

SU ELECTION FORUMS

Get to know your candidates! Forums will begin at 12 p.m. in the MSC South Courtyard, (in front of the SU office).

Tues., Feb. 26	VP External
Wed., Feb. 27	VP Academic
Thurs., Feb. 28,	VP Op/Fi
Fri., Mar. 1,	VP Student Life
Mon., Mar. 4	President

OTHER FORUMS ON CAMPUS:

Mon., Feb. 25 12:30 p.m.	Haskayne Reps. Scurfield Hall
Tues., Feb. 26 7 p.m.	All Candidates Dining Centre
Wed., Feb. 27 1:30 p.m.	Science Reps. MSC South Courtyard
Thurs., Feb. 28 2 p.m.	Arts Reps. MSC South Courtyard
Fri., Mar. 1 4 p.m.	All Candidates ENGG Lounge

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Applicants must be undergraduate students. Experience with SU services and advocacy initiatives is an asset, but not necessary. This position is full-time and runs May to August.

Application deadline is Friday, March 22

To apply, please submit a cover letter, writing sample and resume to resumes@su.ucalgary.ca
For more information, visit www.su.ucalgary.ca/employment

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Golden Spatula**Sean Sullivan**

At long last, we acknowledge the indispensable contribution of one Sean Sullivan for his keen insight and media savvy in the *Gauntlet* newsroom. The immaculate Golden Spatula finds its way into your capable hands this week, Mr. Sullivan. And we know you will use it well. It is our greatest honour to work with you, sir.

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 pope-mobile based ink. We urge you to recycle/sanctify 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

Photo by Adrienne Shumlich
 Design by Morgan Shandro

Pope-ularity contest

When the immensely popular Pope John Paul II passed away in 2005, many believed that the Catholic Church was close to appointing their very first non-European pope. In fact, many believed that the cardinals would, in fact, choose an African cardinal to head the Holy See. After extended speculation, the cardinals emerged from conclave and chose Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger, who would become Pope Benedict XVI.

Instantaneously, the choice was identified as the Catholic Church wishing to move in a more conservative direction. However, it was fairly obvious that this was not a long-term decision — Ratzinger was 78 when he began his papacy. Even still, Pope Benedict XVI shocked the world on Feb. 11 when he announced that he would be resigning due to his deteriorating health.

The resignation will certainly be Benedict's most notable factoid during his ignominious eight-year reign marked by largely conservative rhetoric and accusations acquiescing to child abuse cover-ups. In 2010, Ratzinger himself was personally implicated in a cover-up in Munich — where he was then archbishop — when a known child abuser was allowed to be re-assigned and continue pastoral duties, which included contact with young people. However, it would be unfair to place the blame of child abuse in the Catholic Church solely at the feet of Benedict. Even Pope John Paul II on his deathbed admitted — rather cryptically —

that "Filth there is in the Church." Benedict's reign was also marred by a number of public embarrassments, including pleading for Jews to be "Delivered from their darkness" during a mass on Good Friday in 2007. During his work as a cardinal in the 1980s, Benedict oversaw the Catholic doctrine watchdog, known colloquially as "The Inquisition" and stalled the progress of "Liberation Theology" in Latin America which places theological emphasis on social justice and economic equality.

It has been nearly 600 years since a pope resigned for any reason. Gregory XII resigned in 1415 in order to resolve the Papal Schism that divided the church. Ratzinger's reasoning is strange to say the least as many popes have continued their papal duties even at the brink of death; peak physical condition is hardly a prerequisite for a seat in the pope-mobile.

In the wake of the news of Benedict's resignation, many quickly rushed to identify the most logical replacements for the pontiff, including two cardinals from Africa: 64-year-old Cardinal Peter Turkson of Ghana and 80-year-old Cardinal Francis Arinze of Nigeria. Another one of the front-runners is Cardinal Marc Ouellet, the Canadian prefect of the Congregation for Bishops. An African pope would make a lot of sense for the Catholic Church as there are approximately 158 million Catholics in Africa as of 2009 and it is thought that in 2025 one-sixth of the world's Catholics will be from Africa.

In the coming weeks, specula-



tion will run wild over who the next pope will be. Perhaps it is time for the Catholic Church to recognize its strength in Africa. Or is it time to reward a North American cardinal?

The question that remains is: who the hell cares about who or what the next pope is? The obsession with the election of the pope has reached an almost celebrity-apprentice level of drama while becoming more and more difficult to discern what possible connection this has to the real world in any way. Whether one is a buffet-style, once-a-year type Catholic or a regular at the lectern on Sunday mornings, the pope's influence over the lives of Catholics — or anyone else for that matter — is infinitesimally small. Those that respect the institution will remain respectful no matter which geriatric, scarlet-clad fossil is chosen for the white robes. Those that resent the institution will remain critical, even if the Church decides to join the mid-20th century and recognize the emergence of Catholicism in Africa.

The Catholic Church has had innumerable opportunities to cast off the shrouds of antiquarianism and address globally changing de-

mographics and ideas. However, if one is waiting for the Roman Catholic Church to suddenly update its image and change its position on homosexuality, contraception, women in the priesthood or, well, anything for that matter, it wouldn't be prudent to hold one's breath. There is a better chance of the entire conclave posting a "Harlem Shake" video.

Simply put, the Catholic Church's bread and butter are tradition. No matter what one believes the intentions of Jesus or the apostles were, the Catholic Church has their own set of practices and ideals that have demanded respect from members of the Catholic community. People are drawn to the traditions and practices of Roman Catholicism and a part of that is the hierarchical nature of the pope and the cardinals.

With a new pope on the horizon, it would be wise for a hope-and-change style leader to emerge to fundamentally alter the perception of Catholicism in the 21st century. Change from the Catholic Church is like the continental drift, so gradual it is impossible to notice.

Gauntlet Editorial Board

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Student news on the Internet

National online student magazine to launch Feb. 15

Michael Grondin

News Editor

The future of journalism has taken unexpected turns in the face of the digital revolution, and the Internet is becoming a new home for newspapers and magazines. Student newspapers are an important part of the campuses they represent across Canada. A national news source run by students that explores higher education did not exist — until now.

UDaimonia, named after the Greek word for happiness, is an online, not-for-profit news magazine that aims to connect Canadian students across the country, and will be launching on Feb. 15.

University of Alberta student Emerson Csorba is the founder of *UDaimonia*. In 2012, he founded *The Wanderer*, an online news magazine for U of A students, which has received over 40,000 hits and is ongoing.

Csorba said that student newspapers are important, however, a national news source for Canadian post-secondaries written by students is needed. He said that other organizations, such as the *Huffington Post*, the *Globe and Mail* or *Maclean's*, do not report on student issues with students' perspectives.

"Right now there are university affairs that cover higher education in Canada that is mostly from the perspective of professors," said Csorba. "But there isn't anything that is really substantial on a national level that is run by students."

The Canadian University Press is an alliance of student newspapers throughout Canada. *UDaimonia* differs from CUP in that it will be an independent, single source for student news.



Adrienne Shumlich

The Internet is slowly becoming a new home to newspapers and magazines.

Csorba also wants a larger connection and fewer gaps between Canadian students.

"The whole goal is to have more students across Canada speaking about higher education," said Csorba. "*UDaimonia* will be a single website that students can go to that brings together perspectives from many different people in different places across the country."

Csorba said *UDaimonia* is expected to run at least one story per day. It will function on a budget of \$100 per year for domain and web hosting. The content will have a strong focus on student issues and will be edited internally. Currently, there are editors at the U of A and in Ontario.

Students who are willing to contribute can submit a pitch online when the site is launched.

"So far, we've put together about 20 writers at various universities, some that are recent grads and some that are just finishing up, and the goal is to have at least 10 articles up when we launch," he

said. "I don't envision there being any ads on the website, so it doesn't really need much more than the \$100 that we spend each year on hosting. I don't see funding being a large issue."

Csorba said that post-secondary institutions in Canada are constantly changing and incorporating more technology.

"I want more Canadian students to be engaged about their university education, especially as higher education is changing really rapidly," he said.

Csorba said he wants *UDaimonia's* content quality to be high.

"We really need to have people who are committed to read over all of the articles that will be published, but at the same time I don't think it will be too much of an issue for editing if we only have one or two articles going up each day," he said. "We still want our content to be really high quality and we need people who are engaged and passionate."

UDaimonia contributor and fourth-year U of A nursing student Maggie Danko wants to explore students' mental health in Canada. Danko has not written for student newspapers, such as *The*

Gateway, but she has contributed to *The Wanderer*.

"I think student news is a great outlet to talk about issues that are important for [students]," said Danko.

She said *UDaimonia* will be a new way for students to explore higher education.

"[*UDaimonia*] will be a different avenue that has not yet been explored and, being a national magazine, it's a great way for students across the country to unite common needs and interests," said Danko.

She hopes that as the site develops there will be a collection of strong writers and editors from across Canada.

The Gateway's Editor-in-Chief Ryan Bromsgrove said that student newspapers are important tools to keep university administrations and student governments in check.

"I think that student newspapers are very effective," said Bromsgrove. "We certainly think that we have been effective as a student newspaper, and as a means of giving students beneficial information."

He said that a national news source run by students has the potential to be effective as well. However, he stressed that the editing process may be one of the biggest challenges.

"I'm not opposed to the idea," said Bromsgrove. "I think the general concept of an online national newspaper could certainly be helpful to students, and a student run one would be better than some of the stuff we already see."

Csorba said he is excited for the launch of *UDaimonia*, however, he does admit that it will have its challenges.

/// *UDaimonia* will be a single website that students can go to that brings together perspectives from many different people in different places across the country.

— Emerson Csorba, *UDaimonia* founder

campus quips

What role does campus media play in your student life?



"I don't see how it impacts my experience at the U of C."

— Lauren Keith, third-year anthropology



"I watch NUTV when I'm in the Tim Hortons line."

— Cody Brown, third-year geology



"Not a significant amount, unless I see people I know involved."

— Sam Weerasekera, third-year science



"The *Gauntlet* plays the biggest role. I can read it at my own pace."

— Kelly Prokopphuk, first-year arts

One Billion Rising YYC

Protest on V-Day works to end violence against women

Michael Grondin
News Editor

Protestors will be dancing in the streets on V-Day, Feb. 14, to put an end to violence against women. One Billion Rising YYC is part of a global movement that aims to increase discussion around gender discrimination and violence. It will be the inaugural event.

According to the One Billion Rising website, "Today, on the planet, a billion women — one of every three women — will be raped or beaten in her lifetime. That's one billion mothers, daughters, sisters, partners and friends violated."

A study conducted by the World Health Organization stated that as many as 71 per cent of women aged 15-49 have been physically or sexually abused in their lifetimes.

In Calgary, participants of One Billion Rising will be taking over TD Square from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., holding a march, flash mob, speeches and live performances.

According to organizer of the Calgary chapter and fourth-year U of C psychology student Chelsea

Humphry, One Billion Rising is an opportunity to engage Calgarians in the issue of violence against women.

She founded the Calgary chapter with students Susannah Walton and Brittany Humphry.

"I'm hoping the event will educate Calgarians about the realities of violence against women that occur in our city and internationally. All over the world, people are gathering for One Billion Rising," said Humphry. "It is a walkout. People leave work, their classes, to dance in the street to protest violence against women."

V-Day, held on Valentine's Day every year, was created by activist Eve Ensler, the creator of the *Vagina Monologues*. This year marks the 15th anniversary of this global protest against gender violence.

"It is a really symbolic date, and in our culture it is represented by love and it is an important contrast to address the negative sides as well," said Humphry.

Humphry said there are many resources available for women who have been hurt by gender violence, but more support is needed. She encourages U of C students to participate in the event.

"I would love for every student to come down and see the community activism that will happen," said Humphry. "It is a real grassroots movement. We want to show that these kinds of movements are possible and that they make a difference."

To comment on this story
visit thegauntlet.ca

/// I'm hoping the event will educate Calgarians about the realities of violence against women that occur in our city and internationally.

— Chelsea Humphry, organizer of One Billion Rising YYC



courtesy Chelsea Humphry

Chelsea Humphry, Susannah Walton and Brittany Humphry founded One Billion Rising YYC.

A new way to help burn victims

Riley Hill
Gauntlet News

A research team at the University of Calgary is working on innovative stem cell research in the hope of creating new skin treatments for burn victims. Professors Jeff Biernaskie and Vincent Gabriel head the team, running a research lab at the Foothills campus.

"The lab studies skin stem cell biology specifically," said Biernaskie. "We're interested in cells that are involved in maintaining and regenerating both the epidermis and the dermis, which are the two most prominent layers of the skin."

According to Biernaskie, the stem cells researched come from adult skin and have amazing potential for tissue regeneration.

"In this context, a stem cell is an adult stem cell," said Biernaskie. "The difference between stem cells

and any other cell is that they are able to divide and self-renew. They can undergo cell division, even in the adult human body, and make exact copies of themselves."

The hope is that, with further research, these stem cells could be used to repair skin damaged caused by severe burns. This would enhance current skin graft procedures that bring a number of unwanted complications.

"The problem we're facing is that if someone has a severe burn, the current treatment is a split pigment skin graft. What that means is the top layers of skin from an undamaged part of the body is transplanted overtop the burn site or the wound," said Biernaskie. "One thing that burn survivors battle with is this chronic itching sensation. That's extremely frustrating, but also it causes them to itch the graft and because it's fragile, it opens up and then the wound is really sus-

ceptible to secondary infections."

These complications come from the missing dermis, which is the underlayer of the skin. Biernaskie hopes the team's research will show how to generate this missing dermis and solve current problems with skin grafts.

"What we're trying to do is use stem cells from the dermis, from human dermis, to grow them up in a dish in a lab, grow huge numbers of them so that they can be transplanted within a split pigment skin graft and promote new regeneration of new dermis within that skin graft and hopefully provide better function," said Biernaskie.

The research is a large collaborative effort that is funded by Alberta Innovates research grants. They've also received support from the Calgary Firefighters Burn Treatment Society, the U of C faculty of veterinary medicine and faculty of medicine.

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Gene therapy trials led by U of C

Researcher among the first to examine Fabry disease treatment using stem cells

Emily Ng

Gauntlet News

The University of Calgary is involved in the first gene therapy trials for Fabry disease, an inherited genetic disorder. The study is led by assistant professor of genetics and pediatrics at the U of C Aneal Khan.

These trials are the first for Fabry disease in the world and are funded by the Canada Institutes of Health Research and the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

Fabry disease is a mutation in the GLA gene. The result is a deficiency in an enzyme that normally breaks down a lipid called GB3. Therefore, GB3 accumulates in areas such as the kidneys and heart and can cause kidney failure, strokes, heart failure and a reduced life expectancy.

During early childhood and adolescence, males with Fabry disease may experience severe pain in their hands and feet and have difficulty sweating. The diagnosis for Fabry disease is often delayed.

"It's not a common disease. So as they go and see different specialists, the diagnosis can often be delayed by at least 10 to 15 years. Usually they are young adults by the time they get a di-



Louie Villanueva

Dr. Kahn is researching a treatment for Fabry disease.

agnosis," said Khan.

There is no cure for Fabry disease. Current treatment involves injecting patients every two weeks with manufactured enzyme, which costs around \$250,000 per year.

"The current standard treatment still means there is a lot of room to move forward to be able to provide them with some long-

term correction," said Khan.

The new gene therapy treatment involves inserting working copies of the GLA gene into the stem cells obtained from clinical trial patients using a virus. Once the virus is removed, stem cells are transplanted back into the patient.

"What we're hoping with this treatment is to stabilize the Fabry

/// What we're hoping with this treatment is to stabilize the Fabry disease so at least it doesn't get any worse.

– Aneal Khan, assistant professor of genetics and pediatrics

disease so at least it doesn't get any worse. We don't know that we'll be able to reverse any of the changes that are there," said Khan. "It's a trial to first look at safety and then we will also be looking to see if doing this allows for stable and constant production of the enzyme in the patient."

Because the stem cells transplanted back into the patient are their own, Khan hopes that the anti-rejection medications necessary with current treatments can be avoided.

The study currently is in its first phase, which involves removing stem cells from Calgary patients in a process called apheresis. The stem cells are then sent to Toronto principal investigator Jeff Medin. The working GLA gene is then inserted into the stem cells and stem cells are injected into mice with Fabry disease.

"That would be the first attempt at correcting a human cell and then showing that it will actually correct the disease in the mouse," said Khan.

The apheresis unit at the Foothills Medical Centre has played a major role in obtaining these stem cells from patients.

"The Calgary apheresis protocol is highly efficient so that we can get enough cells to perform an autologous transplant back into the patient whereas other protocols have struggled producing the same number of cells," said Khan. "Without the Calgary [apheresis unit], this experiment would be very difficult to do."

Khan expects that stem cell transplants will happen in Fabry patients in two years from now in Toronto.

"We're hoping that after the first few transplants are done in Toronto that we are able to do the transplants here in Calgary at some point in the future as well," said Khan.

If the study shows a response in Fabry patients, Khan hopes that other single gene diseases may be treated in a similar manner using this therapy.

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Drop off at MSC 251, or email nikhatahmed@su.ucalgary.ca

For more information, please contact 403-220-6693.



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GAUNTLET NEWS

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World of dividing walls

Michael Grondin

News Editor

The divisions in society is a topic explored by French political scientists and photographers Alexandra Novosseloff and Frank Neisse in their exhibit *Walls Between People*.

An opening ceremony for the exhibit was held at the Founders' Gallery in the Military Museums of Calgary on Feb. 8. The exhibit will be displayed at the University of Calgary's Founders' Gallery until April 14.

Walls Between People explores eight different physical barriers around the world and how people live with them. The exhibit also explores the use of graffiti and other forms of expression on these walls.

The dividing lines that are explored include the Westbank, the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, Mexico and the United States and the Green Line in Cyprus.

The project began in the summer of 2005 when Neisse and Novosseloff, who conduct research at the University of Paris, traveled the world to explore the contrast between freedom and dividing lines.

"We really wanted to show the reality of the barriers we put



courtesy Alexandra Novosseloff

Face2Face, a photo taken by Alexandra Novosseloff in Bethlehem.

around ourselves," said Novosseloff in a phone interview from New York City.

The researchers initially wrote a book on their findings entitled *Walls Between Peoples*. In 2008, the International Red Cross Museum in Geneva, Switzerland organized a photo exhibition that has since been showcased worldwide. Their work is also affiliated with the United Nations, the University of Montreal and various peace-keeping organizations.

"The biggest goal was to show the reality of this new phenomenon at the end of the Cold War.

At that time, everybody thought that the world was so open," said Novosseloff. "When you look closer at the world, you find that there are many places where people are fencing themselves in. And we thought it would be an interesting paradox to show and research the tension between globalization and fragmentation."

According to curator of art at the Founders' Gallery Lindsey V. Sharman, the walls tell an important story.

"When a wall is put up between two different populations, that's indicative of complex and sensitive

situations," said Sharman.

She said that exploring these conflicted areas is important to understanding the world.

"Our goal here with the gallery is to look at issues of conflict — contemporary as well as historical — and to disseminate education and knowledge," said Sharman. "Oftentimes, we may be a bit removed from a lot of these situations and I think that the walls are representing complex situations all over the world that are not well understood."

Neisse and Novosseloff are constantly traveling to these sites to update their work.

Novosseloff said she is happy that the exhibit could be displayed in the U of C's Founders' Gallery. She hopes that more people learn about these conflict zones and dividing lines.

The Founders' Gallery is a sister gallery to the Nickle Arts Galleries and is administered by the U of C.

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What does it mean to be a man?



Adrienne Shumlich

Welcome to the second part of the Gauntlet's two-part feature on gender issues. Below are articles written by a variety of people responding to the question, "How do masculine ideals affect you?" Want to respond or see the first part on feminism? Visit thegauntlet.ca.



Sean Willett
Second-year
communications

I've seen the movie *Les Misérables* twice now, and I cried buckets both times. For those of you who don't know, *Les Misérables* is a musical about a bunch of French people singing about how much they love each other — it is probably the least 'manly' film anyone could conceive of.

In fact, I'm probably one of the least manly people you will ever meet: I like listening to girly pop songs, I have a massive soft spot

for cute animals, I have never come close to being in a fight and I spent high school doing improv instead of playing sports. I'm a terrible man.

But who cares? I don't think that these traits make me better than any other person with a penis, and I certainly don't think they make me any worse.

I'm pretty happy with who I am, and I don't need an artificial label to validate my existence. People should never act a certain way simply because they think it is expected of them — they should just act the way that makes them the most happy.

Now if you'll excuse me, I need to listen to "I Dreamed a Dream" a few dozen more times.

Gabriel Gana
First-year
philosophy



I have never been considered a masculine man. Compared to most guys, I look like a hairy

hobbit with glasses. Whenever I see this so-called 'ideal man' that usually adorn the covers of posters and magazines, I always see a tall, handsome, baby-face whose hair has more product than a girl has makeup on.

But even if this is the prevalent notion of how a man should be, I take comfort in the fact that I seldom paid attention to such a trend.

I mean, what happened to the kind of man who took charge, the man who got the job done and the man who is comfortable in his own skin, Viking beard or none?

Instead, all I see are pop stars who dress like they don't even own a mirror and sparkling teen vampires who would make Bram Stoker roll in his grave.

It's not that I am bitter about the way things are, it's just that prevalent notions may not necessarily hold true. Guys come in all sorts of shapes and sizes, and it doesn't mean we are any less masculine than your average Abercrombie & Finch model.

A man doesn't need to be photoshop buff to be kind, dashing, courteous and caring. What

makes a man a man is his nature, not just his stature.



Sarah Dorchak
Fifth-year English and
communications

Masculinity has built itself up against femininity — you can't have one without the other. One label is defined hierarchically lower, yet that label supports and sustains the other. It is no wonder then that feminism appears to threaten masculinity.

Feminism aims to break down the boundaries between traditional masculine and feminine roles, personalities and ways of experiencing the world. And while feminism has been making progress regarding traditional feminine roles, there has been a considerable lack of attention paid to masculine roles.

Comics, and by extension popular culture, are our modern day mythology. Take a look at any popular superhero: the men all

have the same broad shoulders, square jaws and steel eyes.

Batman was first conceptualized as a Byronic hero and continues to be portrayed as one — a hero Lord Macaulay describes as "a man proud, moody, cynical, with defiance on his brow, and misery in his heart, a scorner of his kind, implacable in revenge, yet capable of deep and strong affection." James Bond loves and loses in *Casino Royale* and in every book and film since he shows no compassionate emotion, just action and sex.

These caricatures of masculinity are just as detrimental to men as the slut or virgin images are to women. And it's time we feminists started paying attention to these issues. If feminism is about equality, its focus should not solely be on eroding the traditionally feminine roles. It should be about creating an equal playing field where both sexes, regardless of sexuality, race or class, are able to participate in a discussion about tropes, about inequalities, about their individual experiences.

It's just as important to diversify women's roles as it is men's.

Mark Reynolds

Third-year history



Immaturity, irresponsible and sexist are some of the assumed male characteristics that exist in our society. Surely, we men can live up to these assumptions, like objectifying women that men find physically attractive. However, not all men are like this. Appreciation of beauty is different than sexualizing every woman. Uncertainty of how to be a man does not mean immaturity or irresponsibility. The question of masculinity leads me to wonder how many of those male characteristics are societal assumptions? Do men behave in a certain way because that is how the rest of the population sees us? Or are these the ways we see ourselves?

The most obvious difference I noticed when I left for an exchange in the fall was the departure from the preordained constructions of my personal character. While abroad, I was able to strip away ex-

ternal influences and begin to decipher my own personality, persona and standards. I now understand that I am not subject to generalized standards — I am subject only to my own personal understandings.

For me, masculinity, as understood by my own experiences and as understood in my own generalizations, has developed from restriction to responsibility. It is my responsibility to help change the perception of men and the generalizations of myself. Men are not Homer Simpsons, anti-feminists or sex fiends — we are individuals striving for personal understanding in a confusing world.

Jeremy Woo

First-year commerce



“Be a man, Jeremy!” is a phrase that I have heard all too often in my life. I feel that society has expectations of me as a member of male kind — most notably, to be ‘masculine’ in behaviour and personality. However, I question the practicality of some mascu-

line characteristics. Whether as trivial as engaging in a fistfight or as disastrous as participating in war, masculine ideals have blinded mankind from reason and pragmatism.

Society’s expectations of masculinity include defending oneself, one’s family and especially a romantic interest in the form of violent, physical altercations. If a fight does not occur, the males involved are perceived as cowardly, weak or hideously unmanly. In this situation, I’m ashamed that I have backed out of battle, my pride dented, and tail between my legs.

“Be a man, Jeremy. What does your girlfriend think of you when you just stand there, you wimp?” This rather bizarre expectation of aggression is an integral part of masculinity, but in the end has no purpose — no real resolution is found, injuries arise and no progress has been made. This show of manliness is essentially useless.

More troublesome is the advent of war. Whether in the days of Sparta or as recently as the Vietnam War, the ideal, masculine male is expected to fight with pride for his nation and protect his wife, children and country. Societal

pressures enforce these unwritten laws of proper masculinity.

“Be a man, Jeremy. Go fight, go kill for killing’s sake. If you do not, you are not a real man.” The ambition to barbarously kill and destroy for the sake of supremacy is blind, partly fueled by powerful masculine expectations that somehow necessitate disastrous, humanity-destructive war. Unfortunately, I am not above the impracticalities of male expectation. I too am somewhat driven by the rules of masculinity.

But perhaps I should say to myself: “Be a man, Jeremy. Be a reasonable, practical man.”

Sepand Asefi

Third-year international relations



While the conversations surrounding feminism and women’s rights have grown to a successful roar over the past century, the other half of the same discussion has all but been put into the shadows. While traditional masculinity and what it meant to

see MASCULINITY, page 10

“What is being masculine? How is a man supposed to act? Who is a man supposed to be? The answer is that there is no answer.”

—Michael Grondin,
third-year communications

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Masculinity, continued from page 9

be a man was rooted in the relative description of what a woman isn't, our post-modern society has redefined the role and meaning of masculinity.

So what does it mean to be a man in this post-modern world? Well, in my opinion, the three points below are a glimpse of what it means to be masculine.

Composure: The ability to be a pillar of strength amidst the chaos of life is perhaps one of the most valuable traits possessed by the ideal man. Day-to-day stressful situations, emotionally-charged moments and unprecedented events all have a way of blockading our sense of rational thought, but by being able to keep your composure and remain unfazed, you're less likely to act in a regrettable and uncharacteristic manner.

Passion: It's what allows you to taste the flavours of life — it is the fuel that keeps you going. Passion has been important for men in every time period. The idea of a historical masculine man — like a warrior or knight — has always been comprised of a drive, courage and a cause. A man whose passion drives him to take charge and make change.

Truth: To be truthful takes a certain kind of person, not just in the sense of not telling lies but also acknowledging realities of situations and character. A man must be bold to be able to face and admit these truths, despite any negative reaction that it could bring about. There is an idiom

“Whether as trivial as engaging in a fist-fight or as disastrous as participating in war, masculine ideals have blinded mankind from reason and pragmatism.”

—Jeremy Woo, first-year commerce

that goes, “The more honest you are about your faults, the more people will think you are perfect.”

To me, masculinity today is a quest towards a set of traits deeply-rooted in long-standing values that, despite changes in our society, still serve as a symbol of virility and the building blocks of a ‘real’ man.

Sean Sullivan

Second-year
open studies



Is there such a thing as a ‘manly’ profession? In a period of promoted equality between the sexes, the politically correct answer is “no.” However, men share the burden of social pressure just as much as women. It is an outdated belief that men should be the protectors, providers and procreators of society but many men are still expected to enrol in subjects that were once the bastions of male knowledge: engineering, science and mathematics. Or, if university

isn't in the budget, the trades, such as carpenter, plumber, welder or electrician. If there is no budget, there's construction worker, forklift operator and short-order cook. A significant portion of this pressure is economic, following the money as it were.

When I was deciding on which classes to focus on in high school, and, by inference, where I would go in university, my father told me that if I didn't get a bachelor of science I would never “succeed” after university.

But once I entered university, I recognized very quickly that my chosen major, physics, was not where I wanted to be — though not without a swift kick from a female professor, who became a mentor and a friend. Over the course of a decade I progressed through physics, computer science, communications, philosophy, anthropology, psychology and journalism, graduating with that coveted bachelor of science in the process, before tackling the passion I was ignoring all along: English. I'd traversed the spectrum from science towards the field I was warned against, a

precarious career in the arts — and potential house-husbandry.

Throughout my academic career, I worked as a contractor to make money, and I met men who followed a disconcerting — to my mind — trend. After high school, some men immediately got a job in construction, made enough money to buy a house, got married and that was that: success. There was never any desire to pursue anything beyond providing for a wife and kids. No *joie de vivre*, no aspiration.

While women are trumpeting confidence and self-actualization, some men are retreating to the comfort of traditional male roles. I also noticed they drank too much too often. If that is masculinity, I want no part of it.

Tristan Taylor

Fourth-year English



I study medieval literature. I have a beard. This is all you need to

know about me to understand my comprehension of contemporary images of masculinity. In the past few years I have noticed a trend in the portrayal of men, and what a ‘real’ man is — as if to say that there are ‘real’ men and ‘fake’ men, whatever that may mean.

These ‘real’ men appear in commercials, advertising the latest razor — one that now has a keg-tap and 15 blades — implicitly telling me how, if I use this razor, herds of hot women will flock to my side. Perhaps the worst transgressor of this is Axe cologne. Masculinity, it seems, is an image. Anyone can be masculine as long as they use the previous products.

My idea of masculinity definitely stems from my understanding and appreciation of medieval literature in which masculinity is the all-encompassing anachronistic term to explain chivalry, gentility and honour. These three ideas cover almost all traits that a man, that is, a knight, would have.

It's not having a beard, nor having the razor to shave said beard, but the internal motivations that guide the actions that make the man masculine. Masculinity is opening doors for women, it is keeping your word after making a promise, it is having an honest intention in everything you do.

My point is that pop culture represents the masculine man as an image — as something you can put on. I believe that masculinity stems from the mind, represented through one's actions.

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Michael Grondin

Third-year communications

We are always given labels. These labels dictate how we act and how we live. Labels dictate how we are supposed to treat people, who we are supposed to respect and how. Labels, like being masculine, offer us a pre-determined set of rules, obligations and viewpoints, when, in all fairness, masculinity itself is an abstract, manmade idea.

What is being masculine? How is a man supposed to act? Who is a man supposed to be? The answer is that there is no answer. These labels are just socially constructed ideas, reinforced time and time again by stereotypes and the media. You want to know why patriarchal, homophobic or misogynistic attitudes still exist? Look at the stereotypes provided by these labels.

Yes, I do have male biological characteristics. I do have inherent views on how I am supposed to live my life as a man, but the idea of being a man or a woman in a general way in contemporary society is so outrageously constructed it does

not reflect who we are as individuals.

Growing up, I was considered a fag, a pussy, effeminate because I was sensitive, sympathetic and caring to my friends. I was considered unmanly because I was short. I've even had people tell me that because of my body hair, I am not masculine. Bullshit.

We cannot keep living with these labels — whether it's masculine, feminine, black, white, gay, straight, tough, weak, conservative, liberal, smart, stupid — because they are not a true reflection of who we really are. When we give ourselves labels, we get a narrow, one-minded path to walk down without room to breathe or grow.

So what makes me a man? That's for me to find out.



Louie Villanueva

First-year English and education

Traditional views on masculinity have been in decline for some time. Masculinity has become satirized in some respects — the advent of social memes such as the popular

Old Spice advertisements portray the ideal man as unrealistic and silly, while certain fashion trends of the last few decades would have been traditionally considered effeminate, such as skinny jeans and earrings. Celebrities such as Justin Bieber promote a different kind of masculinity that some people consider effeminate. At the same time this new type of masculinity appeals to certain people.

However, men shouldn't care about the labels put on them. The ideal man is subjective. Different people have unique perceptions of the ideal man.

In my social circles, I find strict masculine ideals aren't taken seriously. No one gets offended if you insult their 'manhood.' This relaxed attitude regarding masculinity as a form of identity has led to a reduction in homophobia. However, there are straight men who see homosexuality as a threat to masculine ideals and their own manhood. Even straight men who possess effeminate traits might be viewed as inferior and as not worthy of manhood. This view is wrong. You shouldn't associate feminine traits with inferiority, just as women with masculine traits shouldn't be seen as inferior either.



Adrienne Shumlich

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The school of freethought



A world where atheists and theists can live as one

Christian Loudon

Gauntlet Opinions



From an early age, I've questioned faith. My experience with religion has been that it can be incredibly prescriptive of what we ought or ought not do, and offers little reason to follow its rules other than fears of mortality. Good acts, and strict adherence to these rules will be rewarded in heaven. Unfortunately, the teachings I was raised on seemed to offer little reason to take seriously beyond that they were the traditions of my progenitors.

This is important in the philosophy of freethought. Freethinking is the idea that opinions ought not to be based on dogmatic belief, and that truth lies within that which can be discovered through logic and reason. By the time I was 12-years-old, I'd long lost count of the times I'd been told I was going to hell. I wasn't worried. I was born a Christian Scientist, converted to Catholicism, and still in short-pants by the time I became an atheist.

Shortly after starting university, my hobbies included ridiculing religious kids in my first-year ethics class because they seriously believed that morality could not exist without religion. John Lennon's "Imagine" was my jam, and I made it my mission to tell everyone I met that if we could only give up religion — and countries and wars, et cetera — the world could live as one. In short, I was an asshole — a naive asshole. I didn't know it yet, but I was a strict adherent to the doctrine of freethought.

Today, freethinker is a moniker primarily adopted by atheists who see the same problems with religion that I did as a child and in my early years of university. But I can't help feel like this version of freethought is throwing the baby Jesus out with the bathwater.

As a term to be applied in opposition to theological inquiry, freethought implies that those who do not share the same beliefs are not free in their thinking. This piece of rhetoric shuts down serious debate before it can begin. Even worse, many freethinkers

seem to subscribe to a dogma of their own, which is the apparently incontrovertible truth of the non-existence of a deity, and attack some of the dubious claims made in the Bible as the principal example of why we ought to abandon religion altogether.

The religious right in the United States — the loudest, and most obnoxious voices of Christianity today — say some pretty ignorant things in an effort to persuade people that women should have no right to choose abortion and that same-sex marriages are an abomination. So it is little wonder that the concept of freethought has become so attractive. But what of the quieter progressives in Christianity? Is there no room for the advancement of new ideas in Christianity, or are these ideas ignored simply because they don't support the loudest, most obnoxious arguments against religion?

It's true that there are many outdated ideas in the Bible. There are also many outdated ideas espoused by Aristotle, but we can still find value in studying *Politics* without feeling obliged to

support slavery or the subjugation of women. Ideas change and, through scholarly inquiry, we work to find truth. Why can't the same be said about religion? If we can accept this premise, then all we're left with is quibbling over the minor detail of whether or not a divine being exists. No amount of arguing seems to satisfy either side, and so we find ourselves at an impasse: there is insufficient evidence to prove the existence of a divine deity, and there is also insufficient evidence to prove the non-existence of a god. In his book *The God Delusion*, Richard Dawkins sums up a commonly held position among freethinkers: "We are all atheists about most of the gods that humanity has ever believed in. Some of us just go one god further." But he fails to sway the faithful, merely propping up his acolytes and encouraging ad hominem mudslinging.

The reason that atheists can't convince the religious, and vice versa, seems to be that they are arguing about two different things. Religion isn't based on reason, and trying to argue about it using

reason will always come up short. Here, the freethinkers claim victory because they assume that their way of thinking is the pinnacle of human achievement. They've already ruled out the value of half of the human experience, namely the non-rational. Call me crazy, but there's a lot more to life than can be learned through rational inquiry alone. At bottom, that freethinkers lack imagination makes it difficult to believe their way of thinking is free at all.

Today, my beliefs are more complicated than the simple binary idea that either there is or isn't a god. I don't believe in a god in the sense that Abrahamic religions believe in one, but it seems to me that as long as you're not using your beliefs to persecute others, you're doing alright — whether you're a theist or non-theist. Everything I believe is an open question, and I make adjustments to my assumptions through contemplative reflection and constant exposure to new ideas. This is what a freethinker ought to be, a term open to theists, atheists and agnostics alike.

Paying lip service to political correctness

Tobias Ma

Gauntlet Opinions



The notion of someone being apolitical is impossible since everything is political and everyone has a political agenda. The term “political correctness” is therefore subjective and defined by its user.

This is where I take issue with the term. Political correctness is misleading because all it implies is social pressure to behave a certain way. When pundits are accused of punditry, they deflate the accusations as “PC” whining. Political correctness is a form of thought suppression to the partisan zealot, a Matrix-esque structure of mind control. Those against it portray themselves as straight-shooters or as people who “call it like they

see it” and other euphemisms for ineloquence, which we are all admittedly guilty of from time to time.

But prominent figures perceived as “politically incorrect” are quick to choke out opinions contrary to their own, an example being Ann Coulter’s or Bill O’Reilly’s remarks that the Dixie Chicks were guilty of treason for speaking out against the invasion of Iraq. One might suspect then that there is no definable issue with the way political correctness informs our behaviour. They are simply smear words to discredit something that the accuser deems inauthentic, using the same sneaky language modification that the term itself decries. So, although PC is derided by the right as intellectually repressive, right-wing pundits use the same technique themselves, which is hypocritical.

Academics have described PC as an attack against ostensibly left-leaning ideologies. It is true that the PC label has adhered to progressivism, but the source of anger is reflected in the topics it wrestles, not its methodology. Keep in mind that PC only references socially-appropriate behaviour, however, without context the term is a pollutant.

We ask ourselves if we take political correctness too far but the question is pointless. PC spans a gamut of issues from women’s rights to stem cell research to gun control. Examination of the specific issue is necessary to judge whether it has become overly mired in society’s expectations. By themselves, the words “politically correct” are useless. Every usage of the expression is situational. Having to feign honesty in formal conversation can be frustrating but, let’s face it, we are getting better at bullshitting anyway.



On March 6, the Gauntlet will be holding elections for Tier I positions (Editor-in-Chief and News Editor).

For more information please contact:
Editor-in-Chief
(eic@thegauntlet.ca)

All University of Calgary undergraduate students are eligible to run for these positions. Students interested in running must declare their candidacy by Wed, Feb. 27 at 5 p.m.

Applicants must be available for a one hour editing test on Thursday, Feb. 28 or Friday, March 1 and a forum on Friday, March 1.





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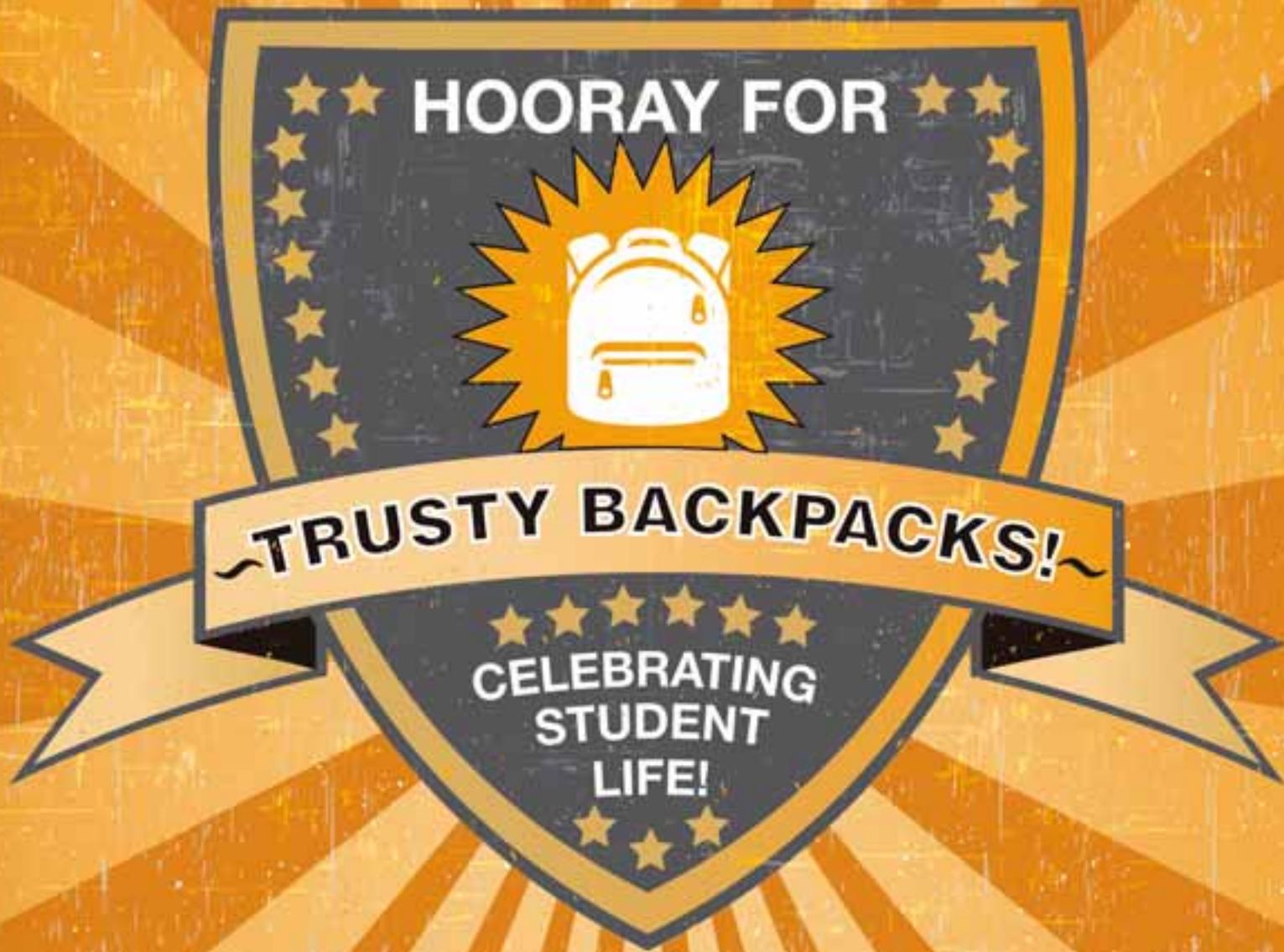
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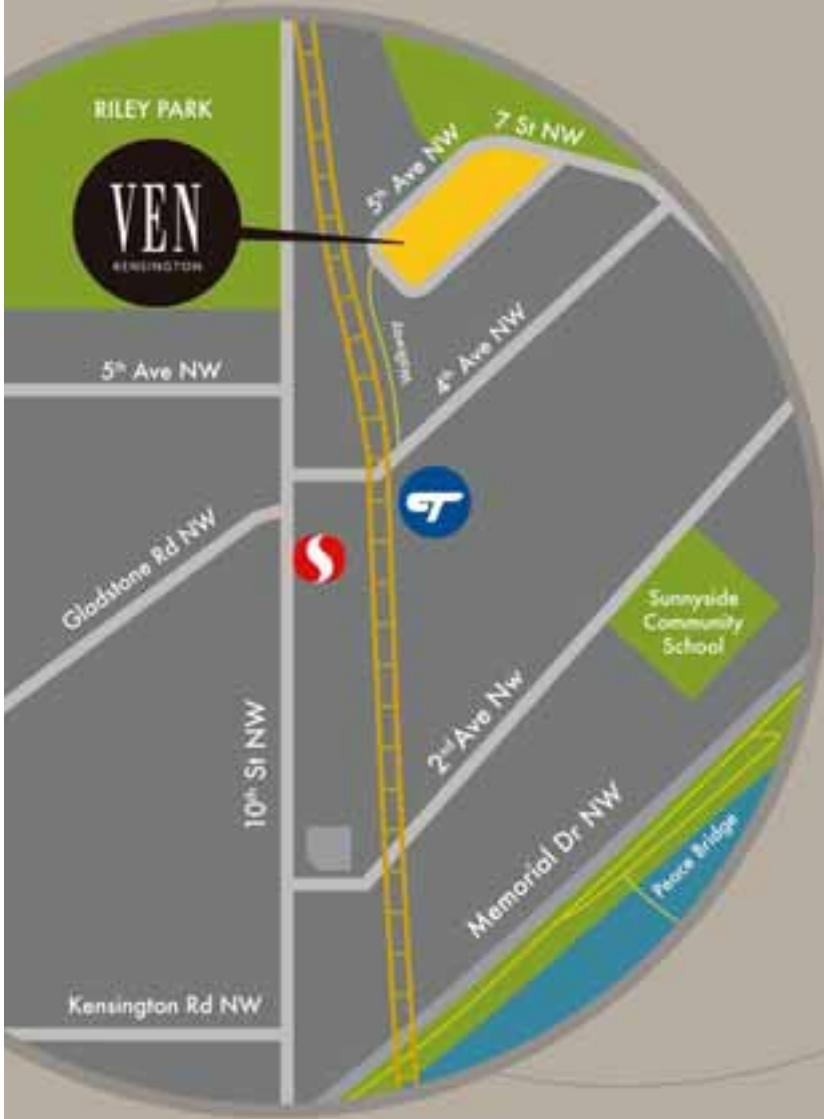
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Fall in love with HeARTvark

Calgarian artists create an interactive alternative to Valentine's Day

Sean Willett

Entertainment Editor

Are you unsatisfied with the typical deluge of Valentine's Day activities? Do chocolates and roses not fit your idea of romance? Do you wish there was an escape from this commercialized holiday? You aren't alone — Kathryn Smith and Geneviève Paré of Cat on a Leash Creations feel the same way. With HeARTvark, their newest project, they created an alternative to traditional Valentine's Day fare with a unique showcase of local artistic talent.

HeARTvark is an experiential art gathering that will be hosted in Calgary's historic John Snow House from Feb. 14–16. The house will be filled with musicians, visual art pieces and performance art installations, creating an interactive environment for guests to explore. Smith recalls that the idea for this event began the same way many ideas are seeded — over a drink with her friend.

"It came to be in the same way most of these events start — it was over a pint with Gen," says Smith. "We went to university together, and went for a drink one night. We were discussing different projects we had seen in the past and what inspired us in our careers as theatre artists, and developed this idea for an interactive art gallery that would occur in a house. From there it sort of took off, we enjoyed the idea a lot and we wanted to create an experience for people to meet up."

Soon the project began taking

shape, and when Smith and Paré found that the best time for the event would be February, the concept of a Valentine's Day themed event was quickly formed.

"When we first discussed this idea we flipped through our schedules to find the best time, and it happened to be February," says Smith. "We liked the idea of making it a themed event, and we started talking about the idea of love and the commercialism of Valentine's Day and we both sort of had a dislike of where Valentine's Day had taken us. Not out of any particular experience, it was just that most of the time Valentine's is very concentrated on that commercial aspect. So we wanted to give people another option for what they want to do for their Valentine's Day."

Due to the pair's background in performance art, Smith and Paré were able to quickly find many local performers that were eager to collaborate with them in creating HeARTvark.

"We pulled some of our performance art from people we have met in our line of work, including a couple of friends both new and old," explains Smith. "For a lot of our visual artists and musicians it's sort of a friends of friends thing, and we did send out a call for artists a couple months back and got a lot of responses. People seemed to be really drawn to the idea, a chance for them to produce something they didn't have to feel any pressure about. We gave them a lot of freedom."

Their choice for the location



courtesy Cat on a Leash Creations

Kathryn Price and Geneviève Paré are the performance arts masterminds behind HeARTvark.

of the event was an easy one — the John Snow House is known throughout the city for being one of the most interesting and exciting venues for art exhibitions in Calgary, and was a perfect fit for this type of event.

"Gen had talked really fondly about the John Snow House — she had done a performance in there before," says Smith. "We fell in love with the space as soon as we walked in and had a tour of it. It is an amazing location, a little historic building that is really supportive of artists in the community. That was a large draw for us, the fact that they are so supportive."

With over 25 artists helping to

contribute to HeARTvark, the John Snow House will be filled to the brim with art. The exhibition will take up every room in the house, with installations even featured in the backyard.

"It's going to be very packed," says Smith. "We have 16 different pieces, and that's including installations, still art and performances. There are a couple of installations and performances in each room, so there is something to look at or listen to everywhere you go."

The cozy atmosphere of the John Snow House combined with the sheer number of pieces in the exhibition are sure to make HeARTvark a unique and exciting way to

spend Valentine's Day. Adding to the mood of the event is the interactive element of many of the installations, which helps to create an experience centred on community rather than commercialism.

"They are all very interactive pieces," says Smith. "You have the option to interact with some of the performers and to write things down and add stuff to installations, so don't be shy. It's not in any way abrasive or scary, we just want people to come out, enjoy the community and enjoy other people and artists."

For more information on HeARTvark visit facebook.com/catleash.creations.

Margaret Atwood comes to the U of C

Sarah Dorchak

Production Editor

The University of Calgary's Distinguished Writers Program has named Margaret Atwood the 2012–13 Distinguished Visiting Writer, making Atwood the 19th writer chosen by the program. Previous writers who have visited Calgary as part of the program include Michael Ondaatje and Art Spiegelman.

Formed in 1993 by the U of C faculty of arts, the program aimed to create support for writers in the west.

"The idea was to connect Calgary to the larger writing community in the world," says English department head Bart Beaty. "Calgary is unfortunately a little off the beaten path for tours. This is a proactive decision to reach out and bring a writer of real stature here every year."

Distinguished visiting writers contribute to the local writing community through talks, workshops, readings or consultations. Atwood will be hosting a reading followed with commentary and signing event. The program is also offering a closed consultation between Atwood and students who have applied.

The program also has a writer-in-residence at the U of C. Deborah Willis, the 2012–13 writer-

in-residence, spends half of her time working on her own writing and the other half consulting with local writers on campus and in the community, supporting the literary culture in Calgary.

Beaty says the program helps maintain Calgary's writing community. "The U of C is a really great place for writers and creative writing. Across the entire campus there are people that are engaged as creative writers. I

think we tend to forget that."

Atwood will be speaking on Feb. 14 in MacEwan Hall at 7:30 p.m.

"I anticipate we'll have a very impressive turnout," Beaty says. "It should be very provocative. You never know what precisely she might have to say about the oil sands or the Conservative government."

For more information visit calgarywritersprogram.com.

Movie review: *Long Distance Revolutionary*

The story of a freedom fighter who continues to fight behind bars

Tamara Cottle

Opinions Editor

Imagine languishing in a Pennsylvania prison cell on death row for 31 years. Now imagine doing that while being innocent. For those who do not accept their fate at the hands of a terminally flawed justice system, their battle would unquestionably be for personal freedom, doing whatever they could to prove their innocence. Mumia Abu Jamal chose neither acceptance nor the pursuit of individual vindication. Instead, he has dedicated the last three decades to working as a radical journalist, freedom fighter and peace activist for all oppressed people — and he does this from behind bars.

Long Distance Revolutionary is a documentary by Stephen Vitoria about the life and works of this indomitable figure, who has gained the sympathies and respect of people such as *Democracy Now!* host Amy Goodman, novelist Alice Walker, historian Tariq Ali and intellectual Noam Chomsky.

The documentary paints a picture of Jamal's life beginning with his childhood in a Philadelphia public housing complex, and how he was radicalized by an encounter with a police officer who kicked him in the face at a peaceful protest against segregation when he was only 14.

In an article for *The Nation* titled



courtesy Street Legal Cinema

“B-Block Days and Nightmares,” Jamal wrote: “I hear the unmistakable sounds of meat being beaten by blackjacks, of bootfalls, yells, curses; and it merges into the mind’s movie-making machine, evoking distant memories of some of the Philadelphia Police Department’s greatest hits — on me.”

This incident catapulted him into the ranks of the Black Panthers, a black power organization, where he perfected his skills as a writer and established a revolutionary ideology that contested the injustices of one of the most racist cities in the United States at the time.

The history of Philadelphia is

thoroughly explored in this film, providing a context for the events that would inevitably find Jamal incarcerated. In 1979, for the first time in American history, the federal government filed a lawsuit against Philadelphia Police Commissioner Frank Rizzo for aiding and abetting police brutality.

Jamal was one of the few journalists courageous enough to report critically on the Police Department’s inhumane acts despite obvious recriminations. Because he was well known in the community and had proven to be a reliable voice in journalism, Jamal became public enemy number one

— he eventually suffered the consequences of what many believe was an unfair trial that was riddled with controversy.

After he was convicted of murder of a police officer in 1982, Jamal’s real work began. *Long Distance Revolutionary* does not focus on the details of the trial or the body of evidence against his conviction, but instead combines interviews with high-profile individuals with everyday people reciting the poetry of his words to present the image of a man who is sensitive, intelligent and humanitarian. It also features the smooth voice of conviction and fortitude uttered by Jamal himself.

In the time he has spent in prison, Jamal has published seven books without the use of computers or the Internet. He is also a regular commentator on an online broadcast called *Prison Radio*. He writes and speaks on topics such as the failing of the American education system, the glutting of black men in the prison industrial complex and state surveillance of all Americans in addition to issues affecting people all over the world.

It is obvious that Mumia Abu Jamal maintains an international body of support. A street has been named after him in France, and Amnesty International classifies him as a Prisoner of Conscience.

Long Distance Revolutionary provides a thorough background of someone who has dedicated his life to the emancipation of every man and woman who has felt the shackles of injustice, oppression and fear. The story of Mumia Abu Jamal inspires heroism and the pursuit of truth and justice for all.

The film will be screened in the Gallery Hall of the Taylor Family Digital Library on Feb. 27 as a part of NUTV’s Movies That Matter series. This will be the Canadian premiere of the film, and it will be followed by a 30 minute discussion.

For more information about *Long Distance Revolutionary* visit moviesthatmatter.org.

Excellent prof? Terrific TA? *The SU is accepting nominations for Teaching Excellence Awards until March 1.*

Kenya-Jade Pinto
VP Academic



As a child, everybody has had a favourite teacher. It’s that person that made learning fun as a child, or inspired you to become passionate about a subject.

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If this sounds like someone at the head of your class, YOU have the opportunity to publicly recognize and thank them. You can nominate your fall semester professors and teaching assistants right now. Professors and teaching assistants who receive the top three percent of

nominations will receive classroom visits and your SU TEA Committee will review all nominations from students based on standardized criteria.

The first nomination deadline for the winter semester is March 1. Nomination forms are available on the SU website and at the SU office in MSC. If you have a favourite instructor, talk to your peers in that class and make sure everyone submits a nomination.

Please join us in recognizing the passionate, inspiring, and student-focused educators at U of C!



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



Adrienne Shumlach

The mystery of the *Phantom Limb*

The EPCOR CENTRE's Ledge Gallery is hosting local artist Shyra De Souza's sculptural installation *Phantom Limb*. This sculpture is constantly changing, as De Souza continually adds and removes parts of the installation. The installation will run until Feb. 22. More information can be found at epcorcentre.org.

New this week

A Good Day to Die Hard — The 57-year-old Bruce Willis is reprising his role as John McClane, everyone's favourite unkillable super-cop. Maybe this time he will actually die.

Beautiful Creatures — This movie is a *Twilight* knock-off about witches or some garbage. If this is your thing then good for you, otherwise it looks terrible.

Safe Haven — Another by-the-numbers romantic drama from the eternally awful Nicholas Sparks. It will be about people falling in love and being sad.

Metal Gear Rising: Revengeance — Ignoring the absolute mess of a name, this video game looks to be a fun, albeit silly, take on the long-running *Metal Gear* series.

Crysis 3 — This series of games is best known for its jaw-dropping graphics and fairly average gameplay. Hopefully this entry will better distinguish itself from other sci-fi shooters.

Free the Universe — A new album from the reggae-fusion masterminds behind Major Lazer. Expect some exceptional beats.



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Movie review: *Laurence Anyways*

The difficulties of transsexual people are explored

Salimah Kassamali
Gauntlet Entertainment

The 2012 film *Laurence Anyways* introduces the raw directing and producing talent of Xavier Dolan. For his third feature film, 23-year-old Dolan has produced a beautifully cast, shot and designed film that sensitively and compassionately portrays a love story unique to our time. Released in May, it was the well-deserved winner of Best Canadian Feature Film at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival, a nominee for Best Pic-

ture at the 2013 Canadian Screen Awards and a competitor in the Un Certain Regard section at the 2012 Cannes International Film Festival.

Set in Montreal and Trois Rivières in the '90s, this film raises many questions of societal hostility to those who are considered different — particularly toward transsexual people. Melvil Poupaud plays Laurence Alia, a literature professor and accomplished writer who, on his 30th birthday, reveals his longstanding desire to become a woman. His lover and soulmate Fred, played by award-

winning actress Suzanne Clement, is faced with the dilemma of living life with her partner, despite social stigma, or leading a normal life. Through the many transformations of Laurence and his success and glory at the end of the movie, the audience comes to fully understand his desire for self-fulfilment.

The director's talent lies in the stylistic way he reveals the story. Frame after frame is beautifully composed with subtle and precise deliberation. The lighting, colour, sound and framing are intelligently designed into one comprehensive canvas. Laurence's confession to Fred takes place in a carwash, with water pouring on all sides, and this is when their struggles begin. This cacophony is contrasted against

the scene that shows Laurence walking into his college classroom dressed as a woman for the first time — instead of noise, it is silence that follows. His students initially seem to accept him, but his euphoria fades and the lighting hardens when he faces job loss and rejection.

The colours red, brown and yellow all play significant roles in defining characters and feelings. Red is constantly a backdrop and associated with Fred's passion, ferocity and pain as she and Laurence find it difficult to mend their relationship in the face of social stigma, transphobia and family pressures. Dolan is able to portray the complexity of the feelings and emotions of every character, and the audience sympathizes with Fred's heartbreak

but also feels a sense of hope and respect for Laurence's determination to live the last half of his life as a woman.

The end of the movie flashes back to when they first met, and the viewers gain an insightful understanding of the problems and struggles of their 10-year romance — problems that we all share while maintaining long and meaningful relationships.

Absorbing and intense, *Laurence Anyways* has succeeded in asking deeper questions about love and sexuality. It does what all movies should aim to do: challenge norms and leave viewers more aware but also hopeful. As a Canadian director, only good things are to come for Dolan as his talent is recognized on a global scale.

THE GAUNTLET IS HIRING!

The Gauntlet is hiring for the following editor positions:
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resume and at least three samples of your work pertinent
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Applicants must be available for an interview and an editing test
between March 14–19.

Results will be announced March 20 at 8:00 p.m.
in the Gauntlet office.

For more information,
please contact: Editor-in-Chief (eic@thegauntlet.ca).



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Bridging the gap between science and the media



courtesy David Moll

A night to remember at the 'Dome

Taylor McKee

Sports Editor • @TaylorMcKee_

It was truly an historic night for university hockey in Calgary. The University of Calgary Dinos men's and women's hockey teams faced off against the Mount Royal University Cougars at the Scotiabank Saddledome for the first time. Forget the standings, playoff implications or regular season records, these games were fiercely competitive and highly entertaining.

The event was hosted by the Calgary Flames who did an exceptional job packaging the event for the fans in attendance with in-game entertainment and in-depth profiles of each team at intermission.

The women's matchup had no bearing on the standings with the Dinos already clinching a first-round bye into the Canada West

semifinals and the Cougars already being eliminated from playoff contention. However, the level of play was very high with both teams carrying the play at various times throughout the game. The official turnout for the women's game was 2,200, one of the highest totals in Canadian Interuniversity Sport women's hockey history.

The first period was marked by a lack of execution by the Dinos. Handily outshooting the Cougars, the Dinos struggled to get pucks towards the net effectively and create meaningful scoring chances. The Cougars took advantage of the U of C's slow start when forward Michelle Ziegler opened the scoring with a ricocheted shot, hitting a defender on its way past Dinos goaltender Amanda Tapp.

In the second period, the Dinos got off to a much better start and tied the game with a goal from

defender Kelsey Lang. However, with Melissa Zubick in the box, the Cougars Sarah Weninger scored to regain their one goal lead. The Dinos answered with a power-play marker of their own when Iya Gavrilova finished off a magnificent passing play from Tanya Morgan and Hayley Wickenheiser. Late in the second, Gavrilova was the recipient of a fantastic break-away feed from defender Megan Grenon and calmly deposited the puck short-side making it 3-2 Dinos heading into the third.

The third period was largely controlled by the Dinos who were able to smother the Cougars with an aggressive forecheck and stellar puck control. The Dinos — ranked second in the CIS — vastly outchanced the Cougars and were too much for the young team handle. Wickenheiser iced the game late in the third for the Dinos with a top-

shelf snapshot from 10-feet out. Elana Lovell would add one more for the Dinos and made the final 5-2 for the Dinos.

In the second half of the game, the Dinos offence was able to break through MRU's clogging of the neutral zone and get pucks in behind their defence. "We changed the plan of attack, we needed to be more physical along the boards and take shots from everywhere," said Lovell, a senior playing in what would be her final regular season weekend.

"It was nice for some of the girls to get to play in front of a crowd like that," said Gavrilova, a veteran of pressure-filled games for the Russian national team. "The speed of the game was much faster in front of a crowd like that. It is good preparation for playoffs."

"We had a slow start in the first period, but our third period —

that's the way have to play to be successful," said head coach Danielle Goyette. "Sometimes you need a player to stick out and I feel tonight [Gavrilova] was the player that made the difference."

The men's game followed immediately after in front of an electric 'Dome crowd, several times larger than the Dinos have become accustomed to at Father David Bauer Arena. In terms of standings, a win would effectively seal a home playoff date for the Dinos while the Cougars were already eliminated from playoff contention. However, one could never guess from the atmosphere at the 'Dome that the game had no significance in the standings.

The first period was fast-paced with both teams having quality scoring chances in the opening minutes. Despite a generally

see CLASSIC, page 22

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Dinos in Action

—CANADA WEST PLAYOFFS—

Men's hockey: Feb. 15 and 16 vs. the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds, 7 p.m. at Max Bell Arena [Broadcast on CanadaWest.tv].

Women's hockey: Semifinals, Feb. 22 and 23 vs. TBA. at Father David Bauer Arena [Broadcast on CanadaWest.tv].

Women's Volleyball: Feb. 15 and 16 vs. the Trinity Western University Spartans, 7 p.m. in Langley, B.C. [Broadcast on CanadaWest.tv].

Wrestling: Feb. 15 and 16 at University of Alberta in Edmonton, AB.

—CIS CHAMPIONSHIPS—

Swimming: Feb. 21–23, at University of Calgary Aquatic Centre. Tickets are \$5 for students.



courtesy Olympic Oval

DINOS

ROOKIES OF THE MONTH



TIANNA RISSLING
Swimming

In her first season swimming for the Dinos, Tianna Rissling captured the Female Rookie of the Meet honours at the Canada West conference championships. The Redcliff native won two individual gold medals, setting records in both the 50-metre butterfly and the 400-metre individual medley. She also won gold in the 4x100 free relay.



RUSSELL WOOD
Swimming

Helping lead the Dinos to their 20th Canada West swimming title, Russell Wood was also named the Male Rookie of the Meet at the Canada West conference championships. The Calgary native set three records at the meet, including the 100-metre backstroke and the 200-metre backstroke where he won gold. His 4x100 medley relay team also won gold that weekend.

The legacy of the '88 games lives on

On Feb. 13, the Olympic Oval hosted Celebrate '88 Legacy Day, which included a number of events commemorating the 25th anniversary of the 1988 Winter Olympic Games. The events included a torch relay, cauldron lighting and a free public skate. The Olympic cauldron itself was recently refurbished and re-installed in time for the anniversary celebration.

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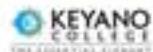
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Fabian Mayer

Gauntlet rink reviews: Varsity

Fabian Mayer

Gauntlet Sports • @FGMay

Over the winter months, the Gauntlet will have a section that reviews various outdoor rinks in Calgary. The rinks will be reviewed according to four categories: quality of ice, amenities, clientele and overall experience.

Each outdoor rink will be given a score out of five Gauntlet pucks — five out of five being worthy of a Molson Canadian commercial and zero out of five is basically a pile of snow outside of a curling club.

Varsity Community Rink

Location: Behind the Varsity Community Association, 4303 Varsity Dr. N.W.

Quality of Ice: 🏒🏒🏒

The ice at Varsity's community rink was very good. There was one

small hole and slightly soft, slushy ice along the boards on one side due to the sunny Chinook day. Aside from those blemishes, the ice was smooth, relatively thick and very well maintained.

Amenities: 🏒🏒🏒🏒

The rink had impressive amenities, including full boards, fences behind the goal areas and even a net to keep pucks away from a nearby playground. There were also plastic, arena-style benches for lacing up skates and lights that are shut off at 10 p.m. each night. The rink also had a couple of shovels — a key for any outdoor rink. Adjacent to the main rink there is also a small second ice surface for kids.

Clientele: 🏒🏒🏒

Only a few people were out in the late afternoon on Friday, but

the patrons included the rarely seen outdoor rink goaltender as well as a skater bold enough to wear an Edmonton Oilers jersey. The rink is intended for Varsity community residents and their guests with weekdays from 10:00–11:00 a.m., 2:30–4:00 p.m. and weekends from 12:00–2:00 p.m. being reserved for family skating —no sticks allowed. Tuesdays and Thursday nights from 6:30–8:30 are reserved for registered Varsity shinny players.

Overall experience: 🏒🏒🏒🏒

The Varsity rink has a lot of things that make it one of the best of the roughly 40 outdoor ice surfaces in Calgary. With all the amenities a city rink needs as well as an ice surface that has clearly had a lot of work put into it, the Varsity Community Association rink makes for a great choice for those looking to shoot around a puck or play some shinny.

Classic, cont'd from pg 20

well-played period, the first ended scoreless with the shots being 8–6 in favour of the Dinos.

Max Ross opened the scoring for the Dinos in the second period, depositing the feed from Alex Dzielski on a two-on-one. The Dinos would hit two posts in the second period and failing to convert would cost them. The Cougars would tie the game late in the second period with an extraordinary individual effort goal from forward Eric Galbraith to knot the game heading into the third.

Throughout the game, the Dinos rattled pucks off posts, had passes hit skates and struggled to execute in the offensive zone — the third period was no different. Despite vastly outshooting the Cougars, the Dinos could not solve Cougars goalie Justin Cote. Devin Gannon scored early in the third period off a Dustin Butler rebound and put the Cougars up 2–1. The Dinos would outshoot the Cougars 28–15 but lost the game 1–3, with Galbraith adding his second of the night into an empty net.

“Our goaltender was spectacular — without him we wouldn't get the win tonight,” said Cougars head coach Jean Laforest. “We went with three lines tonight and it wasn't pretty but the guys dug deep and got a well-deserved win.”

Cote made 27 saves for the Cougars to earn the win in his last game as a Cougar. “It was a great finish for me, I couldn't have asked for more,” said Cote. “It was a lot of fun out there, great support from both the U of C and Mount Royal. I know a lot of people have worked real hard to get people out here to see some varsity sports and it was a lot of fun.”

Head coach of the Dinos Mark Howell was noticeably displeased with the effort of his team at the Dome. “We were fighting for home ice and now it's not in our hands anymore. We have to wait for somebody else to do their job,” said Howell. “We generated a few opportunities but we are not generating enough quality scoring chances.”

The attendance at the game was 4,275, good enough to set a CW record for single game attendance breaking a record that had stood since 1971. The attendance and overall success of the event will hopefully convince the Flames to host this game again next season and perhaps make this a yearly event.

Judging by the quality of the play and the atmosphere in the building, both MRU and the U of C are well on their way to creating an exciting tradition for university sport in Calgary.



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Sportspinion: The top-10 soccer players on the planet

Mark Villani

Gauntlet Sports

1) Lionel Messi
(FC Barcelona)

Lionel Messi is without question the best player in the world. Having a tremendous season in 2012, Messi is the definition of a soccer icon. At a diminutive five-foot-seven, Messi scored 91 goals in 69 games in 2012, beating Gerd Mueller's all-time record of 85 goals in one calendar year. He was the first to score five goals in a Champion's League game. He has the most La Liga hat-tricks all-time, has scored in 10-consecutive matches and potted 12 goals for the Spanish national team last year. Messi has also won the Ballon d'Or — the award given to the world's best player — a remarkable four-consecutive times. Messi's ability to not only score but single-handedly create offence for his team is what makes him far and away the best player in the world.

2) Cristiano Ronaldo
(Real Madrid Club de Futbol)

CR7 is the most versatile player in the game. He could almost play blind-folded, knowing exactly where his players are. Ronaldo is a force of nature always and can almost match Messi stride for stride. Ronaldo is already one of the greatest goal scorers of all-time. He scored 46 goals to Messi's 50 goal performance in the La Liga 2011-12 season. Ronaldo has become one of the most coveted players of anyone in the European football scene. Since joining Real Madrid, Ronaldo has scored approximately 176 goals, more than what Liverpool FC has scored in three seasons combined in the English Premier League.

3) Andres Iniesta
(FC Barcelona)

Andres Iniesta is a nightmare for defenders and excellent at controlling the pace of play whenever he has the ball on his foot. A world-class player, Iniesta recently won Player of the Tournament at EURO 2012 and was named the European Player of the Year in 2012. Iniesta is an attacking force that can strike

for goals with his agility, balance and ball control. Originally a defensive midfielder, Iniesta works with his teammates like no other on both sides of the ball.

4) Zlatan Ibrahimovic
(Paris Saint-Germain)

Zlatan Ibrahimovic is one of the most well-rounded players in the world. Ibrahimovic is an incredibly acrobatic player and not simply because of his insane bicycle-kick goal in a friendly match between Sweden and England. A clinical finisher, Ibrahimovic is capable of scoring in a number of different ways. Winner of the 2012 Golden Foot Award for outstanding athletic achievement, Zlatan Ibrahimovic is internationally recognized as one of the world's best players and most interesting personalities.

5) Robin Van Persie
(Manchester United)

Robin Van Persie has been labeled and re-labeled throughout his career. However, the only label that seems to remain attached to Van Persie is 'elite'. Arsenal FC fans see him as a traitor after departing for Manchester United this season, but he has been terrific since the switch. After his best club season in 2011-12 — scoring 30 goals with Arsenal — Van Persie is fitting in nicely with rivalled Manchester United and club manager Sir Alex Ferguson. A ferocious attacking player with a deadly shot, Van Persie is one of the most feared offensive threats in the world.

6) Radamel Falcao Garcia
(Atletico Madrid)

Radamel Falcao's consistency and leadership for the Colombian national team set him apart. Falcao is on a goal-a-game pace with incredible attacking and playmaking skills. Falcao is a natural goal scorer and can adapt to changing styles of play, meaning Falcao has the potential to be a star for years to come. With a strong showing in La Liga in 2012, Falcao has led his Atletico Madrid to win the Europa League Championship and the UEFA Super Cup against Chelsea.

To read the rest of Mark's top-10 and comment on this story, visit thegauntlet.ca

'Hive-mind' gene found in women

Sarah Dorchak

Senior Genetic Correspondent

Scientists at the Centre for Applied Genomics in Toronto have discovered a gene in women that influences the sex's actions. The *cogitari alvarium* gene has also been found in species exhibiting collective behaviour.

The gene would allow women to act with a "hive-mind, like bees," explained lead scientist Arnold Tergen, but something is suppressing the gene. Women no longer act in the same way or toward the same goal. Instead, "women act on individual impulses, whether or not that is detrimental to the sex as a whole," said Tergen.

Tergen started the study after noticing women were more likely to go to the bathroom in groups, while men went individually. Rather than a social phenomenon,

he concluded, the answer was in our genes.

"We wanted to determine whether thought processes differed between the sexes based on genes. This discovery really shows that there's more of a difference between men and women than previously thought," he said.

Tergen said the next step in his research is to determine to what extent the gene controls women's actions. "We can't really explain how it seems women act and think as an autonomous group, but we need to ascertain why women have differing opinions from the group. Is the gene mutating? We just don't know."

Sociologist George McQuarie, who worked beside Tergen during parts of the study, noted how the gene discovery implicates society "as we know it."

"Not only now do we have a duty

to further research how women group-think among each other, but also we need to determine if this whole feminist movement was an accident of this group-thinking," he said. "We've seen feminism grow from being just about equality to feminazi ideals. Obviously with such a range of actions, there must be some disconnect between each woman."

McQuarie acknowledged how the differing opinions in women made it difficult for men to interact with them.

"Some women want total financial independence. Some want to be dominated. If they all thought the same, us men could better meet their needs," McQuarie said. "Sexism could be nonexistent if women could unanimously choose to act a certain way."

Sexism, according to McQuarie, only happens when there is con-

fusion on how women want to be treated. "Women who work in the marketing industry put out the very same ads that other women call degrading. It sometimes seems like the women are confused themselves. Do they or don't they want to be objectified? It's very puzzling."

Anthropologist Elizabeth Davis echoed McQuarie's conclusions.

"Across cultures, we've seen clear cut roles set out for both sexes, but in this day and age there is too much gray area for how a woman should act or behave," Davis said. "I don't know the science behind genes, but perhaps this hive-mind gene has been deactivated or something in the last 50 years."

When asked if she had any experience communicating with other women through a hive-mind, Davis said she had always felt an

innate pressure to act like a "domestic housewife."

"I've always felt this instinctive inclination to stay in the home rather than cultivate a career of my own. I acted against this instinct, mainly because it wasn't very strong in me," said Davis. "Perhaps that was my gene struggling to get through my social pressures to be an independent woman."

Tergen plans to continue his research on the *cogitari alvarium* gene in order to find a way to reactivate the gene in the coming generations.

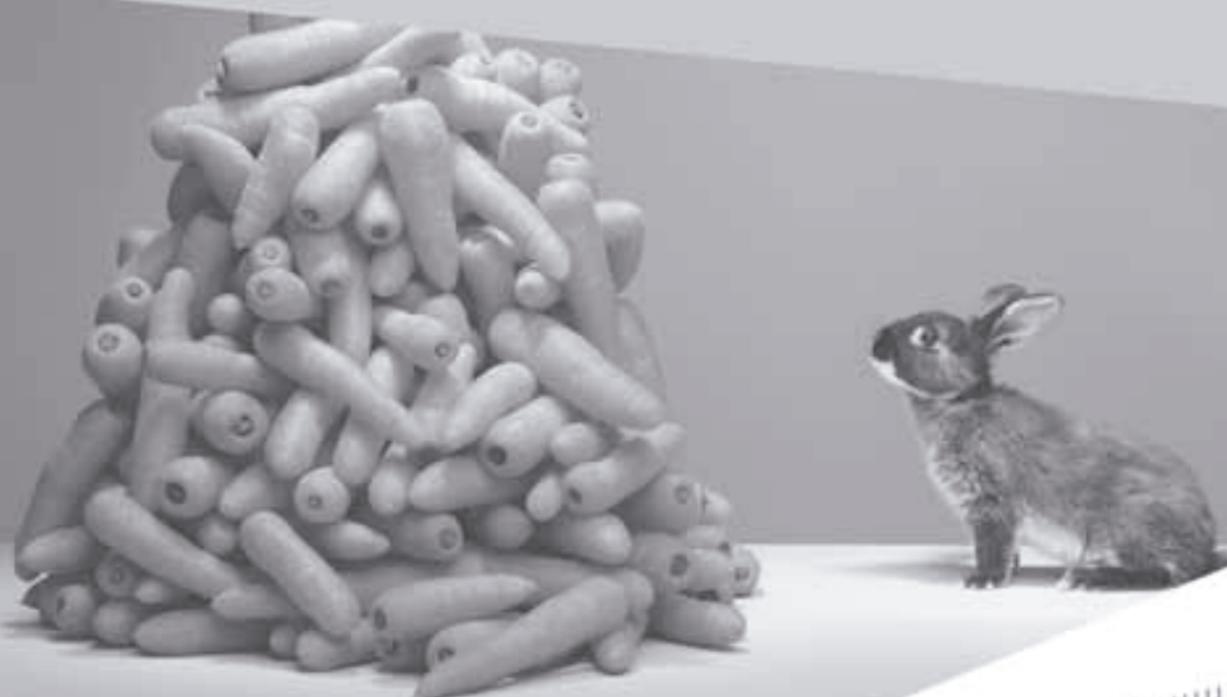
"This could lead to peace between the sexes. Imagine women no longer having to traverse this gray area of gender roles. Instead they will have reinforce their instinct to act the same," Tergen said. "Women were born with this gene. It's in their blood to agree communally."

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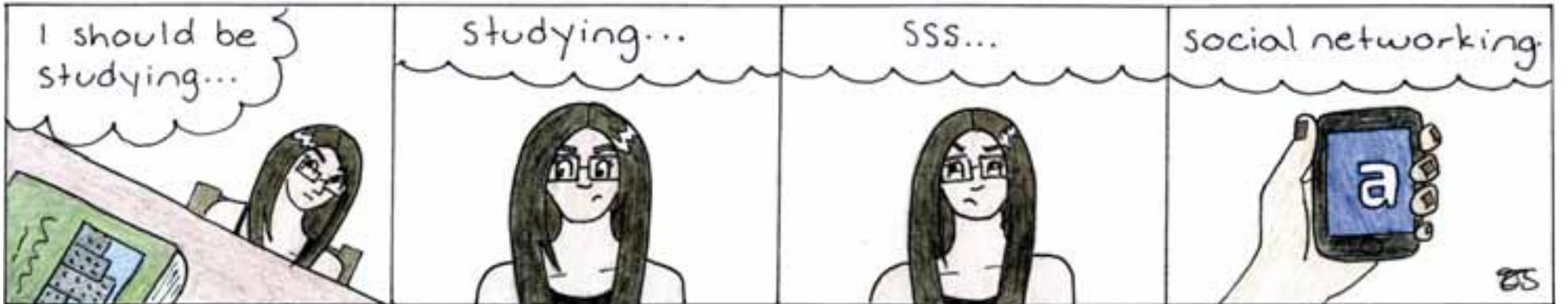


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