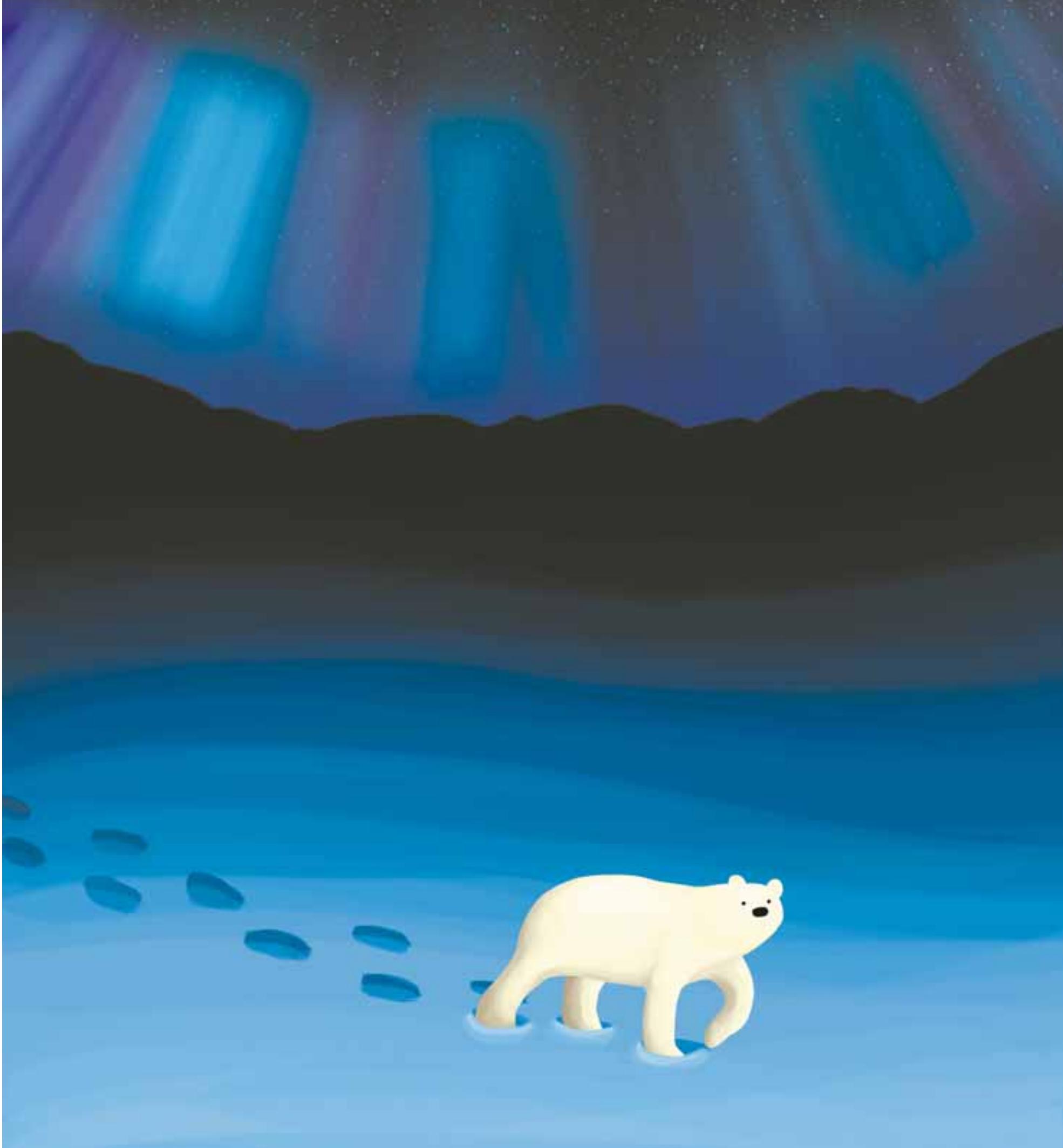


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DECEMBER 6, 2012

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Golden Spatula

The Golden Spatula is the most prestigious award of the ages. This week, it goes without saying that the most honoured contributor to the *Gauntlet* was Alex Procyk for his graphic dissertation on the male phallus. It is with sincere gratitude and eager enthusiasm that we pledge to you this high esteem. For the next five weeks we will be able to look at uncensored cocks because of you!

~Alex Procyk~

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 cum based ink. We urge you to recycle/blow 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

Illustration by Morgan Shandro

The end of days is nigh!

This whole 2012 apocalypse thing is just plain stupid. It's a waste of time and if anyone actually spends their time thinking about it, it's because they're fatalistic, whiny babies.

There will always be a doomsday theory. There was Y2K that didn't quite pan out, and the hype behind it was insane. But guess what happened? Life went on. So what makes people think this will be any different? Dec. 21 is just another fear-filled narrative.

Reputable scientific groups who have analyzed the possibilities of the world ending on Dec. 21 have found no evidence to support the doomsday claims. The 2012 end-of-the-world prophecy is based entirely on blind faith, speculation and hype rather than objective data.

People have built an entire apocalypse theory around an ancient calendar that ends on Dec. 21. It's shocking that, in this day and age, people can still be so naive and full of useless fears from nothing. In fact, the Mayans never said anything about the world ending — it's just the end of an era and the beginning of a new one.

"The Maya don't have an apocalyptic prophecy at all," said University of Calgary assistant professor of archaeology Kathryn Reese-Taylor, who specializes in ancient Maya. "That is something that we in our society have picked up on and elaborated."



NASA has recently posted an entire list debunking every single claim of the earth's annihilation this month. "The world will not end in 2012," reported NASA. "Our planet has been getting along just fine for more than four billion years, and credible scientists worldwide know of no threat associated with 2012." Everything — from solar flares wiping out our electricity, planets colliding with the Earth, global flooding and the poles reversing — has been discredited. Others say nuclear war, an alien invasion, a zombie apocalypse or a global takeover by the demons of hell is what will wipe us out. The Search for Extra-

Terrestrial Life Institute has also said there is absolutely nothing to worry about.

Panic is beginning to set in as groups of credulous people around the world are stockpiling resources and getting ready to hide in their basements. Religious groups are planning mass exoduses to promised lands and places of worship. Even celebrities, like Mel Gibson, are telling people to prepare themselves for the worst.

What's worse is that people can't think for themselves on the subject. Paranoia increases when the media pumps out useless, delirium-filled crap. People are good at letting their imaginations get

the better of them. And, yes, one day the world will end, but not on Dec. 21, 2012. It will just be another day, which is lucky for students who would have spent their last days on earth cramming for exams.

The word 'apocalypse' in Greek literally means to uncover or reveal something hidden. Perhaps what will happen on Dec. 21 is a new revelation in knowledge. There's no doubt that things are changing in the world. We are currently going through a huge digital revolution, we are in the midst of a massive economic downturn, global warming is deteriorating Arctic sea ice faster than ever and the threat of war is always present. But, does this mean the end of days is near? Not by a long shot. Maybe the apocalypse scare will just be a motivation for us to actually achieve a new year's resolution that improves our current circumstances. Hopefully the doomsday bullshit will be a long overdue reality check.

It's the holiday season after all, and there's no better time than now to make amends, to tell people you love them and to spend time with friends and family — but when is doing these things bad? Never. Just live your lives the way you want to, and if there is an Armageddon, then we'll all see each other in hell.

Happy holidays!

Gauntlet Editorial Board

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Tuition rates keep on rising

Proposed 4.5 per cent increase in tuition and student fees for 2013–14

Michael Grondin

News Editor

The price to be a student in Alberta is on the rise. Tuition and student fees at the University of Calgary have a proposed increase of almost 4.5 per cent while awards, bursaries and scholarships are not increasing at the same rate.

Tuition has a proposed 2.15 per cent increase in Alberta and a \$150 increase per student to the U of C student services fee, a mandatory non-instructional fee that is put in place to cover costs outside of the classroom, is proposed at the same time. If approved, these increases will be effective in the 2013–14 school year.

The Students' Union has been working to increase student awards, financial aid and transparency with student fees. On Dec. 6, the Board of Governors will vote on tuition and fee increases.

SU president Hardave Birk said that it is a commitment of the Eyes High academic plan and the Comprehensive Institutional plan to increase student aid and awards. However, Birk said the pool of awards, bursaries and scholarships at the U of C has not been increasing at the same rate as student fees and tuition.

"As tuition has gone up and as fees have gone up, the awards pool has not gone up at the same level. The problem is that if there is the same amount of awards but the cost is increasing, then the effectiveness of awards is going down," said Birk. "In total, tuition and fees that students have to pay will go up by closer to 4.5 per cent or so and that is quite substantial."

Recently, the SU has examined



Adrienne Shumlich

Giving away money is not at the top of most students' wishlists.

financial aid and awards over the past four years. They have found that more students are taking out loans and that student debt is on the rise.

According to government of Alberta statistics gathered by the SU, student employment in the summer of 2012 was 48 per cent and over 12,000 more students accessed the student loan system in Alberta since 2008. At the U of C, there was an increase of over 2,300 students in full-time studies taking out loans since 2008.

The Consumer Price Index in Alberta measures increases in prices due to market fluctuations

and inflation. CPI sets the maximum amount of increases to tuition every year, this year's being 2.15 per cent. The U of C will propose this increase and an increase to the student services fee.

"Tuition fees account for about a quarter of the total budget here at the university and all the fees just go to the central operating budget and are then dispersed to different faculties," said Birk, adding that the university should maintain their commitments to increase student aid.

"We hope that the university realizes that it's easy to make commitments in the academic plan and

the Comprehensive Institutional Plan," said Birk. "If we really want to meet those commitments, specifically on financial aid, we need to consider that costs are increasing at a higher level than the aid is increasing."

Student-at-large on the BOG and fourth-year history student Vincent St. Pierre said he will be voting no to the tuition increase at the BOG meeting on Dec. 6. St. Pierre said this tuition increase and added fee is happening as predicted, but a better plan for tuition and awards should be put in place by the university administration.

"What fundamentally is frus-

trating about this process is that there is no vision for tuition in the future," said St. Pierre. "There have been some substantial issues going forward without a calculated plan. As it currently stands, that requirement on the administration isn't being fully put through."

He said one benefit of the U of C administration is the consultation of students in the tuition process. The Treasury Management Association of Canada U of C chapter, a group that engages students in experiential learning with finances, has given many students the opportunity to give their opinion on fee and tuition increases. However, St. Pierre said more needs to be done.

Third-year health sciences student Breanne Cursley said it is very costly to be a U of C student.

"It's already hard enough to pay for school, so any more money that we would have to pay would not be good," said Cursley. "I feel like we don't get that much for what we pay."

She said more awards for students would be beneficial to complement students' work.

"The university does not make good choices with their money a lot of the time," she said, adding that she has not received awards from the U of C. "They should definitely increase awards and give students more for their hard work and for having to pay more."

Birk also said that there needs to be more transparency to what the student services fee goes towards.

"A student's ability to go to the U of C should not be affected by their ability to pay," said Birk.



// A student's ability to go to the U of C should not be affected by their ability to pay.

– Hardave Birk, Students' Union president

What do you think?
Comment at thegauntlet.ca

What do you think is going to happen on Dec. 21, 2012?



"Nothing. But worrying about it would be a waste of time."

– Hillary Chapman,
fourth-year
mathematics



"I think I'm going ice fishing that day."

– Blake Shields,
third-year geology



"We've had so many apocalypse-like scares and it never happens."

– Kaylee
Norsworthy,
second-year geology



"People were so convinced of Y2k and nothing happened."

– Raelyn Sullivan,
first-year
engineering

Interviews: Henry Lung, Photos: Louie Villanueva

campus quips

Holiday hampers help campus community

Campus Food Bank expands for the holiday season

Riley Hill

News Assistant

The University of Calgary Campus Food Bank can act as a safety net for those in need at the U of C. During the holiday season, the CFB will be distributing special food hampers to those who struggle to afford a holiday meal.

According to CFB co-coordinator and third-year biology student Gayathri Wewala, the hamper program is an exciting addition to the regular services that the CFB has to offer.

"This year, we have the holiday hamper that we just started. It goes from November 26 all the way to December 14," said Wewala. "Basically, clients request a special holiday hamper, which is a festive dinner. It has a turkey, yams — all sorts of nice holiday food items like that."

The program has had a strong response from people seeking help.



Riley Hill

Gayathri Wewala is collecting food for the Campus Food Bank.

"We have about 17 families who will so far receive a hamper," said Wewala. "It's a nice addition to our other activities."

CFB co-coordinator Shawnee Belleville said the program began in 1993 by a group of U of C students who formed the Student Food Action Committee to help struggling students. Since then,

the program has grown to be more integrated with the U of C.

"When it started off, it was just a hole in the wall," said Belleville. "It was eventually decided that the Students' Union would take it over and then, from there, it has grown bigger and bigger."

The CFB operates out of volunteer services in the MacEwan

Student Centre, providing food for members of the campus community. According to Belleville, clients are guaranteed a nutritional hamper in exchange for some information regarding their situation.

"A client will come in and then we do hamper requests, so that will involve getting personal information from them, like why they're here and what their emergency situation is," said Belleville.

This information is kept confidential, but is used to better understand clients' needs.

"We like to know what kind of clients are in need and what their situation is. This way, we can more effectively reach those in need and serve them to the best of our abilities," said Belleville.

CFB services extend to all members of the U of C community. However, over 90 per cent of CFB clients are full-time students who are dependent on either student loans or part-time jobs. Around

75 per cent of all clients that used last year's food hamper were considered "emergency usage."

"Most people are just students who don't have money for groceries. Tuition is eating it up or rent is due and they're left with no money for food," said Belleville.

Once the initial consultation is finished, clients are given their choice of food.

"We then go through a food list, so they can choose what they want," said Belleville. "We even have vegetarian hampers."

Although they rely on fundraising efforts to keep the centre open, the CFB also receives money from the SU to help cover its operating costs.

"We get a lot of help during the holidays where we look for food donations and money as well," said Belleville. "Everyone is always welcome to donate."

For more information visit su.ucalgary.ca

Generations converge through HomeShare

Emily Macphail

Gauntlet News

For students, finding an affordable and safe place to live in Calgary can be a challenge, and for senior citizens, carrying out household maintenance tasks can be difficult. The Calgary HomeShare program was initiated to address both these issues.

The Calgary HomeShare program offers adult students the opportunity to access safe, low-cost housing by residing with a senior citizen in Calgary. The student doesn't pay rent, but instead contributes anywhere from \$100-400 a month for household costs and provides up to 10 hours of weekly services that can include housework, computer assistance and simple companionship.

According to Calgary HomeShare administrator Cheryl Snider, the program offers many benefits to those involved.

"It provides students with safe accommodation where they can give priority to their studies," said Snider. "It also provides affordable accommodation so they

are not having to spend a lot of money on rent."

Snider said students can gain many skills through the program.

"Students can gain knowledge and learn more about what is involved in home ownership," said Snider. "Students and the seniors can also get an understanding of

different generations and an opportunity to relate with other generations and the issues that are facing them."

The HomeShare program is now eligible to be used towards students' co-curricular records, and is now available as an internship opportunity through

Serving Communities Internship Program, an Alberta initiative in its second-year that offers student engagement opportunities.

Calgary HomeShare participant Matt Ditlejan spoke highly of the program, describing his roommate as "an awesome guy." Ditlejan said his experience pro-

vided him with a different perspective on the lives of senior citizens.

"It is rewarding to know I made a difference and made his life easier," said Ditlejan.

Ditlejan said that the largest benefit for him was listening to *see HOMESHARE, page 7*

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Heroin use expected to rise

Ban of OxyContin may cause abusers to look to street drugs

Olivia Brooks

Gauntlet News

The banning of generic OxyContin, also known as oxycodone or Oxy, a prescribed and controlled medical opiate, in Ontario, Saskatchewan and the Atlantic provinces this past March by their provincial governments is being correlated by addictions services and opiate users to a possible rise of heroin's presence on the streets. Discussions concerning the negative implications of removing the drug are also ongoing in other provinces as health ministers push for a ban of OxyContin as a painkiller.

Introduced to the public for the first time in 1996, OxyContin saw sales of a few million dollars by 1998. Twelve years later, sales had risen to \$243 million. Aggressively marketed as a non-addictive painkiller, OxyContin turned out to be a very addictive opiate that had recreational and prescribed users struggling with physical dependence. Canada has the second-highest number of prescription opioid painkiller addictions and the world's second-highest death rate from overdoses of the drug. The United States is number

one in both categories.

OxyContin has caused an addiction epidemic that brought provincial governments to push forward legislation to ban the drug. According to the *Toronto Star*, "As of February 29, 2012, Ontario passed legislation delisting oxycodone from the province's public drug benefit program." Patients who were prescribed OxyContin had one month then were transferred over to OxyNeo, a safer formulation of OxyContin, until April 2, 2013. Only patients approved by the Exceptional Access Program will be allowed a prescription past this date.

The manufacturer, Purdue Pharma, has now stopped making OxyContin altogether, replacing it with OxyNeo. A number of pharmacies across the country also discontinued the sale of OxyContin due to its negative connotation in the media and a high incidence of theft of the drug.

/// You don't know what you're buying. Drugs are often cut with other things that are very dangerous.

— George McBride, Adult Addictions Services Manager



Adrienne Shumlich

Heroin and OxyContin are opiates that have similar effects.

Heroin, also known as diamorphine or diacetylmorphine, is an illegal, highly-addictive opiate that can be taken intravenously, orally, through snorting or as a suppository. Diamorphine was first synthesized from opium poppies in 1874 by C. R. Alder Wright

and became popular 23 years later. It was first marketed as a non-addictive substitute for morphine and cough suppressant. In 1925, diacetylmorphine was banned after it was discovered that it metabolized into morphine.

Both OxyContin and heroin are opiates. OxyContin, which is most commonly snorted by abusers, was once a readily available and inexpensive drug. It has similar euphoric effects as heroin does, but with fewer side effects.

Through his own personal experiences and witnessing others,

Loden L'Heureux said OxyContin is a very addictive drug.

"It gives you that feeling that cocaine does," said L'Heureux. "It's very, very addictive."

Clinicians and addictions services have speculated that this limited access to OxyContin will cause heroin to become more popular among opiate abusers. Now that OxyContin, referred to as "hillbilly heroin," is harder to access across Canada, users are looking to other opiates for a similar high. In Canada, one-tenth of a gram of heroin, which equals three or four injections, sells for \$40.

According to the Canada Border Services Agency, Calgary Police Service personnel discovered luggage with a false bottom at the Calgary International Airport containing over \$4 million in heroin in April. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime states there are between 16–21 million heroin and opiate users globally between the ages of 15–64.

L'Heureux said OxyContin's ban will lead to a rise in heroin use.

"The people that lived above me would sell drugs to support their Oxy habit. They were definitely overusing," said L'Heureux. "If they couldn't get their hands on it, they would go for something similar."

A spike in the number of heroin users has not yet occurred in Calgary. However, manager of Adult Addictions Services Calgary George McBride expects heroin use will increase as abusers of OxyContin are denied the same ease of drug access. He also said that street drugs are more dangerous than pharmaceuticals, posing other problems for users.

Heroin found on the streets is a more simplified version of diamorphine due to its quicker synthesis, allowing more unknown substances to be present in the drug. These substances, known as adulterants, include baking soda, methamphetamine and others and are the leading cause of overdoses.

"You don't know what you're buying," warns McBride of street drugs. "You know what you think you're buying. Drugs are often cut with other things that are very dangerous."



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Michael Grondin

U of C raises just under \$350,000 for United Way

University of Calgary president Elizabeth Cannon recently spoke at the Wrap the Year Holiday and United Way Celebration on Dec. 5, a celebration for students and staff. The event also marked the end of the United Way's on-campus campaign that raised nearly \$350,000. This year's campaign surpassed the \$321,000 raised last year. Cannon stressed the U of C's commitment to community work. "One of the things that's important to us is our connection to the community and a great way to demonstrate that is through the United Way campaign," said Cannon. "We're attracting just wonderful talent here to this university and we're really reaching out to our community."

HomeShare, cont'd from pg 5

his roommate's stories as they got to know each other.

"[He] grew up in Germany in the 1930s-1940s. It has been fascinating hearing about growing up in war-torn Germany and what it was like after the fall of the Nazi regime. It really puts things into perspective," said Diteljan.

Because Calgary HomeShare involves cost-sharing, homeowners are further benefited because they do not have to report rent income, making the program a viable option for low-income seniors. There is also no fee to join the program as a homeowner or student. The initiative is made possible through funding from the United Way and the Calgary Homeless Foundation. It is administered by the Calgary Seniors' Resource Society.

Both parties participating in the program are screened and interviewed by HomeShare staff, allowing students and seniors to be matched based on compatibility and mutual needs. An agreement is signed before the student moves in and HomeShare staff remain in contact with the pair while they live together. This allows staff to get feedback, address any issues that may arise and provide direction and additional resources as needed.

There is no minimum or maximum length of time commitment to the program, therefore timelines are determined as a part of each unique agreement and can be altered as necessary.

For more information visit calgaryseniors.org

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THE BEST OF 2012

Sean Willett

Entertainment Editor

2012 has been a hallmark year for video games. A staggering amount of important work has been released over the course of the year, including amazing updates to massive franchises such as *Halo*, *Assassin's Creed* and *Mass Effect*. However, one game managed to rise above the rest, a game that I am tempted to call my favourite game of all time: *Spec Ops: The Line*. Never before has a big-budget game so perfectly used every aspect of the medium to help drive home such a powerful message. Anyone who considers themselves a fan of video games should make every effort to play

it. Other particularly noteworthy video games include the fantastic indie games *Thomas Was Alone*, *Dear Esther* and *The Real Texas*, all of which push boundaries in their own ways.

My favourite film this year would have to be *Moonrise Kingdom*, simply because of my undying love for Wes Anderson. Marvel's *The Avengers* was also ridiculously entertaining, and proved once again that superhero movies are not just for nerds. *Skyfall* was another thoroughly enjoyable movie, especially the part where Bond Mario jumps off of a CGI komodo dragon.

As for music, both *Guess Who's a Mess* by Brad Sucks and *Transcendental Youth* by The Moun-

tain Goats stood out as my favourite albums of the year. The moody electro-pop of Brad Sucks and the melancholy rock of The Mountain Goats pair together like a depressing peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

The best television show this year was *Adventure Time*, with the show's fourth season managing to be the strongest yet. It continues to blend a perfect mixture of top-notch animation, bizarre humour, lovable characters and heavy-hitting emotion that has won it scores of fans of all ages. Coincidentally, my favourite comic of the year is Ryan North's fantastic *Adventure Time* comic series, which shows that Finn and Jake can be entertaining in any medium.



courtesy Yager Studios



courtesy Marvel Studios

Ben Rowe

Gauntlet Entertainment

There were a lot of spectacular blockbusters this year, including the underappreciated *The Dark Knight Rises*, the criminally underrated *Dredd* and James Bond's triumphant return in *Skyfall*. But the true definition of a blockbuster is a crowd pleaser, and no crowds were more thoroughly pleased than those that watched Joss Whedon's immense tale of the "Earth's Mightiest Heroes." *The Avengers* was an unbelievable movie-making achievement, made possible by years of careful preparation by Marvel Studios, with a whole series of enjoyable-in-their-own-right films leading the way to the positively gleeful experience of seeing these charac-

ters in the same frame, saving the world. Shawarma, anyone?

For all the vitriol that fans threw at *Mass Effect 3*'s ending, it seems like people forgot that the first 98 per cent of the game was a brilliant and immersive gaming experience like no other. A culmination of hours of storyline, character arcs and player involvement, it was a trilogy written like the best science-fiction mindbender space opera saga that never was. Characters died, stakes were high and by the end of the game I was emotionally drained. This engagement was helped by the dynamic plot, which changes depending on decisions made throughout the game to make each playthrough a new experience. And the ending? It's a mind-blower in its own right.

The best graphic novel of 2012 was the amazing *The Judas Coin*. Amidst all of the reboots and crossover events from the Big Two this year, a major graphic novel release from a master of the form went almost completely ignored by mainstream audiences. Walt Simonson crafts a tale that spans the history of the DC Universe, picking up on obscure but intriguing characters from Silver Age comics to tell an intricate story of the history of one of the silver coins used to pay Judas Iscariot and the cursed fate it brings to those who possess it. Featuring a Western with Bat Lash, an ode to manga with Manhunter 2070 and a brilliant Batman/Two-Face story done in the style of a newspaper comic strip, it's a pleasure to behold.

Matthew Parkinson

Gauntlet Entertainment

When I think back on 2012, one film comes to mind instantly: *The Scorpion King 3: Battle for Redemption*. Yes, the direct-to-video sequel to *The Rock's The Scorpion King* was the movie I enjoyed the most this year. Although it wasn't the best film, it was definitely the most fun. If you like B-movies — ones with an over-the-top performance from Billy Zane and a leading role from Calgary's own Victor Webster — you must watch this movie.

Getting into theatrical releases, we have two big superhero mov-

ies, *The Avengers* and *The Dark Knight Rises*, working in stark contrast to one another. Both are very good, but the former is a lot more fun and colourful, while the latter is gloomy and dark. If you want a balance of both, you could check out the overlooked *Spirit of Vengeance*, which was far more enjoyable than its prequel, *Ghost Rider*. It's full of energy and a much appreciated over-the-top performance from Nicolas Cage. It isn't great, but it has its moments, especially compared with its predecessor, one of the worst theatrical releases of the last decade.

There were other standouts as

well: *Cloud Atlas* was ambitious and confusing, but absolutely worth seeing; *Lincoln* was chock-full of solid acting, but was single-minded in its approach; *Argo* was a political thriller that didn't give Canada the credit it deserves, but was still a lot of fun; *The Hunger Games* was a strong adaptation of the best-selling novel; *Pitch Perfect* was a campy, self-aware take on an increasingly tiring genre; *The Raid: Redemption* was the best straight-up action film of the year; and *The Cabin in the Woods* was a love-letter to the horror genre, and would be incredibly original if *Rubber* hadn't come out in 2010.



courtesy Universal Studios

Globe Cinema changes hands

Sean Willett
Entertainment Editor

Globe Cinema, one of Calgary's two remaining art-house movie theatres, has recently seen a change in management. Landmark Cinemas, the former operators of the Globe, handed operations to Riley's Reproductions and Printing, the company that owns the building, on Nov. 30.

The Globe Cinema was originally opened in 1965 under the name Towne Cinema. In addition to screening films, it also plays host to a variety of festivals, including the popular Calgary International Film Festival.

While rumours were circulating earlier this year of the Globe's impending closure, it appears that it will remain open into 2013. The Calgary-based Landmark Cinemas will still be handling booking until the end of January, and have confirmed that old passes and gift tickets will still be honoured.

Neil Campbell, the chief operat-



Adrienne Shumlich

ing officer of Landmark Cinemas, says in *Metro*, "We are thrilled at the end of the day because the Globe is staying open."

With the Globe being operated

by Riley's Reproductions and Printing, it is now a true independent theatre. Whether this will bode well for the theatre's future is yet to be determined.

NEW THIS WEEK

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey — The first film in Peter Jackson's three-part adaptation of J. R. R. Tolkien's beloved novel will hopefully meet fans' high expectations.

Playing for Keeps — This awful looking mess of a movie fulfils the holiday tradition of releasing a star-studded romantic comedy that critics hate and audiences love.

Wii Mini — Nintendo has made a cheap, stripped down version of their best-selling console, but for some reason will only release it in Canada. Good for us, I guess?

Hawken — This free-to-play multiplayer game will have players customize and pilot massive war machines. It will most likely be amazing, since everyone loves massive war machines.

Unorthodox Jukebox — Bruno Mars continues to attempt to be as much like Michael Jackson as possible with his new album.

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2013 film preview

A look ahead at the best and worst films of the coming year

Matthew Parkinson
Gauntlet Entertainment

With 2012 winding down and Oscar-bait season in full bloom, now is the perfect time to preview the films of 2013. These are the most noteworthy films due to be released in the first half of next year — some look promising and some really don't.

In January, the much anticipated *Gangster Squad* will be released — it was originally scheduled to be out in September 2012. There's a scene in the movie that has gangsters shooting up a movie theatre, so the release date was pushed back after the Aurora massacre.

The Last Stand, Arnold Schwarzenegger's comeback to the screen, is also due to be released in January, and will undoubtedly remind audiences everywhere that he probably should have stuck with politics.

The action movie *A Good Day to Die Hard* will be the biggest release of February, as it marks the fifth instalment in the incredibly popular *Die Hard* series. This time around, super-cop John McClane will be travelling to Russia in order to rescue his son, Jack. Bruce Willis returns as McClane despite his old age and has already said that he wants to make at least one more *Die Hard* film after this one.

On the other side of the spectrum, *Warm Bodies* and *Beautiful*

Creatures will be released in February. The films will vie for the attention of the *Twilight* crowd now that the infamous supernatural romance series has come to an end.

Oz: The Great and Powerful comes out in March, marking another attempt to make money off the *Wizard of Oz* franchise, this time by being a prequel to the original movie and looking strikingly Tim Burton-esque. Another March release is *The Host*, another movie based off a book by Stephanie Meyer that will look to reach the same level of success of her *Twilight* franchise.

April will be a month filled with horror films, or at least parodies of horror films. The first is an *Evil Dead* remake, which changes things up by adding a female lead. The film looks like it will have a much more serious tone than the overly-campy original, and may unfortunately become just another generic horror movie in the process. A fifth *Scary Movie* film is also due for release, giving fans of awful comedies something to look forward to.

In May, four hotly anticipated movies are facing off against each other. *Iron Man 3* will be released first, and will serve to kick-start Marvel's newest wave of superhero movies that will culminate with 2015's *The Avengers 2*. *Star Trek Into Darkness*, the second part of J. J. Abram's action-orient-



courtesy Warner Brother Pictures

ed reboot of the sci-fi franchise, is also due to be released. It is truly a great time for a nerd to be alive when *Iron Man* and *Star Trek* are two of the most-anticipated films of 2013.

The other two blockbuster movies coming out in May look less promising. *Fast Six* — the poorly named sixth film in the *Fast and the Furious* franchise — will be going head to head with *The Hangover Part III*, the latest

sequels in rapidly deteriorating series. Hopefully both mediocre franchises call it quits after these films.

Man of Steel, the Superman reboot that is being helmed by Zack Snyder, is due for release in June. If it is anything like *300* or *Watchmen*, be prepared for a gorgeous movie that has about a quarter of its running time shot in slow motion. *World War Z*, the adaptation of the fantastic zombie book,

starring Brad Pitt is also due out this month. However, its production has been plagued with multiple script rewrites and problems with filming that it wouldn't be surprising if the movie turned out sub-par.

Monsters University, the prequel to Pixar's *Monsters Inc.* will also be released in June, as is the ultra-violent *Kick-Ass 2*. With any luck, both will be as good as their first instalments.

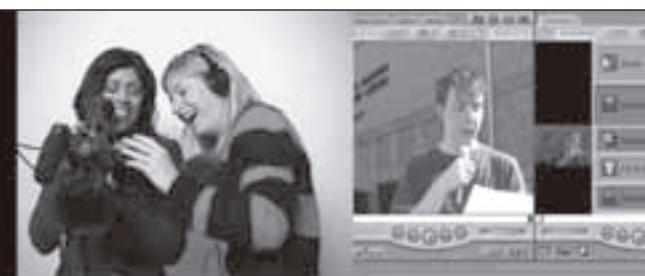


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NEW UNIVERSITY TELEVISION



Circumcision

by: Alex Procyk

31.9 per cent
the national circumci-
sion rate in Canada

44.3 per cent
circumcision rate in
Alberta

43.7 per cent
circumcision rate in
Ontario

12.3 per cent
circumcision rate in
Quebec

6.8 per cent
circumcision rate in
Nova Scotia

FORESKIN.

It's not a common word in daily conversation or often brought up. Male circumcision, the total removal of the foreskin from the penis, shouldn't be a weird or disturbing topic because it is a pertinent issue that needs to be openly discussed. Today, there is a widespread, contentious and controversial debate about circumcision because it has great personal impact.

Foreskin can seem mystical, maybe because males don't advertise if they do or do not have one. Besides being mysterious, what is a foreskin really for? Is there a point to having one? Furthermore, is circumcision an appropriate and beneficial practice?

If parents decide to circumcise their child, the circumcision is usually performed shortly after birth for reasons including hygiene, spirituality and consistency between father and son. On the other hand, people against circumcision say it shouldn't be performed on a newborn child because the child has no choice and the foreskin is a healthy, functioning body part. This issue needs to be fully examined and considered by everyone and especially by new parents.

WHY IS CIRCUMCISION PRACTICED?

Arguably, it comes down to tradition. Ranging from religious customs to keeping fathers and sons looking like each other, circumcision continues to be performed today is because it was done in the past.

Some aboriginal tribes in Australia practiced circumcision as a puberty rite starting around 10,000 BCE. Evidence of circumcision has been found in Egyptian tomb artwork from 2,000 BCE and it spread to the Semitic peoples in the Middle East. The spiritual origins of circumcision come from teachings of Abrahamic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Rabbi Shaul Osadchey of the Beth Tzedec congregation in Calgary has presided and of-

ficiated over hundreds of Jewish circumcision ceremonies, known as brit milahs in Hebrew.

According to scripture, Abraham formed a covenant with God, which was signified by circumcision.

"God commanded Abraham not only be circumcised, but to circumcise his son," says Osadchey. "This one action's place in biblical tradition has led to circumcision becoming one of the most sacred and pivotal characteristics."

With exceptions, circumcision takes place on the eighth day of a Jewish boy's life and takes precedence over the most sacred celebrations, such as Shabbat and Yom Kippur. "It's an obligation from God and one of the defining physical characteristics of a Jewish male," says Osadchey.

In Genesis 17:10–11, God says to Abraham, "This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: every male among you shall be circumcised. You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you."

Christian churches are neutral on the practice, neither requiring it nor forbidding it. A Council of Jerusalem was held around 50 CE and the apostles decided that male circumcision was not required for converting to Christianity. In Acts 15:19, James says, "It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God."

In Islam, circumcision is widely practiced. The practice is known as Khitan or Khatna. The World Health Organization estimates that 70 per cent of the circumcised men world-wide

are Muslim. However, it is not a requirement for conversion or performing religious duties.

Muhammad was said to be born without a foreskin, or "already circumcised," which predominantly gave rise to the tradition. This is called aposthia when a child is born without a foreskin. Circumcision is not explicitly mentioned in the Qur'an, but it is mentioned in the hadith, which are anecdotes about the prophet Muhammad that offer tools for understanding the Qur'an.

Circumcision has also been used throughout history to treat physical health conditions, such as phimosis — a condition where the foreskin doesn't retract — severe infections, diseases and penile cancer. In the 1740s, doctors practiced circumcision to prevent syphilis because the sores were commonly found on the foreskin.

Non-medical and non-religious practices of circumcision are inspired from outdated cultural beliefs. In the 1830s, circumcision was used to treat masturbation, which doctors believed led to insanity. Of course, the idea that masturbation has negative health effects has been severely rejected.

An early advocate for circumcision to cure masturbation was John Kellogg, the namesake of Kellogg's cereals. In 1881, Kellogg wrote, "A remedy for masturbation, which is almost always successful in small boys, is circumcision. The operation should be performed by a surgeon without administering anesthetic, as the pain attending the operation will have a salutary effect upon the mind, especially if it be connected with the idea of punishment."

Professional medical associations have long weighed in on circumcision, influencing the public's opinion. In the 1880s, the American Academy of Pediatrics called for most baby boys to be circumcised. In 1975, the Canadian Paediatric Society said that circumcision is obsolete and does not need to be routinely

see CIRCUMCISION, page 12

Circumcision, continued from page 11

performed. In 1999, the AAP said circumcision should not be done routinely, but is acceptable for cultural, religious and ethnic reasons. Yet, in 2012, the AAP released a report saying that the benefits of circumcision outweigh the risks, but that parents have the final choice.

FOR CIRCUMCISION

The arguments are, on the surface, pretty simple and concise. As far as upholding religious circumcision, the argument is emotional and profound.

“It would not be kind for a Jewish male to have a circumcision at age 13 or as an adult. Following the expectation of eight days should be the right way to go to best follow our tradition,” says Osadchey.

Osadchey also says that for Jewish and Islamic faith, this procedure can be central to one’s person-

al relationship with their respective religions and with God. To reject a procedure that has been ingrained into religious communities over thousands of years can be seen as infringing on religious freedom.

Circumcision can make hygiene and personal care easier by removing the need to retract the foreskin and remove any residue that may linger there.

Medical studies have shown that circumcision can have positive benefits. In 2012, the AAP reviewed a study that showed circumcised male babies to have fewer urinary tract infections in their first year of life than uncircumcised male babies. Other studies that the AAP looked at showed that rates of sexually transmitted diseases, such as syphilis, genital herpes and human immunodeficiency virus, are lowered with circumcision, as much as 15 per cent

for members of sub-populations of American men with high infection rates. These findings also said that a women with a circumcised sexual partner can have reduced rates of infections like bacterial vaginosis, chlamydia and human papillomavirus simply because a foreskin is a good place for bacteria to thrive.

This AAP report did not find evidence that penis sensitivity, sexual satisfaction or sexual function varied between circumcised and uncircumcised men. Understandably, comparing sexual satisfaction and sensitivity can be difficult.

Dr. Pierre Crouse, a circumcision and vasectomy doctor in Calgary, believes that circumcision can be beneficial. He performed his first circumcision in 1986 and often completes 15–20 procedures each week at his private clinic.

“Children do not need to be circumcised — it’s the parents’ decision — but there are all kinds of reasons to do so,” says Crouse. He says that not all newborns need to be circumcised, however, it is a fair decision parents can make.

In rare cases, circumcision is a necessity, such as when issues such as phimosis or infection arise.

AGAINST CIRCUMCISION

The foreskin is generally a healthy, functioning body part. At the very minimum, to remove a part of the male body simply to avoid the responsibility of cleaning it and preventing infection wouldn’t make much sense for any other body part. Any part of the body is subject to infection if not taken care of properly.

Studies in the International Journal of Epidemiology in 2011 show

that circumcision may permanently diminish sexual enjoyment and pleasure, due to the loss of skin coverage and skin sensitivity.

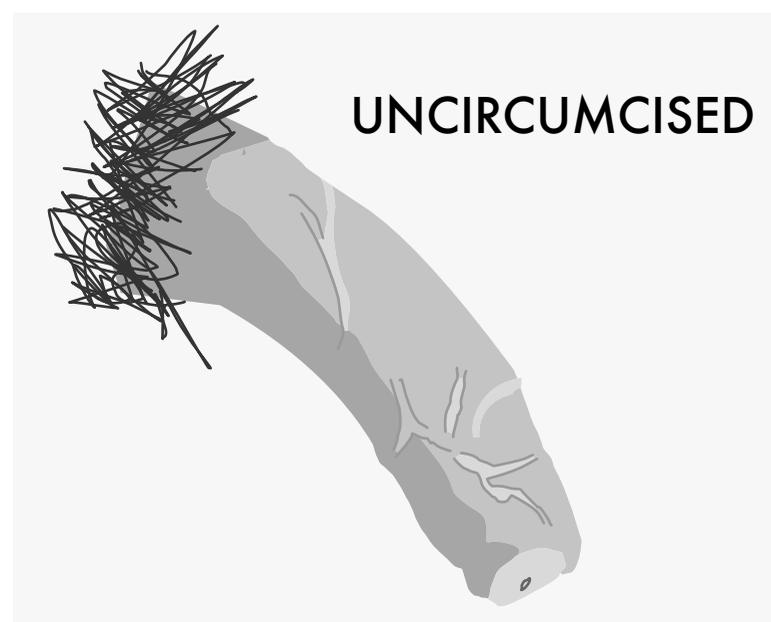
The foreskin contains tens of thousands of nerve endings, including the ridged band, which is the ring of wrinkly skin that connects the foreskin to the rest of the penis. These nerve endings are lost forever when the foreskin is removed. The glans penis, which is the head of the penis, can experience keratinization or callusing over time, where the head is no longer as soft and sensitive.

Glen Callender works with the Canadian Foreskin Awareness Project and describes himself as a “writer, performer and foreskin advocate.” Callender believes the problem with circumcision is not the practice itself, but rather society’s complicity in circumcising children against their will.

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Callender feels there is great value in keeping a foreskin.

“When performed on a healthy, normal penis, circumcision confers no physiological advantages whatsoever — it takes away valuable and functional genital tissue, reducing sexual sensation for the man and his partner, and replaces it with abrasive scar tissue that further diminishes sexual enjoyment,” says Callender. “The foreskin contains the most sensitive parts of the penis, including parts that are capable of orgasm independent of the rest of the penis.”

The acceptance of male circumcision contradicts with the views and opinions about female circumcision, also known as female genital mutilation. FGM is almost unanimously seen as a horrific and dangerous practice involving removing various parts of female genitalia.

Crouse stresses that FGM is far more debilitating and savage than male circumcision because the clitoris is often removed, which is analogous to the head of the penis being removed. Osadchey also says that female circumcision is “something most of us would consider mutilation.”

But Callender has a different perspective. “Both male and female circumcision are ancient methods of diminishing and controlling sexuality by permanently damaging the genitals so the child, and the adult that child will become will not be able to fully enjoy sex,” says Callender. “We shouldn’t be wasting time arguing over which

mutilation is ‘worse’ — we should be protecting all children from all forms of genital mutilation, regardless of whether they are male, female or intersex.”

There are also risks of performing circumcision. A 2010 study from BioMed Central Urology reported the complication rate of circumcision is 1.5 per cent for newborns and six per cent for older children.

Crouse believes that circumcision complications need to be addressed. “Questions need to be asked when circumcisions go awry, but complications are still extremely rare,” says Crouse.

Complications can include ex-

treme blood loss, permanent penile damage, loss of other parts of the penis, amputation and death, even in advanced health care systems.

Risk is involved in any surgery or medical action, but is it worth it when the procedure removes an otherwise healthy and functioning body part?

CIRCUMCISION TODAY

The modern movement against circumcision is bringing awareness to the dangers of circumcision. The movement offers information of the effects of circumcision and advocates different degrees of change, from letting men choose to be cir-

cumcised when they are older to banning the practice outright. Opponents of circumcision believe there is no valid reason for practicing the procedure.

Pro-foreskin groups exist worldwide, from ones advocating bans, to support groups ready to give advice on foreskin restoration.

Foreskin restoration for men unhappy with their circumcised penises has become available. Callender has worked with people hoping to restore their foreskin. “I know several men who have restored their foreskin and all of them say ‘I had no idea how much more sensation I would get!’ Foreskin restoration does not restore the tens of thousands of nerve endings amputated by circumcision, but it does restore the penis’ moving skin sheath and restores its remaining mucous membranes, returning the scarred-over nerve endings to full sensitivity,” says Callender.

Surgical methods, such as skin-grafting, and non-surgical methods, such as stretching, are available. Callender says that non-surgical methods are less risky and more successful.

Circumcision has recently garnered legal and political attention worldwide, including in Germany this year, when a Cologne court ruled that circumcision is tantamount to bodily harm. A later bill qualified that circumcision could be performed on boys under six months old because Jewish and

Muslim people felt the ruling was hostile towards their traditions.

In 2011, local “inactivists” in San Francisco petitioned for a ballot measure which would criminalize circumcisions on men under 18 years-old. A San Francisco superior court judge ruled that it had to be struck from the ballot because it would violate a Californian state law that makes regulation of medical procedures a state, not a city, matter.

Discussion has been growing and people have been re-examining their views on circumcision.

WHAT’S THE VERDICT?

People should learn about circumcision, examine their beliefs and form an opinion.

There are rare circumstances when therapeutic medical circumcision is necessary for the health of men from birth to adulthood. But, in my opinion, circumcision should not be a preferred choice for adults and should not be forced on children. If a male feels that there is a benefit to not having a foreskin, he should be able to decide that for himself once he becomes a fully-developed, conscious and sexually-active adult. Just because circumcision has been around for so long does not mean it must continue to be an option. No matter what new parents conclude, serious thought should be given as to whether a child is circumcised or not.

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PERSPECTIVES ON

THE HOLIDAYS



Seasonal stimulus

Jeremy Woo

Santa's Helper



In spite of the naysayers, pessimists and self-proclaimed enemies of commercialized holidays, the winter holiday season truly is the “most wonderful time of the year” for many reasons. However, the recent consumerism and secularism of Western society has challenged its relevance. Christianity is no longer as dominant, the spectrum of year-end celebrations has become wider and December is more closely associated with presents, rather than celebration. Nevertheless, the holiday season is more important and relevant than ever for reasons other than religion. Clearly, the social and economic benefits of year-end holidays have become vital to Canadian society.

A recent study by Carleton University and Western University researchers found that Canadians are working more than ever and are spending less time on leisure and family. Luckily, regardless of faith, employees are often expected or allowed to take extra days away from work during the holidays. The social expectation that workers take time off provides a much needed break from the workplace — the vacation time allows for relaxation and recuperation. Both physical and mental health could benefit from time away from work that would likely be nonexistent if not for the holidays. More importantly, the holidays give Canadians

time to reconnect and bond with family and friends. Traditions, values and memories are built as the year comes to a close. These crucial, lasting moments in life often occur during the holidays, simply because society has designated the end of December as a period of rest for many people, opening up opportunities for shared memories and relaxation. These occasions may not be possible without a common holiday season.

Moreover, the holidays are extremely important to the Canadian economy. Interestingly, consumers may assume that only big-box retailers benefit from rampant gift shopping, however, small businesses also receive an influx of shoppers that stimulate local economies, aiding the middle class. Additionally, airlines and travel agencies often catapult their bottom line into the black during the holidays. The financial stimulus not only boosts profits for many firms, but the increased spending eases layoffs, wage cuts and benefit reductions in a reeling economy. December shopping injected \$44.8 billion into the Canadian retail sector in 2011 according to the *Toronto Sun*, bucking economic struggles. Government coffers are also padded by increased sales tax revenue, providing funding for public services.

The seasonal need for employment gives many teens and students much-needed job experience while giving youth extra spending money to further motivate the economy, especially in recent trying times. Also, holidays have more subtle economic effects

see STIMULUS, page 15

Ho-ho-NO!

Tamara Cottle

The Grinch



The holiday season has arrived once again, catching many of us unprepared and unwilling to participate in the buying frenzy. Though there are some positive attributes connected to the giving season, the predominant theme of commodity fetishism has all but demolished the true meaning of Christmas.

The Canadian civic holiday was originally created to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, and the exchange of gifts was meant to symbolize the act of the magi presenting the newborn babe with gold, frankincense and myrrh. An homage to the saviour of the world and a time for families and friends to come together to show their appreciation for each other somehow got confounded with the need to spend money.

The once exclusive Christian celebration has morphed into an all-encompassing deluge of consumerism demanding the participation of everyone. Even when people do not want to celebrate, they are coerced through psychic institutions of political correctness with something so small as a response to the innocent “Merry Christmas!” greeting.

The expectation to reciprocate when receiving a gift adds to the mounting social pressure during the holidays. The cost of a decent gift is skyrocketing, and people are paying very close attention to price points.

A \$300 iPad mini cannot be exchanged for a \$20 Starbucks gift card no matter which way you dress it up. Inevitably someone will feel jilted if the values do not match. Contrastingly, the shame and guilt of not giving something of equal or greater monetary value contributes to a growing negative perception towards this special time of year.

According to the Canadian Mental Health Association, rates of depression increase through November and December, returning to normal rates by the end of January. This says something significant about the major events occurring during the holiday season. A time when people should be surrounded by warm and fuzzy feelings has been hijacked by the melancholic sentiment generated by the capitalist machine. The burden of buying weighs heavily on souls, especially in a time of financial uncertainty. Canadian families hold record levels of debt according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. A Statistics Canada report released in October says the average household has just 63 cents of disposable income for every dollar of debt. When most Canadians are living on borrowed dime while being forced into purchasing Christmas gifts, it's no wonder people experience depression during the holiday season.

For an economic system that, by its very nature, is supposed to remedy the ills of the world, we are seeing more inequality and discontent. It is time for us to snap out of the mesmerizing trance eluding us with sugar

see HO-HO-NO!, page 15



Stimulus, cont'd from pg 14

that go beyond the benefits of consumerism. Locked-away savings that have little economic might are withdrawn and given as gifts. These funds are either placed into markets via spending, or are earmarked for post-secondary education — a long-term social and economic investment.

Finally, charities are beneficiaries of the holiday spirit. As hearts and wallets open in the name of generosity and giving, Canadians jovially give to the less fortunate. Clearly, holiday shopping, travel and gifting converge to create jobs, stimulate the economy and promote spending as well as charitable giving.

Most people can admit to at least one pleasant holiday memory. Whether it was the simple joy of being out of school for a while, playing in the snow with siblings,

going shopping with grandma, hanging out with friends at a holiday bash or drinking hot chocolate with mom or dad, the holidays have brought much joy, tradition and connectivity to the lives of Canadians. Societal norms allow Canadians to collectively share in a time of recuperation, relaxation and giving as they have for generations.

Economic stimulation, job creation, tax revenues and charitable giving serve as welcome side effects that improve life for all. Whether it's mistletoe or menorah, Kwanzaa or Christmas, simple relaxation or full-scale celebration, the holidays have a warm, welcoming and vital place in the lives of Canadians. Evidently, nothing should ever stop a happy holiday.

Happy holidays!



Ho-ho-NO!, cont'd from pg 14

plums, tinsel and the hope to buy ourselves happiness. Contentment can't be derived from the stuff we get from stores.

The true meaning of Christmas is the joy one attains from giving without expectations. Matthew 6:3 says "When you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." Gifting should not be done for the purposes of gaining recognition or getting something back in return. The spirit of altruism can be nurtured at this time of year when we focus on directing our energy on making the world a better place, not by making someone more money. Appreciation for others can be expressed in many ways that do not require the expenditure of cash. The economy is only one conduit of energy ex-

change, but there are many others. Spending time with people, having meaningful conversations, making people smile and helping out when we can are alternative ways to demonstrate love for those we care about. Placing a greater emphasis on these things over the supply and demand of a capitalist economy will indelibly increase the positive energy within ourselves and on the planet.

It is time Canadians start creating new traditions that nurture bonds between people that fill us with joy, and forgo those based on material possessions. The question that remains is, Who will be bold enough to remove themselves from the hegemonic stranglehold of a capitalist Christmas?

Bah, humbug!

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Taylor McKee

Team of the year 2012

Taylor McKee

Sports Editor • @TaylorMcKee_

In just their third year of existence, the University of Calgary Dinos women's hockey team managed to do something no U of C hockey team has done before: win a national championship. For that, they earn the honour of being the *Gauntlet's* top team in 2012.

Armed with a star-studded roster of forwards, elite goaltending and solid coaching, the Dinos headed

to their first ever Canadian Inter-university Sport championship in March 2012. The Dinos ended the season by winning 18-consecutive games, including going unbeaten in the CIS playoffs in Edmonton. In the CIS final, the Dinos were powered by a four-point game by Hayley Wickenheiser and defeated the Universite de Montreal Carabins 5-1. Goaltender Amanda Tapp was named the tournament MVP and the Dinos had three players named as tournament all-

stars, including Tapp and Wickenheiser.

As the 2012-13 season heads in to the holidays, the Dinos are currently ranked number two in the CIS, with a record of 13-3 and on a five-game winning streak. Currently, the Dinos sit on top of the Canada West conference, three points clear of the second-place University of Regina Cougars. Wickenheiser is off to another terrific start to the season, scoring 19 points in only 10 games, putting her at almost two points per game this season.

The Dinos have built a winning program, gathering top recruits from all over the country and even abroad in the case of Iya Gavrilova, who is from Russia. These recruits will have to restock the cupboards with the Dinos graduating several key players at the end of the 2012-13 season, including forwards Tanya Morgan, Elana Lovell and Erin Davidson and defender Melissa Zubick. However, continued success is the best recruiting tool available and the Dinos women's hockey team has proven that they will be contenders for the foreseeable future.

What made Dinos women's hockey special in 2012 was how they dealt with the expectations and pressure of being an elite team. This team was dominant all year long and performed best when it mattered most. The Dinos went 33-4 throughout the 2011-12 season and beat the best teams in the nation on the biggest stage. This is the mark of a great team.

Honourable Mentions

Football

Despite the bitter end to the 2012 season, losing handily on national television to the McMaster University Marauders in the Mitchell Bowl, the Dinos did manage to set a CW record by completing their fifth-straight Hardy Cup title. Dinos football also had one of their best statistical years in U of C history. The Dinos set

Swimming

Though it was early in 2012, the Dinos swimming program started the year off with a strong showing at the CIS championships in February with a silver medal for the women's team and a bronze for the men's team. On the women's side, it took a CIS record of 811.5 points to beat the Dinos. The 2012 national title went to the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds at the Universite de Montreal pool. Over the past

DINOS AT THE BREAK

Women's hockey: 13-2-1, first in Canada West conference, number two in the CIS Rankings.

Men's hockey: 9-7-1, fifth in Canada West conference.

Men's basketball: 4-6, sixth in prairie division of Canada West conference.

Women's basketball: 9-1, first in prairie division of Canada West conference, number seven in the CIS rankings.

Men's Volleyball: 2-10, 10th in Canada West conference.

Women's Volleyball: 6-6, seventh in Canada West conference.

Swimming: Men are second in the CIS Rankings. Women are third in CIS rankings.



Louie Villeneuve

The Dinos football team celebrates their fifth-straight Hardy Cup.

single-season records in an astonishing 10 categories, including points, touchdowns, sacks, total offence and completion percentage. The Dinos also will be returning the vast majority of their squad from 2012 into 2013, giving them a head start on Operation Six-Flags? — it's a working title.

four years, Dinos swimming have won four national championships — both the men's and women's programs repeated as champions in 2009-10 and 2010-11. Both the men's and women's teams are looking to recapture the CIS title in 2013 and will have home-pool advantage as the CIS championships are being at the U of C.

The top underdog and upset of 2012

Upset of the year:

Women's basketball upsetting number-one ranked Regina

On March 17, 2012, the Dinos women's basketball team entered the CIS championships as the lowest-ranked seed in the entire tournament, which meant that in the first quarterfinal match they would be playing against the top-seeded team. The Dinos squared off against the University of Regina Cougars, a squad that had defeated them three times earlier in the season.

The Dinos made it into the championships by being the host city, as they were eliminated from the CW playoffs in the quarterfinals by the University of Fraser Valley. However, home-court advantage would carry the Dinos to a magical victory over the Cougars 75-66, a perfect end to the career of head coach Shawnee Harle who retired this year after 18 seasons with the Dinos.

In a press release, Cougars head

coach Dave Taylor acknowledged the role played by the Calgary fans. "The crowd certainly played a factor, it was tough for us to run any sort of offence," said the 2012 CIS coach of the year. "I've been to 11 [CIS finals] and this is exactly what happens with the home crowd. Calgary was jacked up and they did a great job shooting the ball and making things difficult for us." The Dinos would finish fourth in the tournament, but the atmosphere in the Jack Simpson for the Dinos's games in the quarterfinals and semifinals was simply electric.

Underdog team of the year:

Baseball

The 2012 season was certainly one to remember for the University of Calgary baseball club. The Dinos finished their season losing in the semifinals of the Canadian College Baseball Conference to the Van-

couver Island Baseball Institute in the ninth inning. However, the road to the semifinals was, to put it politely, unconventional.

The regular season was an absolute nightmare. Winning five of their first nine games, the Dinos were off to one of the best starts in club history. Then, through a combination of tough losses, injuries and mental fatigue from a strenuous travel schedule, the

Dinos lost their next 17-straight games and finished with a conference worst record of 5-21. This earned them fifth seed going into the national championships in Kamloops and an exceedingly tough schedule in the tournament that included matchups against the top-two seeds. The Dinos lost their first game 6-1 to the top seed from Lethbridge but defiantly topped the second-ranked squad from

Kamloops 7-6, a team that had beaten the Dinos six-straight times during the regular season. In their third game, the Dinos shellacked VIBI from Nanaimo 16-1 and secured a berth in the semifinal. That game was essentially meaningless for VIBI, but the victory marked the first time a U of C baseball club reached the semis of a national championship.

During the season — due to renovations being conducted to Foothills Stadium in the wake of the departure of the Calgary Vipers — the home field for the Dinos suddenly became unusable, for game or practice. This meant that the Dinos played a grand total of zero home games this season and practiced indoors at the Absolute Baseball Academy, located adjacent to Foothills Academy. For their perseverance and sheer force of will, the Dinos baseball squad are this year's underdog team of the year.



courtesy Michael Boyles



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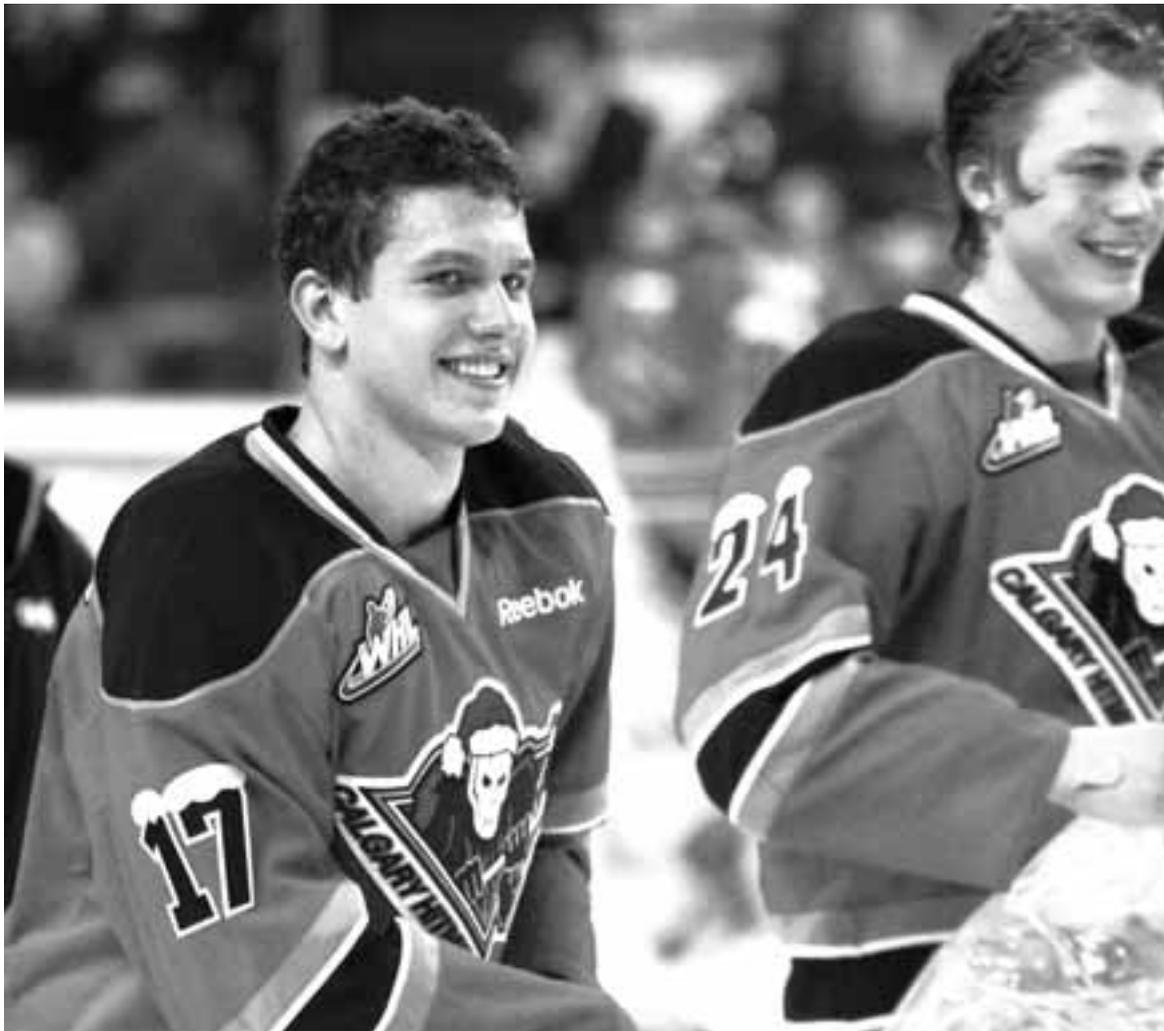
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Michael Kovacs

Teddys rain down for local charities

The Calgary Hitmen held their 18th annual Teddy Bear toss game on December 2 against their arch-rivals, the Kootney Ice. Ukrainian import Pavlo Padakin scored at 13:27 of the first period, inciting a hail of stuffed animals upon the ice — 21,453 stuffed animals in total. Every stuffed animal thrown on the ice will be donated to over 50 local children's charities. The Hitmen also wore special jerseys that were auctioned off to charity after the game. The Hitmen won the game 4-1 and currently are tied for first in the central division of the Western Hockey League.

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DINOS

ROOKIES OF THE MONTH



ALANA SKOCDOPOLE
Dinos Cross Country

Also a first-year student in the Haskayne School of Business, Alana Skocdopole was named the Canada West rookie of the year in cross country after her performance at the conference and national championships in London, Ont. Alana finished 10th in the Canada West race, just one second back of 9th place, as the Dinos finished 2nd in the Canada West standings.



DALLAS KARCH
Dinos Basketball

First-year Haskayne School of Business student Dallas Karch has been impressive for the Dinos men's basketball team through the early stages of the season. The graduate of Henry Wise Wood high school is the team's third-leading scorer with 7.4 points per game along with an impressive 45.5 field goal percentage and 83.3% success from the free throw line.

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Biology II (UPG 210)
Section 004 Jan 9 - Apr 10
Mon, Wed 5 - 6:30 pm

Chemistry II (UPG 240)
Section 005 Jan 8 - Apr 4
Tue, Thu 5 - 6:30 pm

English I (UPG 120)
Section 006 Jan 8 - Apr 4
Tue, Thu 5 - 6:30 pm

English II (UPG 220)
Section 005 Jan 8 - Apr 4
Tue, Thu 5 - 6:30 pm

Math I (UPG 105)
Section 023 Jan 9 - Apr 10
Mon, Wed 6 - 8:30 pm

Math II (UPG 101)
Section 029 Jan 8 - Apr 4
Tue, Thu 3:30 - 6 pm
Section 027 Jan 9 - Apr 10
Mon, Wed 6:30 - 9 pm

Physics II (UPG 230)
Section 004 Jan 9 - Apr 10
Mon, Wed 5 - 6:30 pm

