



Michael Grondin

Credit card surcharges dropped in MacHall

Riley Hill

News Editor

With files from Jeremy Woo

Surcharges on credit card purchases in MacEwan Student Centre are no more. The extra costs for purchases made with Visa or Mastercard ended on Friday, June 7, after the Students' Union learned that these charges were being used by several MSC vendors, violating the contracts the businesses have with their credit card providers.

Any business in Canada that accepts Visa or Mastercard can not charge extra for a purchase made with a credit card, or make cash more advantageous, which is outlined in the contract businesses must sign with the credit card com-

panies whose cards they accept.

The same rules do not apply to debit purchases, where surcharges are permitted.

Knowing that many MSC vendors were charging extra for using credit cards, the *Gauntlet* contacted SU vice-president operations and finance Eric Termuende on Friday, sending an email requesting an interview.

After receiving the email stating the subject of our questions, Termuende contacted the SU's bank, the Royal Bank of Canada, to confirm that credit card surcharges are not allowed on Canadian purchases.

"We asked for clarification about the rules and regulations and they told us that absolutely no surcharges on credit card purchases

of any kind were allowed," said Termuende. "Immediately after, we set to put a stop to the surcharges and inquired as to where they were taking place."

Termuende then contacted SU general manager Jeff Marshall. The two surveyed MSC and took note of all the vendors who were charging extra for credit card purchases.

The vendors who were imposing surcharges readily admitted to it, not knowing that they were violating the contracts they have with credit card companies.

SU controller and finance manager Richard Fung then contacted the vendors on Friday afternoon, informing them about the violations. This resulted in the cancellation of all credit card surcharges in MSC.

Fung and Termuende both said that they did not have any knowledge of the surcharges prior to Friday afternoon.

All vendors complied with the SU's advice about ending the charges, but Termuende explained that the matter is ultimately between the businesses and the credit card companies.

"We as a students' union are a third party — the landlords to the tenants — so we advised them that this was not right and there would be repercussions not from us, but between them and the credit card companies," said Termuende. "Our responsibility lies in advising them on what they should and should not do. Having said that, it wasn't right that it was ever charged in the first place, which is why we put

a stop to it as fast as possible."

Vendors' belief that they were allowed to charge surcharges on credit cards stemmed from a rumour that circulated amongst the businesses in early spring. Many believed that there was a change in Canadian consumer law that allowed businesses to pass the costs that credit card companies impose on them directly back to customers.

These rumours stemmed from a report published by the Consumers' Association of Canada on April 2, 2013, which discussed a pending case in Canada's competition tribunal between two credit card companies and former Competition Bureau head Melanie Aitken.

see SURCHARGES, page 3

City smokers down to the last drags

A few of us at the *Gauntlet* smoke cigarettes. I know, smoking will likely kill us, and I know, it's expensive, gross, stupid and yada yada yada.

New smokers quickly realize that society no longer accommodates them. Soon, we'll have fewer places to indulge in our addiction in public.

The City of Calgary recently proposed a bylaw that will make smoking illegal in the vicinity of outdoor sporting facilities. This will eliminate some of the city's best smoking spots, including Shaw Millennium and Bowness Parks. Lighting up on the sidewalk near playgrounds will be illegal. The bylaw's message is clear: if you smoke, you are unwelcome, you should find a place as far from healthy people as possible, and wallow in the shame of your disgusting, dangerous and expensive habit, you bastard.

Legislators proposing the bylaw say it will protect children and

families from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke. The bylaw stems from fears that if swift action is not taken, poison-puffing addicts roaming our city's parks will corrupt children's lungs and minds. Kids will adopt the habit after observing how a cigarette dangling from one's lips can transform acne-ridden teenagers into James Dean-esque sex symbols.

The chilling facts about the substance have gained increased exposure — smoking kills over 37,000 Canadians every year and is responsible for over 80 per cent of lung cancer diagnoses, according to Health Canada.

With statistics like these, smoking bans sell themselves. Those who don't smoke will support nearly any anti-smoking laws, and those who do will remain silent; because like pornography, while many indulge in smoking, few will vocally defend it.

However, we need to reconsider



spending time and energy on this bylaw.

One of the politicians who proposed the bylaw, Ward 10 alderman Andre Chabot, claimed during an interview that the new rules were common-sense measures. But just seconds later, he also acknowledged that the bylaw could not be enforced, making compliance voluntary. The law's

lack of teeth is where the issue lies.

In an interview with the CBC, Chabot said that city council is "basically just trying to set an example through this bylaw." To translate, city leaders are debating whether to create a new bylaw to make smoking in public more shameful. Keep in mind that there aren't any plans for peace officers to roam public parks or any other new measures to enforce any of the proposed rules.

Banning smoking in buildings is enforceable because there is a defined boundary. While the bylaw attempts to define a 5-metre boundary around outdoor facilities, there are many grey areas, such as when the arbitrary line crosses onto private property.

So yes, smoking is detrimental to public health, but city council using its limited time to table a bylaw that they acknowledge will not be enforced defies common sense.

Gauntlet Editorial Board

Editor-in-Chief: Susan Anderson 403-220-7752
eic@thegauntlet.ca

News Editor: Riley Hill 403-220-4318
news@thegauntlet.ca • @GauntletUofC

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

Sports: Curtis Wolff 403-220-4376
sports@thegauntlet.ca • @GauntletSports

Opinions: Tobias Ma 403-220-4376
opinions@thegauntlet.ca

Features: Salimah Kassamali 403-220-4376
feature@thegauntlet.ca

Photo: Michael Grondin 403-220-4376
photo@thegauntlet.ca

Production: Sean Willett 403-220-4376
production@thegauntlet.ca

Illustrations: Dawn Muenchrath 403-220-4376
illustrations@thegauntlet.ca

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

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

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

Contributors

Matthew Parkison • Athena G. Csuti

Golden Spatula

Athena G. Csuti is the proud recipient of the golden spatula this week. Named after the Norse god of journalism, Csuti conquered the written word with her first album review for the *Gauntlet*. We thank her for taking time out of her bright summer day to help us pale, stressed out editors with this doomed publication.

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 timeliness based ink. We urge you lock yourself in the bathroom, turn off the lights and say bloody many seven times. And of course, remember to recycle the Gauntlet.

WEEKEND WARMUP

black lounge est. 1969

WITH **dj DON JUAN**

silhouettes of a crowd dancing

Fridays @ 3pm on the patio

BOGO for \$1 appetizers — 3pm until close
nachos not included

\$4.75 Wine & Coolers \$5.25 Tall Boys

STUDENTS' UNION SU UNION

www.djdonjuan.ca @djdonjuan

TALL BOYS

\$6.25
\$5.25 ON FRIDAYS

SU approves first draft of budget

Budget to be finalized after second reading on June 25

Riley Hill

News Editor

The University of Calgary Students' Union passed the first draft of its 2013–14 operating budget on Tuesday, June 11, during Student Legislative Council, outlining the organization's fiscal plans for the upcoming year. The budget was passed unanimously with 14 votes. A majority of nine was needed for the budget to go through.

SU vice-president operations and finance Eric Termuende presented the budget late during SLC. He began by discussing the SU's net revenue, which has grown considerably since 2010.

"For 2013–14, our projected bottom line is roughly \$1.3 million," said Termuende. "Between 2010–11, our bottom-line revenue was \$500,000. That means we've seen a \$700,000 increase in that time, but keep in mind that we are a not-for-profit organization. Just because we have \$1.3 million, that doesn't mean that it goes to staff, executives or SLC. It goes to increasing our services,



Michael Grondin

Eric Termuende presents the budget during Student Legislative Council on June 11.

which matches our primary objective of serving and representing the students."

This \$1.3 million in net revenue is larger than most student unions in Canada because of the money the SU makes through the MSC, as the building's vendors and events generate significant revenue.

The total budget for the fiscal year comes out almost even, with a \$284 surplus.

Aside from student services and administrative costs, money

will go towards paying off debt on the MSC mortgage, which tops \$4 million, and a contingency fund that the SU uses to offset future expenses that students would have to bear.

The total amount full-time students will pay to the SU will remain at \$34.50 per year — a number that has not increased in 17 years.

SU president Raphael Jacob said at the meeting that few student unions have the luxury of keeping their student fees at the same rate

for such a long period of time.

"Very, very rarely is a student union in a secure enough position that they can keep fees this low," said Jacob.

Money acquired from student fees accounts for only nine per cent of the SU's total revenue.

There were a number of new funds added to the executives' budgets, including a \$500 discretionary fund set aside for U of C Board of Governors student representative Michael Smith. Jacob said he decided on the new fund

after Smith requested some minimal financial backing for obligations he has with the SU.

"[Smith] mentioned that the SU does not provide him with a lot of support, which is a fair point to make. The Board of Governors is a really high-level committee with a lot of play makers on it," said Jacob. "I decided to set aside that \$500 amount with the caveat being that in advance, he and I would approve any use of it. It's not a slush fund for him."

Jacob said that the total money the SU will use in the upcoming year will likely be less than what is budgeted, saying he would like to leave some breathing room in case unexpected expenses come up.

"The worst thing you can do in a budget is require more money than you budgeted for. It's always better to have more money that's left unused and can be refined in years going forward than to have less," said Jacob.

The second and final vote on the budget will occur on June 26 during the next session of SLC. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, located in the MSC. Students are welcome to attend.

Surcharges, continued from cover

Media covered the report heavily, with news outlets reporting that if Aitken won her case, businesses would be allowed to impose credit card surcharges on customers. Some MSC vendors misunderstood the stories, believing that Canadian law had changed and credit card surcharges were now allowed.

One of the MSC vendors who believed this was Happy Hut man-

ager Charlton Huns. Huns complied with the SU's advice to cancel the credit card surcharges, but said that a recent decision by the federal government had changed the rules.

"When we signed our agreement with the bank, they had something like that in the contract, that you can't pass the [credit card fee] onto the customer," said Huns. "But the govern-

ment passed a law a few months ago that allows the merchants to charge back to the customer for any bank charge."

Financial Consumer Agency of Canada communications officer Natasha Nystrom confirmed that there has not been any recent changes from the federal government on the matter.

"From a Government of Canada perspective, there are no new

regulations regarding credit card surcharges," said Nystrom.

Although he will no longer charge them, Huns said that the loss of the credit card surcharges will hurt his business.

"Here, we get a really high rate of cards used for purchases," said Huns. "If we charge the customer 25 cents for a purchase with a credit card, the business makes ten cents [off the credit card surcharge]

and then we have to pay the rest. We have to protect our profits too. Operating here is not easy."

When asked about the end of the credit card surcharges, second-year engineering student Sean Bennet said he was pleased to hear about the change.

"Food in MacHall can be pricey," said Bennet. "I use my Visa a lot, so it's good to know that it'll be a little cheaper."

What is your preferred method of payment?



"Credit. Might as well get some points."

– Logan Heidt,
second-year
business



"Credit. There's not the same fees that can be associated with debit cards."

– Rebecca Holgate,
fourth-year math



"Debit. I don't like filling my wallet with change."

– Wecsey Cheng,
first-year
biological sciences



"Debit. It's the most convenient."

– Sunetra Roychoudhury,
third-year
biological sciences

campus quips

New clubs space gets rid of private offices

Bookable work rooms to be featured in The Hive

Riley Hill

News Editor

With its opening scheduled for Sept. 1, the current renovations of the clubs space in the MacEwan Student Centre will create big changes for campus clubs — more specifically, to their offices.

Prior to the renovations, clubs used private offices that were assigned by the Students' Union. Once construction at The Hive is completed, clubs will no longer have these private offices, as the new space will be transformed into open, common areas.

According to SU vice-president student life Ben Cannon, space was limited under the old system, forcing the SU to choose which clubs would get their own space.

"The one year when I was an arts representative and on clubs committee, the decision on which clubs got an office was mostly made on merit, but some were also distributed in a kind of lottery," said Cannon. "It was definitely an imperfect system which left a lot of room for clubs to take offices who didn't necessarily need the space."

Cannon said the clubs that



(Left) A conceptual sketch of clubs space after renovations. (Right) The Hive as it looks currently, under construction.



(Right) courtesy Nyhoff Architecture / (Left) courtesy Henry Rosvick

were lucky enough to get them often under-utilized these limited offices.

"With the private offices, there were about 20 to 30 of them. Most of the clubs who had them were either just using them for storage or hanging out," said Cannon.

The new clubs space will instead rely on large common areas and new lockers for storage, doing away with the private offices altogether. Cannon said this will make the area more useful for the many clubs who need support from the SU.

"There's definitely an argument

to be made for creating a kind of club culture and having a set place where everybody can meet in their own private space, but because we have over 300 clubs on campus, [the SU] decided to move away from the private offices," said Cannon. "The new space will be primarily bookable, work-room type spaces like the ones in the Taylor Family Digital Library. We're still working out the kinks in terms of how those rooms will be booked."

The new common areas will be similar to the ones that were

previously there. Changes will be in the new furniture and tech equipment, with a large portion of the construction budget going towards these areas.

Not all clubs are pleased with the changes. Ski and Snowboard Club president Michael Issakidis said his club received little consultation on the changes and that they are not pleased with losing their office.

"It's annoying, I can tell you that," said Issakidis. "It makes it harder for us to keep in contact with students and provide

them with our services."

The renovations are being funded through Quality Money, with the total cost slated at \$38,000.

Cannon said that for the most part, clubs should be pleased with the changes that are being made to the space.

"There's going to be a lot more common space with lots of room for clubs to all hang out," said Cannon. "It's not necessarily private, but things will change a little bit, and I think overall, it's going to be a great improvement."

Feds give research cash to U of C

The University of Calgary recently announced that it will receive \$1.8 million in additional funding from the federal government for research.

The money will go towards several projects, including research in stem cells, kidney disease and fish health. U of C professors Ed O'Brien and Justin MacDonald

will collect the largest share of the funds, with \$393,727 going towards the study of new treatments for vascular anti-inflammatory therapies.

The money will be provided by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, a federally funded non-profit organization dedicated to keeping Canadian research competitive at an international level.

Funeral to be held for student athlete

A funeral will be held at St. Michael's Catholic Community Church on Friday for U of C athlete and recent graduate Danielle Kendall. Kendall passed away on June 2 during a trip to Ecuador. She was struck in the head by a large piece of ice while climbing the Cotopaxi volcano in the Andean mountains.

The trip was part of a pre-graduation celebration with friends.

While attending the U of C, she was on the 2012-13 Dinos track team and majored in chemical engineering. Kendall planned to work in the oil and gas industry following her graduation.

She was scheduled to take part in the spring convocation this week.

BOG student representative wins Top 20 Under 20 award

University of Calgary Board of Governors student representative Michael Smith was recently recognized by the charity Youth in Motion as one of Canada's Top 20 Under 20, an annual award that celebrates the achievements of Canada's most successful teenagers.

He was chosen from thousands of applicants who applied in February.

Besides his BOG position, Smith is also the president of the U of C Campus Conservative Association, CEO of the Smith Family Group and the senior director for the southern Alberta youth wing of the Progressive Conservative Party. Smith is 19 years old and is studying education.

Online or on paper, your opinion counts.
Your university is listening.

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction

The Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) is your opportunity to evaluate your courses and contribute to improving the quality of future course instruction at the U of C. Evaluations will be accepted:

June 3 - 26, 2013

www.ucalgary.ca/usri



WANT TO BE A REPORTER?
GAUNTLET NEWS



NEWS@THEGAUNTLET.CA



courtesy Joseph Yarmush

Unpredictable Suuns

Sean Sullivan
Entertainment Editor

Montreal rock band Suuns will be making their first Sled Island appearance this year at The Palomino on June 20.

Their stop at Sled Island comes during a long tour this summer to promote their latest album, *Images du Futur* which was released in March. The Suuns spent three weeks touring in Europe and the last couple of weeks in western Canada and the United States.

"We've already played well over 50 shows in the last three and a half months," guitarist Joseph Yarmush says.

And they'll be playing at over 30 more locations before the end of the summer.

Their music is an amalgamation of electronic, folk-rock and occasional jazz melodies that repeatedly alternate between throbbing bass beats with rising and falling guitar riffs and soothing vocal harmonies. At times it's a hypnotic industrial electronic and at others a calming folk-rock drone. Their music puts a heavy emphasis on repetition but will change just as the listener thinks they know what to expect.

Yarmush says it took them a while to develop their sound and that it was smart for them to wait three years, after they formed in 2007, before putting out their first album, *Zeroes QC*, in 2010.

"By playing live, that's how we knew the songs," Yarmush says. "When we hit the studio, anything that we had that was extra

— that we had never really played — didn't sound right to us and so it didn't make it on the record."

However, Yarmush says the first album felt more like an archive of their songs. With their latest album they hadn't played many of the songs live and they approached it differently, with a lot of work going into the arrangement.

"That's where our strength has developed — the actual process of creating a whole album," Yarmush says.

For the Suuns the work doesn't seem to stop. They've released three music videos for their new album since last November and are working on a fourth.

Suuns are performing at The Palomino the evening of June 20 and will take the stage at 1:00 a.m. Visit sledisland.com for tickets.

From psychedelic post-punk to folk

Sean Sullivan
Entertainment Editor

Peace will be making their third Sled Island visit this year, performing at the Royal Canadian Legion No. 1 Branch on June 19 and at Tubby Dog on June 22.

Frontman Dan Geddes says their sound has changed slightly over the years since they began in 2008.

"It has been kind of a classic evolution where we started out as a scrappier version of what we are now," Geddes says, "a more punk inspired version, and as we've gotten older and experimented a little more musically, our tastes have changed and our ambitions have grown."

Geddes says they have been moving towards "singer-songwriter" folk music and the next album will be even more so than the last.

The word "scuzzy" has been tossed around to describe the band — describing their usual psychedelic post-punk sound but also the Vancouver dive-bar where they got their name. Geddes says that he and drummer Geoff Dembicki were drinking in Funky Winker Beans where an old man gave them the peace sign and said that was the name of their band. They figured they wouldn't trifle with fate.

Peace has accumulated many strange stories such as that one over the years. They recorded their latest album in Pamela An-

derson's hometown, once performed in the basement of Canada's department of foreign affairs building and played in a detached garage looking out on a cemetery.

"We've played to a lot of strange dogs on the west coast," Geddes adds. "I mean that literally."

He says there was a dog that liked to watch shows and bob its head and mosh with the audience.

"There was one show in Oakland where somebody crowd-surfed a dog," Geddes says. "I was a little concerned for the dog's safety at that point."

Peace is performing at the Royal Canadian Legion No. 1 Branch at midnight on June 19 and at Tubby Dog at 4:00 p.m. on June 22. Visit sledisland.com for tickets.

At Sled Island

SUUNS Europe 2011

June 19

Andi State's documentary film follows Montreal band Suuns on their 2011 tour in Europe to promote their debut album. This film is playing at the National Music Centre at 6:30 p.m. This event is free.

Swans

June 19

The critically acclaimed veteran experimental rock band Swans will be playing at Dickens Pub at 10:30 p.m. Visit sledisland.com for tickets.

Iceage

June 19

This promising young Danish punk-rock band will be playing in the basement of the Royal Canadian Legion No. 1 Branch at 1:00 a.m.

Visit sledisland.com for tickets.

Thee Oh Sees

June 21–23

Sled Island legends Thee Oh Sees are back and playing three shows this year: June 21 at 10:30 p.m. at the Golden Age Club, evening of June 22 after 12:30 a.m. at the No. 1 Legion and June 23 at 9:00 p.m. at Republik. Visit sledisland.com for tickets.

spun

ALBUM REVIEWS

Queens of the Stone Age

...Like Clockwork

June 4, 2013 (Matador Records)

It's clear while listening to *...Like Clockwork* that singer and guitarist Josh Homme is not the same person he was when *Era Vulgaris* was released six years ago.

Homme experienced severe complications during surgery in 2010 and was bed-ridden for three months. He slipped into a deep depression and questioned whether or not he would ever be all right again.

The gravity of facing his human frailty has seeped into the creation of this album. The final product is something moodier and more thoughtful than any album they've released before.

The opening track begins with the ominous sound of glass breaking, which leads into Homme's crooning over a slow, heavy rhythm. "Keep Your Eyes Peeled" is the usual desert-rock style Queens of the Stone Age are known for, but it's an uncharacteristically serious opener for them. It signals that you're in for more of Queens of the Stone Age's darker side with *...Like Clockwork*.

Homme asks, "Slowly, can one so lost be found?" and tells you, "Lonely, you don't know how I feel." Being lost and being unable to connect are both themes continued throughout the album. Although this introspective album does explore unfamiliar territory, the band finds its foot-



courtesy Matador Records

ing after so many years between releases. Through pensive songs like "The Vampyre of Time and Memory" and the equally unexpected "...Like Clockwork," the listener begins to understand how much Homme

struggled to find himself again.

The album offers less solemn moments and their first single "My God Is The Sun" is the aggressive, fast-paced rock fans love them for. But in my opinion, it's also one

of the weakest tracks on the album because of its predictability.

The track "Smooth Sailing" is cocky and erotic — the kind of song you can expect to hear at pubs and parties this summer. "Kalopsia" has a far-off dreamy quality unlike anything I've heard from Queens of the Stone Age before. It shows even more variation in their repertoire and a willingness to experiment.

One of my favourite tracks is "I Appear Missing." It really engages with Homme's experience in the hospital and being incapacitated. This song more than any other makes the listener feel like they are navigating through the "fog" he experienced after his near-death experience. Through both music and revealing lyrics — such as "pinned like a note in a hospital gown" — Homme communicates honestly and vulnerably with whoever is listening.

This album feels more cohesive and polished than any album they've released before. *...Like Clockwork* is satisfying for avid Queens of the Stone Age fans who may have been waiting since high school for something new and appeals to new listeners who are getting introduced to desert rock for the first time. It's not as charged and intense as their best album, *Songs for the Deaf*, but it shows the kind of growth I hope for in a band that's been together since the '90s.

Queens of the Stone Age will be performing in Calgary at the Stampede Corral on Aug. 8.

Athena G. Csuti

CONGRATS GRADS of 2013!

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

— Mark Twain, American author

Suite 200, 633 6th Ave. 50
Calgary AB T2P 2Y5
(403) 555-1777
connexioncarriere@bowvalleycollege.ca
www.connexioncarriere.ca

**New Graduates
PLACEMENT PROGRAM**

New Graduates:	Employers:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Get your first working experience in your field of studies ➤ 12 weeks of paid working experience that could result in a permanent position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Hire highly motivated, skilled and talented new graduates ➤ Participant's wage partially reimbursed for a 12 week placement (10 per cent of wages)

For more information about the Connections to the Workplace program, contact Jean-Sébastien Georges at (403) 355-1777 or jsgeorges@bowvalleycollege.ca

This program is funded by the Government of Canada.

**JULY
AND
AUGUST
FIND US
ONLINE**

theGAUNTLET.ca

No regular printing for those months.

Film review: *The Purge*

Matthew Parkinson
Gauntlet Entertainment

What's worse than dumbing down an intelligent concept for an audience? Ignoring it altogether. This is the crime of *The Purge*, a horror movie which could have been one of the best films of the year and is instead is one of the most disappointing. The movie's premise has almost limitless potential but is used simply to set up a generic, bland and stupid home-invasion film. I came out of the theatre feeling defeated and wondering exactly what the filmmakers were thinking.

In *The Purge*, the United States has reached an all-time low and a newly elected government — the “new founding fathers” — came up with an idea called the Purge, where for 12 hours, during one night of the year, all laws are suspended. Everything that is normally considered a crime — including murder — is now legal. The belief is that everyone can release their frustrations all at once during the Purge. If those considered to put a

drain on the system — the homeless, sick and elderly — wind up being the ones killed then that's just a sacrifice everyone will have to make.

The story takes place in 2022, focusing on a family who provide shelter for a homeless man during the Purge and find themselves under attack for doing it. The entire premise exists so that the filmmakers can make a home-invasion movie where the police can't be called, because emergency services do not operate during those 12 hours.

What results is a home-invasion movie that takes place in the dark, has a bunch of jump scares and lacks any of the initial intrigue that the film's premise promised. The father, James (Ethan Hawke), sells security systems to protect families during the Purge — despite supporting the concept on the whole — and the mother, Mary (Lena Heady), has no defining characteristics. Both change personalities frequently throughout the film. The daughter, Zoey (Adelaide Kane), disappears from

most of the film for no reason. And the youngest child, the son Charlie (Max Burkholder), makes terrible decision after terrible decision — he makes all the decisions that could potentially doom the family. There's no continuity or sense of space in the three-room house, which makes following the characters' movements very difficult throughout the film.

The villain, played by Rhys Wakefield, is a nameless man who stares directly into a security camera for most of his screen time. He is well spoken, tells everyone exactly what is on his mind and is just about the only reason to see the film. However, the villains have no more reason for doing what they do except because they can.

The Purge has a brilliant concept and terrible execution. It could have taken its premise in any direction and instead wound up as a mediocre home-invasion movie. Attempts at social commentary are ignored, and most of the film consists of various “boo!” moments and bad decisions. Don't make one of the latter by seeing *The Purge*.



courtesy Universal Pictures

GAUNTLET COMICS

Editor: Dawn Muenchrath • illustrations@thegauntlet.ca

It Goes Without Saying — Dawn Muenchrath



Life Scream — Sean Willett





UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

*Success is to be measured not so much
by the position that one has reached in
life as by the obstacles which he
has overcome.*
Booker T. Washington

ARTS

The foundation that you have built over the course of your undergraduate studies in the Faculty of Arts has prepared you for a long and satisfying career in your chosen field – no matter what it may be. We are so very proud of all you have achieved, and how you have helped to shape the Faculty of Arts through your passion, your dedication, and your engagement in collegiate life. From Economics to Linguistics, Psychology to Religious Studies – your critical and analytical understanding of the human condition will enable you to succeed, and to bring a very specific approach to the work you do. Congratulations to each and every one of you, and we look forward to welcoming you into our alumni family. – Dr. Richard Sigurdson, Dean Faculty of Arts

EDUCATION

The Faculty of Education proudly congratulates each and every undergraduate and graduate student of our Class of 2013. You have worked hard to achieve this important milestone in your lives, and we in the Faculty know you will continue to strive to be the best in your professional practice. Whether you head into the classroom, or to administration or policy development, or into the field of counselling or another aspect of education, we know you will make us proud. Best wishes to you all! Dennis Sumara, Dean

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

From buildings and urban plazas to new communities and regional landscapes we trust in your skills, knowledge and values to bring us all balance, beauty and bounty in the environments you will help create. Very best wishes from EVDS as you begin the journey of imagining and realizing our collective well-being in the designed and natural worlds. Dr. Nancy Pollock-Ellwand, Dean.

GRADUATE STUDIES

Congratulations to all students who have earned graduate degrees this year. Your research work has made a lasting contribution to knowledge in your field of study, and the advanced training you have received prepares you to be a leader, whether in research, your profession or your community. – Dr. Lisa Young, Dean

HASKAYNE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the Haskayne School of Business, congratulations to the Class of 2013! We are very proud of you and your many accomplishments, and we wish you every success as you embark on your new careers. You join the more than 20,000 Haskayne alumni who are making a positive impact in leadership positions in over 60 countries. Remember what Mr. Haskayne says, "at the end of the day, the most important thing is your reputation." Leverage your education to build a reputation that is highly respected. - Jim Dewald, Dean

KINESIOLOGY

A sincere and heartfelt congratulations to all of our Kinesiology graduates. As Dean of the Faculty I am very proud of what you have accomplished! Your energy, enthusiasm, and dedication to learning make the Faculty of Kinesiology and the University of Calgary a better place to live and learn. My hope for you, as you leave here, is that you will continue to lead the way to an active and healthy life for both yourself and others, and that you will continue to share your love for learning. Enjoy this moment – you've earned it. I wish you all the best in the future. – Dr. Penny Werthner, Dean

NURSING

To our nursing graduates and newest alumni: congratulations and best wishes on your convocation from the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary! We share your pride and excitement in this achievement and look forward to your leadership in health care. – Dr. Dianne Tapp, Dean

SCHULICH SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

You are now Schulich Engineers—the next generation of engineering leaders. Congratulations! You have worked hard to earn this prestigious degree and we are proud of your accomplishment. I look forward to hearing about your next exploits and accomplishments. I hope you will strive to make valuable contributions to society, professionally and personally. – Guy Gendron, Dean Schulich School of Engineering

SCIENCE

On behalf of all members of the Faculty of Science, congratulations on completing your Science degree! As you embrace this new life chapter, you will discover that a career in Science presents many exciting opportunities and stimulating challenges. I trust that you will be guided by your curiosity, creativity and critical-thinking skills to make a meaningful impact in your profession and community. We look forward to keeping in touch and hearing about your successes as you join a dynamic and rapidly expanding global network of alumni. – Dr. Ken Barker, Dean

SOCIAL WORK

Our best wishes and congratulations go to graduates from the Faculty of Social Work! We take great pride in welcoming you to our alumni family and ask that you stay in touch to share your successes. Your careers as social workers will be challenging, but we know that each of you will make a difference to your community. Do this by demonstrating the courage and leadership to foster real change in the lives of the vulnerable and marginalized populations we serve. – Jackie Sieppert, PhD, RSW, Professor and Dean