relationship when they prescribe placebos.

In addition to placebo medications being unethical, professor Edzard Ernst, director of the complementary medicine group at the Peninsula Medical School, explained in an interview with the UK’s science and technology committee how prescribing placebos is unnecessary: “If I give my patient an aspirin for . . . her headache and

I do it with empathy, time and understanding this patient will benefit from the pharmacological effect of the aspirin and she will also benefit from the placebo effect through the encounter with her clinician.” The doctor-patient relationship itself serves as a placebo as the attention doctors give to their patients helps them feel better.

Ernst also said, “there are lots of data to show that placebo effects are notoriously unreliable — somebody who responds today may not respond tomorrow.” Therefore, in addition to the homeopathic treatment being no better than a placebo treatment, there is no guarantee the money spent will yield even that.

Even though the effectiveness of homeopathy is highly implausible, homeopathic nostrums are still available in the market. Perhaps it is due to a lack of awareness that consumers still buy these remedies.

The public needs accurate information from trusted sources. Without this information being commonplace, individuals are spending their income on exorbitantly priced water or sugar pills, due to deceptive marketing strategies. Although a patient relies on a doctor to understand the intricacies of medical problems and treatments, there also needs to be prominent and factual information about different treatments so patients aren’t tricked by marketing and spend their money on ineffective treatments.

Government involvement through health policy may be a valid medium for providing more information on complementary and alternative treatments. Regardless, it is important that the individual, within reason, ultimately makes an informed decision when it comes to personal health.

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Protection or prosperity?

Canada needs to send a consistent message to foreign investors

Jeremy Woo

Gauntlet Opinions



Is Canada open for business? Recent evidence suggests that the nation is employing a more protectionist economic policy with little justification.

The Harper government has elected to block two bids made by foreign companies to purchase Canadian corporations. Firstly, BHP Billiton, an Australian mining conglomerate, was positioning to buy Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan Inc. in 2010. More recently, Petronas, a state-owned Malaysian company, offered to purchase Alberta-based Progress Energy Resources Corp. Both offers were unceremoniously turned down.

While some have lauded this show of nationalistic bravado, a closed-door attitude to economics is dangerous to Canada. The resource-rich nation owes much of its wealth to direct foreign investment, most prevalent in the oil, automotive and manufacturing industries that allow Canadians a healthy economy and high standard of living. Furthermore, the Canadian economy relies on the ability to invest in foreign countries, but this ability could be inhibited by our own protectionist and hypocritical stances on overseas investment.

With heavy hitters like China

making bids for Canadian resources, the government must swing the doors of commerce wide open once again for the benefit of Canadians and their reputation.

Interestingly, some Canadians, like Opposition Leader Tom Mulcair, believe that self-reliance is necessary to protect Canadian interests and jobs. Yet, this stance is not supported by the true state of Canada's economy. Foreign investment has had an overwhelmingly positive impact on Alberta's oil sands where large overseas corporations have invested billions of dollars and have created thousands of jobs across the province. These companies have the knowledge, expertise and resources to maximize the potential of this lucrative natural resource, resulting in job creation, royalty payments and substantial increases in tax revenue.

Foreign companies have the funds and the technology that Canadian firms lack, and everyday Canadians are the prime beneficiaries of this investment as the oil and gas sector booms. Additionally, for more than 50 years, Ontario's economy has relied on the automotive sector, which can be traced back to the acceptance of American investment, primarily by General Motors, Ford Motor Company and Chrysler. For decades, these foreign investments have provided Canadians with job opportunities at car factories, part-



making plants and the service industries that support thousands of workers. Clearly, Canadians have realized the overwhelming benefits of foreign corporations.

With the sudden onset of economic protectionism, Canada is sending a confusing message to potential foreign investors. Tony Clement, the Minister of Industry for the conservative government in 2010, rejected the BHP Billiton bid for Potash Corp. under the guise of the Investment Canada Act. His rationale for doing so was that the deal would not have a 'net benefit' to Canada, however, Clement did not explain what measures were

used to determine this. Vague reasoning to block foreign investment not only seems arbitrary, but also puts our economy at risk.

Canadian companies rely on investing in foreign countries to expand, prosper and create jobs at home, but our own government's recent attitudes towards foreign investors might leave overseas governments wary of hypocritical Canadian investors. From banking to oil to mining, Canadian companies have injected fuel into Canada's economic fire by expanding internationally. In 2004, Toronto-Dominion Bank became part-owner of a vast network of

banks in the U.S., and this past October, Canada Pension Plan purchased oil operations in North Dakota. This has created revenue and jobs at home, but Canadians can't expect to invest in other nations without reciprocating. Canadians benefit every day from overseas investment, so they should not be hypocrites on the international stage.

Unfortunately, there are Canadians who see foreign investment as a detriment to the Canadian economy while paradoxically realizing foreign investment benefits every day. Overseas companies may have the technology or the resources that allow citizens to benefit most from Canada's rich natural resources or productive workforce.

Canadians are not selling their nation when they allow foreign investment — they are selling stakes in companies and receiving opportunities they otherwise may not have. Soon, the federal government will make a decision on the purchase of Canadian energy giant Nexen by China National Overseas Oil Corporation.

If Canadians would like to continue realizing the benefits of foreign investment and Canadian investment overseas, they must ask their shopkeeper to light the open sign, sweep the front walk and unlock the door to the Canadian economy.

Letter: U of C student consultation a farce

[Re: "Upgrading the heart of campus," October 16, 2012]

Students are sorely wrong if they are under the impression that the University of Calgary administration is listening to them when it comes to consultation on the future development of MacHall. The university has already developed its plans to introduce and impose these renovations, so whatever students say is highly unlikely to have any

impact whatsoever on the final outcome in appearance, utility or cost.

Thus far, the resounding argument for this "needed" redevelopment has been the fact that MacHall originally opened in 1967. Its age almost single-handedly justifies the proposed \$150 million project. As it happens, the Calgary Tower also opened the same year, but I personally doubt anyone would suggest it requires a total overhaul. To be fair, there are several challenges facing the build-

ing as it stands today. The current loading bay setup is problematic to say the least. With students playing a daily game of chicken with traffic, solutions clearly need to be found. Yet, I am hesitant, as an already financially overburdened student, to chip in \$200 per year for digging a \$25 million hole in the ground — the estimated price tag to move the loading bay underground and to the north side of MacHall.

A closure of MacHall — either

partial or complete — could dramatically impact the immediate and long-term well-being of virtually every student. Relocation of certain key services to the MacKimmie Library Tower, while an option, is not a sufficient one.

The MacHall that students currently enjoy is already a visually appealing and functional building. As many students already know, it is home to dozens of crucial programs, organizations and resources avail-

able for the well-being of students.

Next time you find yourself transiting through MacHall, take a moment to soak in your surroundings, and realize that the cornerstone of student life on campus is being thieved from you in broad daylight and, even worse, under the guise of student engagement and consultation.

Kyle Schole
Student-at-Large

Dinos one game away from fifth title

The U of C advances to the 76th Hardy Cup after a win over the Bisons

Taylor McKee

Sports Editor • @TaylorMcKee_

The 2012 regular season was a memorable one for the University of Calgary football team. For the first time in the program's history, the Dinos finished first in the Canada West standings for a second consecutive season. The Dinos also set single-season records in an astonishing 10 categories, including points, touchdowns, sacks, total offence and completion percentage.

The U of C's quest for a cw record, fifth-straight Hardy Cup championship began in earnest on Saturday Nov. 3 with a semifinal date against the University of Manitoba Bisons. Entering the game, the Dinos had a losing record in the playoffs against the Bisons, having lost two of their last three meetings in the postseason. The last playoff game between these two teams was in 2007, where the Bisons thrashed the Dinos 5-27 in Winnipeg. Since then, the Dinos have defeated the Bisons eight-straight times — the last time the Bisons defeated the Dinos at home was in 2005. However, the Dinos have had very few playoff games against the Bisons. In the 48-year history of Dinos football, the U of C and the U of M have only met three times in the postseason.

One of the wildest games in cw history arose the last time that the Dinos and Bisons played in 2012. In their final regular season games, both teams combined for a cw record 132 points in a 78-54 victory for the Dinos. The game itself was played mostly by substitutes and meant nothing for either team as the cw standings were already cemented — both teams knew their positioning for the playoffs.

The cw semifinal was a rematch of this game and started off in a similarly wild fashion. On their first possession, the Dinos faked a punt on third and over 20 to go but failed, turning the ball over on downs. However, the Bisons were unable to convert on a third-down gamble on the ensuing series, meaning that in the first three minutes of the game



Justin Seward

there were two turnovers. The Dinos were able to get out to a quick start offensively, taking a 17-0 lead after the first quarter thanks to rushing touchdowns from running backs Mercer Timmis and Steven Lumbala.

The first half was entirely dominated by the Dinos: quarterback Eric Dzwilewski threw for 262 yards, backup QB Andrew Buckley threw a touchdown pass and the defence had two interceptions — one of them by Cyril Iwanegbe for a touchdown.

"I was backing up and I got lucky with a deflection. Once I got the ball, I had great blocking all around me and I just had to take it to the house," said Iwanegbe. The second quarter pick-six was the first touchdown of Iwanegbe's career. "I had a lot of emotions running through me in the end zone. I didn't really know what to do with the ball or if I should celebrate."

The Bisons managed only 64

yards offence in the first half, almost the same amount that receiver Taylor Nill had on a single reception in the second quarter. The score was 42-0 Dinos at the half and that would be more than enough for the Dinos to book a date in the 76th Hardy Cup.

The second half was cruise-control for the Dinos, focusing on the running game and allowing some of the backups to see first-team snaps. However, in the third quarter there was a 110 yard kickoff return touchdown by Jack Harty, the longest kickoff return touchdown in U of C and even cw history.

Despite the enormous achievement, Harty was quick to spread the credit around to his teammates on special teams.

"It's very flattering but I owe all the credit to our kickoff return guys who were out there making their blocks and doing their assignments. If it wasn't for those guys, I would not have been able to

spring that," said Harty.

Dzwilewski finished the game passing 23-38 for 282 yards, a touchdown and an interception. The Bisons scored two touchdowns one minute and 22 seconds apart — one of which followed a

///We want to go out there and prove to the nation that we are a great offence and we can put up 40 points every game.

— Jake Harty, Dinos receiver

successful onside kick — to make the game slightly closer, but the Dinos's first-half lead proved to be insurmountable.

The defence played a spectacular first half which allowed the Dinos to jump out to their early lead. The Dinos defence were able to prevent five third-down conversions from the Bisons, who finished one for six on third-down situations. Third-year starting linebacker Mike Edem played almost the entire game despite the lead that the Dinos were able to gain.

"I have to give credit to the three big guys we have up front, all our d-linemen, they take pride in stuffing those short yardage situations," said Edem. After the final whistle, Edem finished the game with eight tackles and a sack.

After the wild game against the Bisons in the final game of the regular season, head coach Blake Nill was looking for a more complete effort against the U of M now that the postseason had begun.

"We had an outstanding first 30 minutes. For two weeks in a row

our boys were ready to play football right from the opening kickoff and I couldn't be happier about that," remarked Nill on the Dinos's first half. "The second half, I challenged them to come out the same way we did on the opening kickoff but it just wasn't going to be the case. Overall, it was a pretty solid performance for the program."

The final score read 57-18 for the Dinos. With the win, the Dinos advance to the cw championship — the Hardy Cup — for the fifth-straight season. This year is also the third-straight time that the Dinos will host the game.

The Hardy Cup will give the Dinos a chance to avenge their only loss of the regular season. The University of Regina Rams are now the only team standing between the Dinos and a fifth-straight Hardy Cup title. In the

other cw semifinal, the Rams defeated the University of Saskatchewan Huskies 31-9 at a snowy Mosaic Stadium in Regina. The Rams finished second in the cw standings and seventh in the final Canadian Interuniversity Sport rankings.

Nill examined the challenges the Dinos will face against the Rams in the Hardy Cup. "First, the passing attack with Mark Mueller from a defensive perspective is a tough task and secondly their defence have done an outstanding job in the second half. Last time we played them, they shut our offence down," said Nill.

"Last time we played [the Rams], we only put up nine points. They definitely held us up. We have to come out strong and stick it to them," said Harty. "We want to go out there and prove to the nation that we are a great offence and we can put up 40 points every game."

The Dinos and Rams face off Saturday, Nov. 10 at McMahon stadium at 2 p.m. for the 76th Hardy Cup. Admission for U of C students is \$5.

12

The number of Dinos named to the CW all-star team. This number is only one short of the 1988 school record of 13 players.

32-8

The record of the Dinos over the last five regular seasons dating back to 2008.

1,285

The number of total yards offense gained by the Dinos over the past two games against the U of M Bisons.

269

The number of all-purpose yards gained by Jake Harty in the CW semifinal versus the U of M.

Lance Armstrong's complicated legacy

Fabian Mayer

Gauntlet Sports • @FGMay

Over the past few months, the sporting world has witnessed one of the most dramatic falls from grace in recent memory. Lance Armstrong went from being a seven-time champion of the toughest bike race on the planet to a disgraced athlete stripped of every title he acquired and banned for life from the sport he helped put on the map in North America.

It is difficult to overstate the drastic nature of these events and the reverberations it has caused throughout the cycling commu-

former teammates and high profile American cyclists George Hincapie and Christian Vande Velde. They confessed to their personal use of banned substances and described in detail what USADA has termed a team-wide doping conspiracy in which Armstrong played a prominent role.

The evidence provided in the report is incontrovertible. Those who continue to believe that Armstrong was clean and is the subject of a vast conspiracy have become almost impossible to take seriously. We are continually learning more disappointing facts about the nature of bike racing in the late '90s and early 2000s. An extraordi-

2008 — of Tour de France competitions where the champion has now been implicated in doping. It is difficult to comprehend the extent that performance-enhancing drugs and other forms of doping were engrained into the fabric of the Tour de France. American cyclist George Hincapie, a support rider for Armstrong for all seven of his titles, bluntly sums up what competitors were faced with during the Armstrong years: participate in doping or you don't stand a chance.

"Early in my professional career, it became clear to me that, given the widespread use of performance enhancing drugs by cyclists at the top of the profession, it was not possible to compete at the highest level without them," said Hincapie in a statement on his website.

One of the darkest aspects of Armstrong's story is his role in an encouraging and even forcing his fellow teammates into using drugs. Christian Vande Velde rode with Armstrong from 1998 to 2003. Part of Vande Velde's testimony includes an incident where he was invited to Armstrong's apartment to meet with Dr. Ferrari, the doctor who provided the banned substances and provided instruction on their use for Armstrong and his teammates. According to Vande Velde, Armstrong said that if he wanted to keep his spot on the team he "would have to use what Dr. Ferrari had been telling him to use and would have to follow Dr. Ferrari's program to the letter."

Much of the testimony includes intimidation and pressure to dope in order to give the team a boost, thereby enhancing Armstrong's chances of winning significantly.

The incredible nature of Lance Armstrong's story has made his actions during his career even more disappointing. Armstrong was diagnosed with an advanced form of testicular cancer at age 25 in 1996. After receiving surgery, his doctor gave him a less than 40 per cent chance of survival. Beating cancer is an enormous achievement for anyone unfortunate enough to develop the disease, but to win one of the most grueling sporting events in the world just three years later was an extraordinary feat.

It was a truly inspiring narrative that has surely given hope to many cancer sufferers. It was a story that allowed us to believe that we can accomplish anything through de-

termination and perseverance. However, the lasting legacy of Armstrong has been irreparably tainted. This is not just a case of a high-performance athlete being caught for doping — it is the story

of a disgraced messiah.

Armstrong's cycling accomplishments were a part of a compelling story. It all seemed almost too remarkable to be true — and, as it turns out, it was.



nity. Armstrong defined the sport across the world, but especially in North America where he put cycling into the collective conscious.

What finally showed Armstrong's triumphs to be a fraud was a report from the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency that came out in October. The over 1,000 page report includes the sworn testimony of 26 people, over half of them cyclists and 11 of them Armstrong's former teammates describing the doping activities of Armstrong and his U.S. Postal Service/Discovery Channel team. Some hard evidence is also provided in the report.

"The evidence also includes direct documentary evidence, including financial payments, emails, scientific data and laboratory test results that further prove the use," said the USADA in a press release.

Some of the most damning testimony in the report came from

nary number of riders have either admitted to doping or have been caught in some other way — doping was simply a part of the sport and it was only a matter of time until Armstrong was also exposed.

The absurdity of the cheating culture within the Tour de France during the Armstrong years becomes very clear by looking at the results of the races from 1996 onwards. For example, in the 2005 tour, every single rider in the top five and eight of the top 10 have either admitted to cheating, had a positive test or had their involvement in doping proven in another way. If the title for that race were to be awarded to the first rider with a clean record, one would have to go all the way down to 8th place rider Cadel Evans.

With Armstrong having his titles stripped, there is now a period of over a decade — from 1996 to



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Alcohol studies course successful

Susan Anderson

Features editor

The new University of Calgary course Alcohol Studies 211 has been a resounding success this semester. At first, the university was hesitant about offering the course, but sociology professor and self-professed 'alcohophile' James McLean was key in structuring the course and offering it to students.

"At first glance, the course could appear to play into the notion that the only thing university students do is get drunk, but I think it is fascinating to study the social aspects, the chemistry and the history of alcohol," said McLean.

The class, conveniently, runs as a double block from 2–5 p.m. on Thursday. There are no prerequisites and it is generally taken as an option.

Surprisingly, the course is quite rigorous, with an essay, two midterms, a final project and tastings every second week. The curriculum covers beverages such as wine, beer, vodka, rum, whiskey, tequila, gin and different liqueurs, but also looks at some less common beverages, such as sake, palm wine and mead.

The class studies the chemistry of brewing, the history of the different drinks and the cultural aspects of each. Within the cultural

aspects, prohibition, marketing and bar and club culture are closely looked at.

"The tastings are my favourite part. I feel very cultured," said second-year anthropology major Kristen Hills. Hills has an excellent nose for sniffing the bouquet of wine, and she is working on her skills of tasting beer and mead.

"If the anthropology thing doesn't work out, I might become a sommelier, and that career choice would be thanks to this class," said Hills. However, Hills loves the tastings so much that she admits to being "slightly more than tipsy" after several different classes.

When asked about the possibility of his students getting inebriated, McLean said, "That's okay, because we learn about that too! We study the effect alcohol has on the body, both long-term and short-term. We learn about our individual alcohol metabolism rates, and we take blood-alcohol content tests at the end of every tasting and record the results."

The students always know if they are over the legal limit and by how much, which dictates whether or not they can drive home after the class. If they are over, they are encouraged to stay in the classroom and graph the gradual drop in their BAC over a period of several hours. Sometimes, however, the students simply head down to the

Den and continue applying their recently acquired knowledge, finding a safe way home after.

Fourth-year engineering student Justin Thorson has found this class to be a nice change from his heavy schedule. "I'm learning something, but at the same time, I'm just chillin' on Thursday afternoon," he said.

Thorson has found the class to be "quite relevant" to real life.

"This is knowledge I'm actually going to use. People talk about finding 'their limit' which usually means at what point they throw up, but now I'm finding my legal limit and that's great. I've also got a ton of conversation starters for next time I'm at the bar," said Thorson.

The students consider safe drinking practices, the consequences of drunk driving and the effects of alcoholism. Representatives from Mothers Against Drunk Driving and Alcoholics Anonymous are each giving a guest lecture later this semester.

"Overall, I want to give students knowledge so they can enjoy alcohol, not abuse it. It has great influence in our society, and students need to harness its power, not fall victim to it. Hopefully they will pass some of the knowledge on to their friends and family," said McLean.

Due to the interest in the class,



Michael Issakidis

Mixing alcohol and a university course makes a great cocktail.

McLean is looking to offer another 200 level course in the winter, and maybe a 300 level next year, in addition to offering the current 211 course in fall 2013.

Thorson gives the course a big thumbs up, "the university is paying for my Thursday afternoon buzz. How is that not an absolute dream come true?"

Change is coming to MacHall **Take 10 minutes to imagine the next 10 years.**

Hardave Birk
President



423 students agree that they can always find a seat to eat the food they bought in MacHall.

386 students think we don't need more study space in MacHall.

329 students don't mind paying \$150 or more per year in new fees to redevelop MacHall.

Disagree with these students? Agree with them? We want to hear from you in our survey.

This is Hardave Birk, your Students' Union (SU) president, and if you haven't heard, change is coming to MacHall. For students, MacHall is the heart of our campus. It's where we hangout between classes, where we eat our lunch, where we enjoy ourselves on Thursday nights. But recently the university created a draft, long-term plan for MacHall calling for some big changes and with a corresponding big price tag attached. So we need to talk to you about what's been proposed and make sure the plan makes sense for students, because unless we know what students want to see for the future of

MacHall there's no point in making big changes.

What do you want to see in your student centre? What do you like? What drives you crazy? Take 10 minutes and answer some questions in our survey to let us know what is important to you in MacHall at www.mymachall.com/survey. At the end of the survey, students can enter to win an iPad.

As the managers of the MacHall and the representative of undergrads at U of C, the SU believes that any changes made to MacHall should reflect the needs and preferences of students. The SU is consulting over 5,000 students to

generate recommendations to ensure MacHall's long term plan reflects what students want to see.

Join the nearly 500 students who have set priorities in our MacHall Redevelopment Compass – which is re-launching for several weeks on Nov. 20. You can also sign up for a short focus group at www.mymachall.com or read the university's proposed plan: mymachall.com/masterplan

But first I want you to chart the future of MacHall by completing our survey. Go to mymachall.com/survey.

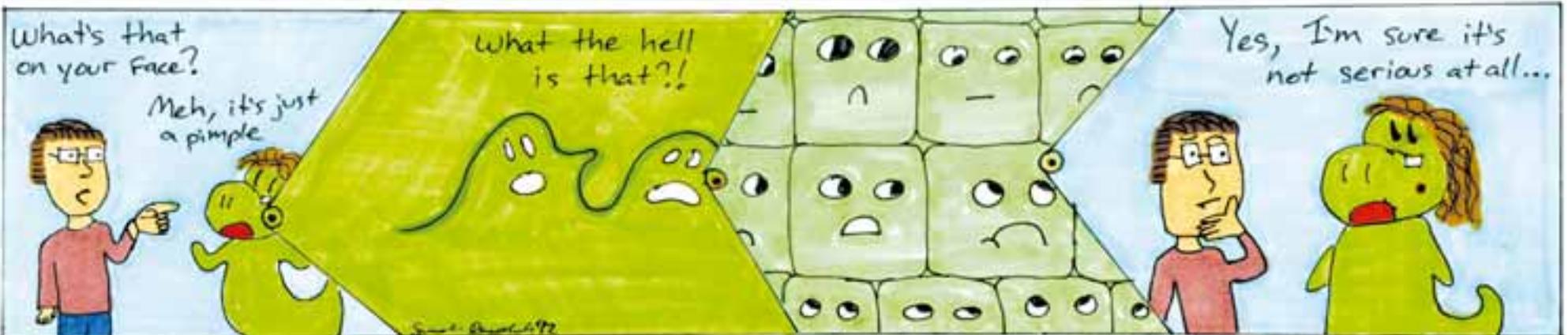


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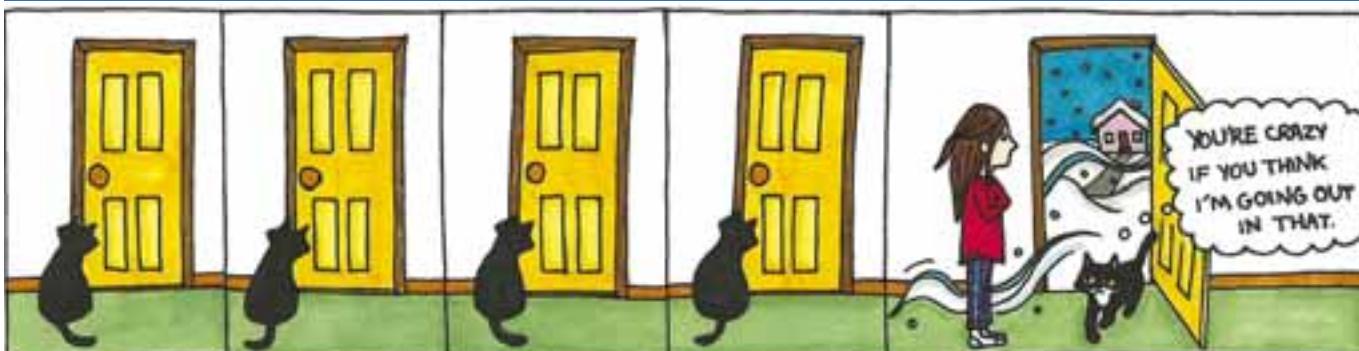
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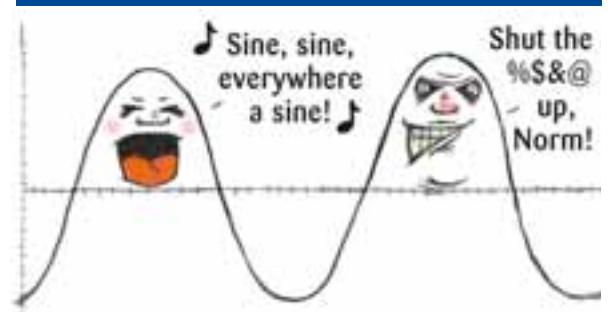
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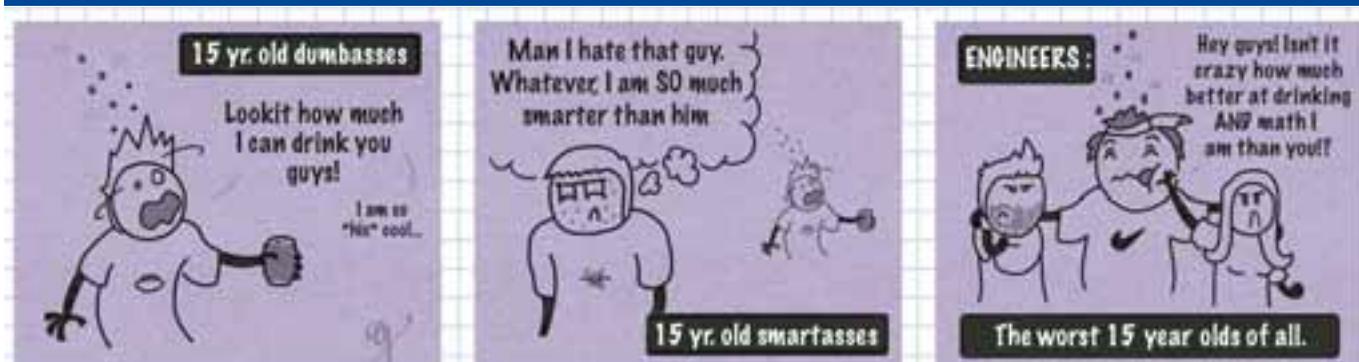
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