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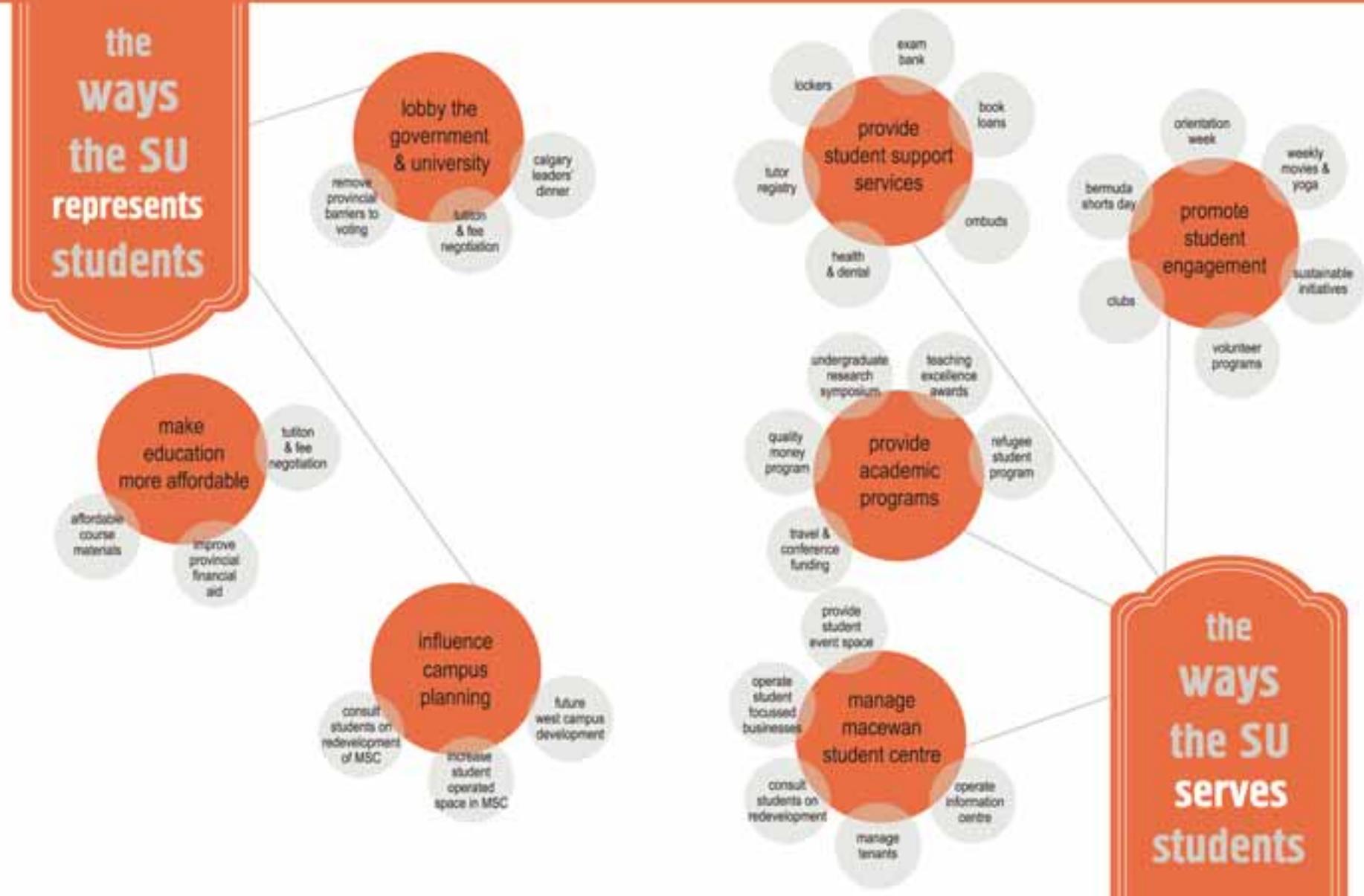


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What the SU Did for You...

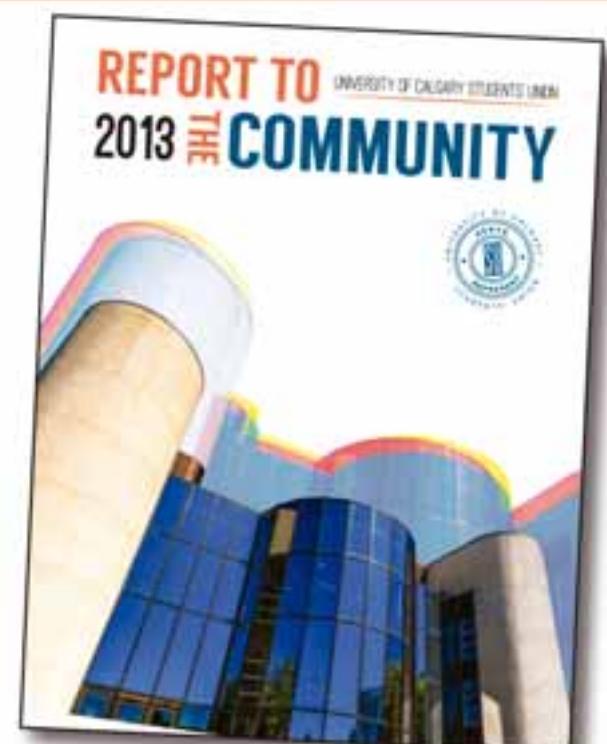
All undergraduate students at the University of Calgary (U of C) are members of the Students' Union (SU). The Student Legislative Council (SLC) is the SU's governing body, which is made up of five executives (the president and four vice presidents) and 18 faculty representatives that are elected annually to represent students' interests. The SU's operations are supported by a professional staff and hundreds of volunteers. The vision of the SU is to ensure that undergraduate students have the best possible university experience and that the SU is the definitive student voice on campus – ensuring students' voices are heard.



The SU exists to serve and represent students, offering programs and activities that contribute to the well-being, academic success and rich extra-curricular life of undergraduates. The SU is also the voice of students and represents undergraduates by advocating for affordable and accessible post-secondary education to the university and government.

As well as managing MacEwan Student Centre (MSC), the SU runs a number of businesses in MSC and all proceeds from these student-owned ventures help keep student fees among the lowest in the country and are reinvested directly into SU programs, services and events. Book consignment and low-cost printing services are offered at Bound and Copied. Good food and entertainment can be found at The Den/Black Lounge along with popular concerts in the award-winning MacEwan Hall. The convenience "Stor" stays open late and provides student-friendly pricing. The SU also operates the MacEwan Conference and Event Centre which rents out function space to both university and off-campus clients and provides free meeting and event space to SU-sanctioned clubs.

The Report to the Community is now available at www.su.ucalgary.ca.



APRIL 11, 2013

Editor-in-Chief: Erin Shumlich
 eic@thegauntlet.ca
 403-220-7752

News Editor: Michael Grondin
 news@thegauntlet.ca • @GauntletUofC
 403-220-4318

News Assistant: Riley Hill

Entertainment: Sean Willett
 entertainment@thegauntlet.ca • @Gauntainment
 403-220-4376

Sports: Taylor McKee
 sports@thegauntlet.ca • @GauntletSports
 403-220-4376

Opinions: Tamara Cottle
 opinions@thegauntlet.ca
 403-220-4376

Features: Susan Anderson
 features@thegauntlet.ca
 403-220-4376

Photo: Adrienne Shumlich
 photo@thegauntlet.ca
 403-220-4376

Production: Sarah Dorchak
 production@thegauntlet.ca
 403-220-4376

Illustrations: Morgan Shandro
 illustrations@thegauntlet.ca
 403-220-4376

Volunteer Coordinator: Amy Badry
 volunteer@thegauntlet.ca
 403-220-4376

Business Manager: Evelyn Cone
 business@thegauntlet.ca
 403-220-7380

Advertising Manager: John Harbidge
 sales@thegauntlet.ca
 403-220-7751

Graphic Artist: Evangelos Lambrinoudis II
 graphics@thegauntlet.ca
 403-220-2298

Three Lines Free: Arlene Lai
 tifs@thegauntlet.ca • @GauntletTLFs
 403-220-4376

Contributors
 Rand Al-Hashmy • Grace Elekwa • Holly Flegal
 Salimah Kassamali • Michael Kwas • Lauren Ferkranus
 Gabriel Gana • Tobias Ma • Lidrah Mah • Fabian Mayer
 Dawn Muencrath • Pujita Saja • Sean Sullivan
 Mark Villani • Louie Villanueva • Charis Whitbourne
 Curtis Wolff • Jeremy Woo

Golden Spatula

This week's Golden Spatula goes once again to Louie Villanueva, a dashing and cunning rogue of a photographer who spent his teenage years hunting Somali pirates. After almost running over a blue whale in his ocean liner, Louie turned his lens onto a less dangerous but equally exciting opportunity: photography at the Gauntlet.

Louie Villanueva**Furor Arma Ministrat**

Room 319, MacEwan Students' Centre
 University of Calgary
 2500 University Drive NW
 Calgary, AB T2N 1N4
 General inquiries: 403-220-7750
 thegauntlet.ca

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 BSD vomitous based ink. We urge you to recycle/make peace not war with the *Gauntlet*.

Letter Policy

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

The Cover

Design by Evangelos Lambrinoudis II and Adrienne Shumlich

Parting shots: Let loose a little

The last *Gauntlet* issue of the school year is when the outgoing editor-in-chief is supposed to cry his or her heart out or, rather, do one final hoorah. Usually, I'm not big on sentiment, but, in order to keep with tradition, brace yourselves for an utter spewing of my heart. This is a rare moment of insight into me, someone you have probably never heard of and probably don't care about in the slightest. Regardless, only a year so incredible warrants such a catharsis.

I look back at my first day on the job about a year ago when my shiny, new nameplate arrived and it feels like yesterday. People are keen on the adage about time flying by when you're having fun. Well, I would have to politely disagree with this popular phrase. Time just flies by, no matter what kind of time you're having. This became utterly clear to me during a drunken night at the Drum and Monkey trying to unwind after a particularly stressful week of editing the same stories five-times over. I was regaling to a new-found friend about how I was recently single, when a good friend of mine sensitively informed me that I was "just single — not recently." Not all work nights ended in a drunken stupor, although many of them did, but another thing that struck me about my friend's kind words is what a deep and lasting impact people have.

The incredible friends that I've made this year have helped shape who I am. The *Gauntlet's* editorial

board fought literary wars with — and sometimes against — each other, but, in the end, we grew incredibly close.

Over the year I got another strong dose of the antidote that combats apathy and keeps my curiosity in overdrive, which is the

one thing that university actually teaches you: that you don't know shit. But this is not to say that you should stop shoveling through the shit, because eventually you will get to the good stuff, the good people and the good experiences.

It might sound cliché, but the

most important thing I've learned this last year is to never take myself too seriously. After a huge kick in the butt in Toronto at the Canadian University Press conference, I began to relax a little — at the strip club over a few too many drinks — and I really began to enjoy my job.

Initially I was too preoccupied with trying to do everything rather than taking a step back to look at the bigger picture. It was through letting my guard down that I was able to walk into rooms with Students' Union candidates who clearly disliked me; learn from spelling mistakes rather than dwell on them; openly admit distaste for the new Dinos logo; continue to work through sweat, blood and tears to work on the *Gauntlet's* reputation despite negative feedback; and, most importantly, form incredible relationships.

Through the good times and bad, we've made our mark. And in the process, we've also made many memories.

So, as I near the end of my degree, my advice to you is this: put your fingers in all the pies, even if they're pumpkin. Try everything you can, get involved and make new friends. I swear — it's worth it.

From the wise words of Michael Grondin, whose Wu-Tang name is Arrogant Menace, "I exist," and you should go out and exist a little too.

Erin Shumlich
 Editor-in-Chief



Erin "Boss Lady" Shumlich

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Engineers-to-be show off their skills

2013 Capstone Design Fair showcases unique engineering projects

Michael Grondin
News Editor

The 2013 University of Calgary Schulich School of Engineering Capstone Design Fair occurred on April 9. Over 50 teams comprised of fourth-year engineering students developed and designed unique projects to showcase their engineering skills.

In Canada, all fourth-year engineering students must develop a Capstone project. This year was the first time first-year students also participated with design projects.

There was a large variety of projects at the fair, ranging from renewable energy to remote controlled drones.

The event was sponsored by Devon Energy Canada, an independent oil and gas company. Judges from industry and faculty closely examined the projects. Four teams won for their respective fields of study within engineering — civil, chemical, geomatics and electrical engineering — and \$2,000 was awarded to the first-place winner overall.

Fourth-year U of C mechanical engineering student Joel Woo was



Michael Grondin

The winning team of the 2013 Engineering Capstone Design Fair.

a member of the winning team that developed an oil field tool handling system to alleviate injuries on job sites.

“We found a way to transport 500-pound tools from the back of a pickup truck to the catwalk of a rig because, currently, these tools are just carried by hand and people are getting injured,” said Woo.

Salam Allami, Ben Campbell, Fahim Thobani, Sylvester Zdonczyk and Woo designed a zip line system that attaches to the back of a truck and to the catwalk of a

rig. The zip line allows for the easy transfer of large tools between the truck and the rig — work that previously had to be done by hand.

Woo said he was excited about

his project, adding that the Capstone Fair was a great showcase of engineering talent at the U of C.

“I am really stoked on all of the

It’s really cool to see all of the work that has gone into these projects and all of the different ideas everybody came up with.

– Joel Woo, U of C engineering student

projects here,” he said. “It’s really cool to see all of the work that has gone into these projects and all of the different ideas everybody came up with.”

Leader of community relations and community investment at Devon Energy Patricia Etris said the design fair was a chance for people in the engineering industry to see the potential of U of C engineering students.

“It’s a great opportunity for us to see what the students can do and for them to show us their innovative spirit and their entrepreneurial spirit,” said Etris.

Schulich School of Engineering dean Guy Gendron was at the fair. He was very enthusiastic about the diverse range of projects.

“To me, engineering and design are two words that go so well together. As engineers, what we do is design things that will solve a problem for the society that we live in,” said Gendron. “To make a big party out of design is so much of what engineering is all about and that is what is so exciting about being here this afternoon.”

To comment on this story
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Arabic studies almost at the U of C

Riley Hill
News Assistant

Arabic studies courses for fall 2014 have been approved by the calendar approval sub-committee, a group that approves changes to the University of Calgary course calendar. This approval follows an almost four-year effort

to make the courses available at the U of C.

Students’ Union vice-president academic Kenya-Jade Pinto announced the changes during the Student Legislative Council on April 9. Pinto sits on the calendar approval sub-committee where the details of the implementation of the courses were decided.

“At our last meeting, we approved the changes for the course calendar for the following year and I’m happy to report that Arabic has been included as part of those changes,” said Pinto. “These classes should be offered in fall 2014. It’s really exciting.”

The courses must get approval from the Academic Planning and

Priorities Committee and the Alberta government before they are officially offered at the U of C.

“Work still needs to be done in order for full program approval . . . but this is an incredible first step and a quick response to student demand,” said Pinto.

The drive to make Arabic studies courses available at the U of C

began in 2009 with a petition signed by over 200 students. Since then, SU vice-president academics have made big efforts to include the courses in the U of C course calendar.

If approved, the courses will be offered by the German, Slavic and East Asian Studies department.

campus quips

What are you excited about for the end of the school year?



“To start working for Wildfire.”
– Dan Pound,
third-year
kinesiology



“Going on a trip to Costa Rica with the Service Learning Program.”
– Clare Hickie,
first-year
psychology



“BSD and for exams to be over.”
– Vee Huynh,
third-year biology



“Heading to Shuswap for some water skiing.”
– Breyden Decock,
third-year
kinesiology

Forget about exams and just dance

U of C students participate in national record breaking attempt

Michael Grondin
News Editor

Crush Exam Stress and Just Dance was a national attempt to set the first world record for the most people dancing to Xbox's Just Dance video game. It occurred on April 6 at 3 p.m. MST at eight different universities in Canada.

The University of Calgary, the University of British Columbia, the University of Alberta and Carleton University were among the institutions that participated in the dance-off.

At the U of C, there were 58 participants. The Hip Hop and Funk Styles club at the U of C worked to bring the initiative to the university.

According to second-year U of C biology student Caitlin Tomaszewski, Just Dance was a simple and fun way to engage students.

"It was to raise awareness for mental health and de-stress the students before final exams," said Tomaszewski.

Tomaszewski said the end of the semester can be extremely difficult for students.

"As exams near, students get



Michael Grondin

U of C students dance to kill exam stress and set a new world record.

really, really stressed out and really nervous. They focus a lot on studying, and they don't focus on taking care of themselves or having fun," said Tomaszewski.

She said that the dance-off was a chance to engage U of C students in a fun activity and a way to help improve mental health.

"Students should make sure they have a good balance of fun and studying and we really wanted to put on this event so that students could spend an hour de-stressing, having fun, letting go of all of their stress so they can return to their work a

little bit more refreshed," said Tomaszewski.

The event was sponsored by Xbox, Ubisoft Canada and Campus Perks, a national organization aimed to improve student life.

For the challenge, participants had to dance to the same song twice. Each university group was provided with \$500 and gaming systems for the event. At least 40 people had to participate at each school to be included in the world record. There will be a grand prize of \$2,500 for the dance team that had the most participants.

Third-year U of C English and

dance student Jared Herring is a member of the Hip Hop and Funk Styles club. He said the event was a lot of fun and he was surprised

at the amount of people who participated.

"To be honest, we were a little bit skeptical that we would pull through, but we were surprised at the support and the huge turnout," said Herring. "It's important to raise support for mental awareness and it's a different and fun way to break a world record."

Guinness World Records will announce whether the record was set within the next two weeks.

Gauge Sedgwick was a participant at Just Dance. He said the event was a lot of fun.

"Dancing is passion," said Sedgwick. "It's really cool to see events like this and I am happy I could join in."

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courtesy Alyssa Kelle

MRU students protest budget cuts

Approximately 700 Mount Royal University students congregated in front of Alison Redford's office in Calgary on April 10 to protest recent budget cuts to post-secondary education. The Student Empowerment Committee, an MRU student group, organized the protest. MRU student Alyssa Kelle, who was at the event, said the budget cuts show the shortsightedness of the current Alberta government. "By not investing in the best and brightest, the Conservative government isn't focusing on our long-term goals. Money invested in higher education ends up returning back into the economy, making it a sustainable and viable investment to make," said Kelle.

KIRTAN YOGA

Meditation by chanting Sanskrit Mantras

Kirtan, is the singing of sacred mantras, accompanied by classical Indian instruments and some Western instruments (such as the guitar, flute, violin, saxophone). It is a call-and-response style of singing which involves the audience in the performance. The leader sings one line or verse and the guests chant in response. It is an ancient and well-known art to calm the mind, open the heart and connect with the Divine Consciousness. It is a culture where everybody can take place and make their own spiritual experience.

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Creativity in the classroom

Fabian Mayer

Gauntlet News

University of Calgary associate professor Robert Kelly recently published a book on the different ways creative learning is being implemented around the world. The book, entitled *Educating For Creativity: A Global Conversation*, looked at how creativity was used at 20 educational institutions around the world — from elementary to post-secondary.

Creative education has been the subject of TED talks and numerous books. Alberta recently identified it as one of the seven pillars of 21st-century learning.

According to Kelly, who teaches graduate courses in the department of education and co-ordinates the Creativity in Educational Practice graduate program, there is a fundamental problem with classroom learning

today, as students often do not learn how to think creatively.

His book is about how creativity-based learning can be incorporated into education to address this problem.

“It’s something I’ve always thought about and looked at in education for myself — my own educational journey,” said Kelly. “How could [education] have been more relevant going through high school, going through undergraduate courses, sitting through lectures. How could it be more meaningful?”

Kelly said that currently, a large portion of education is memorizing information rather than understanding it and bringing forward new perspectives and insights.

“People have learned how to consume really well, how to consume fact and restate it. What’s the sense of learning all that stuff if you don’t give students the dis-

///What’s the sense of learning all that stuff if you don’t give students the disposition on how to apply it innovatively or creatively?

– Robert Kelly, U of C associate professor

position on how to apply it innovatively or creatively? This book is about the how,” said Kelly.

Kelly said that learning needs to be more experiential so students can create new ideas.

“Creating original work and failing by a design that doesn’t work as opposed to an F on an exam is far more meaningful. Then how does one respond to redesigning until you get it right?” said Kelly. “That’s experiential learning, first-hand learning.”

He said there needs to be a shift in the way people look at education.

“Environmentally, socially and economically, on a variety of fronts, you can’t consume your ways into those solutions. You create, you innovate and you research your way into those solutions,” said Kelly.

Faculties at the U of C are making an effort to incorporate creativity into their curriculums. One way is through the new Institute for Teaching and Learning, a centre that will be built on campus to focus on innovative areas of learning, which Kelly is excited about.

“The [Institute for Teaching

and Learning] will be a college of discovery, creativity and innovation. I think it will be a catalyst for creative practice and innovation among teaching,” said Kelly.

Kelly said that a new, creativity-focused approach to education would benefit the university in a number of ways.

“I would assume that innovative and creative practice . . . would lead to original and front-end research. They go hand in glove,” said Kelly.

Kelly added that demonstrating success and student engagement would be the best way to encourage further implementation of creative-learning techniques.

The book is Kelly’s second on the subject of creativity in the classroom with a third to be released in spring 2014.

To comment on this story
visit thegauntlet.ca

NDP and Wildrose leaders debate at the U of C

Riley Hill

News Assistant

Alberta’s New Democratic Party Leader Brian Mason and Wildrose Alliance Party of Alberta Leader Danielle Smith will debate economics in public policy on April 11 at the University of Calgary.

Mason will examine a pro-

gressive system and Smith will advocate a libertarian stance on economics.

The Society of Undergraduates in Economics, a U of C student club, will host the event.

Fourth-year economics student and SUE member Jack Mills said the debate between “free market and socialist economics” will illustrate wider implica-

tions of what economics students learn in the classroom.

“You go through four years of economics and, typically, there isn’t much said about capitalism versus socialism even though it colours a lot of the curriculum,” said Mills. “[The event] is a way of just getting it a little bit more explicit.”

He said this straight-forward

style will make the debate more interesting for U of C students.

“The idea is to just get as many people out, have a fun time and have a good show,” said Mills.

Mills said the event is not limited to economics students, adding members of the community can come out and watch as well.

“It’s open to the public, so even if you’re not a student you’re able

to come,” said Mills. “The thing is, we want to branch this out and get more students, especially first-year students that might not have a selected major, to attend.”

Tickets for the event are \$10 and will be available at the door. It will be hosted at the ICT building in room 121 from 7–9 p.m.

For more information email
sue@ucalgary.ca

Thank you for a great year, U of C!

Hardave Birk
President



The 2012-2013 academic year was an exceptional year for our SU and we had a blast doing it! We’ve accomplished a lot for students and set up a strong foundation for next year’s SLC.

The fall semester kicked off with an incredibly successful Orientation Week which gave us the momentum we needed to come out strong. We focused on connecting with first year students to welcome them to our university, and kept them engaged throughout the year with events and our MacHall consultation.

It was also a year to reaffirm our commitment to the quality of education, the quality of student life and the affordability and accessibility of post-secondary education. The SU delivered a range of student programs, products, services, awards and events and actively advocated on behalf of students on important issues like tuition costs, the delayed increase to mandatory non-instructional fees and updating Alberta’s election law to make it easier for students to vote.

But I am most proud of the work we did to engage and consult students on the proposed redevelopment of MacEwan Student Centre (MacHall). We know that parts of the building are more than 40 years old and work needs to be done to update deteriorating systems. In responding to these

issues, the university created a long-term vision for the student centre which calls for a major redevelopment of the building, with a proposed project cost topping \$150 million.

Our primary objective was to raise awareness among the campus community, especially the undergraduate students, about the proposed redevelopment and costs and to consult at least 25% of undergraduate students to get their feedback and opinions on the redevelopment plans. We began in October with a series of town halls, focus groups, and an interactive display. Other consultation methods included an 80-question online survey as well as brief interviews with students in MacHall. Thank you to the 6,350 people gave their feedback as part of the consultation.

Our SU continues to be a positive role model for other student unions in the country – a testament to the innovation and skills of these exceptional student leaders. Supported by a professional and talented staff, countless volunteers and faculty representatives dedicated to the well-being of students in their faculties, I am endlessly proud to say I was a member of the 70th SLC.

Finally, to the undergraduates of U of C - thank you! It has been the greatest honour to serve as your SU president. I know you’re in good hands with the 71st Students’ Union President and Executive.

Hardave Birk,
70th Students’ Union President

Let’s Go.....!



Helping students down the right TRAILS

Kinesiology students develop collaborative project with Grade 7 class

Michael Grondin
News Editor

Kinesiology students at the University of Calgary helped 70 Grade 7 students learn about leadership and community building through TRAILS — teamwork, respect, attitude, initiative, laughter and success. TRAILS was a day-long event filled with activities, workshops and games that occurred on April 6.

As part of Kinesiology 311: Leadership Foundations, 28 kinesiology students developed TRAILS as a year-end project in collaboration with Vincent Massey Junior High School. TRAILS helps Grade 7 students prepare for an Outdoor Leadership Program at their school.

Fourth-year U of C kinesiology student and TRAILS organizer Amanda Garner said her class prepared for the event for two months. She is excited that it all came together.

In Grade 8 at Vincent Massey, students are able to go on a seven-day camping trip where they must showcase their leadership skills. Garner said TRAILS helps students develop these skills.

“This is a preliminary event to see what these kids can do. We’re having fun and there is a lot of learning involved,” she said. “The kids are learning to work as a team, to co-operate

and solve problems together.”

Garner said TRAILS was a good way to give back to the community.

“I think it is really important because we are reaching out to the community and we are giving back,” said Garner. “We are building ties with a great school.”

Garner also said that the students had an opportunity to see what learning opportunities are offered at the U of C.

Kinesiology professor Janice Cook, who instructs Kinesiology 311 with Claire Mitton, said TRAILS has been an effective way for her students to receive hands-on practice with the skills they learn in class.

“Rather than just learning theory of leadership, the students actually get to practice leadership,” said Cook.

Cook said that TRAILS has been an important way for kinesiology students to learn how to collaborate and develop effective strategies as leaders.

“All of the students have had a significant role to play,” she said.

The events and games the Grade 7 students participated in had many different themes ranging from deserted islands to jungles. The students had to work as a team to solve puzzles and complete tasks.

Grade 7 student Taher Masoon was very excited about TRAILS.

“I’m having plenty of fun. There are so many cool activities



Michael Grondin

Grade 7 students navigating through an “electric fence.”

that rely on leadership and people being responsible,” said Masoon. “We have learnt how to help each other in different ways.”

Vincent Massey teacher Court

Rustemeyer was approached by the Kinesiology 311 class and asked to participate in the program. He said the event was a fun way for his students

to learn about leadership and co-operation.

“I thought it would be a great chance for my Grade 7 class to get some hands-on experience with teamwork and leadership,” said Rustemeyer.

Grade 7 student Nigel Mustapha said he learned a lot about staying safe when he and his classmates are in tricky situations.

“We are learning to be safe when we are outdoors,” said Mustapha. “I hope that when I am older, I can do a lot of outdoor stuff.”

This is the first year of the event. Garner said it was a huge success.

“They come in as kids and by the end of the program they are young adults,” said Garner.

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courtesy Mediatonic PR

Calgary Comic Expo growing quickly

Expo expanding to accommodate more people after turning fans away last year

Sean Willett

Entertainment Editor

While annual events naturally grow from year to year, few could have predicted how quickly the Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo has become one of the city's largest and most popular events. What started as a small convention in 2006 is now an internationally-renowned event, drawing attendees and special guests from around the world.

Running from April 26–28 in the BMO Centre, the Expo has become a fixture in Calgary's busy festival season, drawing in thousands of visitors eager to browse collectibles, meet celebrities and celebrate geek culture. However, it is not only visitors that benefit from the Calgary Expo's recent growth. For local businesses and artists, exhibiting at the event presents a chance that only comes once a year.

"We had such a great time last year meeting people," says Calgary's Lyndsay Peters, the owner of Dragon Chow Dice Bags. "Our sales were so good that we knew right away that we would have a

bigger booth this year, and that we would try to bring more to the show."

Peters, known by many through her twitter name @GeekyLyndsay, became popular in the geek world by starting a business selling handmade dice bags to be used for games such as Dungeons and Dragons. Her dice bags have become an enormous success, and the Calgary Expo has only helped her business grow.

"This will be my third year exhibiting at the Comic Expo," says Peters. "I always exhibit with a friend of mine, and we started with just a tiny single booth with three businesses crammed into it, and this year it will be just the two of us in a really big double booth, and that is because the Expo has been so good to us."

The massive growth of the Calgary Expo has presented both challenges and benefits to the organizers of the event, who have had to quickly adapt to a rapidly swelling number of convention-goers.

"The challenge lies in dealing with the sheer number of people coming through those doors," explains Shane Turgeon, one of

/// Sometimes you're just not expecting that growth, and it is difficult to accommodate everyone and make sure everyone is taken care of.

— Shane Turgeon, Calgary Comic Expo head co-ordinator

the Calgary Expo's head co-ordinators. "Sometimes you're just not expecting that growth, and it is difficult to accommodate everyone and make sure everyone is taken care of. But the benefits lie in having more opportunities to have a better event and to bring in bigger names for guests. The Calgary Expo has a fantastic reputation now not only because of the number of people that are coming but also because of the way we run our shows, in terms of attracting those kinds of international guests."

Last year, the Calgary Expo ran into problems when the convention went over capacity. This resulted in people with tickets being turned away at the door, which left a bitter taste in people's mouths.

"Last year it was really a shame that people had so much trouble,"

says Peters. "We saw a lot of frustrated customers and we talked to a lot of frustrated people. I know there are some people who won't be coming back this year. But everything we have been told as vendors and everything that has been communicated to us shows that they are taking it very seriously this year."

Turgeon and the other organizers of the event have worked closely with the event centre and the fire marshal to ensure that these mistakes are not repeated during this year's Expo.

"There is a significant plan to correct the challenges we had last year," says Turgeon. "The main issue was the sheer number of people, which no one was expecting"

This year they are taking over the entire BMO Centre for the Expo. All of the celebrity guests will be

in a separate area of the building in order to enable greater flow of traffic.

"You don't just get the BMO Centre for free — it's taking a lot of effort and dedication to ensure that people get in," says Peters. "So I think people are going to have a better experience this year. From what I've been reading I feel pretty confident about it."

Despite past fumbles, there is no sign of the Calgary Expo slowing down. With geek culture entering the mainstream, conventions are no longer solely the domain of the nerdy elite — they are now something everyone can enjoy.

"The convention industry is exploding all around the world, and I think it obviously has something to do with the fact that the biggest movies right now are about The Avengers, Batman and Spider-Man," says Turgeon. "So this is reaching a much larger segment of the mainstream population, and that population is seeing how much fun people are having at conventions. That's really the biggest part of it: it gives people a chance to get away from their everyday lives to meet celebrities, hang out and look at cool stuff for a weekend."

Moving past change

What *Mad Men* can teach us about leaving university

Sarah Dorchak
Production Editor

Love it or hate it, or hate the people that love it, one of the biggest shows on television right now is *Mad Men*, which recently premiered its sixth season on AMC. *Mad Men*'s premiere brought the series' core theme — response to change — to the forefront of people's minds. Perhaps this is why the premiere episode fell flat for many fans: we are shown themes touched on in the past seasons, yet we haven't really explored them yet.

While the motif linking the main storylines is clearly death, there's something more than that. The real theme is change — change through death. Roger Sterling has a brief monologue, which acts as a thesis statement for the episode and explains about life experiences being superfluous until death. Don Draper's story, supplementing Roger's, follows him as he meets a soldier on leave from Vietnam and parallels Don's own change through death in the Korean war. But we see many of our characters falling into old traps, suggesting that no one really is able to change except in that last experience of death.

Many of us in university are on the edge of change — we're leaping off the ivory tower into careers. Even if we are taking the next step higher in the tower into graduate school, we are taking a leap of faith over an abyss of the unknown with fear that threatens to swallow us whole. Change seems nonexistent while completing your undergraduate degree. It's an endless ebb and flow of assignments and exams. But once you finish, change is waiting there in cloak and cowl to take us on to the next step.

In *Mad Men*'s season two episode "The Mountain King," Don admits that people don't, or can't, change. But certain characters maintain that as you live, you learn things. Roger denies this in the season six premiere, calling life experiences pennies that you pick up on your way to the

grave. And with this pessimistic perspective, the episode ends on a dour and depressing note.

Roger puts death on a pedestal, calling it the ultimate change and perhaps this is true. For me this past semester began and ended in the deaths of close family members. We can lament the loss of life, of someone passing from this world to something else, or we grieve for not taking the time to learn from the experiences that

person had in their pocket. But the change from someone being here to not being here offers an opportunity for you to change for the better. To learn from the memories they shared, or from the lack thereof.

Mad Men is praised and hated for not putting down the rose-tinted glasses and offering a non-nostalgic view of the '60s. Throughout the series, attachment to the past or refusal to move on trips up

a lot of characters, Don Draper in particular. In season four Don is advised to resolve his past in order to move on. Nostalgia is key to one of Don's most famous speeches — the Kodak carousel slide projector — which makes a cameo in season six's premiere episode. We grip onto memories, Don explains in his speech, yet the past always seems to slip through our fingers.

Change is the ending of one thing in exchange for something

else. That something else could be better or worse, but it isn't death, it is a rebirth of ourselves. We can choose to fall into the same traps and pick up the same pennies along the road or we can stop dragging our feet and face change head on despite our uncertainty and fear. Whether we are graduating or continuing on with our studies, it is just as important to collect experiences as it is to keep them or to let them go.

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PUSH 2013 art exhibition

There are only a few days left to check out the department of art's third annual University of Calgary senior art student exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art before it ends on Saturday, April 13. If you miss your chance, the art is still available to view on the PUSH 2013 Tumblr page, push2013.tumblr.com.

New in Calgary

Calgary Underground Film Festival April 15–21

CUFF returns to the Globe Theatre next Monday to provide Calgarians with the best in indie films, including one about a *Big Ass Spider*. Tickets are available at calgaryundergroundfilm.org.

Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo April 26–28

Get your tickets now for the largest annual geek-out in Calgary before the fire department turns you away. Need a reason? Here are several: John Barrowman, Peter Dinklage, Nathan Fillion and Lena Headey. And that's only a small sample of fantasy and sci-fi celebs in attendance.

Calgary Spoken Word Festival April 1–30

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s p u n

ALBUM REVIEWS

**Bitter Fictions***Bitter Fictions*

March 20, 2013 (Shaking Box Music)

While I love ambient electronic, I am not an expert nor even an amateur enthusiast of ambient guitar drone. That being said, I was excited to unravel Bitter Fictions's self-titled sixth album.

While local journalist mogul and Shaking Box Music label head Devin Friesen might be better recognized for his work with *Fast Forward Weekly*, *Tiny Mix Tapes*, *cjsw* and Sloth Records, his solo-guitar improvisational act Bitter Fictions is by far his most

personal and intimate project. The eight-track album takes listeners on an experimental and psychedelic journey into the depths of drone and pedal-focused guitar music. While some may find it impossible to imagine nearly an hour of music without drums or accompanying instruments, the *Bitter Fictions LP* paces itself well through the distinct bouquets of sound each song brings to the table. The tracks are cleverly organized to keep you interested while the tempo of the album rises and falls through valleys of crystal clear hooks and past clouds of endless reverbs and delays.

Overall, this album is a great listen and perfect music to accompany long introspective nights or headphone journeys while walking through the city.

Bitter Fictions may not be for everyone — droning guitar music is a particular niche — but skeptics of the genre should definitely check this album out.

Bitter Fictions is available digitally through Bandcamp and on vinyl at Sloth Records. Having listened to both, the mastering on the vinyl is warmer and brings out so many of the nuances in an album centred around binaural shadows.

Evangelos Lambrinoudis II**Lions in the Street***On the Lam*

Feb. 18, 2013 (Hand to Mouth Music)

After a long road filled with hills and pot-holes, Lions in the Street have released their follow-up to their 2010 self-released debut album. Their initial debut with rvt Records in 2008 was pulled under by legal battles over rights. The *On the Lam EP* is filled with gritty rock and roll tracks that hark back to The Rolling Stones. Because Chris Kinnon's vocals remind me of The Black Keys's Dan Auerbach, even though Chris has a much deeper voice, there's a lot of resemblance to

modern rock.

The album sounds like classic rock and roll although some amount of modern folk or country twang is present in the music. This influence is especially true in the track "Tighten The Reins," which has a distinct modern country sound while also paying tribute to the blues and country that produced the rock and roll genre in the first place. While the country sound is most prevalent in "Tighten The Reins" it does pervade other songs on the EP.

Despite the country influences, *On the Lam* is a great modern take on classic rock — a genre that is too often moored by repeating the same old songs on the radio while new bands produce more alternative, folk and indie rock music. The heavy guitar riffs and percussion from Chris and Jeff Kinnon are a joy to listen to and frequently a nostalgic experience, at least for me.

While listening to the album, I have the urge to jump in my truck and hit the highway. The unfortunate part is that I won't get very far — there are only five tracks on the EP. A full album from Lions in the Street can't come soon enough.

Sean Sullivan

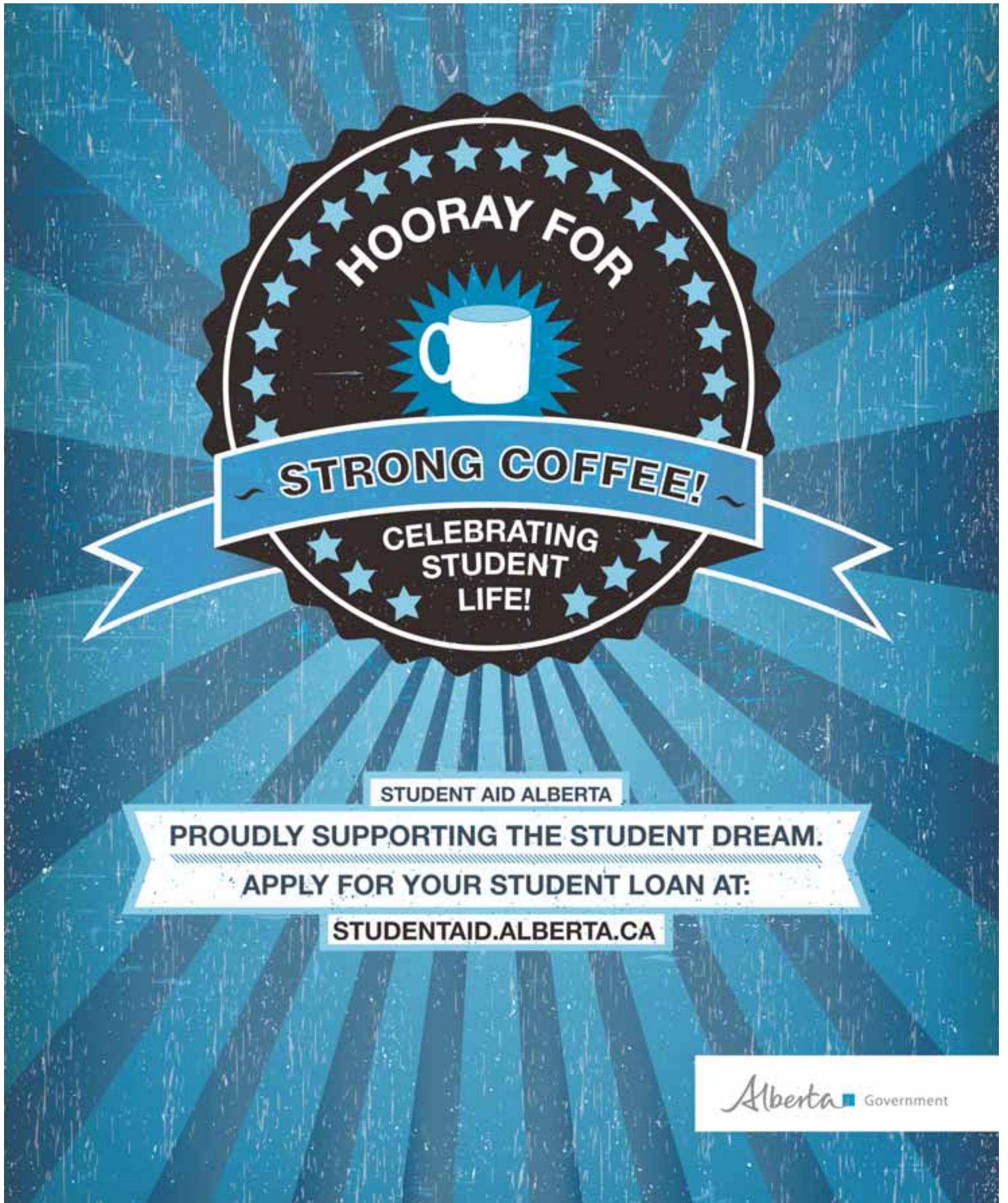
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Alberta  **Government**

Critical mass

Arts students have the power to upset the status quo

Erin Shumlich

Editor-in-Chief



The Alberta government doesn't care about students. Premier Alison Redford made this very clear when the 2013 provincial budget decreased the University of Calgary's operating budget by 7.3 per cent. After the budget was announced, her approval rating dropped by 26 percentage points. This particular cut came as quite a shock because Redford had promised a 2 per cent yearly increase to post-secondary operating budgets.

Any fiscally conservative government will make cuts. The issue now, however, is the response to these cuts, which has so far been overwhelmingly silent. Despite a few protests in Edmonton and Calgary, the general response has been apathy. A massive budget cut like this happens rarely, so our response should be equally thunderous. Despite U of C president Elizabeth Cannon promising that the budget cuts won't affect tuition this year, students will soon feel the budget's reverberation. In fact, staff associations at universities across Alberta warn that entire programs, and even faculties, may be cut due to lack of funding.

If you compare the few Alberta budget protests to the Quebec protests last year, Albertan students' response has been inadequate. The Quebec protests had over 10,000 students taking to the streets of Montreal in opposition to the Liberal government's proposed \$1,625



tuition increase over five years. Current Premier Pauline Marois of the Parti Québécois cancelled the Liberal's proposed hikes after being elected and instead proposed a tuition raise of one-fifth of the Liberal plan, or roughly \$350 over five years. Although this was not the outcome many protestors hoped for — the day of the Parti Québécois's announcement drew a protest of over 10,000 students — the result was a decreased tuition hike and proof that protests do matter.

Many Albertans met the protests in Quebec with abrasion. However, this shows a problem with Alberta's ubiquitous sense of entitlement. The issue goes beyond

the fact that Quebec students pay far less for tuition than anyone else in the country. The point is that they wanted post-secondary education to be more subsidized and available and fought hard to make these goals a reality. A common criticism of the protests follow the inaccurate logic of a blogger, who said "Quebec's arts students are running wild, while the engineering, mathematics, insert money-making majors here are getting fucked over."

I started my degree in engineering at McGill University, and decided it wasn't for me. From there I switched into math, then transferred to the U of C and went into

English and psychology, which are the degrees I will graduate with. The most important thing I learned in university was to think critically, ask questions and use my voice. The biggest difference I saw in the two institutions, however, was increasing distaste for arts degrees the closer I got to the oil fields.

Obviously, there is a great need and importance for engineers and businesspeople, particularly in Alberta. However, there must also be people who fight against the status quo, particularly when the status quo devalues things like education and the environment. That is not to say that individuals in profes-

sional faculties do not have this capacity, but that many arts degrees are based on this critical way of thinking. The biggest problem with university is that not everyone comes out with both a degree and a critical mind.

Yes, people with arts degrees may not make as much money as the average engineer or businessperson, but measuring degrees purely on their economic value is inherently wrong. With an enriching academic environment, people can grow into critical thinkers, question authority and start making much-needed positive change in Alberta, starting with fighting for our right to education.

Democratic reform

A new model is needed for fair representation

Jeremy Woo

Gauntlet Opinions



“Democratic reform” is a tagline used by politicians to convince Canadians that somehow more democratic means of governance are in the works. Surprisingly, the federal government even has a Minister for Democratic Reform. However, this convenient expression currently means little to Canadian democracy. In reality, Canada’s archaic political system is in a very sorry state, especially at a federal level. A minority of voters have near-absolute rule over the majority, parties with significant national support are not represented in Parliament and voter apathy is embarrassingly rampant.

These difficulties can be traced back to Canada’s ancient electoral system called first-past-the-post, a plurality voting system where a candidate wins an election by attaining more votes than any other candidate in their riding. This electoral method is susceptible to undemocratic outcomes. Reform of this antiquated system has the potential to place power back in the hands of Canadians. Though Canada still stands as a fortress of democracy in the world, Parliament is beginning to look like a dilapidated shed — real electoral reform is necessary to maintain and improve Canada’s democracy.

The most notable problem with Canada’s current electoral system is its ability to elect a majority government with a minority of votes. At present, the Conservative Party of Canada forms a majority government in Parliament. Therefore, Conservatives can essentially pass any legislation that they want, despite the fact that only 37.65 per cent of voters elected Conservative candidates in the most recent federal election. This inherent flaw is not new in Canadian politics. The last three majority governments in Canada have lacked the support of a majority of voters, yet were given the power

to make decisions that affected all Canadians.

Canadians must demand an electoral system that distributes seats proportionate to the actual popular vote so that the beliefs of a minority cannot ignore the voices of a majority.

Furthermore, thanks to the geographic distribution of seats in Canada, parties with widespread, nationwide support lack proper representation in Parliament. The nature of the current electoral system requires candidates to have a heavy concentration of support in one riding or a certain area. This effectively discriminates against parties such as the Green Party, whose support is spread across the country. In the 2008 federal election, the Green Party received nearly 1,000,000 votes without earning a seat in Parliament. One could compare this to the marginally higher 1,379,991 votes received by the regionally concentrated Bloc Québécois, a party that won an astounding 49 seats. This minor differential of votes resulted in major inequality.

Canada’s democratic electoral system left almost one million people unrepresented. This conundrum causes the natural tendency to focus on regions instead of the nation at large within political parties.

Parties with national support and a national vision spread across the country are largely unrewarded for their efforts. For example, the New Democratic Party does not bother campaigning in Calgary, because history dictates that Calgary ridings are “unwinnable.” The NDP has no incentive to waste resources and create policies to benefit the electorate in a region dominated by conservatism. Electoral reform could result in a new system that takes the national popular vote into account, ending discrimination against parties with national support and giving leaders a reason to create a national vision in order to attract votes from every corner of Canada.

Finally, Canada’s current electoral system causes voter apathy, especially in ridings where one party is dominant. For example, Conservative Rob Anders was elected to Parliament for Calgary West in 2011 with 62.2 per cent of the vote. Supporters of other parties would have little incentive to vote, as they already believe that the Conservatives will win their riding in spite of their ballot. A reformed system that takes votes into account nationwide would reinvigorate a jaded electorate — a vote would count towards a national total for a party, regardless



of one’s geographic location. Voter apathy could explain Canada’s embarrassing voter turnout. Approximately 60 per cent of eligible Canadians reported to the polls last election, compared to 75 per cent of Dutch voters and 89 per cent of Belgian voters in their most recent elections. This can be partially attributed to electoral systems that more closely reflect the national popular vote. Reform has the opportunity to make every vote valuable, and no vote would be useless as too many are today.

Through the tumults of time, the great Canadian fort of democ-

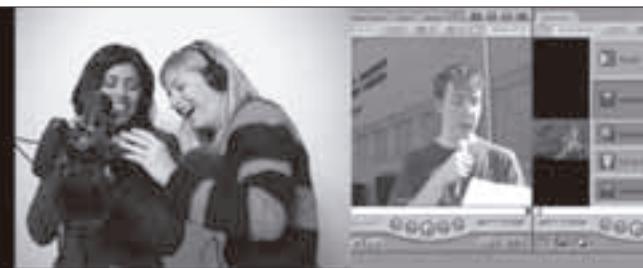
racy has stood strong. However, the winds of change are blowing, and the Canadian electoral system needs renovations to avoid becoming a run-down shack that does not provide strength to the people within it. The majority of people must not be marginalized by an antiquated electoral system. Canada is a proud democracy — a minority should not be able to control the destiny of an unwilling majority. Let us take to our tool belts, gather our lumber and build real democratic reform that is fair, proportionate and representative of all Canadians.

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NEW UNIVERSITY TELEVISION

Rousing rebrand reactions

Debating the Dinos logo redesign



courtesy University of Calgary communications

Logo lacks intensity

Richard Goldberger

Gauntlet Sports • @RGGoldberger

On Wednesday, April 3, University of Calgary provost and vice-president academic Dru Marshall unveiled the new logo for Dinos athletics to an eager student body and faculty. As part of the rebranding campaign, the Dinos have partnered with Nike as their official sponsor for their athletic apparel, in addition to other changes around athletics that include the upcoming overhaul of the Jack Simpson Gymnasium. This new corporate partnership brings potential for increased athlete recruitment and merchandise sales.

This rebrand is the first time since 1998 that a new logo has been introduced, replacing the current “lizard” logo that was arguably outdated and lacking in ferocity. In its place is the updated “Rex” logo — a simpler, bolder alteration to the pre-existing logo with a sharper, more modern appearance.

The “Dinos” text has been further updated from its originally black and yellow italicized text to rounded, bold, white-filled text. However, the introduction of this new logo has immediately sparked debate over the aesthetics of the new look, as well as the decisions made regarding the direction of the logo.

The previous logo was not a fa-

vourite among many students, some of whom didn’t even recognize it as the Dinos official logo. Upon first glance, the new logo appears to be a well-adapted update of the former logo. Yet, at the same time, the overly simplistic new look is less aesthetically pleasing than it first appears.

The colour and redesign of the T-Rex is too cartoon-like for an esteemed university brand. In addition, the new “Dinos” text beneath the logo resembles a font used in the Flintstones and may be the biggest disappointment of the entire project, bringing attention to the lack of intensity and fierceness. The image may be more appropriate as a display for a daycare newsletter than on a Canadian Interuni-

versity Sport uniform. Apart from the emphasis on the T-Rex’s sharp pearly whites and claws, the logo lacks the ferocity that its designers intended.

Some students have not been shy about sharing their displeasure with the logo.

“I had a laugh when I first saw it,” said fourth-year earth science student Matthew Coulas. “The dino, the writing, everything just seems a bit juvenile and too cartoonish.”

With the recent success of many Dinos athletic programs, such as football, women’s hockey, women’s track and field, women’s basketball and men’s swimming, the U of C athletics programs are perhaps the most successful of any school in the Canada West conference. The

new logo fails to capture the serious and competitive nature of the Dinos athletics program.

A main goal of the rebrand was to combat student apathy towards athletics. Despite this logo appearing more suited for a junior high school than a university, the rebrand is still an opportunity to unite students in a shared identity, something that the university has struggled with in the past.

Whether students choose to embrace this new look and the attitude that comes with it, the new logo is here to stay. However, the university’s new look has not been accepted by the student body right out of the gates despite the excitement that has been built up around the rebrand.

New design is fine

Curtis Wolff

Gauntlet Sports • @CBWolff

Not everybody likes the new Dinos logo. Although the University of Calgary was probably hoping that the release of the new athletics identity would be met with universal adoration, such a reaction was likely never in the cards. The introduction of new logos and uniforms in sports is often met with a healthy dose of criticism even at the professional level.

Sometimes redesigns are a huge hit, like the rejuvenation of the old Toronto Blue Jays logo for the

2012 Major League Baseball season. Or logos can flop, like the jarring neon Miami Marlins design that received much ridicule when it was unveiled in 2011. Quite often reactions fall somewhere in the middle.

While the new Dinos logo won’t blow critics away, it successfully captures the themes of simplicity and fierceness that its designers were aiming for and as a result deserves such a reaction.

Unfortunately, the redesign has come under fire from many students for a variety of reasons: too simple, too childish and too cross-eyed, among a variety of other complaints. Debate over the new logo has created a level of interest

in our university athletics teams not often seen when they are actually playing sports. However, the negative reaction to the new logo is somewhat unwarranted.

The instant nostalgia for the outgoing logo is a bit of a mystery, considering that the new logo is in many ways a less atrocious version of the old one. The old lizard logo could be the poster-child for the tragic decade of design that was the 1990s, which gave birth to some of the most questionable sports designs in recent memory. The old dinosaur is far too detailed, from his face creases to his spine.

The “Dinos” lettering slants awkwardly upward and the “Uni-

versity of Calgary” lettering hangs beneath, unconnected to the logo. While it would have been interesting to see the U of C go in a different direction — such as a dinosaur skull or footprint — the new logo fixes the basic design problems of the old one while maintaining the tradition of having a dinosaur featured.

The new Dinos logo is now among the most modern-looking of Canada West logos. Many CW logos have the simplicity component of a successful design figured out, but are nonetheless outdated. The Dinos logo now has the simplicity that the old one lacked and the freshness that rivals the University of Fraser Valley’s impres-

sive scary green mountain logo. It sure beats the University of Alberta logo, which features a seemingly drunk Golden Bear creepily leering at whoever happens to be looking directly at him.

One of the best features of the new logo is its cost. Designed completely in-house, the new logo was developed at only a fraction of the cost of hiring an expensive external design firm to come up with a concept. While not all U of C students may adore the logo, would they rather have the university pay for an externally designed logo? While the U of C didn’t blow anybody away with the new design, they did a decent job on the new logo at a bargain price.

Slim pickings for Flames in Abbotsford

Justin Azevedo

Gauntlet Sports • @AzevedoJ

The American Hockey League has long been the place to develop top draft picks, test potential rule changes and store players that will eventually need to be recalled. The AHL has been around in one form or another since the early 1930s, but has only really been used as an affiliate league since the late 1970s.

The Calgary Flames have relocated their affiliate team four times in the past 10 years but currently they reside in Abbotsford, British Columbia. However, the Abbotsford Heat face some significant geographic challenges. The closest team to them in distance — the Oklahoma City Barons, the Edmonton Oilers's farm team — are 1,548 kilometres away, and the Heat are the only AHL team west of the Central Time Zone.

As a result, there has been a lot of speculation that the Flames may look to move the team to New York state in the future but nothing concrete has been decided.

As for Flames talent in Abbotsford, TJ Brodie has spent the balance of the NHL season with the Flames, but prior to the resolution



courtesy Clint Trahan /Abbotsford Heat

of the lockout he was playing top-pairing minutes in Abbotsford. Brodie, 22, has emerged as the Flames's most NHL-ready prospect and has been playing big minutes since the departure of Jay Bouwmeester to the St. Louis Blues. Brodie has put up good numbers

in Abbotsford, scoring at a 0.5 point-per-game rate in his 115 AHL games. He also was the team's lone representative at the 2011 AHL All-Star Game. Brodie has been playing top-four minutes and is likely the best defender for the Flames at this point. Currently, Brodie projects to an offensive-minded number three defenseman but, based on his play this season, his ceiling may be higher than that. He will be relied upon heavily in the future.

The most well-known prospect in Calgary's system is without question Sven Baertschi. The first-round pick in 2011 is likely the most-hyped prospect the Flames have had since defender Dion Phaneuf. Baertschi's debut in 2012 was electric, scoring three goals over the course of his five game call-up. He started this season in the AHL with the Heat due to the lockout, where he suffered a concussion 21 games into the season. By the time he had fully recovered, the NHL was back in session and Baertschi was on the Flames's third line. However, after 10 games and a hip flexor injury he wasn't having the impact that was expected of him and was sent back to the AHL.

Baertschi tallied 18 points in 21 games at the AHL level prior to the NHL season and since being sent down he has scored four goals to go along with three assists in nine

games. His AHL results are encouraging, and he won't turn 21 until the start of next season, so expect big things from him in the future.

Roman Horak was acquired from the New York Rangers in the Tim Erixon trade and he has performed pretty well. He might not be producing points at the NHL level yet, but he has killer speed and started this year in Abbotsford with 12 goals in 14 games. He will be a solid third-liner in the future.

Max Reinhart, Calgary's third round pick in 2010, has been deployed in a defence-first, shut-down role this year, so that's where the lack of points has come from. It is significant that head coach of the Heat Troy Ward trusts a 20-year-old rookie in every situation, and Reinhart projects to a third-liner at some point in the future.

Past those four players, however, the production of the rest of the team isn't terribly encouraging. Forward Akim Aliu hasn't done anything to show he can be a full-time NHLer and Ben Street and Paul Byron are likely replacement-level forwards. Pending free-agents Greg Nemisz and Leland Irving likely won't be receiving contract offers this offseason with the Flames looking to overhaul their prospect base and open up roster spots for incoming NCAA players.

Defender Chris Breen will likely get his last legitimate shot at an

NHL roster spot next year and forward Lance Bouma has shown the ability to move the puck the right way at the NHL level but it is still unknown what effect missing an entire year with an injury will have on Bouma.

The Heat also have Mark Cundari, a newly acquired 22-year-old defenseman coming from the Peoria Rivermen, the St. Louis Blues's affiliate. He will likely challenge for an NHL roster spot coming out of camp next year, but isn't viewed as a high-impact player down the road.

Goaltender Danny Taylor has played well, but might find himself without a contract due to a glut of goaltending prospects in the Flames's system.

When evaluating the Heat roster as a whole, it is pretty easy to see who has a chance at the NHL on this roster and who doesn't — but most AHL teams look like this. Three or four players are out in front of the rest, and the remainder of the roster is made up of grinders hoping for one more chance at an NHL job.

One way or another, the AHL team will start to look better with prospects such as John Ramage possibly coming through next year from the NCAA. The Flames are in full-blown rebuild mode now and the changes will certainly be felt in every part of the organization, including the farm team.

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Stars shine for great cause

Familiar faces join forces for Mr. Hockey's 85th

Curtis Wolff

Gauntlet Sports • @CBWolff

There's less than a minute left in the third period and former Calgary Flames sniper Theo Fleury is flying down the right wing. Twirling quickly onto his backhand he catches the defender off guard and slides the puck into the slot. Imagine if you could take the pass and wire a shot past sprawling ex-Toronto Maple Leaf all-star Curtis Joseph to win the game.

It sounds like a fantasy, but for some lucky and generous donors, the dream will come alive April 12-14 at the Pro-Am Face Off for Alzheimer's.

During this innovative charity event, local teams that have raised

a minimum of \$25,000 through individual or corporate donations will have the opportunity to lace up their skates with a hockey great of their choice.

A draft will be held on April 12 at the Westin Hotel, where the team that raised the most money will select first overall.

Draft eligible players for 2013 include NHL legends Lanny McDonald, Tiger Williams, Jeremy Roenick, Gary Roberts and Rene Corbet among others.

Drafting first overall this year are the Prime Suspects. Led by captain and Calgary-based engineer Brett Chorney, the team has raised an astonishing \$113,925 for the Alzheimer's Society. Overall, 20 teams have raised over \$800,000 for the event.

The action kicks off with a \$1,500 per-ticket luncheon in honour of NHL legend Gordie Howe's 85th birthday. The draft will be held that night, with the competitive, non-contact tournament taking place on April 13-14.

Funds raised will go towards the Alzheimer's Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories, an organization that raises awareness and supports research into the cause and potential cures for Alzheimer's and related dementias. According to the Alzheimer's Society website, 40,000 Albertans suffer from dementia and the province has the highest prevalence in Canada of early-onset dementia, defined as people diagnosed under the age of 65.



Michael Kwras

Hitmen ready for long playoff run

The Calgary Hitmen have advanced to the Western Hockey League's Eastern Conference semifinal against the Red Deer Rebels. The Hitmen defeated the Swift Current Broncos in the quarter-finals series 4-1 and currently have a 3-1 series lead against the Rebels in the semifinals. Game five of the series is on April 11 at 7 p.m. at the Saddledome. If needed, game six is on April 13 in Red Deer and game seven would be on April 16 at the Saddledome. Tickets for the playoffs start at \$15 for students, which is a great deal considering it will be the only playoff hockey at the Saddledome this year.



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DINOS

ROOKIES OF THE YEAR



BRETT BLASZKO
Dinos Football

A first-year receiver on the Dinos football team, is the 2013 male rookie of the year. Joining the Dinos from his native Burlington, Ont., Blaszkowicz became the fifth Dino in seven years to earn the Canada West rookie of the year award after finishing as the fifth-leading receiver in the conference with 23 catches for 389 yards and five touchdowns – all despite only appearing in six games. His first CIS catch went for a 65-yard major in Week 1, and he added a 75-yard score later in the season. A student in the Faculty of Arts, Blaszkowicz averaged 16.9 yards per catch in his rookie campaign.



TIANNA RISSLING
Dinos Swimming

is the second swimmer in as many years to take home the award, following Amanda Reason in 2012. Named the Canada West and CIS rookie of the year, Rissling won two gold, one silver, and one bronze medal at her first CIS championship. A first-year kinesiology student from Redcliff, Alta., Rissling set a new CIS record in the 400-metre individual medley, adding another individual title in the 50-metre breaststroke. Her performance very nearly earned her CIS swimmer of the year honours.

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Study finds students can't read anymore

Susan Anderson

Features Editor

A recent study at the University of Calgary has found that university students are losing their ability to read. One of the first signs of this decrease is an inability to understand satire. The lead researcher, Dr. Cindy Whitehorn, said that although this decrease is sad, it really comes as no surprise.

"Students these days just don't read," Whitehorn explained. "The primary school system spends so much time teaching students to read and trying to instil them with a love of reading, but it just isn't sticking anymore."

The study looked at the reading level of 1,000 U of C students across all faculties, and found that the average reading level was a Grade 4 level, which means that reading comprehension was severely lacking.

Although faculties such as engineering and science scored worse, faculties where strong readers were expected didn't score much better.

"Apparently the English majors don't actually read the books they are assigned anymore," said Whitehorn.

Although this study is not the first of its kind in North America, it is the first one that looks at U of C students. Questions remain as to how U of C students fare in com-

parison to other schools. Whitehorn will be collaborating with researchers at other schools to see if this is a national trend and where U of C students sit on a national scale.

Whitehorn believes that the Internet and social media have caused the greatest decline in the scores.

"If a student spends all day looking at Facebook, there's really no wonder that they can't read a piece of text longer than 500 words," said Whitehorn.

A reduced attention span seems to be one of the main factors leading to the reduction in reading ability. Every website offers videos, pictures and the ability to change the page in seconds, which has a negative impact on reading ability.

Whitehorn was unsure of what the long-term consequences would be of this reduced reading ability.

"Sadly, we do expect reading ability to keep falling. There's a downward trend and we don't expect it to bottom out anytime soon. Who knows what the consequences will be for our society, which is predicated on reading. Will we return to being cavemen and communicating through pictures?" Whitehorn said.

Surprisingly, Whitehorn found that understanding satire was the first ability students lost.

"We started with the obvious ones, such as *A Modest Proposal*.



Adrienne Stumlich

And the students were just as perplexed as the initial British audience. Yet, when we showed them a clip from *Saturday Night Live*, they understood the satire," said Whitehorn. This correlation shows that the reading is the reason that the satire is missed, not failing to understand the concept of satire itself.

"I do like to read," said third-year nursing student Heather McFarlan. Yet, when asked what she had read lately, she answered, "Well, uh, I did skim through my notes for class last week and I'm very devoted to Twitter. I read the back of a cereal box this morning."

McFarlan believes the study re-

sults are accurate, however.

"I will admit that I don't read as much as I should, but it's just so complicated — long blocks of unbroken text confuse me," said McFarlan.

Second-year engineering student Kyle Geurther said that he doesn't see reading as very important anymore.

"Math is where it's at. Who really needs to read?" said Geurther. Geurther does enjoy reading the comics in the *Calgary Sun*.

"Doesn't that count as satire?" he asked.

Professors have also reacted to these findings. Sociology profes-

sor Dr. Harry Divult, who has been teaching at the U of C for 21 years, said that the findings don't really come as a shock to him.

"I could have told you that students can't read as well as they used to. I wouldn't need to do a study to find that out. Look at the quality of essays I receive. There are some bright students, but most of it is scary — and not the Halloween kind of scary," said Divult.

Divult said that when students were presented with several pages of text in class, most just stared blankly at it, not knowing what to do.

"We are doomed," he concluded.

PLEASE CLEAN OUT YOUR LOCKERS!

Contents must be removed by Tuesday, April 30, 2013

\$5/bag to retrieve any contents left in lockers

Your items will be available for pick up after May 14 at: Bound & Copied, MSC 195 up to 60 days after the cleanup is complete.

If your items are not retrieved within this time, they will be donated to local charities.

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Wristbands available April 10, 11, 12 and 15, North Courtyard, MSC, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. One wristband per person. Age and student ID required. U OF C STUDENTS ONLY.

PARKING ADVISORY:

Pay Parking Lot 32 (across from Scurfield Hall) will be closed all day. All vehicles parked in Lot 32 must be removed by 7 a.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2013. Vehicles not removed by this time will be towed.

Alternate parking lots to use include: Art Parkade (\$8 for entry), Lot 11 (\$5 for entry) or Lot 10 (\$5 for entry).

University of Calgary Parking and Transportation Services
403-220-6771 / 403-220-6772 / www.ucalgary.ca/parking

ROAD CLOSURES:

Campus Drive will be closed from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The closure will be between Campus Place and Campus Gate.

Those who regularly park in assigned lots 25, 28, 21 and 19 will need to access their parking lots from 32nd Avenue for this day.

Parkers in assigned lots 31, 33, 34 will need to access their lots via 24th Avenue.

CALGARY TRANSIT CHANGES:

Bus route #20 will be rerouted for the day. Route to be determined by Calgary Transit.

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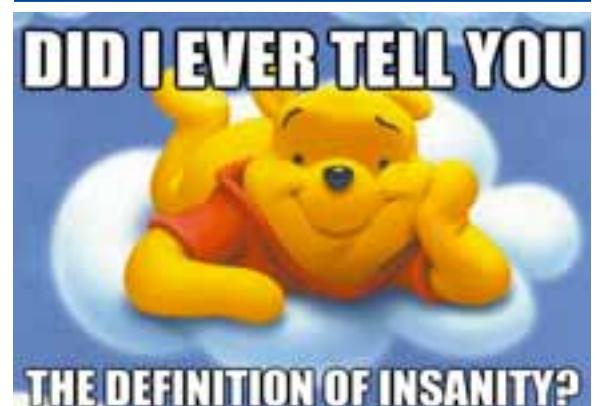
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